

Friends of Mineralogy  
Pennsylvania Chapter

Summer Edition- 1976

Activity Report

The Spring Roundup at Pennsylvania State College was well attended and enjoyed by everyone. Our hosts David Snell and Dr. Deane Smith were most gracious with their hospitality and welcome. They were always near to lend a guiding hand and answer questions. F/M certainly wishes to thank Dave Snell and Deane Smith and Penn State for allowing us to meet in and share their facilities.

The Saturday morning welcome to Penn State was given by Dr. Deane Smith who also introduced the speakers Dr. David Gold and Dr. Arthur Rose.

Dr. Gold gave a most informative talk on the E.R.T.S. program and beautifully tied the space mapping program into methods that can be used to detect the mineral potential of Central Pennsylvania. I am sure the program stimulated many of the F/M members by the enthusiastic response to the purchase of copies of the program 35 mm slides. Our next speaker, Dr. Arthur Rose went into great detail explaining the methods employed to detect minerals by the examination of stream sediments. Presently there is an active program at Penn State checking the stream sediments in and around Mt. Union. This activity has brought to light some very interesting mineral potential in the Central Region.

Our next speaker and a very active F/M member, Mr. Del Oswald of Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, presented a preview of the plans underway at Carnegie that will greatly enlarge the Geology and Mineralogy section of the museum. This new undertaking will make the Carnegie museum a leader in the field of mineralogy. Del also gave us a preview of the slides being placed in the F/M slide program. The slides were outstanding and many were taken by Del who has become an expert in micro and macro photography.

The balance of the afternoon was delegated to a meeting on the new F/M changes initiated by the National headquarters. Region 3, as formerly known no longer exists. The officers of the Region agreed that we take the entire F/M membership of Pennsylvania, reorganize and call it the Pennsylvania Chapter of F/M. To meet other requirements of F/M National it will be necessary for us to incorporate. The additional \$3.00 dues required by the Chapter was explained as follows, F/M National headquarters will no longer reimburse the Chapters for operating expenses as they did in the past. The Chapter dues are needed to cover the newsletter, mailings and other miscellaneous expenses. The Chapter incorporation costs will be roughly \$150.00. A short discussion was held regarding the Fall Symposium to be held at West Chester State College, West Chester, Pa. The tentative dates set for this occasion are Nov. 5, 6 and 7, 1976. Mr. Pen Ambler has agreed to be the Symposium Chairman. In keeping with past program themes the Fall Symposium theme will be "Minerals of the Sedimentary Rocks in Pennsylvania". A mineral auction took place after the business meeting. Many fine Montgomery specimens were placed on the block. However some were withdrawn for lack of bids. The membership had generously contributed a large number of specimens for auction. The bidding was not as spirited as other auctions, but the net results were most encouraging. The Chapter did very well financially, thanks to the many members who purchased specimens and so generously filled the coffers. The receipts of the auction will be added to the



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publication fund earmarked for the F/M sponsored publication "The Mineralogy of Pennsylvania, 1965 - 1975".

After dinner members gathered to talk and exchange minerals. For those who stayed over, our Host, David Snell, arranged a field trip into the surrounding area for some local collecting. Many of the members found some very fine mineral specimens.

Directors meeting:

A meeting was called by Martin Anne' to discuss the Chapter's Articles of Incorporation, and review the first draft of the By-Laws. The By-Laws of F/M National were used with minor modifications to meet the Chapter requirements. When the By-Laws are finalized, a copy will be sent to all members. The Articles of Incorporation will be available to members upon request. The next order of business was the progress of the new F/M publication. The book is now over 50% complete (1st draft) and on target. We are still in need of good Pennsylvania mineral photographs (35 mm color) and old pictures suitable for the publication. We have been very fortunate to have Mr. Lou Perloff contribute his time and effort into doing some photographs of Pennsylvania mineral specimens for our publication. These photographs will then be placed into the slide program that will be available to mineral clubs, schools, and other organizations. Our meeting was held at the home of Dr. John Way, Education Chairman of the Chapter. A very fine buffet was served allowing everyone to stay into the early evening and relax before the drive home.

