NEW MINERALS FROM CALIFORNIA

In the 104 years from 1867 through 1970, 102 minerals have been described as new species from California. Seventy-four remain as recognized species. The other 28 have been shown to be identical to previously described species, varieties, mixtures, or of doubtful composition and validity.

The first new mineral described from the State was partzite, which Arents (1867) described from the Blind Spring Hill silver district near the northern end of the Owens Valley in Mono County. It was no sooner described than it was questioned (Blake, 1867) as probably a mixture. However, more recent work by Mason and Vitaliano (1953) supports the validity of the species - so it stands as number 1.

The large number of new minerals described from California during the following century is due to the diversity of the geologic provinces of the State. Eightythree of the 102 described came from four well-defined, relatively small districts. Twenty-three came from the lake bed deposits of Death Valley, Searles Lake, and Kramer, all of which fall within a radius of fifty miles in the desert region of the southern part of the State. Twenty were reported from the pegmatites and associated contact rocks in a fifty mile long north-south trending zone in the Peninsular Ranges of southern California. Twenty-eight were from the central 200 miles of the Coast Ranges, an area dominated by the Franciscan formation and associated serpentinites.. Twelve were from the southern, NW-SE trending, section of the gold-bearing area along the western side of the Sierra Nevada Province.

The Lake Bed Minerals

Twenty-seven of the 102 new minerals described from the State were from Lake bed deposits. Sixteen of these were borates, eight of which came from the Fur-

Photography by Charles H. Baines Mineral Research Society of California nace Creek Wash and the eastern edge of the Black Mountains in Death Valley National Monument. All eight species are currently considered valid. Four of the 16 borates, along with two associated sulphides, gerstleyite and greigite, were described from the massive borate deposit at Kramer. One of these, lesserite, is now considered identical with inderite. Two borates, neocolemanite and veatchite, were found in the Tick Canyon borate deposit of Los Angeles County. Neocolemanite was found to be identical with colemanite. Teepleite was described from Borax Lake in Lake County in the Northern part of the State.

Description of new borates has followed the progressive development of the borax industry in the State. Tincalconite, the pentahydrated alteration of borax, was the first borate described from the State. It was identified by Shepard (1878) only as "from California." The exact type locality might have been Death Valley, Searles Lake, or Borax Lake, each being known before 1878 as source of borax.

Colemanite, the second new California borate, was described in 1883, only a year after the rich colemanite beds were found in the Furnace Creek district. These deposits were not worked intensively until the early 1900's. Then in 1903 bakerite was described and, in 1914, inyoite and meyerhofferite - all from the Furnace Creek district.¹ In 1927 the rich kernite and borax deposits of Kramer were discovered, followed by the identification of kernite (1927) and probertite (1929). Increased professional development in the industry and detailed investigation of borate resources by the U.S. Geological Survey produced seven new minerals from the Furnace Creek and Kramer deposits between 1956 and 1970.

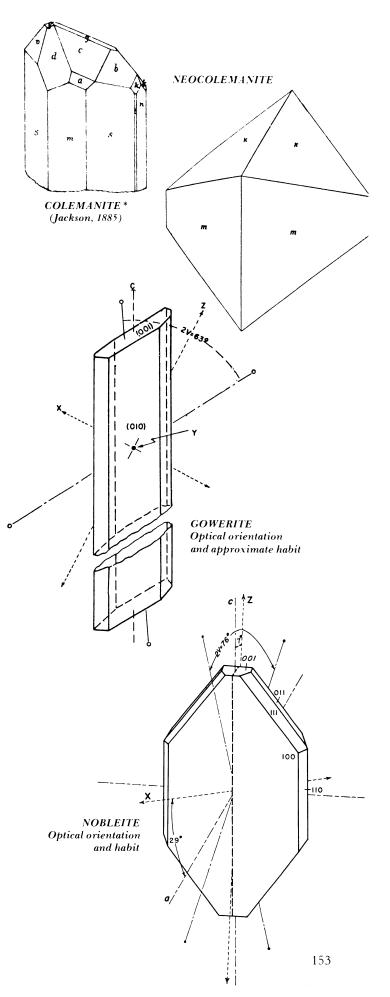
Nine of the new lake-bed minerals were from Searles Lake (in the northwest corner of San Bernardino County, twenty miles southwest of Death Valley, and about 45 miles north of Kramer). Of the nine, four are sulphates, four are carbonates, and one is a borosilicate. All are considered valid species.

