

Mini Miners Monthly

A Monthly Publication for Young Mineral Collectors.

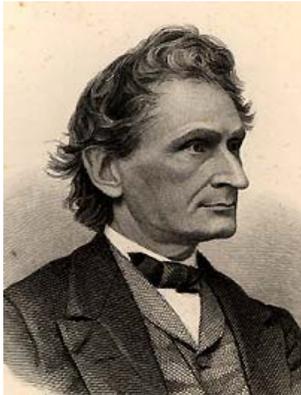
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Mineral Names What do they mean? Who



created them? What can I learn from them? This issue is focused on mineral names. It is the first part of a two-part dictionary of mineral names. It is unique because it is also illustrated, both with mineral drawings as well as pictures of people and places after which some minerals are named. The people pictured on this page have all made a contribution to what is formally called “mineral nomenclature.” Keep reading and you will discover who they are and what they did.

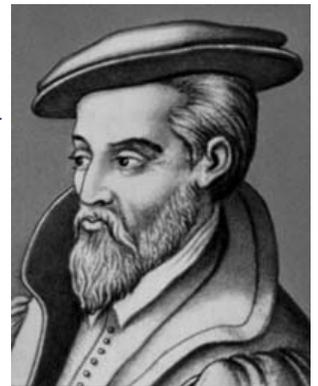
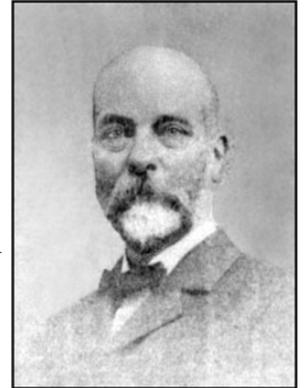
In 1995, Diamond Dan Publications published its first full book, “A Mineral Collector’s Guide to Common Mineral Names: Their Origins & Meanings.” Now it is twenty years later. What you will discover in this issue and in the March issue is a revised and improved version of this book.



This Mineral Names Dictionary will contain mineral names that the average mineral collector would encounter while collecting minerals, attending shows and visiting museum displays. In addition to the most common mineral names, there are some unofficial names which you will still find on labels.

Each mineral name has a story to tell or a lesson to teach. If you wanted to take the time, each name could become a topic to study.

Armcolite, for example, could quickly become a study of a mineral, first discovered on the moon, and brought back to earth by the astronauts Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins (do you see parts of their names in this mineral name?) This could lead you to a study of American astronauts landing on the moon, what it took to get there and what we discovered by landing on the moon.



Every mineral name is a source of discovery and learning. Enjoy the journey!

A Dictionary of Mineral Names

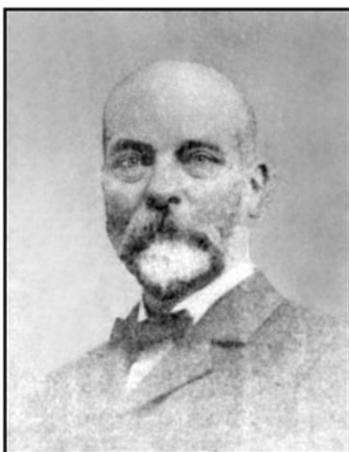
Their Origins and Meanings

Introduction

From the beginning of time, names have been more than simply a way to distinguish one object from another. Names are specifically and carefully chosen (and sometimes designed) to reveal something about the basic character of the object being named. For example, the names given to children tell the world something special about our family and the things or people that inspire us. Children are named after grandparents and siblings, historical people, national heroes and religious heroines. On a less serious side of life, consider our pets who are often named after their looks and personalities (and they never complain!) As a result you will meet any number of Fluffys, Fangs and Thumpers in a trip around the block.

The names given to minerals reveal similar facts about the minerals. For those who care to look closely, nuggets of information from science, history, legend, and geography can be discovered. The names given to minerals relate chemical formulas; they recount ancient legends; they introduce to us famous and not-so-famous collectors; they acquaint us with scientists, poets and the average Joe and Jane; they show us geographical regions found only on ancient maps and cities found only on modern maps. Look closely at the mineral names on the following pages and you will know more about geography, history, culture and language. Locked up in mineral names are many stories waiting to be heard once again.

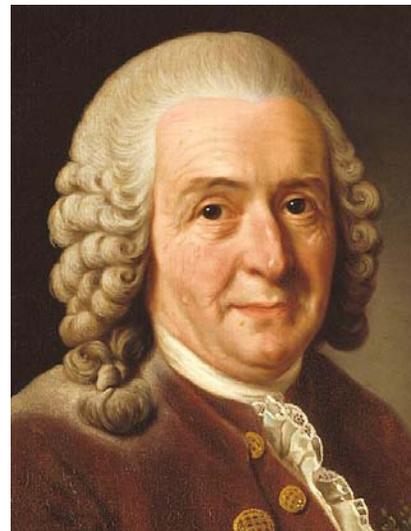
The Scientific Approach



Giving a mineral its name has proven to be as much an art as a science. Mineralogists have been exceedingly creative when it comes to naming mineral species. In 1896, Albert H. Chester (left), Mineralogy Professor at Rutgers College, quiet accurately stated in his book *A Dictionary of the Names of Minerals*, “In short the whole round of human passions has been gone over in the manufacture of these words...” As you will see, scientific methods of systematically naming minerals were attempted, but none really lasted. In the long run, creativity has become the popular “scientific method.”