Membership Dues

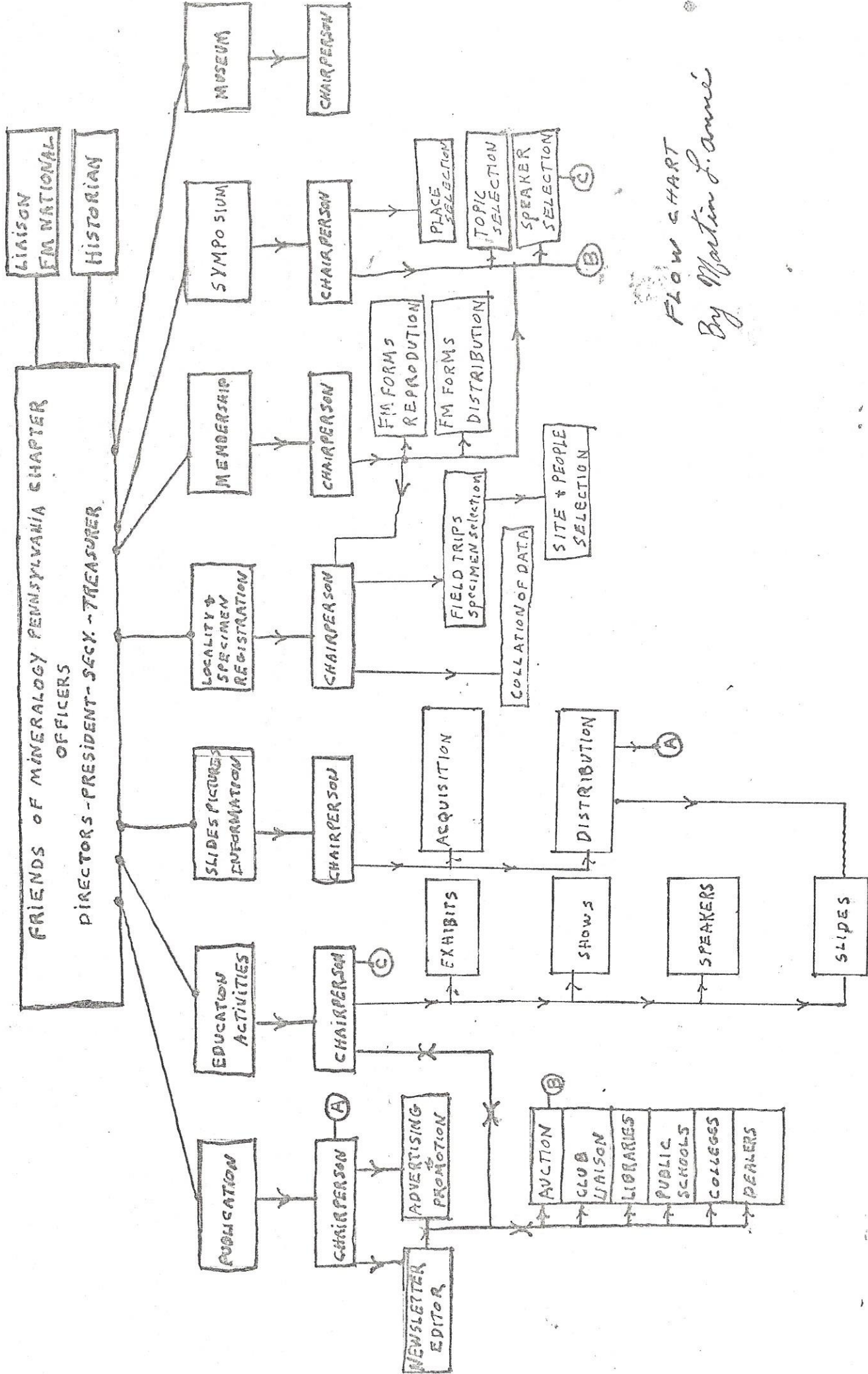
The directors discussed the Chapter \$3.00 dues assessment. It was suggested that beginning with the next fiscal year, Feb. 1977, members over 60 years of age and retired and with a minimum of 2 years of continuous membership in F/M, would have the option on request of receiving a membership for \$1.00 per year. Action on this proposal will be put before the members at our Fall Symposium.