The salts of Searles Lake were first mined in 1873 when borax was scraped from the mud along the margin of the main salt area. In 1884, hanksite, the first new mineral from the district, was described. In 1887, drilling was started in the lake bed. Intensive study of the cores has resulted in the identification of eight additional new minerals during the ensuing fifty years.

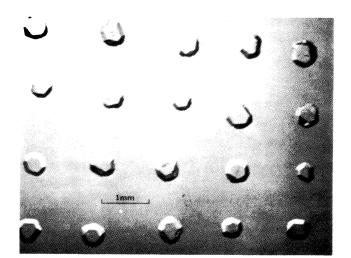
The Central Coast Ranges

TheCoast Ranges Province extends along the Pacific shore for nearly 600 miles, from the Oregon line to the Transverse Ranges which cut east and west just north of Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. The central 200 miles of the Province are dominated by the Franciscan formation and associated serpentinites.

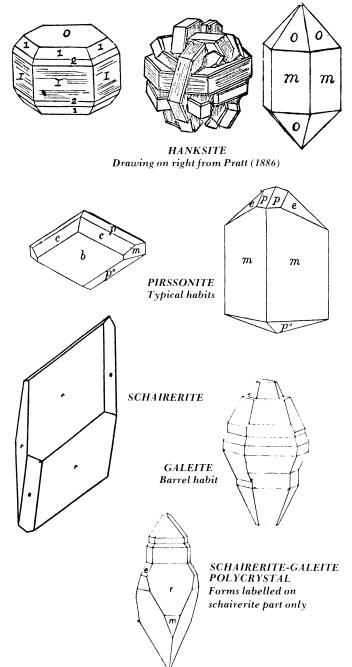
July—August, 1971



 $[\]ensuremath{{}_1}$ See Pemberton, 1971, for recognition of Death Valley as type locality for bakerite.



MACALLISTERITE Synthetic crystals



This central section has been the source of 28 of the new mineral descriptions from the State.

Apparently the earliest descriptions were mainly the result of prospecting for and mining of mercury, still an important activity in this part of the Province. Metacinnabar was the first (1870). After this good start the batting average was below par. Aragotite (1873), a hydrocarbon, is of doubtful validity; trautwinite (1873) and stibioferrite (1873) are mixtures; the hydrocarbons, posepnyte (1877) and napalite (1888), are probably mixtures; sonomaite (1877) is identical with pickeringite and knoxvillite (1890) is a magnesian copiapite. Redingtonite (1890) is still recognized as a species but may, on further study, prove to be a Ni-Cr halotrichite in which some Ni substitutes for Fe¹¹ and Cr replaces some Al. This uncertain sequence in which nine minerals were described, of which only two remain as recognized species, was ended in 1903 with the description of the valid species, boothite, and of palacheite, which was found to be identical with botryogen.

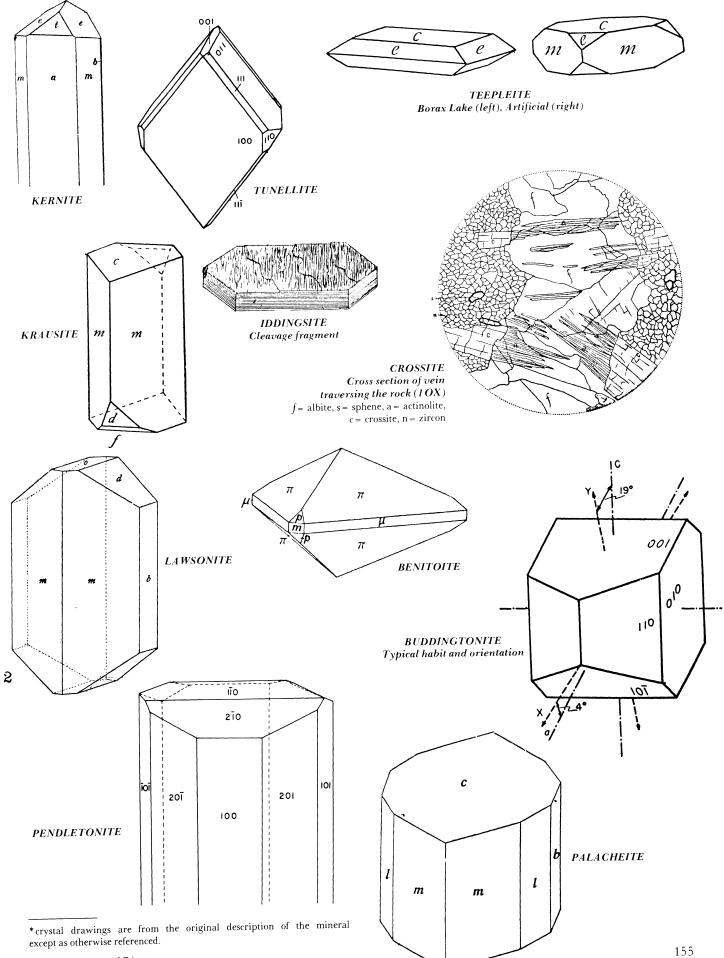
Four other minerals have been described from the mercury districts in more recent years. Two are hydrocarbons: curtisite (1930), which is identical with idrialite, and pendletonite (1967), which was found to be the same as the earlier-named carpathite when the latter mineral was properly described. The other two are the valid species schuetteite (1959) and buddingtonite (1964).