In the mid-1700’s, mineralogy was a science being born. While other sciences like biology and botany were systematically classifying and naming every species, groups and subgroups within their fields, mineralogy was struggling to follow their footsteps. By the middle of the 18th century, mineralogists were also attempting to create a naming system, that is, a set of rules that everyone would agree to follow as they named and classified newly discovered mineral species.

This desire for a systematic approach was largely due to the influence of the Swedish scientist Carl von Linne (also known by his Latinized name, Carolus Linnaeus, right). Linnaeus determined to create systems by which all minerals, as well as plants

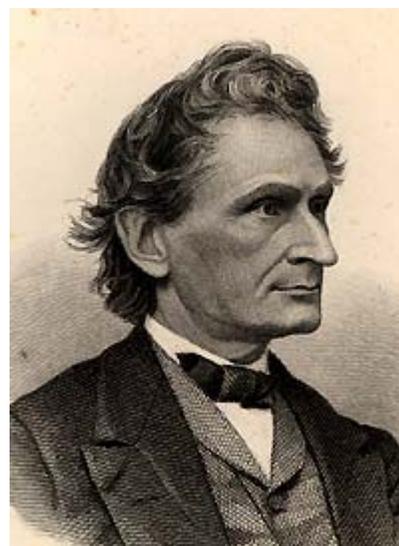


and animals, could be named and classified, using Latinized names. This approach took hold in biology and botany. It was not followed in the field of mineralogy. It did become, though, the foundation upon which other great mineralogists built, or at least tried to build, a mineral-naming plan.



Johan Wallerius, for example, used Linneaus' ideas. Other early efforts included the work of Sir John Hill in 1748 in his book *A History of Fossils*.² Much later, in 1820, the famous Austrian mineralogist, Friedrich Mohs (pictured left), proposed a system which used genus and species names for every mineral. His system resulted in names like *Rhombohedral Emerald-Malachite* for *Dioptase*. Such names are difficult for the average mineral collector of today to understand (especially since we have become used to the simpler names) but they were very popular in scientific circles then. Actually, Professor Mohs' system had many followers, some imitators and some who tried to improve upon it.

Even the great mineralogist, James Dwight Dana (right), tried his hand at the subject and suggested his own plan. The names he created were also Latinized and his system resulted in names like *Andalusius prismaticus* for *andalusite*. His plan underwent a number of editions, but eventually Dana himself dropped his entire system.



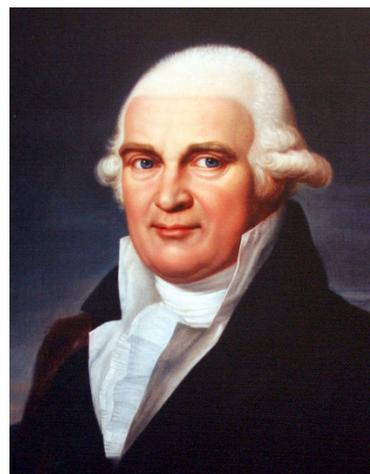
Of course, the field of mineralogy developed and grew. The growing science of chemistry added a new dimension to mineralogy, giving a better understanding of the internal composition of minerals. The chemical composition of minerals thus became a logical source for their names. This led to names like *natrolite* in reference to the sodium in its chemical structure and *uraninite* in reference to the uranium in its chemical structure. The science

continued to advance, and other aspects of minerals were carefully studied and described.



Soon added to this was the field of scientific crystallography, best marked by the work of Jean Baptiste Rome de l'Isle (pictured left), co-founder of modern crystallography. He published his research and observations in 1772. This date is significant to the history of mineral names because from this date forward, minerals could be named after the form of the mineral. A good example of this approach is the name *hemimorphite* which means *half shape*, a reference to the fact that crystals of this mineral have two different terminations on the same crystal.

Discoveries of new mineral species were common in these early days of the science of mineralogy. Scientists, explorers and nature enthusiasts all experienced the thrill of discovery. Soon another new approach to creating mineral names was born: names given in honor of people. Abraham G. Werner (pictured right) pioneered this approach in 1789. In 1783 a South African military man, Colonel



Hendrik von Prehn, brought samples of a “new mineral” to Europe from South Africa. Werner studied the samples, determined them to be a new mineral species, and named the mineral after the Colonel. And the name *prehnite* was born. As thoughtful as this may seem to us, there were those who were not pleased with the idea of naming minerals after people, perhaps because it simply was not “scientific” enough. However, the practice took hold and continues to this day. A more modern example is the mineral *szenicsite* which was named in 1993 after Terry and Marissa Szenics, the people who first discovered this mineral.



