

Moh's Scale of Mineral Hardness

ANSP.2010.069.Artifact

Finding aid prepared by Jenna Toppert

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

April 08, 2013

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia
8/10/10
1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA, 19103
215-299-1075
archives@ansp.org

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	4
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	4
<u>General note</u>	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	6

Summary Information

Repository	Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia
Creator	Foote, Albert Edward, February 4,1846 - October 10,1895
Creator	Mohs, Carl Friedrich Christian, , 1773-1839
Title	Mohs Scale of Mineral Hardness
Date	Circa 1890
Extent	1.0 Object(s) One wooden box containing twelve individual minerals and one set of ornate metal tongs. Located in a custom-made box.
Language	English

Scope and Contents note

A Moh's Hardness Scale set of minerals. 12 mineral specimens organized by quality of durability. Minerals are kept inside of a wooden box that includes a set of metal tongs. The specimens included are: Talc, Gypsum var Selenite, Finger Nail, Calcite, Flourite, Apatite, Glass, Feldspar, Quartz, Topaz, Corundum, and Diamond. The inside of the box lid reads: Foote. Mineralogist. Philadelphia.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia 8/10/10

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research.

Controlled Access Headings

Occupation(s)

- Mineralogy

Personal Name(s)

- Haritos, Michael
- Lane, Meredith A.
- Scalisi, Phillip

General note

A note accompanied the Moh's Hardness Scale. It reads: Scientific Instrument-Moh's Hardness Scale. Foote. Mineralogist. Philadelphia, PA. Not Foote's whole original set. Specimens with numbered stickers are Foote's. Others filled in from ANSP collection, 2001. Diamond is industrial quality. Set pieced together by Phil Scalisi and Mike Haritos, mineralogists under contract with ANSP with assistance from Meredith Lane Aug-Sept 2001. Removed from Mineral Vault September 2001 by M. Lane. Transferred to Archives, for scientific instrument collection. EES 9/01. The note will be located in a folder within the control deed manuscript box.

Collection Inventory

	Box
Talc mineral 1.0 Object(s)	1
General note A mineral composed of hydrated magnesium silicate. It is very soft and sectile (can be cut with a knife); with a Mohs hardness of 1, it can be easily scratched by a fingernail.	

Gypsum var. Selenite

General note

Gypsum is a very soft mineral composed of calcium sulfate dihydrate. Gypsum occurs in nature as flattened and often twinned crystals and transparent cleavable masses called selenite. On the Moh's Hardness scale it rates between 1.5-2.

Toenail

General note

The fingernail is composed of Keratin and rates as a 2.5 in this particular Moh's Hardness Scale set. The origin of the fingernail is unknown but is believe to be from the original owner of the set.

Calcite

General note

Calcite is a carbonate mineral and the most stable polymorph of calcium carbonate. Calcite is ranked 3 on the scale of the Moh's Hardness.

Fluorite

General note

Fluorite (also called fluorspar) is a halide mineral composed of calcium fluoride. Fluorite rates at 4 on the Moh's Scale of Hardness.

Apatite

General note

Apatite is a group of phosphate minerals, such as hydroxyapatite, fluorapatite, chlorapatite and bromapatite. Apatite has a Mohs Scale hardness of 5.

Glass

General note

Glass is an amorphous or non-crystalline, solid material. Glasses are typically fragile and often optically transparent. Glass ranks as a 5.5 in this particular Moh's Hardness Scale Set.

Feldspar

General note

Feldspars is a rock-forming tectosilicate mineral which makes up as much as 60% of the Earth's crust. Feldspar is ranked at 6 on the Moh's Hardness Scale.

Quartz

General note

Quartz is the second most abundant mineral in the Earth's continental crust, after feldspar. It is made up of a continuous framework of silicon–oxygen tetrahedra. It ranks as a 7 on the Moh's Hardness Scale.

Topaz

General note

Topaz is a silicate mineral of aluminium and fluorine. Topaz ranks as an 8 on the Moh's Hardness Scale.

Corundum 1.0

General note

Corundum is a crystalline form of aluminium oxide with traces of iron, titanium and chromium. It is a rock-forming mineral. It rates as a 9 on the Moh's Scale of Hardness.

Diamond

General note

In mineralogy, diamond is an allotrope of carbon, where the carbon atoms are arranged in a variation of the face-centered cubic crystal structure called a diamond lattice. This is the highest ranked mineral (10) on the Moh's Hardness Scale. The diamond is industry quality.

Croft and Allen Tongs

General note

The tongs are from Croft and Allen. They are small, metal, and ornately designed.