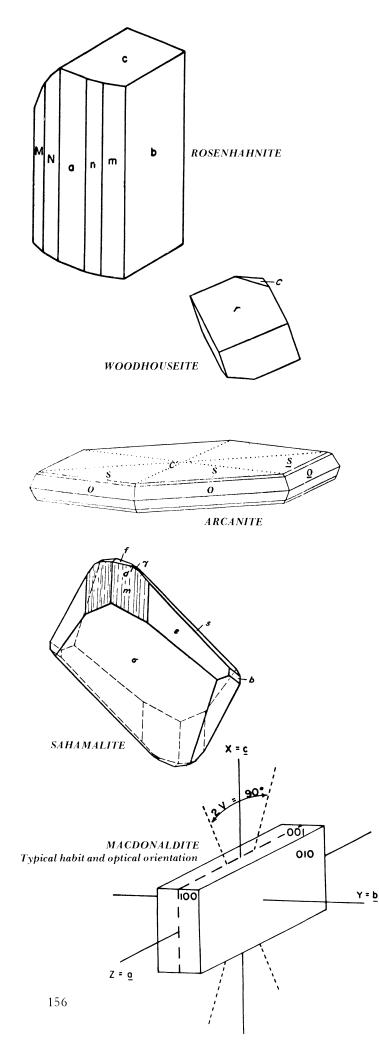
Thirteen additional minerals have been described from the central coastal ranges: three from the benitoite deposit near the headwaters of the San Benito River, two of which remain valid (benitoite, joaquinite), and one (coalingite) from the serpentinite body just east of the Gem mine. Six of the remaining nine are from the schists of the Franciscan formation. Five of these are recognized species, and the sixth, crossite, is an ironrich glaucophane. The other three are iddingsite, a mixture, and rosenhahnite and kempite, both found in boulders in the Franciscan zone but of uncertain origin.

The Pegmatites and Associated Rocks of the Peninsular Ranges

The Peninsular Ranges pegmatites and associated contact zones, from which twenty of the new mineral descriptions have come, lie in a narrow NW-SW trending zone about 50 miles long, in the western part of of Riverside County and the northern border area of San Diego County. Fifteen of these minerals were from Crestmore, four from the Pala pegmatites, and one (nuevite, from a small quarry near Nuevo) which was later found to be identical with samarskite.

The earliest descriptions from this area were phosphates from the lepidolite and tourmaline mines of the Pala District. Mining started there about 1902 and attracted the attention of W. T. Schaller, who published his first paper on the area in 1903. His studies of the district continued and in 1912 he described four new phosphates from the area: salmonsite, sicklerite, stewartite,





and palaite. The last named was found later to be hureaulite.

The quarries at Crestmore have been the source of more new mineral descriptions (15) and more currently recognized new species (10) than any other California locality. The mining of the crystalline limestone for cement started there in 1909. In 1914 A. S. Eakle called attention to the many contact minerals occurring in the deposit and described the first new species from there, wilkeite. Since then the quarries have been studied by many distinguished mineralogists who have identified in the neighborhood of 150 species in the deposit and added nine new ones to Eakle's first.

The Sierra Nevada Province

Twelve of the 102 new mineral descriptions from California were from the southern half of the 250 mile long gold-bearing district on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Province. All were found in the metamorphic formations near the massive intrusive granites which form the backbone of the Sierra. Eleven of the twelve are considered valid species. The twelfth is mariposite, a chromian variety of muscovite.