So far this discussion has been about the naming of minerals in Europe and America. It is interesting to discover that other cultures have also named minerals after their physical appearance. The Aztec people, for instance, named opal *vitz-itziltecatl* which means *hummingbird stone* in reference to the brilliant, flashing colors of hummingbird feathers. (Picture left used with permission under the GNU Free Documentation License, copyright owner Mdf.)

The Forms of Mineral Names

If you look at mineral names, you will quickly discover some similarities. First, many mineral names end in the suffix *-lite*. This comes from the Greek word *lithos* which means a *stone*. It is so commonly used that this ending has even been suggested as a universal ending to all mineral names. Throughout the history of mineralogy the *-lite* ending has been used frequently, but interestingly it has never been adopted as part of a general naming system.

Second, many mineral names end in the suffix *-ite*. Some have mistakenly proposed that this is a shorter version of the *-lite* ending. Actually this suffix has its roots in the ancient past. The Greek and Roman writers of antiquity used the endings *-ites* and *-it is*. For example, Pliny the Elder called malachite *molochites* and soapstone he called *steatites*. This ending has been carried into modern times.

The Origins of Mineral Names

You discovered earlier that there is no systematic approach to naming mineral species. There are certain customs, however, which have been followed through the years. Some of these customs are quiet scientific and logical; others are more to honor someone special. All are very creative. Here are the most common sources of mineral names.

First, there are some, like *arsenic* which have been **used for centuries**. Their precise origins have been lost. They are simply accepted as relics from the earliest days of mineral identification.

Second, there are mineral names like *adularia* and *muscovite* which were named after a specific **place**. Usually the place was the locality where the mineral was first found or where a significant deposit of the mineral now exists or once existed. Some of these place names refer to



cities or regions which either no longer exist or which are known by a different name today. One such example is *ilvaite*, which was named after “Ilva” which is the old name of the Italian island now called Elba.

A third group of mineral names came from the language of science, that is, **Greek**. There was a day when every scientist knew Greek. Therefore, it became a frequent source for mineral names. This practice may well have been started by Georgius Agricola (the “father of mineralogy,” picture left) who said, “Some of these substances lack names, and because previous writers have not mentioned them, it will be necessary that I assign them new names. As a rule I will give them Greek names because they cannot be named so aptly in Latin.”⁵ *Lepidolite*, for example, was named from the Greek words *lepis* meaning *scale* and *lithos* meaning *stone*, alluding to the scaly

appearance of aggregates of lepidolite flakes in a mass. You will find numerous other examples of this approach throughout the rest of this mineral names dictionary.

Despite Agricola’s statement and practice, **Latin** also became a source for mineral names. As a result, we have names like *albite* which was derived from the Latin word *albus* which means *white* in reference to the most common color of this mineral.

These Greek and Latin words have been used to identify chemical properties and physical characteristics that are distinctive to particular mineral species. For example, *phlogopite* was created from the Greek word *phlogopos* which means *fiery* in allusion to the reddish color displayed on some specimens of this mica. Another example is *serpentine* which came from the Latin word *serpens* which means *snake* in reference to the mottled-green color of the massive variety of this mineral, which can look like the skin and markings of some snakes.

A fourth group represents those few minerals whose names have come from **languages other** than Latin or Greek. *Marcasite*, for example, was created from an Arabic word; *turquoise* was named after a French word for *Turkish*.

A fifth group of mineral names were given **in honor of people**. Sometimes the people are well-known mineralogists or scientists. For example, *kunzite* was named after the famous gemologist George F. Kunz. Minerals have been commonly named after the person who discovered and/or first described the species. For example, *andradite* was named after Jose B. de Andrada e Silva, the mineralogist who first examined this variety of garnet. In addition, mine owners (William Coleman), political figures (Archduke of Austria, Victor Stephan), wealthy benefactors (John P. Morgan), and friends of mineralogists (Henry Ludlam) have all been honored by having a mineral named after them.

A sixth group is named after the **chemical composition** of the mineral. Good examples are *uraninite* which refers to its uranium content, and *manganite* which refers to its manganese content.

Lastly, you will also find that there are some popular mineral names which are popular and which have their origins in either **local legend or local usage**. These “names” are usually not officially recognized mineral names. But they are also usually very well known. *Fairy stone* is a very good example. This is a regional name from Virginia and North Carolina which gained popular, and almost universal usage. *Kidney ore* is another example. It originated as a nick-name for the kidney-like masses of hematite found by miners in the hematite mines of England.

