



THE MINERALOGY OF STAR TREK: THE NEXT SERIES

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"I'm a doctor, not a coal miner." (Dr Leonard McCoy, 1967).

INTRODUCTION

In 2005, The Mineralogical Record published as the third issue of the first volume of its on-line e-zine the article "The Mineralogy of Star Trek"¹. This was the first systematic effort to give an overview of mineralogy as it exists in the imaginary world of Star Trek in all of its manifestations on film and on television. It was also an effort to put together a comprehensive list of materials referred to in the various Star Trek incarnations that either referred to minerals or mined substances (both real and fictitious) and of materials that might be mistaken for minerals as their names ended with the suffix "ite".

The public reaction to the original article was tremendous, even though it had been written for fun and to make sense of what had been presented in the Star Trek world. One intention of the article was to hopefully influence the producers of Star Trek to improve the mineral nomenclature in future episodes. Unfortunately, the last series "Enterprise" was cancelled at about the same time as the article was published. Perhaps this article and the original article will at least influence future series, films or independent writers and gamers of the Star Trek genre.

The task that was undertaken relied on being able to watch over and over again hundreds of hours of episodes and films available for viewing, collect all possible names, identify them and tabulate them. At the time this was not an easy undertaking and it became apparent that although this list would be the most comprehensive to date, some names might have been missed requiring an update. The greater use of closed-captioning, HD television clarity and the publication of scripts on-line have made it easier to find names of interest and verify some spellings. The advent of *Netflix*, the explosion on *YouTube* as well as various enthusiasts adding information across the internet has made it possible to verify other names that were used or indirectly referred to in the television series and the motion picture films.

¹de Fourestier, Jeffrey. (2005): The Mineralogy of Star Trek. *Axis (The Mineralogical Record)* **1** (3), 1-24.
<http://www.minrec.org/pdfs/STAR%20TREK%20Article.pdf>

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to the original article by providing additional information on the materials mentioned in the original article. In addition, it provides names of other materials that either have mineral-like names or have been attributed mineralogical characteristics. As in the previous article, this paper does not include nor discuss names used in printed novels, short stories or games.

MINING

Mining is a one of the most ubiquitous themes in Star Trek since its inception. The search for minerals throughout the universe gives rise to the justification of colonies on other worlds both for gain and punishment. While some episodes indicate what is being mined, many do not. In any event minerals and mined substances weave throughout all the versions of Star Trek ever created. In fact, it is a Vulcan geological survey team that makes first contact with the inhabitants of Earth. Even earlier, a group of stranded Vulcans secretly work in a Pennsylvania mining town, including working in the mine itself.

But as in the real world not all deposits of minerals, whether on planets or asteroids, are of importance. This is because either the deposit is too small or the minerals to be found have no commercial interest.

As with other things portrayed in Star Trek, a number have gone from science fiction to become science fact. While mining asteroids or other worlds, the retrieval of samples from a comet has already occurred and NASA is preparing to retrieve a sample from the asteroid Bennu in 2016² not only to understand how to deal with a potential impact but to study the potential natural resources such as water, organics, and precious metals for future economic development. NASA in 2012 had created the Institute for Advanced Concepts that oversees the *Robotic Asteroid Prospector project* evaluating ways and means of asteroid mining. Not to be left out, private investors have already set up companies whose aim is to mine asteroids or other planets³.

UPDATED STATS

Previously, approximately 125 minerals or mineral-like names listed were found in the various series and films. For the purpose of this update, references to certain rocks have been included as they are technically mixtures on known minerals and definable. As a result, the number of names has now grown to 180. The breakdown for the new numbers by series is shown in the following table:

ABBRE- VIATIONS	NAME OF SERIES	IN PRODUCTION	NUMBER OF NAMES
DS9	Deep Space 9	1993-1999	47
ENT	Enterprise	2001-2005	30
MPF	Motion pictures	1979-present	7
TAS	Animated series	1973-1974	5
TNG	The Next Generation	1987-1994	45
TOS	Original series	1966-1969	43
VOY	Voyager	1995-2001	48

² <http://www.asteroidmission.org/objectives/>

³ These firms include: Planetary Resources started in 2012, Deep Space Industries, and Kepler Energy and Space Industries, most of which plan to be mining within a decade.