Four of the twelve were found in the gold veins: the tellurides, melonite and calaverite, from the rich Carson Hill lode; and the micas, mariposite and roscoelite, associates of the gold-bearing quartz. The other eight are barium silicates: sanbornite and seven recently described associates of that mineral from the Big Creek District in northern Fresno County.

The Professional Leadership

Without doubt, the wide potential of the varied geologic provinces as sources of new minerals has been a basic factor in the large number of new descriptions from California. However, the professional leadership capacity within the State to take advantage of this potential has been a companion factor.

Professional interest in California's minerals started the first year of its statehood, 1850. The first legislature created the post of State Geologist and appointed Dr. John B. Trask, after whom the new, rare barium silicate, traskite, was named. Dr. Trask, a physician deeply interested in mineralogy and geology, was given a three year appropriation to make a survey of the State's geology and mineral resources. The results of Trask's oneman study were published between 1853 and 1856 as reports to the legislature covering the geology of the Sierra Nevada, the Coast Ranges and northern and southern California.

Further appropriations were not made until 1860 when the legislature reestablished the office and appointed as State Geologist Josiah D. Whitney, a nationally known scientist. Whitney gathered around him "...a small group of scientists who, in their ability and dedication, immediately placed the California Survey in the front rank, if not perhaps in the top spot, among all State Surveys of that time...such men as Clarence King

the Mineralogical Record



Andrew C. Lawson 1861 - 1952 University of California*, 1892 - 1952 President, Geological Society of America, 1925



George D. Louderback 1874 - 1957 Ph.D., University of California, 1899 University of Nevada, 1900 - 1906 University of California, 1906 - 1944



Charles Palache 1869 - 1954 Ph.D., University of California, 1894 Harvard University, 1896 - 1941 President, Mineralogical Society of America, 1921 President, Geological Society of America, 1937



Waldemar T. Schaller 1882 - 1967 B.A., University of California, 1903 U.S. Geological Survey, 1903 - 1905 President, Mineralogical Society of America, 1926



Adolph Knoph 1882 - 1966 Ph.D., University of California, 1909 U.S. Geological Survey, 1905 - 1920 Yale University, 1920 - 1951 Stanford University, 1951 - 1966 President, Geological Society of America, 1944



Frederick L. Ransome 1868 - 1935 Ph.D., University of California, 1896 U.S. Geological Survey, 1897 - 1924 University of Arizona, 1924 - 1927 California Institute of Technology, 1927 - 1935



Esper S. Larsen 1878 - 1961 B.S., University of California, 1906 Ph.D., University of California, 1918 University of California, 1907 - 1908 U.S. Geological Survey, 1909 - 1923, 1949 -1958 Harvard University, 1923 - 1949

President, Mineralogical Society of America, 1928



Arthur S. Eakle 1862 - 1931 University of California, 1901 - 1930 President, Mineralogical Society of America, 1925



William F. Foshag 1894 - 1956 Ph.D., University of California, 1923 Smithsonian Institution, 1919 - 1956 President, Mineralogical Society of America, 1940



Alfred O. Woodford 1890 -Ph.D., University of California, 1923 Pomona College, 1923 - Emeritus



Adolf Pabst 1899 -Ph.D., University of California, 1928 University of California, 1927 - Emeritus President, Mineralogical Society of America, 1951



Austin F. Rogers 1877-1957 Stanford University, 1902 - 1942 President, Mineralogical Society of America, • 1927



Joseph Murdoch 1900 -University of California at Los Angeles, 1928 -Emeritus President, Mineralogical Society of America, 1959



George F. Becker 1847 - 1919 University of California, 1871 - 1878 U.S. Geological Survey, 1879 - 1919 President, Geological Society of America, 1914

(later to become the first Director of the U.S. Geological Survey), Arnold Hoffman (later to become Chief Topographer of the USGS), W. H. Brewer (later to become a professor at Yale and to be recognized as the 'father of soil science'), and W. H. Dall (later to become one of the country's foremost paleontologists and Director of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences)" (Campbell, 1966, p. 14). With this staff Whitney produced a series of mineralogical and geological reports through the early 1870's.