The Mineralogists Who Created the Names

The people who gave minerals their names have been very creative. The complete list of mineral names came from a long list of mineralogists and scientists, and even some amateur collectors. If you were to study the list of people who named mineral species, you would discover that some have had a more significant impact than others. Abraham Gottlob Werner named 29 of the minerals with which we are familiar today. Wilhelm von Haidinger named 22. F.S. Beudant named 21. Many other people contributed but a name or two. T. Anderson gave us *gyrolite*. Frederick Pough gave us *brazilianite*. A gentleman named Mauduyt (whose first name is now unknown!) gave us the name *montmorillonite*. Who knows. You may discover a new mineral species and create a mineral name of your very own. Perhaps it will be based on your own name!

Naming Minerals Today



Today there are strict guidelines which must be followed in the naming of a new mineral species. Gone are the days when a mineralogist could publish a paper, propose a name, and expect the rest of the mineralogical world to simply accept and use it. Today the naming of minerals is carefully guided by the International Mineralogical Association's (IMA) Commission on New Minerals Nomenclature and Classification. Here are some of the guidelines followed in the process of naming a new mineral. (If you want more details, refer to their website at http://www.ima-mineralogy.org/CNMNC_Strategy.htm).

First is the *Law of Priority*. This law says that the oldest name given a mineral is the mineral's true name; later names are to be discarded. As you review the names in this issue, you will find that this law was not always followed in the past. It is, however, closely followed today. In the history of mineral nomenclature, a few minerals have been given more than one name. When a mineral name is discarded, it cannot be used later. When a mineral name is set aside it is considered extinct: it can never be used again. This is done to avoid any possible confusion.

Another rule, then, is that any new mineral name must be completely new. In addition, it must be substantially different from all existing mineral names. Again this is done to avoid confusing two distinct mineral species by giving names that are too similar. An example of mineral names that are too similar are *danaite* and *danalite*.

Other guidelines are also followed. For instance, today mineral names should end in *-ite* or *-lite*: these suffixes are to be attached to names of places or persons, or to significant chemical properties, but never to common words. Consequently, we will never find "shinyite" for our collections! When a foreign language is used as the basis for a name, Greek is the preferred language, although other languages, ancient and modern, can be used. Combining words from two different languages, however, is discouraged. Double word names are not used at all (so old names like *sal ammoniac* are no longer created).

Of course there are more regulations and more details, most of which are very technical and scientific. You are encouraged to do your own research on mineral names to learn these technical details.

And now...

A Mineral Collector's Guide to Common Mineral Names, Part I



Actinolite (Amphibole group) was named from the Greek words *aktis* meaning *ray* and *lithos* meaning *stone*, because it commonly has a radiated habit. The name was given by Richard Kirwan in 1794.

Adamite was named in honor of the French mineralogist, Gilbert Joseph Adam (1795-1881) who provided the first specimens of this mineral for study.

Adularia (Feldspar) was first found on Mt. Saint Gotthard, Switzerland. It was the desire of E. Pini (1783) to name this mineral in honor of the mountain range in which it was found. However, it was mistakenly presumed that this mountain belonged to the Adula Mountain range. Consequently, the mineral was named **Adularia**. An original form of this name was **Adulaire**. It was named in 1783.

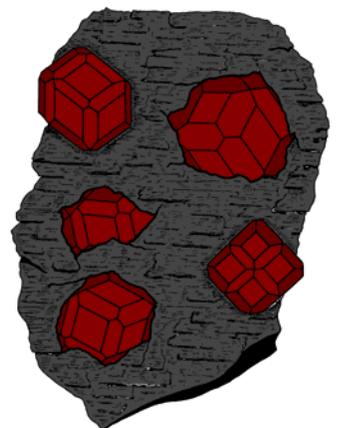
Aegerine (Pyroxene group) was named after Aegir, the Scandinavian sea god (pictured right). The name was given by Jens Esmark, a Norwegian Professor of Mineralogy, in 1835. The name Esmark originally proposed was **Aegerite** and was later altered to **Aegerine**.

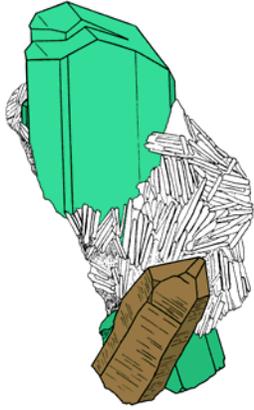


Agate (Quartz) has been known and worked since ancient times. The name is first found in writing by the Greek natural scientist Theophrastus (c 376– c 287 BCE) however, the name may have been in use for years, perhaps decades or even centuries before this. This stone was given the name **agate** because it was found near the river Achatesin in southern Sicily (this river is known today as the Dirillo river).