UPDATES ON PREVIOUSLY LISTED NAMES

For some of the materials already named and described in the original article more information is listed below. Using HD and stop-action technology, closed-captioning and on-line scripts to review the various programs and films again, some more information about the physical characteristics or other localities could be gleaned from re-watching the episodes. This information is given below and represents additional information not mentioned in the original article:

Aragonite

Collected by Denoblian geologists in a cave on the planet Xantoras in the Alpha quadrant. Episode: *The Breach* (ENT), 2003

Benamite

Another spelling of Benomite.

Beresium Ore

Present on the planet surface, it was impacted by an asteroid containing Iron, Anorthosite and possibly Feldspar. The particulates that were thrown into the atmosphere fell in rain back to the surface as toxic radioactive fallout. As the asteroid did not contain any toxic or radioactive minerals, this implies that Beresium Ore is toxic and radioactive. Episode: *Terra Nova* (ENT), 2001

Coal

Dr McCoy makes reference to Coal mining. Scotty makes reference to use of coal as an energy source. Episode: *Empath* (TOS), 1968, *Albatross* (TAS), 1974

Cormalite

It is also found in the caves along with Limestone on an unnamed M-class (Minshara-class) planet in the Alpha quadrant. Episode: *Strange New World* (ENT), 2001

Corundum

Julian Bashir, posing as a geologist, noted that a statue contained Tourmaline, Ruby, Sapphire and Topaz. Episode: *Our Man Bashir* (DS9), 1995 [Ruby, Sapphire]

Denevan Crystal

Another spelling of Denivan Crystal. They consist of transparent colourless to reddish sharp crystal groups similar in appearance to Calcite. Episode: *The Sound of Her Voice* (DS9), 1998

Gold

It can be mined on the F-class planet Janus VI in the Alpha quadrant. It was also referred to by Ferengi in discussions with Captain Archer. Episodes: *Devil in the Dark* (TOS), 1967, *Acquisition* (ENT), 2002

Granite

Granite constitutes together with a metal alloy the substrate of the Shore Leave planet in the Omicron-Delta region. Episode: *Once Upon a Planet* (TAS), 1973

Ice

Also found in Archer's Comet associated with Eisilium in the Alpha quadrant. As well, it is found covering the surface an unnamed planet between the planet Kzin and Starbase 25 in the Beta Lyrae system in the Alpha quadrant. Episodes: *Breaking the Ice* (ENT), 2001, *The Slaver Weapon* (TAS), 1973

Jevonite

It was also referred to by the Ferengi Nagus. Episode: *Ferengi Love Songs* (DS9), 1997

Latinum

This liquid metal was also referred to by Ferengi in discussions with Captain Archer. Episode: *Acquisition* (ENT), 2002

Limestone

It is also found in the caves along with Cormalite on unnamed M-class planet in the Alpha quadrant. Episode: *Strange New World* (ENT), 2001

Magnesite

Also found in Archer's Comet associated with Eisilium as well as on an unnamed planet in Orion Syndicate space in the Alpha quadrant. Episodes: *Bound* (ENT), 2005, *Breaking the Ice* (ENT), 2001

Miszinite

Another spelling of mizinite.

Pergium

It is also mined on an unnamed planet in the Sapporo system and on the planet Timor II in Cardassian space in the Gamma quadrant. Episode: *Prodigal Daughter* (DS9), 1999

Platinum

It is generally found in plutonic igneous and metamorphic mafic rock. It can be mined on the F-class planet Janus VI in the Alpha quadrant associated with Uranium, Serium and Pergium. Episode: *Devil in the Dark* (TOS), 1967

Quartz

It is found in explosive rock formations on the planet Gamma Trianguli VI in the Alpha quadrant associated with Hornblende and Uraninite. Episode: *The Apple* (TOS), 1967

Salt

This mineral was detected in subterranean water on the planet Velara III. Episode: *Home Soil* (TNG), 1988 [Halite]

Sulfur

It is mined on an unnamed moon of the J-class planet Jupiter in the Sol system in the Alpha quadrant. Episode: *Life Line* (VOY), 2000

Topaline

It is massive, opaque and is yellow with a dull lustre. Episode: *Friday's Child* (TOS), 1967

Topaline Ore

Another spelling of Topoline. Episode: *The Shipment* (ENT), 2003

Zenite

A grey powdery mineral.

LIST OF MINERALS

As in the original article, the list that follows will be divided between “Fictional Minerals” and “Legitimate (non-fictional) Minerals”. These materials were not named in the original article and are therefore new additions. As well, there is also a small number of legitimate minerals that appear but are not mentioned and used as decorative props that have been added as best as can be determined from a visual identification. The names of these minerals will be listed in italics and are not included in the tabulation.