Chapter Insignia

The Chapter needs an insignia or emblem. Everyone is encouraged to submit one or more ideas. Send your contribution to Martin Anne', address on coverpage.

Payment of membership dues

At the request of Vince Matula to simplify the bookkeeping, please forward to Vince your F/M National dues and Chapter dues on separate checks. Vince will accumulate and forward the National dues. Checks for National dues (\$5.00 per year) should be made out to Friends of Mineralogy and Chapter dues (\$3.00 per year) should be made out to Vince Matula. This will enable the Chapter to confirm membership. The fiscal year for F/M National and Chapter will be February 1 to January 31.



Flow chart  
By Martin J. Anne



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F/M Chapter Flow Chart ;

Look over the flow chart projects and pick the one you would like to be involved in. We need help ! we need the help of every Chapter member to meet our projected Goals. If the projects listed do not meet with your approval or other projects should be considered, let us have your ideas. Please don't wait for us to contact you. Contact us now. You joined the Chapter, now join in the fun.

Publication - Bryon Brookmyer, Chairperson

Advertise and promote publications-select material to be published. Set up committees for sales, auctions. Work closely with newsletter editor, clubs, libraries, schools, colleges and dealers.

Education - John Way, Chairperson

Select material for exhibits, maintain a list of available speakers. Work closely with information and symposium chairpersons.

Locality and Specimen Registration - Edward Carper, Chairperson

To acquire and file locality data. To classify specimens of importance. To have field trips, select site and people for trips. These will NOT be localities on the beaten track of collectors, but rather normally inaccessible places with fine specimen material (or potential) for museums and auctions. Work closely with directors, symposium and museum chairperson.

Membership - Vince Matula, Chairperson

Maintain a file on paid-up members of Chapter informing editor and president of changes. Reproduce and distribute application for membership. Have someone at meetings to handle membership.

Slide Pictures Information - Col. Thomas Myers, Chairperson

Acquire slides, pictures and data that publication, education and symposium chairpersons can use - also maintain slides for schools and colleges. Work closely with Education.

Symposium - Pen Ambler, Chairperson

Select place, topics, speakers, handle registration, swap, auction, etc.

Museum - Del Oswald, Chairperson

Maintain a list of museums, also make a list of museums wants so we can supply material to them.

Historian - Col. Thomas Myers, Chairperson

Maintain a central file on Chapter activities. The file should include memos, correspondence, newsletters, forms, ballots, news clippings involving F/M affairs.

Martin Anne', President  
Pennsylvania Chapter



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Mineral Notes and News :

Texas, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Samuel G. Gordon

This locality, which includes two townships, is a relict of the days when precise statement of the source of a mineral was considered an unnecessary refinement. The district, named from New Texas, a small village in Fulton township, lies along the Pennsylvania-Maryland line between the Susquehanna River and Octoraro Creek, and may be reached from Conowingo on the Pennsylvania Railroad (Columbia and Port Deposit Branch) on the west, or from Sylmar on the Penna. R. R. (P. W. & B. R. R., Maryland Division) on the east. All the localities lie in the northern part of the Havre de Grace quadrangle, and will be referred to below in ninth-coordinate symbols.

The rocks of the region comprise an igneous complex overlain by mica-schists. All these rocks have been intruded by a fine grained gray granitic gneiss, and pegmatite. From south to north the igneous rocks appear in the order: granodiorite, gabbro, norite, and meta-peridotite and meta-pyroxenite (serpentine, etc.), possibly representing a section of a batholithic mass which had undergone differentiation in situ. The mineral localities occur chiefly in the serpentine area along the state line, which contains deposits of chromite, and albite pegmatites.