Albite (Feldspar) was named from the Latin word *albus* meaning *white* in reference to the most common color of this mineral. The name was given by Johan Gottlieb Gahn and Jöns Jakob Berzelius in 1815.

Almandite (Garnet) was named from Alabanda in Asia Minor where garnets were cut and polished. Originally this name was applied to violet-colored spinels and only later given to this variety of precious garnet. It is also called **almandine**.



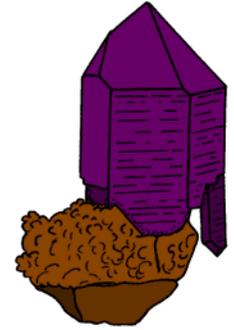


Amazonite (Microcline, Feldspar) was named after the Amazon River, Brazil, where green stones were found by early European explorers. The stones they found, however, were probably not the mineral we know today as amazonite. The name was given to this green variety of feldspar by Friedrich A. Breithaupt in 1847.



The Amazon River, Brazil

Amethyst (Quartz) is one of those minerals believed by the ancients to have special powers. They believed that a person who wore a piece of amethyst or who drank wine from an amethyst goblet would not suffer from a hangover or even intoxication. So it was named from the Greek word *amethystos* meaning *anti-intoxicant* or *not drunken*.



Amphibole was named from the Greek word *amphibolos* which means *ambiguous* in referenced to the fact that this mineral is so easily mistaken for other minerals. The name was given by René Just Haüy in 1797.

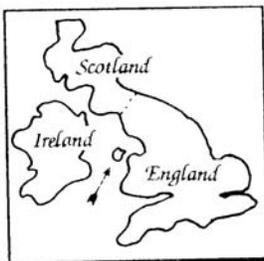
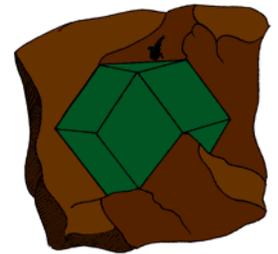


Analcime displays a weak electric property when it is rubbed or heated. Consequently it was named from the Greek word *analkis* meaning *weak*. The name was given by René Just Haüy in 1797.

It is also called **analcite** by some mineralogists. In 1804, Abraham Gottlob Werner named this mineral **Cubizite**, although this name is not used today.

Andalusite was named from Andalusia, a province in southern Spain, where this mineral is found. The name was given by Jean Claude Delamétherie in 1798.

Andradite (Garnet) was named after the mineralogist who first examined it, Jose B. de Andrada e Silva (1763-1838). The name was given by James Dwight Dana in 1868.



The Island of Anglesey, England

Anglesite was named after the locality where it was first found, the Island of Anglesey, England. The name was given by F.S. Beudant in 1832.

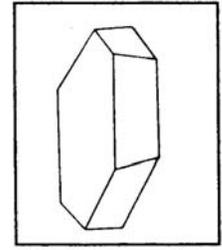
Anhydrite is chemically almost identical to

Gypsum...however it lacks the water found in gypsum (Gypsum— $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$; anhydrite— CaSO_4). Hence, its name was derived from the Greek word *anhydrous* which means *without water*. The name was given by Abraham Gottlob Werner in 1803.



Ankerite was named in honor of the Austrian mineralogist, Professor Matthias Joseph Anker (1772-1843, pictured left). The name was given by Wilhelm von Haidinger in 1825.

Anorthite (Feldspar) crystals are Triclinic in form. This means the crystal has three axes all of which have different lengths, none of which intersect the others at a right angle. Therefore, its name was derived from the Greek words *an* meaning *not* and *orthos* meaning *upright*; in short, it means *oblique*, in reference to its crystal form. This mineral was named by Gustav Rose in 1823.



An Anorthite Crystal

Anthophyllite (Amphibole group) is commonly clove-brown in color. Hence its name came from the Latin *anthophyllum* which means *clove*. It is sometimes called **Anthophylline**.

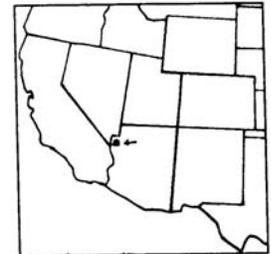
The name was given by Heinrich Christian Frederik Schumacher in 1801.



The Piedmont region, Italy

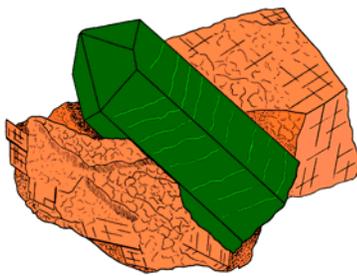
Antigorite was named after the Antigorio Valley, Piedmont, Italy. The name was given by E. Schweizer in 1840.

Antimony was named from the Medieval Latin word, *antimonium* which was originally applied to **Stibnite**, and later to **Native Antimony**.



