

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES  
GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

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NOTES ON MICA DEPOSIT IN HUNDRED OF PARA WIRRA, COUNTY OF ADELAIDE,  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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by

H.B. Owen

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DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY & SHIPPING.

Mineral Resources Survey Branch.

NOTES ON MICA DEPOSIT IN HUNDRED OF PARA WIRRA, COUNTY OF  
ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Report No. 17/1943.

The deposit is situated in Section 18 of the Hundred of Para Wirra and is about 30 miles by road north-east from Adelaide.

Muscovite is contained in a pegmatite dyke exceeding 350 feet in length with a maximum width of about 10 feet. The dyke strikes north-west and dips north-east at 60° and is enclosed in biotite schist. The deposit has been described by R. Lockhart Jack in South Australia Mining Review No. 28.

The deposit has been opened by many shallow costeans and pits, but the principal workings are extensive and consist of an open cut along the strike for about 120 feet and an underlay shaft sunk in the dyke from the centre of the open cut to a total inclined depth of 65 feet. This shaft is now filled to within 36 feet of the surface. A drive of unknown length extends from the bottom of the shaft in the hanging wall of the dyke.

It is understood that the underground workings yielded only 10 lb. of sheet mica 12 square inches and upwards in area, together with a quantity of smaller material.

The mica won was ribbed, fractured and warped and most of it was heavily stained which would yield a small amount of clear films of 'washer' size by splitting and sorting.

The deposit was worked by Italians possessed of considerable experience of mica mining and marketing and they consider that even at the higher prices now prevailing the deposit is quite valueless.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.  
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