

INDEX OF NEW MINERAL NAMES, DISCREDITED  
MINERALS, AND CHANGES OF MINERALOGICAL  
NOMENCLATURE IN VOLUMES 1-50 OF *THE  
AMERICAN MINERALOGIST*

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INTRODUCTION

This index was prepared at the urging of several mineralogists, and especially of D. Jerome Fisher, who stressed the need for a readily available reference on recent changes of nomenclature and synonymy in mineralogy. It includes references to all papers and abstracts published in *The American Mineralogist*, Volumes 1-50 (1916-1965), that bear on mineralogical nomenclature.

*The American Mineralogist* has since its inception tried to publish critical abstracts of all new mineral names and of new data that cause changes in mineralogical nomenclature. In Volumes 1-9, this was under the direction of E. T. Wherry, with assistance from W. F. Foshag, S. G. Gordon, E. F. Holden, W. F. Hunt, E. T. Poitevin, and C. B. Slawson. In Volumes 10-25, most of the abstracts were prepared by W. F. Foshag, with assistance from E. P. Henderson, J. P. Marble, A. Pabst, J. F. Schairer, and H. S. Washington. In Volumes 26-50, the abstracts have been prepared under the direction of Michael Fleischer, with assistance from W. F. Bradley, Frantisek Cech, E. C. T. Chao, R. C. Erd, G. T. Faust, Margaret D. Foster, G. M. Friedman, Clifford Frondel, F. A. Hildebrand, Marjorie Hooker, Earl Ingerson, B. M. Leonard, J. A. Mandarino, J. P. Marble, Adolf Pabst, Eugene Roseboom, Erich Seeliger, Kurt Servos, Brian Skinner, Hugo Strunz, Priestley Toulmin, 3d, H. V. W. Willems, and Kenzo Yagi.

The Society is indebted to all these for careful coverage of the literature and for their willingness to express their critical judgment of the new names proposed. These judgments have occasionally been proved to be wrong by further study, but have been valuable in showing where further work was required. The present Index, being restricted to references in *The American Mineralogist*, does not cover all the mineralogical literature. Critical abstracts of new mineral names are regularly published also in the *Bull. Soc. Franc. Mineral. Crist.* (in French) and in *Zapiski Vses. Mineralog. Obshch.* (in Russian); abstracts (usually without critical comments) are also regularly published in *Chemical Abstracts*, *Mineralogical Abstracts*, *Zentralbl. für Mineralogie* (in German), *Bull. Signalétique* (in French), and in *Referativnyi Zhurnal, Geol.* (in Russian).

Mineralogical nomenclature has for many years been strongly influenced by the rules used in *Dana's System of Mineralogy*, as printed in the Fifth Edition (1868, pp. xxix–xxxiv) and reprinted in the Sixth Edition (1892, p. xl–xlv). Problems of mineral names were discussed in Vols. 1–50 of *The American Mineralogist* by Eakle (1928), McKinsty (1929), Spencer (1937), Fairbanks (1947), McConnell (1948), and Winchell (1949); see also papers in other journals by Spencer (1925), Fleischer (1947), and Grigor'ev (1964). A notable improvement in nomenclature was the introduction by Schaller (1930) of adjectival modifiers, which was approved by the Committee on Nomenclature of the MSA and which has been widely adopted in English papers. These and other changes are discussed in *Dana's System*, Seventh Edition, v. 1, p. 42–47 (1944).

The Mineralogical Society of America has long had a Committee on Nomenclature. Reports by this Committee are published in v. 8, p. 50–53; v. 9, p. 60–65; v. 15, p. 113–114; v. 21, p. 188–191, and v. 24, p. 176. These reports will not be discussed here; *Dana's System*, Seventh Edition, v. 1, p. 42–47, lists the rules it has accepted. The last two of these reports deal with efforts to reach agreement with the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain. This was an early and praiseworthy attempt to begin to reach international agreement on mineralogical nomenclature; the pioneering work of this joint committee has now been taken over by the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names of the International Mineralogical Association.

The Commission has undertaken several activities. It has attempted to obtain international agreement on a single name for many minerals for which different names are used in different countries; it publishes an annual list of new names with approval or disapproval indicated; it passes on new minerals and mineral names submitted *prior* to publication. The decisions reached up to now are given in 49, p. 223–224, 1157; and in 50, p. 1141–1142; these decisions are also noted in Table 1. The discussions held by the Commission in Copenhagen in 1960 were published in *Mineral. Soc. America Special Paper No. 1*, p. 322–324 (1963), and in more detail in *Bull. Soc. Franc. Mineral. Crist.*, v. 84, p. 96–105 (1961). The latter includes a report by F. Permingeat (p. 98–104) on the data required for a complete description of a new mineral; this should be required reading and re-reading for all mineralogists.

Statistics on new mineral names for the periods 1941–1950 and 1951–1960 were given by Fleischer (1951, 1961). About half the new names were considered to be unnecessary. It is evident that new

names should not be given without great care being taken to ensure the validity of the mineral and the suitability of the name.

This Index consists of three tables. Table 1 is an alphabetical list of new minerals, discredited minerals, and changes in nomenclature. Table 2 lists the new minerals considered to be valid species by anionic groups. Table 3 lists the chemical elements present in amounts greater than 1% in the new minerals considered to be valid species.

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