The writer will begin the trip at Philadelphia, leaving Broad Street Station (Penna. R. R.), for Havre de Grace, Md. (2 hrs. ride). Here a change of trains is made to the Columbia and Port Deposit branch. This is along the Susquehanna River, filled with numerous picturesque islands. At Port Deposit the train passes large quarries in granodiorite, to be succeeded by cuts in gabbro just before reaching Conowingo.

From the station the way lies up the gorge of Conowingo Creek past whitewashed boulders of norite. Just north of Oakwood, the norite passes into serpentine, which underlies an area characterized by the natives as "the Barrens"; which is truly descriptive of the stretches covered with scrub pines, cedars, and oaks, often entangled with a luxurious growth of green briars.

A side excursion may be here made to Wiant's spar quarry, on Conowingo Creek, 1.2 kilometer (3/4 mile) northeast of Pilot, Md. (H. de G. 1642). The rock is an albite pegmatite, intrusive in serpentine. At the margins of the pegmatite are contact zones of brown vermiculite, green actinolite, and talc. Green radiations of actinolite occur in the white albite, representing magnesian material that had been assimilated by the pegmatite in its intrusion. Druses of minute albite crystals are abundant, and rarely minute highly modified beryl crystals. Other quarries in albite are located on a small run, 1 km. west of Rock Springs cross-roads (H. de G. 1636); 1 km. southeast of the cross-roads (2428); and 3 km. northeast of the cross-roads, just west of the Octoraro (2522).

Just before reaching the Rock Springs cross-roads, masses of chalcedony and drusy quartz, due to weathering of the serpentine, will be noticed in the road cut (H. de G. 2441).



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The Line Pit (Low's mine) is situated on the Pennsylvania-Maryland line, about 1.2 km. (3/4 mile) northwest of Rock Springs cross-roads, and but a hundred meters north of the Pleasant Grove road (H. de G. 1632). In 1918 the mines were reopened for a short period, and again in 1920. It produced the fine williamsite and kammererite which graced the older collections. The orebody is a roughly cylindrical mass with the diameters 1.2 by 2.1 meters, pitching to a depth of over 80 meters at an angle of 60°. This cylindrical mass is sheathed by a zone of jade like williamsite from a few cm. to 5 dm. in thickness, beyond which lies typical green and brown serpentine. Williamsite also forms thick veins thru chromite, which frequently contains partings of purplish kammererite. Magnesite was quite common at a depth of 60 meters, forming thick veins cutting more or less horizontally across the orebody and the serpentine; which circumstance throws some doubt on the belief that magnesite is a product of surface solutions, causing the pendulum of modern paragenetic thought to swing still further and include even magnesite in the category of minerals produced by hydrothermal solutions. All these minerals may be found on the dumps.

Two other old chrome mines lie 1 km. northeast (Red Pit, H. de G. 2178), and 1.2 km. northeast (Jenkins' mine, H. de G. 2184) of the Line Pit. Of interest from a genetic point of view is an old iron mine in the woods about 1/2 km. northwest of the Red pit (H. de G. 2171.9). In this case a segregation of magnetite occurred instead of chromite. Large masses of the mineral may be found on the dump.

Rock Springs run rises in the vicinity of these mines, and flowing northward empties into Carter's run, near the confluence of this stream and Conowingo Creek. The run takes its name from several springs about 2.5 km. (1.5 m.) north of Rock Springs cross-roads, which lies in Maryland. Near this point a branch enters the main run, the bed and banks of which is the old locality for chalcedony, moss-agate, and drusy quartzs (H. de G. 2149).

A small run empties into Conowingo Creek, about 1 km. west of the Line Pit, or 1.5 km. southeast of Pleasant Grove. In the woods at the foot of the hill just south of this point (H. de G. 1388), boulders of granite gneiss contain xenoliths of talc enclosing bright green, radiating crystals of actinolite, quite resembling specimens from the Zillerthal.