It should be noted that many other terms have appeared on line for minerals, ores and gems on line that either are from Star Trek novels or incorrectly identified. For example: “Regolith” has been referred to on line as an ore found in an asteroid that hit the Terra Nova colony⁴. It is actually a term for a layer of loose, heterogeneous superficial material covering solid rock. The term appears next to a map of an impact crater along with the term “Ejecta” (*i.e.* material blasted out from the crater) on a computer screen with no other information and the names of actual minerals and an actual rock.

Fictitious Minerals

Arcybite

Arcybite is a mineral processed at the arcybite mining refineries in the Clarius system in the Gamma quadrant. Episodes: *The Nagus* (DS9), 1993, *Ferengi Love Songs* (DS9), 1997

Blitmanite

Appears on a computer manifest of explosive materials as Blitmanite 834. Episode: *Night Terrors* (TNG), 1991

Bolomite

It is a white powdery mineral mined by Federation prisoners on the planet Telsius Prime in the Delta quadrant. Episode: *Live Fast and Prosper* (VOY), 2000

Borite

Mined by Federation prisoners on an unnamed planet in the Alpha quadrant. Episode: *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* (MPF), 1986

Chrysimite

An undescribed synthetic chemical compound. Episode: *Violations* (TNG), 1991

Diamagnetic Ore

Diamagnetic ore is a mineral high in energy yield and can affect sensor readings. It is found in igneous rocks an unnamed moon around an unnamed gas giant in the Arkonian system in the Beta quadrant and in dust in planetary rings around an unnamed planet in Klingon space associated with methane ice and isolytic plasma in the Beta quadrant. Episodes: *The Shipment* (ENT), 2003, *Dawn* (ENT), 2003, *Judgment* (ENT), 2003

Duridium, Duridium Ore

Reference is made to a load of Duridium Ore that was hauled to Solais V in Tzenkathi space in the Alpha quadrant. Refined Duridium is used in the Gamma quadrant in the construction of barrels and is resistant to Jem'Hadar polaron rifles. Episodes: *The Adversary* (DS9), 1995, *Blaze of Glory* (DS9), 1997

⁴ Episode: *Terra Nova* (ENT), 2001

Fire Salt

It is a mined substance used by the Tellarites and is possibly from a planet in Klingon space in the Beta quadrant. Episode: *Bounty* (ENT), 2003

Gouge

The mining of Gouge on an unnamed planet in the Alpha quadrant was referred to in a discussion with the Ferengi Nagus. Episode: *The Nagus* (DS9), 1993

Hoffmeisterite

Appears on a computer manifest of explosive materials as Hoffmeisterite compound 239. Episode: *Night Terrors* (TNG), 1991

Hutzelite

Appears on a computer manifest of explosive materials as Hutzelite 27. Episode: *Night Terrors* (TNG), 1991

Indurite

A material used for sculpture by the Skorr in the Alpha quadrant who believed it could contain the thought patterns of the Alar. Episode: *The Jihad* (TAS), 1974

Kefnium

Associated with Meklinite, it is found in large quantities in an asteroid belt near the Alpha Omicron system in the Alpha quadrant. Episode: *Galaxy's Child* (TNG), 1990

Kironide

There are rich deposits of this mineral found on the M-class planet Platonius in the Alpha quadrant. It is described as rare and being the source of great energy. Eating of plants that have absorbed the mineral can give telekinetic powers. Episode: *Plato's Stepchildren* (TOS), 1968

Meklinite

Associated with Kefnium, it is found in large quantities in an asteroid belt near the Alpha Omicron system in the Alpha quadrant. It apparently can interfere with long-range scanning equipment, implying it either emits or absorbs some forms of radiation. Episode: *Galaxy's Child* (TNG), 1990

Mooride Polyrionite

Appears on a computer manifest of explosive materials as Mooride Polyrionite B. Episode: *Night Terrors* (TNG), 1991

Moyerite

Appears on a computer manifest of explosive materials as Moyerite (synthetic). Episode: *Night Terrors* (TNG), 1991

Neussite

Appears on a computer manifest of explosive materials as Neussite 283. Episode: *Night Terrors* (TNG), 1991