The first systematic report on California minerals was a review published in 1866 by William P. Blake, professor of mineralogy, geology and mining at the College of California, parent to the University of California at Berkeley. Blake first came to the State in 1853 as geologist for a railroad survey party and, between then and the end of the century, published many reports and papers on the mineralogy of the State.

Waldemar Lindgren
1860 - 1939U.S. Geological Survey, 1884 - 1912

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1912 -1933 President, Geological Society of America, 1924

In 1892 a new era began in California mineralogy. In that year Andrew C. Lawson was appointed as professor of geology at the University of California, Berkeley. With George D. Louderback, who was one of his earliest students, he built the department to an outstanding position. Their students and associates included Waldemar T. Schaller, Fredrick A. Ransome, Charles Palache, Arthur S. Eakle, William F. Foshag, Adolph Knopf, Esper S. Larsen, Alfred O. Woodford, and Adolph Pabst. This leadership from the Berkeley Department was joined in 1902 by professor Austin F. Rogers at Stanford University, and 1928 by Joseph Murdoch at the University of California, Los Angeles.

These thirteen distinguished mineralogists, all born during the latter decades of the 19th century, have been author or coauthor of 50 of the 82 new mineral descriptions from the State since 1890. They have authored or coauthored over 300 publications on California min-

^{*}Except as otherwise noted University of California refers to the Berkeley campus

erals. Eight have served as President of the Mineralogical Society of America, and three as President of the Geological Society of America, with Charles Palache serving in both roles.

During all of these years of strong California-based professional study of California minerals, there has been constant interest and help from the U.S. Geological Survey staff. The first annual report of the Survey (1880) included an article on the San Francisco, Eureka, and Bodie districts by George F. Becker. Becker began his career as a professor of mining and metallurgy at the University of California, Berkeley, and in 1879 joined the USGS where he remained for 40 years. In 1914 he served as President of the Geological Society of America. His studies of the mercury deposits of the State are classic.

Waldemar Lindgren joined the staff of the Survey in 1884 and published his first paper on California minerals in 1887. His associate at the Survey was another noted geologist, Henry W. Turner, and these two men became leading authorities on the gold districts of the State. Their combined publications about California minerals came to 52. Lindgren served as President of the Geological Society of America in 1924.

In more recent years Survey studies of minerals resources in the State have produced particularly significant studies of the chromium and manganese deposits (in cooperation with the California Division of Mines and Geology), the borate deposits of Death Valley and Kramer, and the salts of Searles Lake.

A final significant factor in the study of California minerals has been the development of the State Divi-

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sion of Mines and Geology since the founding of the parent organization in 1850. The growth of the department has been sometimes hesitant but since the 1920's has been sure and strong. The Division currently publishes several professional series on the geology and mineralogy of California: Bulletins - the most recent No. 195, Geology of the San Andreas 15 minute quadrangle, Calaveras County; Special Reports - the most recent No. 101, Geology of the Elvsian Park - Repetto Hills Area, Los Angeles County; County Reports, detailing the mines and mineral resources of each county; Geologic Maps with accompanying text, usually covering mineral deposits; and the monthly, California Geology.

California has been truly blessed with professional leadership in mineralogy and geology.

Acknowledgments

The author is indebted to Dr. Michael Fleischer of the United States Geological Survey for reviewing the tabulated list of minerals and checking the present status of each, and to Richard Bideaux for his careful review of the manuscript.

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New Mineral Descriptions from California

