



Rock-Forming Minerals Vol. 5A: Non-Silicates: Oxides, Hydroxides and Sulphides

By J F W Bowles, D J Vaughan, R A Howie, J Zussman

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Volume 5A of this second edition of Rock-Forming Minerals focuses on oxides, hydroxides and sulphides. Since the publication of the first edition, in 1962, there has been an enormous increase in the literature devoted to these minerals. This new edition, greatly expanded and rewritten, covers aspects that include crystal structures, chemical compositions, electronic structures, phase relations, thermochemistry, mineral surface structure and reactivity, physical properties, distinguishing features and parageneses (including stable isotope data).

Volume 5A deals with:

Oxides (J. F. W. Bowles)

Periclase, cassiterite, corundum, rutile, anatase, brookite, perovskite, hematite, ilmenite, pseudobrookite, armalcolite, pseudorutile, spinel, gahnite, galaxite, hercynite, magnetite, magnesioferrite, maghemite, qandilite, franklinite, jacobsite, trevorite, Mg-chromite, chromite, Fe-chromite Hydroxides (R. A. Howie & J. Zussman)

Brucite, gibbsite, diaspore, boehmite, goethite, ferrihydrite, lepidocrocite, feroxyhyte Sulphides (D. J. Vaughan)

Pyrite, pyrrhotite, chalcopyrite, sphalerite, galena

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Editorial Review

Review

Few books on our shelves are pulled more often than mineralogy reference texts. It was thus a great pleasure to dive into a new edition from the classic series Rock-forming Minerals (aka Deer, Howie and Zussman). This particular release, Non-Silicates: Oxides, Hydroxides and Sulphides (volume 5A), is a vastly grown-up second edition of its predecessor of 50 years prior. Authors Bowles, Howie, Vaughan, and Zussman have compiled a comprehensive look at a subset of the mineral classes covered in the original, with the up-to-date version expanded to an impressive 920 pages in length.

The book is well organized and coordinated throughout, with systematic use of abbreviations and symbols tabulated up front for the reader's easy reference. Each chapter is initiated by a table of key optical and physical properties for that mineral, and cited references close the chapter. Both are convenient and useful for the purpose of the reader's further research. The book concludes with an index that is nicely replete with keywords and topics to search out their multiple occurrences. Key data tables and illustrations are carefully selected, well presented, and there when you need them

With respect to value versus cost, one only needs to make the observation that this volume was written by intellectual giants in the mineralogical sciences, well recognized and esteemed experts on this non-silicate subgroup. Though every effort seems to have been made to craft the book in a standardized reference-text form, the insightful perspectives and biases of the authors are tacitly evident. In this regard, and given its 50-year mark, the book is without a doubt a significant milestone. Because of this, I ascribe a higher return on investment relative to other reference books of its kind.

All things considered, I find it easy to recommend this volume to student and professional alike, to those seeking a solid foundation for pursuit of the next 50 years of mineralogical research on these minerals and beyond. --Kevin M. Rosso, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory - Review featured in Elements December issue 2012

Users Review

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Shawn Francis:

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