The Boice farm, the famous locality of the pyrite crystals occurring in symmetrical combinations of cube, octahedron and pyritohedron, has been variously given by writers as north, one mile west, one mile northwest, and one mile west by south to Texas. The old name of the farm has been long forgotten by the inhabitants of the vicinity. The locality of the pyrite crystals is about 1.8 km. (1.2 m.) north of Pleasant Grove, just east of the Wakefield road, or 1.5 km. west by south of Texas (Lyles P.O.) (H. de G. 1315.3). The crystals occur in a field near the contact of the serpentine and the mica schists, being found in both these rocks, but especially developed in a talcose schist which probably occurs at the boundary of the two rocks. The best specimens occur in the latter rock. Numerous boulders of



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the rocks are found in the field, filled with symmetrical cavities from which pyrite crystals have been weathered, or with the crystals themselves which have assumed a brown coating of limonite. As noted above the mica schists and the serpentines have been invaded by later dikes of a fine grained grayish granite, finely exposed in the railroad cuts along the Susquehanna. This rock frequently contains pyrite, while crystals are quite common in the mica schists. The crystals of the Boice farm locality probably were deposited by solutions arising from the intrusive along the contact of the serpentine and the mica schists.

About 1/2 km. southeast of the pyrite locality are the old magnesite pits (H. de G. 1316.8), mentioned in the Second Geological Survey reports.

Turning eastward, our last objective is Wood's chrome mine: the source of all that is magnificent in brucite. From Pleasant Grove the road leads back to Rock Springs cross-roads. The Wrightsdale road is taken for 0.9 km. (1/2 mile) to the state line, where the road to the east is taken. In a hollow just southwest of the Wrightsdale fork, and distant about 2 km. from that village lies Tyson Reynold's mine (H. de G. 2247). Just beyond the next cross-roads, Little Britain township is entered. The road from here on has been closed to general traffic, but it will be found to be quite passable on foot. The way lies along Octoraro Creek, past excellent exposures of contorted mica schists. At the end of the road, a trail along the north bank of the creek may be followed until the mine is reached.

Wood's mine lies within the ox-bow of the Octoraro, about 1.2 km. southwest of Lee's Mill, and about 8 km. (5 miles) northwest of Rising Sun, Md., or Sylmar, Pa., the nearest railroad points (H. de G. 2248). The main pit was worked to a depth of 230 meters, but is now filled with water. Enormous dumps extend to the westward of the pit, consisting chiefly of green serpentine, which has become brown on the surface on weathering. The locality is as barren of specimens today as it was prolific of fine brucite, genthite, zarathite, and hydromagnesite in 1857. The orebody was described as having been "300 feet long in its greatest extension, with a width of 10 to 35 feet, dipping 40 to 60° to a depth of 720 feet." The strike was nearly east and west on the surface, and nearly north and south on the lower levels. Occasionally veins of chromite extended into the walls.

A smaller mine (Carter's mine), was situated about 1/2 km. to the east, just west of the Wood farm house (H. de G. 2349).

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For the benefit of those who are interested in visiting or collecting old localities, most of the localities noted in the article are still open to collecting. However, I suggest that one waits until late Fall, Winter or early Spring as underbrush and briars are very thick this time of the year.



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Bicentennial Memorabilia;

Philadelphia Mineralogical Society  
Wagner Free Institute of Science, Dec. 12, 1918

A stated meeting of The Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date, with the president, Dr. Leffmann in the chair. Nineteen members and visitors were present.

Mr. Samuel G. Gordon presented a communication on "The History of Mineralogy in Pennsylvania." The American Philosophical Society, founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743 devoted some attention to mineralogy, but the first mineralogical society was initiated as the "Chemical Society of Philadelphia" (1792-1809). Its chief purpose was to acquire information relative to the minerals of the United States. A standing committee of five was charged with the duty of analyzing (without charge) minerals submitted to it.<sup>1</sup>