The Antler Mine, Arizona

Antlerite was named after the Antler Mine, Mohave County, Arizona, the locality from which it was first described. The name was give by W.F. Hillebrand in 1889.

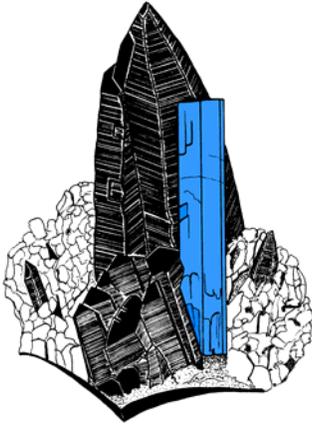


Apatite commonly forms lovely, gemmy crystals. Its name came from the Greek word *apatan* which means *to deceive* because it was commonly mistaken for several other similar-looking gemmy minerals like **Aquamarine**, **Amethyst** and **Tourmaline**. The name was given by Abraham Gottlob Werner in 1786.

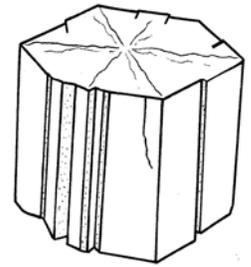
A yellow-green variety of apatite was at one time known as **asparagus stone**.

Apophyllite was named from the Greek words *apo* meaning *from* and the verb *phyllazein* meaning *to get leaves* because it exfoliates when heated. The name was given by René Just Haüy in 1806.

The original name given to this mineral, **Ichthyophthalmite**, did not last. This name was derived from the Greek words *ichthys* meaning *fish* and *ophthalmos* meaning *eye*. Abraham Gottlob Werner simplified this a bit in 1805 by translating this Greek-based name into **Fish-Eye Stone**. Perhaps it was just too complicated to gain wide use.



Aquamarine (Beryl) is a beautiful light blue to bluish-green variety of beryl. Its name was derived from the Latin phrase *aqua marina* meaning *sea water* in reference to its color. (Left)



Aragonite was named after the region of Aragón, Spain, the locality of the famous pseudo-hexagonal twin crystals of this mineral. It was named by Abraham Gottlob Werner in 1796. (Pictured above right. Map of the Aragon region, right.)



The region of Aragón, Spain

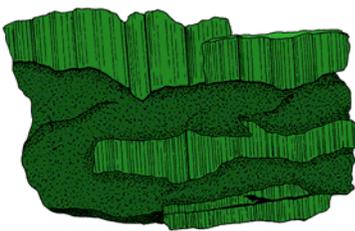
Argentite was named from the Latin word *argentum* which means *silver*, in reference to its silver content (Ag_2S). The name was given by Wilhelm von Haidinger in 1845.

Arsenic was originally the name applied to arsenic sulfide compounds because of their obviously powerful properties, specifically that when ingested they caused severe illness and even death. The ancients called this substance “arsenic” from the Greek word *arsen* which means *male, manly, vigorous, or strong*, because they believed that this substance was male in gender since it was “strong” (that is, deadly). This was based on the sexist assumption that men are stronger than women.

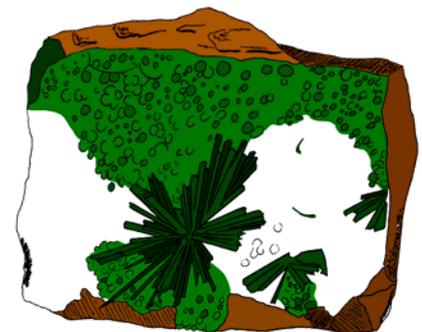
This name was applied to the mineral **Native Arsenic** by Friedrich A. Breithaupt in 1823.

Arsenopyrite is a contraction of the older name **Arsenical Pyrites**, meaning this mineral is similar to pyrite but has arsenic in its chemistry (FeAsS). The name was given by E.F. Glocker in 1847.

Older names for this mineral, which are not usually used anymore, are **Arsenical Pyrites** and **Mispickel**.



Asbestos had many uses in modern technology because of its resistance to heat and flame. The name was given by the ancient Roman natural historian, Pliny the Elder, in the year 77. It came from the Greek word *asbestos* which means *unquenchable* in reference to its resistance to fire and heat. (Left)



Atacamite was named after the locality of Atacama, Chile, where it was first found. The name was given by D. de Gallitzen in 1801. (Right)

Augite (Pyroxene group) was named from the Greek word *auge* meaning *luster* in reference to its distinctive vitreous to resinous luster. The name was given by Abraham Gottlob Werner in 1792.

Aurichalcite was named from the Latin word *aurichalcum* which means *yellow copper ore*. The name was given by T. Bottger in 1839.