No	. Mineral	Author and Year	Locality	Present Status		
1	Aragotite	F.E. Durand, 1873	New Almaden	A mixture		
2	Arcanite+	A.S. Eakle, 1908	Trabuco Canyon			
3	Bakerite	W.B. Giles, 1903	Death Valley			
4	Benitoite	G.D. Louderback and W.C. Blasdale, 1907	Headwaters of San Benito River			
5	Boothite	W.T. Schaller, 1903	Leona Heights			
6	Buddingtonite	R.C. Erd, D.E. White, J.J. Fahey, D.E. Lee, 1964	Sulphur Bank			
7	Burkeite +	W.F. Foshag, 1935	Searles Lake			
8	Calaverite	F.A. Genth, 1868	Carson Hill			
9	Carlosite	G.D. Louderback and W.C. Blasdale, 1907	Headwaters of San Benito River	= Neptunite		
10	Chromrutile	S.G. Gordon and E.V. Shannon, 1928	Washington	Redefined as redledgeite		
11	Coaling ite	F.A. Mumpton, H.W. Jaffe, C.S. Thompson, 1965	Idria			
12	Colemanite	R. Neuschwander, 1883	Death Valley	•		
13	Crestmoreite	A.S. Eakle, 1917	Crestmore	= tobermorite		
18	Crossite	C. Palache, 1894	Berkeley	Iron-rich glaucophane		
15	Curtisite	F.E. Wright, E.T. Allen, 1926	Skaggs Springs	= Idrialite		
16	Deerite	S.O. Agrell, M.G. Brown and D. McKie, 1965	Laytonville			
17	Eakleite	E.S. Larsen, 1917	Santa Inez, 1917	= xonotlite		
18	Ellestadite	D. McConnell, 1937	Crestmore			
19	Foshagite	A.S. Eakle, 1925	Crestmore			
20	Fresnoite	J.T. Alfors, M.C. Stinson, R.A. Matthews and A.	Big Creek			
		Pabst, 1965				
21	Galeite	A. Pabst, D.L. Lewis and G.S. Switzer, 1955	Big Creek			
22	Gerstleyite	C. Frondel and V. Morgan, 1956	Kramer			
23	Gowerite	R.C. Erd, J.F. McAllister, H. Almond, 1959	Death Valley			
24	Greigite	B.J. Skinner, R.C. Erd and F.S. Grimaldi, 1964	Kramer			
25	Griffithite	E.S. Larsen and G. Steiger, 1917	Cahuenga Pass	Ferroan saponite		
26	Haiweeite	T.C. McBurney and J. Murdoch, 1959	Haiwee Reservoir			
27	Hanksite	W.E. Hidden, 1885	Searles Lake			
28	Hectorite	W.F. Foshag and A.O. Woodford, 1936*	Hector			
29	Howieite	S.O. Agrell, M.G. Brown and D. McKie, 1965	Laytonville			
30	Iddingsite	A.C. Lawson, 1893	Carmelo Bay	A mixture		
31	Inyoite	W.T. Schaller, 1914	Death Valley			
32	Ionite of Allen	V.T. Allen, 1927	Ione	= Kaolinite		
33	Ionite of Purnell	S. Purnell, 1878	Ione	A mixture		
34	Jennite	A.B. Carpenter, J.A. Gard, K. Speakman and H.F.W.	Crestmore			
		Taylor, 1966				
35	Joaquinite	G.D. Louderback and W.C. Blasdale, 1909	Headwaters of San Benito River			
36	Jurupaite	A.S. Eakle, 1921	Crestmore	= Xonotlite		
37	Kempite	A.F. Rogers, 1924	San Jose			
38	Kernite	W.T. Schaller, 1927	Kramer			
39	Knoxvillite	G.F. Becker, 1888	Knoxville	Magnesian copiapite		
40	Krausite	W.F. Foshag, 1931	Calico Mts.			
41	Krauskopfite	M.C. Stinson and J.T. Alfors, 1964	Big Creek			
42	Lawsonite	F. Ransome, 1895	Tiburon			
43	Lesserite	C. Frondel, V. Morgan and J.L.T. Waugh, 1956	Kramer	= Inderite		
44	Macallisterite	W.T. Schaller, A.C. Vlisidis and M.E. Mrose, 1965	Death Valley			
45	Macdonaldite	M.C. Stinson and J.T. Alfors, 1964	Big Creek			
46	Maghemite	R.B. Sosman and Posnjak, 1927**	Iron Mountain			
47	Mariposite	B. Silliman, 1868	Sierra gold belt	Chromian muscovite		
48	Melonite	F.A. Genth, 1867	Carson Hill			
+—	First occurrence in r	0		ofmann, 1941		
160 **Described but not named, Later named by Wagner (1927). the Mineralogical I						