Nillimite

An alloy used to make consumer products. Episode: *The Wire* (DS9), 1994

Plutonium Ryanite

Appears on a computer manifest of explosive materials. Episode: *Night Terrors* (TNG), 1991

Radan

An alternate name for poorly formed Dilithium crystals used to make Radan necklaces on the planet Troyius in the Alpha quadrant. Episode: *Elaan of Troyius* (TOS), 1967

Sahsheer

It is the Kelvan word for a rapidly forming crystal native to the planet Kelva in an unnamed system in the Andromedan galaxy. Episode: *By Any Other Name* (TOS), 1968

Serium, Sirium

It can be mined on the F-class planet Janus VI in the Alpha quadrant associated with Uranium, Platinum and Pergium. Phonetically the name is pronounced the same as cerium, which is a rare-earth element. Rare-earths were also reported on the planet. Episode: *Devil in the Dark* (TOS), 1967

Starithium Ore

A metallic ore with sensor-deflecting properties found in some subterranean caves on the M-class planet Risa in the Alpha quadrant. Episode: *Captain's Holiday* (TNG), 1989

Tallonian Crystal

Tallonian crystals are precious colourless gemstones that clearly have a cubo-octahedral crystal morphology⁵ and are transparent. They were illegal anywhere but on the Tallonian homeworld in the Gamma quadrant. Episode: *Hippocratic Oath* (DS9), 1995

Tarrisite

An undescribed synthetic chemical compound, being the by-product of the breakdown of Ferrazene, along with Bilenium. Episode: *Violations* (TNG), 1991

Tenebian Amethyst

A rare transparent purple gemstone found on the Tenebian moons in the Alpha quadrant. Episode: *These are the Voyages* (ENT), 2005

Terellian Diamond

Precious transparent colourless gemstone of Terellian origin from the Gamma quadrant. Episode: *'Til Death Do Us Part* (DS9), 1999

Tricellite

Tricellite is a metal used to make electronic contacts in electronic equipment used as a substitute for Zelebiem. Episode: *The Outrageous Okona* (TNG), 1988

Veridium Oxide

It occurs naturally as particulates in a micro-nebula near the Theta-class planetoid Norcadia in the Pendari system in the Delta quadrant. Episode: *Tsunkatse* (VOY), 2000

⁵Tallonian Crystals purported to be props used in the episode and sold on line have a hexagonal form and a hexagonal simple pyramid like a terminated Quartz crystal. One such “prop” said to have been used for the episode was sold on line for a reported USD \$125 and consists of cast glass (4.5 x 4 x 4 inches). The “Shatner Store” also offers the hexagonal “props” for sale on line. There is no evidence that these hexagonal props were ever used on screen. The fate of the cubo-octahedral prop used in the episode is unknown.

<http://startrekpropcollector.com/trekauctions/item.pl?i=9535> <http://shatner-store.stores.yahoo.net/sttrngtacrp.html>

Viridium

It was secretly mined on the Akaali homeworld (an M-class planet) in the Omega Sagittarii system in the Beta quadrant. It has the property of being detected at great distance as a means of tracking. Episodes: *Civilization* (ENT), 2001, *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country* (MPF), 1991

Yellow Ore

An otherwise unnamed soft powdery yellow magnetic ore found in abundance on planet Alpha 177 in the Alpha quadrant. The ore interfered with the transporter system of the USS Enterprise causing it to divide life forms and materials, into two visually identical objects yet opposite in composition. Episodes: *The Enemy Within* (TOS), 1966

Zaterl Emerald

A gemstone of great value said to be on the planet Ligillium in the Alpha quadrant. Episode: *Devil's Due* (TNG), 1991

Zeolitic Ore

A valuable mineral mined by the crew of Voyager found on asteroids in the Delta quadrant. Episode: *Nightingale* (VOY), 2000

Legitimate (non-fictional) Minerals

Amber $C_{20}H_{32}$, amorphous

It is a fossil resin of an extinct coniferous tree found in ancient deposits on Earth in the Sol system in the Alpha quadrant mentioned in conversations with Captain Jean-Luc Picard of the USS Enterprise-D. Episodes: *Hide and Q* (TNG), 1987, *Where Silence Has Lease* (TNG), 1988

Agate SiO_2 , hexagonal / monoclinic

A specimen of agate, which is an intergrowth of Quartz and Moganite, can be seen on the desk of Captain Picard. Episode: *Rascals* (TNG), 1992