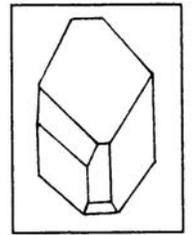
Autun, France

Autunite was named after the important deposits of this mineral in Autun, France. The name was given by Henry James Brooke and W.H. Miller in 1852.

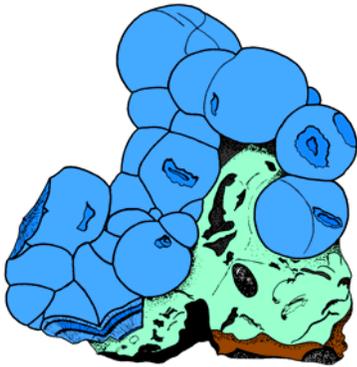
Aventurine (Quartz) is a variety of quartz with minute mica inclusions which give it a spangled appearance. It was supposedly named after an artificial compound called "aventurine" which this mineral resembles.

Axinite typically forms wedge-shaped crystals. Consequently, its name was derived from the Greek word *axine* which means *axe*. The name was given by René Just Haüy in 1797.

The first name given to this mineral was **Yanolite** meaning *violet stone* because it sometimes has a violet color. This name was given by Jean Claude Délamétherie in 1792. It is no longer used.



A typical wedge-shaped Axinite crystal



Azurite was named after the azure (blue) color of this striking mineral. The name was first applied by Robert Jameson in 1805.

One of the earliest names of this mineral was **Blue Malachite**. (Left)

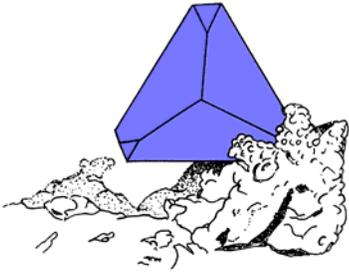
B

Babingtonite was named in honor of the Irish mineralogist and physician, Dr. William Babington (1757-1833, right). The name was given by A. Levy in 1824.



Barite (sometimes spelled **Baryte**) was named from the Greek word *baros* meaning *heavy* or *weight*, a reference to its unusually high specific gravity for a non-metallic mineral. It was given by Dietrich Ludwig Gustav Karsten in 1800.

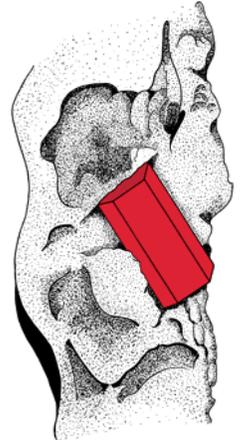
Bauxite was named from its occurrence in Beaux, France. The original spelling, the one given by A. Dufrenoy in 1847, was **Beauxite**.



Benitoite was named from its occurrence in San Benito County, California, the type locality of this mineral. It was given by George Davis Louderback in 1907.

Beryl is a mineral name with ancient origins. It was named from the Greek word *beryllos*, believed to refer to Belur, a town in Southern India near gem deposits.

It was first applied to green gemstones in general, but now refers specifically to the silicate of beryllium and aluminum (which includes varieties such as **aquamarine**, **morganite**, **emerald** and **heliodor**). (Right)



Biotite (Mica) was named in honor of the French physicist, Professor Jean Baptiste Biot. He was the first to point out that different micas have different optical properties. The name was given by J.F.L. Hausmann in 1847. (Left)

Bismuth was possibly named from the Greek word meaning *lead white*. A different theory claims it was named from a German word *Wismut*, which is of unknown origins. The precise origin is evidently somewhat disputed. The mineral is more properly known as **Native Bismuth**.

Bloodstone (Chalcedony, Quartz) is the common name for the variety of chalcedony called **heliotrope**. It is dark green with red spots which resemble spots of blood...hence the name.



Boleo, Baja California, Mexico

Boleite was named after its locality, Boleo, Baja California, Mexico. The name was given by E. Mallard and E. Cumenge in 1891.

Boracite was named from *borax*, a reference to its boron content ($Mg_3ClB_7O_{13}$) and its association with the mineral **borax**. The name was given by Abraham Gottlob Werner in 1789.

Borax was derived from the Arabic name for this mineral, *bauraq* meaning *white*. The name was given by Wall in 1848.

Bornite was named after the Austrian mineralogist, Ignaz Edler von Born (1742-1791). It was first used by F.S. Beudant in 1832 in reference to a telluride of bismuth which is found in brilliant, steel-gray laminae. However, it was later applied by Wilhelm von Haidinger (in 1845) to the mineral which now bears this name, a sulphide of copper and iron which is commonly iridescent purple and blue. It is also known by the names **purple copper** and, more commonly, **peacock ore**. (Right)



Boulangerite was named after C.L. Boulanger, who first described this mineral. The name was given by M.C.J. Thaulow in 1837.

This mineral is sometimes referred to as **feather ore**.