The earliest mineralogists were Adam Seybert (1773-1825), Thomas P. Smith (died 1802), Silvanus Godon (died 1812?), James Woodhouse (1772-1809), Gerard Troost (1776-1850), Lardner Vanuxem (1792-1850), Issac Lea (1792-1886), William Keating (1799-1848), and Thomas Nuttall (1787-1859). Seybert was the first scientifically trained mineralogist, and Troost, who studied under Abb'e Haüy, the first crystallographer in America. His early contributions to this subject have been entirely overlooked by some writers on the history of mineralogic science in America. Seybert's cabinet was the second brought to America (1795-1800), and is kept intact in the original condition, arranged according to Cleaveland's Mineralogy (1816). It is probably the oldest American collection of minerals extant.<sup>2</sup>

The Academy of Natural Sciences was instituted in 1812, with Troost as the first president. It contains the cabinets of Adam Seybert (purchased in 1812, - its first mineral collection); Silvanus Godon (1814), Thomas M'Euen (1799-1873), Samuel Ashmead (d. 1864), George W. Carpenter (1802-1860), and William S. Vaux (1811-1882). The Vaux collection, one of the finest in America, is kept intact, and is on exhibition. Deposited in the Academy are the collections of the American Philosophical Society which includes the cabinets of Thomas P. Smith and James Woodhouse; and the collections of the Franklin Institute.

A later mineralogist was Henry Seybert (d. 1884), one of the most brilliant American chemists, who discovered fluorine in chondrodite and beryllium in chrysoberyl.<sup>3</sup>

Chester County mineralogists were numerous; Joel Baily (1791-1894) who made the first Chester County collection, now at Swarthmore College, which contains also the cabinet of Joseph Leidy; Lewis White Williams, (1804-1873); William W. Jefferis, (1821-1906) whose collection is exhibited at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh; Charles W. Pennypacker (1845-1911); S. S. Haldeman, Chickies, Lancaster County, made a collection, while Berks County was represented by John Schoenfeld. Other Philadelphia collectors were Theodore D. Rand (1836-1903) whose collection is at Bryn Mawr College; Col. Joseph Willcox, (1829-1918). Mr. Clarence S. Bement's collection, one of the finest in America, is exhibited in the American Museum of Natural History, N.Y. Mr. George W. Fiss has undoubtedly the largest and finest microscopic collection in the world; and Mr. George Vaux, Jr., of Bryn Mawr, possesses one of the finest private collections of minerals.



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The Media Institute of Science contains the collections of Lewis Palmer and of George Smith, early Delaware County collectors. The Wagner Institute museum contains the mineral collection made by William Wagner (1796-1885). Lehigh University contains the collection of Theodore W. Roepper, while the Francis Alger collection is in possession of Allegheny College at Meadville.

Scientifically, Philadelphia became a center of interest in 1870-1880, due to the analytical work of Frederick A. Genth and George Augustus Koenig, professors of chemistry and mineralogy at the University of Pennsylvania. One of Genth's collections became the property of the University, which was also enriched by the Cardeza and Clay cabinets. In 1880 the Mineralogical and Geological Section of the Academy was organized, followed by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society in 1892.

Sketches of the lives of these men were given. Specimens from the Adam Seybert Collection, and some chemical ware of Henry Seybert were exhibited.

The paper was discussed by Doctors Burgin and Leffmann, and Messrs. Koch and Hagey. Dr. Burgin called attention to the Charles Wistar collection, preserved intact in Germantown.

Mr. Warford presented a report of the condition of the treasury. Upon motion of the treasurer, an appropriation was made to buy stationery for THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST. The Society then adjourned to examine the exhibits.

Samuel G. Gordon, Secretary

<sup>1</sup>This was followed in 1798 by the American Mineralogical Society, founded in New York by Samuel Latham Mitchill.

<sup>2</sup>This collection was preceded by a cabinet brought from Europe in 1794 by David Hosack, exhibited in New York, and presented to Princeton University in 1821; but the identity of this cabinet has been lost.

<sup>3</sup>Wells and Foote, Am.J.Sci.(4)46,265,1918, state that Seybert also discovered boric acid in tourmaline, but this should be credited to Lampadius, Gilbert's Annalen, 37,363,1818 four years prior to Seybert.

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