Amethyst SiO_2 , hexagonal

A specimen of the purple ferric-iron-bearing variety of Quartz can be seen on the desk of Admiral Forest. Episode: *Detained* (ENT), 2002

Anorthosite

It is phaneritic, intrusive igneous rock composed of the Labradorite sub-species of the variety Plagioclase Feldspar mineral Anorthite (90–100%) and a mafic component (0–10%), most commonly Pyroxene, Ilmenite, Magnetite and Olivine found in asteroids. Anorthosite is an actual rock common on Earth, in meteorites and in asteroids. It was found together with Feldspar and Iron in the impact crater an asteroid that hit the Terra Nova colony in the Alpha quadrant. The asteroid interacted with the Beresium Ore in the geological formation it hit that led to a toxic radioactive rain. Episode: *Terra Nova* (ENT), 2001

Asbestos $Mg_3(Si_2O_5)(OH)_4$, monoclinic

The external tissue of the silicon-based lifeform, the Horta, on the F-class planet Janus VI in the Alpha quadrant is composed of fibrous asbestos. This would make the mineral in this case biogenic. About 95% of natural Asbestos is the mineral Chrysotile. Episode: *The Devil in the Dark* (TOS), 1967

Botryoidal Flowstone CaCO_3 , orthorhombic

Rounded and semi-rounded aragonite cave pearls were collected by Denoblian geologists in a cave on the planet Xantoras in the Alpha quadrant. Episode: *The Breach* (ENT), 2003

Cadmium Salt, Cadmium Selenide CdSe , hexagonal

This photo electric substance was detected by spectral analysis in a lifeform on the planet Velara III. This would make the mineral in this case biogenic. The actual mineral, Cadmoselite, is in fact highly luminescent but also a strong neurotoxin. Episode: *Home Soil* (TNG), 1988 [Cadmoselite]

Cadmoselite CdSe , hexagonal

Proper name for Cadmium Salt or Cadmium Selenide. Episode: *Home Soil* (TNG), 1988 [Cadmium Salt, Cadmium Selenide]

Carbonaceous Chondrite

It is associated with unspecified silicates found in material orbiting the seventh planet in the Alpha Omicron system in the Alpha quadrant. It is actually the name for a class of meteorites that are poor in iron and usually rich in silicates and organic compounds. Episode: *Galaxy's Child* (TNG), 1990

Epsom Salt $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, orthorhombic

Malcolm Reed and Captain Jonathan Archer discuss Epsom Salt to soothe blisters. Episode: *The Communicator* (ENT), 2002 [Epsomite]

Epsomite $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, orthorhombic

Proper name for Epsom salts Episode: *The Communicator* (ENT), 2002 [Epsom Salt]

Feldspar $(\text{Ca},\text{Na})(\text{Al},\text{Si})_4\text{O}_8$, triclinic

Feldspar was found together with Anorthosite and Iron in the impact crater an asteroid that hit the Terra Nova colony in the Alpha quadrant. The asteroid interacted with the Beresium Ore in the geological formation it hit that led to a toxic radioactive rain. As plagioclase is the most common form of feldspar found in space, it is assumed that the feldspar being referred to is plagioclase. Episode: *Terra Nova* (ENT), 2001

Hornblende $(\text{Ca},\text{Na})_{2-3}(\text{Mg},\text{Fe},\text{Al})_5(\text{Al},\text{Si})_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH},\text{F})_2$, monoclinic

It is found in explosive rock formations on the planet Gamma Trianguli VI in the Alpha quadrant associated with Hornblende and Uraninite. Episode: *The Apple* (TOS), 1967.

Iron Fe , cubic

Iron was found together with Anorthosite and Feldspar in the impact crater of an asteroid that hit the Terra Nova colony in the Alpha quadrant. The asteroid interacted with the Beresium Ore in the geological formation it hit that led to a toxic radioactive rain. Mixed with Nickel, it forms the core of an unnamed M-class planetoid in the Delta quadrant. Episodes: *Terra Nova* (ENT), 2001, *Once Upon a Time* (VOY), 1998

Nickel Ni , cubic

In 2375, it was discovered mixed with Iron forming the core overlain by a mantle of Benomite Ore of an unnamed M-class planetoid in the Delta quadrant. Episode: *Once Upon a Time* (VOY), 1998