Bournonite was named after the French crystallographer and mineralogist, Count Jacques Louis, Comte de Bournon (1751-1825), who first described its chemical composition. The name was given by Robert Jameson in 1805.

This is actually the second name given to this mineral. The first, which is not used today, was **endellionite**.

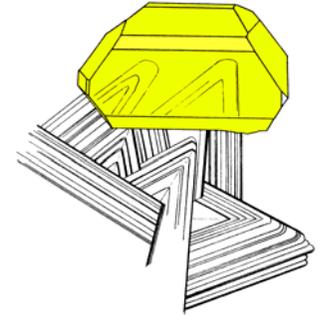


Brazil, South America

Brazilianite is a more recent mineral discovery. It was discovered in 1945, and was identified by F.H. Pough and Henderson later that year. It was named after Brazil, the country in which it was discovered. The name was given by Frederick H. Pough in 1945.

As a point of interest, A.H. Chester reports that in 1818, John Mawe used the name "brazilianite" as a synonym for **wavellite** which he had found in Brazil. By the end of the 19th century the usage was

obsolete.



Bronzite (Pyroxene group) is a name which, simply, refers to the bronze color of this mineral. This silicate mineral is an iron-rich variety of the mineral **enstatite**. The name was given by Dietrich Ludwig Gustav Karsten in 1807.

Brookite was named in honor of the British mineralogist and crystallographer, Henry James Brooke (1771-1857). The name was given by A. Levy in 1825.

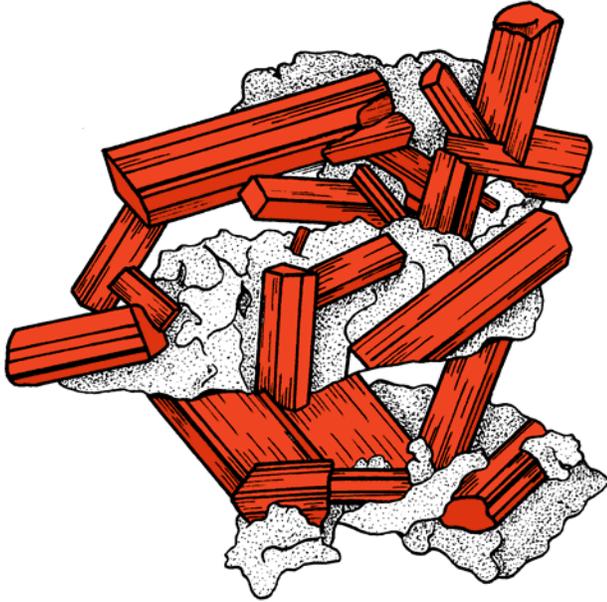


Brucite is a mineral name with a long and confusing history. It was named after the American mineralogist who first described this mineral, Archibald Bruce (1777-1818, Left). The name was given by George Gibbs in 1819. However, the mineral given this name by Gibbs is now known as **chondrodite**.

Later, in 1824, this same name was applied by F.S. Beudant to the mineral which today is known as brucite.

To confuse matters, "brucite" was also used by A. Dufrenoy in 1847 to refer to the mineral now called **zincite**.

Byssolite (Amphibole group) was named from the Greek words *byssos* meaning *flax* and *lithos* meaning *stone* in reference to the fibrous habit of this variety of amphibole. The name was given by Horace Bénédict de Saussure in 1796.



This is only the beginning of our Dictionary of Mineral Names. The April issue of Mini Miners Monthly will begin with the letter C. In time, you will have a complete dictionary of mineral names for your own personal reference.

The images in this issue are all in the public domain. The mineral drawings are by Darryl Powell.

Next month we will pick up with "C" and continue right through "Z." When this project is completed, you will be able to

download a PDF file of the entire mineral names dictionary at our website. Stay tuned for more information in the next issue.

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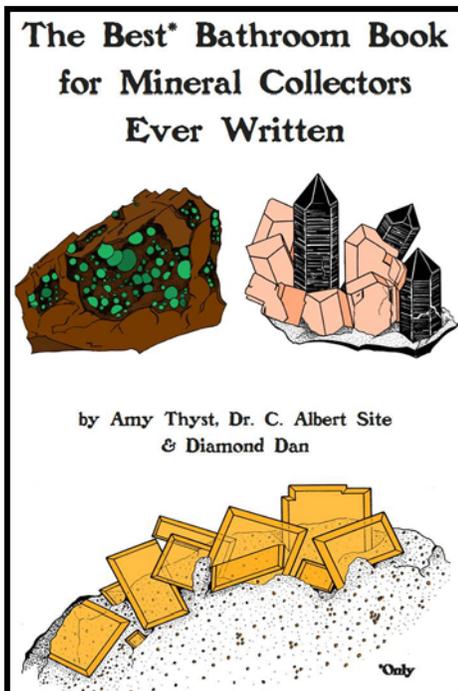
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