No	. Mineral	Author and Year	Locality	Present Status
49	Merwinite	E.S. Larsen and W.F. Foshag, 1921	Crestmore	
50	Metacinnabar	G.E. Moore, 1870	Knoxville	
51	Metahaiweeite	T.C. McBurney and J. Murdoch, 1959	Haiwee Reservoir	
52	M eyerh offerite	W.T. Schaller, 1914	Death Valley	
53	Muirite	J.T. Alfors, M.C. Stinson, R.A. Matthews and A. Pabst, 1965	Big Creek	
54	Napalite	G.F. Becker, 1888	Pope Valley	A mixture
55	Nekoite	J.A. Gard and H.F.W. Taylor, 1956	Crestmore	
56	Neocolemanite	A.S. Eakle, 1911	Tick Canyon	= Colemanite
57	Nissonite	M.E. Mrose, R. Meyrowitz, J.T. Alfors and C.W. Chesterman, 1966	Panoche Valley	
58	Nobleite	R.C. Erd, J.F. McAllister and A.C. Vlisidis, 1961	Death Valley	
59	Northupite	W.M. Foote, 1895	Searles Lake	
60	Nuevite	J. Murdoch, 1946	Nuevo	= Samarskite
61	Palacheite	A.S. Eakle, 1903	Knoxville	= Botryogen
62	Palaite	W.T. Schaller, 1912	Pala	= Hureaulite
63	Partzite	A. Arents, 1867	Blind Spring	~
64	Pendletonite	J. Murdoch and A.T. Geissman, 1967	Idria	= Carpathite
65	Pirssonite	J.H. Pratt, 1896	Searles Lake	
66	Plazolite	W.F. Foshag, 1920	Crestmore	= Hibschite
67	Posepnyte	J.V. Schrockinger, 1887	Sulphur Bank	A mixture
68 60	Probertite Radiantenita	A.S. Eakle, 1929	Kramer	
69 70	Redingtonite Redledgeite	G. Becker, 1888	Knoxville Washington	
70	Riversideite	H. Strunz, 1961 A.S. Eakle, 1917	Washington Crestmore	
72	Roscoelite	J. Blake, 1875	Coloma	
73	Rosenhahnite	A. Pabst and E.B. Gross, 1967	Cloverdale	
74	Sahamalite	H.W. Jaffe, R. Meyrowitz and H.T. Evans, 1953	Mountain Pass	
75	Salmonsite	W.T. Schaller, 1912	Pala	
76	Sanbornite	A.F. Rogers, 1932	Incline	
77	Schairerite	W.F. Foshag, 1931	Searles Lake	
78	Schuetteite	E.H. Bailey, F.A. Hildebrand, C.L. Christ and J.J. Fahey, 1959	Sulphur Bank	
79	Searlesite	E.S. Larsen and W.B. Hicks, 1914	Searles Lake	
80	Sicklerite	W.T. Schaller, 1912	Pala	
81	Sonomaite	E. Goldsmith, 1877	The Geysers	pickopingita
82	Stewartite	W.T. Schaller, 1912	Pala	= pickeringite
83	Stibioferrite	E. Goldsmith, 1873	Santa Clara Co.	A mixture
84	Sulphohalite	W.E. Hidden and J.B. Mackintosh, 1888	Searles Lake	11 mixture
85	Teepleite	W.A. Gale and M. Vonsen, 1938	Borax Lake	
85	Tilleyite	E.S. Larsen and K.C. Dunham, 1933	Crestmore	
87	Tincalconite	C.U. Shepard, 1878	California	
88	Traskite	J.T. Alfors, M.C. Stinson, R.A. Matthews and A. Pabst, 1965	Big Creek	
89	Trautwinite	E. Goldsmith, 1873	Monterey Co.	A mixture
90	Treanorite	A.O. Woodford, J.D. Laudermilk and E.H. Bailey, 1940	Crestmore	= Allanite
91	Tunellite	R.C. Erd, V. Morgan and J.R. Clark, 1961	Kramer	
92	Tychite	S.L. Penfield and G.S. Jamieson, 1905	Searles Lake	
93	Veatchite	G.S. Switzer, 1938	Tick Canyon	
94	Verplanckite	J.T. Alfors, M.C. Stinson, R.A. Matthews and A. Pabst, 1965	Big Creek	
95	Vonsenite	A.S. Eakle, 1920	Crestmore	
96	Walstromite	M.C. Stinson and J.T. Alfors, 1964	Big Creek	
97	Wardsmithite	R.C. Erd, J.F. McAllister and A.C. Vlisidis, 1970	Death Valley	
98	Wightmanite	J. Murdoch, 1962	Crestmore	
99	Wilkeite	A.S. Eakle and A.F. Rogers, 1914	Crestmore	
100	Woodfordite	J. Murdoch and R. A. Chalmers, 1958	Crestmore	= Ettringite
101	Woodhouseite	D.M. Lemmon, 1937	White Mts.	U
102	Zussmanite	S.O. Agrell, M.G. Brown and D. McKie, 1965	Laytonville	