Pearl CaCO_3 , orthorhombic

A valuable gemstone that consists of a biogenic mixture of Aragonite and nacre. Dr McCoy makes reference to the pearl in discussing an alien the landing party met on the second planet in the Marian system in the Alpha quadrant. Episode: *Empath* (TOS), 1968

Rare-Earths

Rare-earth ore can be mined on the F-class planet Janus VI in the Alpha quadrant. Episode: *Devil in the Dark* (TOS), 1967

Rock Crystal SiO_2 , hexagonal

A clear colourless variety of Quartz, it is mentioned in a discussion about a life form on the planet Manar IV, implying that the mineral occurs elsewhere in the Alpha quadrant. Episode: *Empath* (TOS), 1968

Shale

A fine-grained rock composed principally of clay minerals found in the hills on the planet Capella IV in the Alpha quadrant. Episode: *Friday's Child* (TOS), 1967

Silicate

Associated with Carbonaceous Chondrite in material orbiting the seventh planet in the Alpha Omicron system in the Alpha quadrant. Silicate was collected from a comet in the Podaris sector in the Gamma quadrant. There is no indication to which silicate minerals the crew is referring. Episodes: *Galaxy's Child* (TNG), 1990, *Course: Oblivion* (VOY), 1999

Topaz $\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_4(\text{F},\text{OH})$, orthorhombic

Julian Bashir, posing as a geologist, noted that a statue contained Tourmaline, Ruby, Sapphire and Topaz. Episode: *Our Man Bashir* (DS9), 1995

Tourmaline, Tormaline $\text{Na}(\text{Li}_{1.5}\text{Al}_{1.5})\text{Al}_6(\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18})(\text{BO}_3)_3(\text{OH})_3(\text{OH})$, trigonal

The most common species in the Tourmaline group found on Earth used as a gemstone is Elbaite. Julian Bashir, posing as geologist Patrick Merriweather, successfully surmised that a statue contained not only Tourmaline but also Ruby, Sapphire and Topaz. It is also misspelled in transcripts as Tormaline. Episode: *Our Man Bashir* (DS9), 1995

Uraninite UO_2 , cubic

It is found in explosive rock formations on the planet Gamma Trianguli VI in the Alpha quadrant associated with Hornblende and Quartz. Episode: *The Apple* (TOS), 1967

Uranium

It can be mined on the F-class planet Janus VI in the Alpha quadrant associated with Serium, Platinum and Pergium. It is not clear from the episode which mineral constitutes the ore being in a plutonic silicate-rich mine makes it possible to be Uraninite. Episode: *Devil in the Dark* (TOS), 1967

Walkerite $\text{Ca}_{16}(\text{Mg},\text{Li},\square)_2[\text{B}_{13}\text{O}_{17}(\text{OH})_{12}]_4\text{Cl}_6 \cdot 28\text{H}_2\text{O}$, orthorhombic

Also referred to as Walkerite 342, it is a gaseous explosive. However, Walkerite is a legitimate mineral but it solid, crystalline and not explosive. Episode: *Night Terrors* (TNG), 1991

CONCLUSION

The existing incarnations have shown that there is more that could be gleaned on the nature of minerals and their occurrence in the Star Trek universe. The results show that there still needs to be a better approach to how minerals are named and used in storylines that better conforms to the real science – fictitious or not. The most recent movie incarnations have avoided this issue by not introducing any new names.

In 2016, another Star Trek film will be released. As well, CBS Entertainment announced that CBS would produce a new Star Trek series beginning in January 2017⁶. Although little is known about the stories to be presented, there exist many Star Trek novels that could be drawn upon. These have many “mineral” substances that have not been included in this article. In any event, if the new series follows the general parameters already laid out by the genre, one can expect new exotic and also more traditional geological material to be named or featured in the plot lines. Hopefully, the new series will “clean up” the science of mineralogy as it is portrayed in Star Trek over the next 50 years.

With all the efforts of companies wanting to mine in space, the Star Trek franchise has an opportunity to do what the original series was so good at: creating science fiction that was in line with science fact when it comes to the mineralogy of Star Trek.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Since 2005, Jeffrey de Fourestier has worked on a number of new mineral species and published various papers relating to the mineralogy of China. He presently sits on the editorial board of *Acta Sinica Mineralogica*, the principal Chinese peer-reviewed journal, and is the Chairman of the IMA-CNMNC Subcommittee on Unnamed Minerals. In 2012, he was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his research work.

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⁶ <http://www.startrek.com/article/new-star-trek-series-premieres-january-2017>