

### *Staurolite or Fairy Crosses?*

**I**N A STRANGE WORKSHOP deep in the earth and inaccessible to us of the outside world, there are innumerable tiny artists plying a curious craft. Among the products of their craft are beautiful little crosses, some of which are decorated with red garnets. These little crosses stay in the underground regions for perhaps thousands of years before geologic forces (as material scientists term them) eventually move them to the earth's surface. They are found in three perfect cross patterns: the St. Andrew (60° angle crystals: it is said that St. Andrew was crucified on a cross-saltire or X-shaped cross); Greek; and, the most rare and sought after, Maltese. If they reach the outside world without too much pressure, their patterns are flawless, but like most things, if much pressure is brought to bear upon them, they are likely to grow deformed.

Scientists have learned to translate the stories written in hills and dikes and earth formations, and so the history of the little crosses has been pretty well deciphered by them—except for one or two important facts.

These odd little minerals are found in the New England states and along the east Appalachians to Georgia, in Virginia (home of the Fairy Stone State Park), New Mexico, and various places in Europe. The matrix in which they occur is usually a metamorphic schist.

Material science tells us that the artists who design these crosses are atoms of iron, aluminum, and silica. Scientists say that these atoms seemingly push surrounding materials aside as they work in the liquid magna, in order to form their own perfect, chemical pattern—magma so hot that no other kind of life could exist in it. It is also in this

molten fluid that the garnets are formed and embedded in the crosses. As a matter of fact, it is in this fluid that most of our other gem stones are fashioned, each according to its own special mineral pattern, the pattern being determined by the kind of mineral atoms that are grouped into molecules to build the gem crystal.

Most every mineral hobbyist has a group of fairy crosses in his collection, and nearly every collector has heard people say, “But those must have been carved!” Most of us have always thought of minerals as being inanimate and lifeless, but of course an inanimate and lifeless thing could not carve itself into a beautiful pattern.

In the Middle Ages people marveled at the strange phenomena of the natural world. It seemed evident to them that intelligence played a significant part in the creation of Nature's artistry, and they attributed it to the work of fairies. One legend of the little crosses relates that they crystallized from fairies' tears as the little creatures wept over the crucifixion of Christ. Another states that they came down from heaven. It is from these legends that they derived their name “fairy crosses.” They have been used as baptismal stones and good luck charms since the seventeenth century. The ancients called them “lapis crucifer.”

Scientific research in the nineteenth century dispelled most of the “superstition” about the crosses, the scientists offering the theory that they were formed by atoms. If the mineralogists who described them in their textbooks experienced wonder at the clever ability of the atoms, they did not mention it, leaving all such “speculation” to the field of philosophy. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* pictures one of the crosses in its perfect symmetry,

and states briefly that it is a common occurrence.

Every so often I ask some student of mineralogy how he thinks the atoms actually do create their geometrical patterns. Usually the answer is, “Oh, they just line themselves up that way.” It is rather amazing how few wonder about or are even interested in primal causes.

God places these curious little gem stones before us as much as to say, “Now find out how I did it,” and the most we seem to think about are test tubes, magnifying glasses, and the specimen that will eventually dissolve into dust. The Life and Intelligence that moved the atoms around and created the law by which their exquisite patterns are formed we have been afraid to talk about. A few seem actually resentful to have that point brought up.

It is true that we have to discount a good deal of the superstition of the Middle Ages, but a hundred years from now, or a great deal sooner, in the light of advanced knowledge, our materialistic ideas will be discounted as being more absurd than superstitious. Superstition at least recognized that Nature’s forces had to be engineered by an intelligence of some kind.

Minerals are not at all the inanimate things we have been accustomed to believe. Physicists have now found that they encompass a miniature world of breathtaking magnificence—of infinitesimal “solar systems” operated with mathematical precision. And strangely, this world was discovered through ingenious mathematical calculations and experiments. Scientists who have glimpsed the wonder of the engineering feats of atoms have declared the discovery to be the end of the philosophy of materialism. One scientist has been credited with the remark that when man discovers what makes the atom work he will have arrived very close to God and His method of creation.

Fairy crosses, so-called, are mineral crystals. Their scientific name is *staurolite*, from the Greek, meaning stone cross. Their crystal form is orthorhombic (trimetric). They occur both as “simple” or single

crystals, and twinned. The twinned crystals are the crosses. The process by which they become twinned points to magnetic forces and laws of positive and negative polarity about which we still have much to learn.



“Greek Cross” *staurolite*  
(in a phyllite matrix)

The specimens in my collection are probably many thousands of years old. But today in Nature’s secret laboratory the busy little gnomes are turning out on their assembly lines thousands of little stone crosses for those descendants of our great, great grandchildren who will collect minerals.

As Max Heindel tells us, it is the gnomes, the elemental beings composed of chemical ether, that “cut the crystals in all the minerals and make the priceless gems that gleam from golden diadems. Without them there would be no iron for our machinery nor gold wherewith to pay for it. They are everywhere and the proverbial bee is not busier.”



“St Andrew’s Cross” *staurolite*

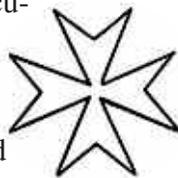
The history of the cross as a religious symbol dates back into obscure antiquity, long before the coming of Christ. It was a mystic symbol for the adepts of the earlier centuries. Today it is the sacred emblem of the Christian world; and still is the mystic symbol of schools of natural and metaphysical laws. (A few are now beginning to wonder where natural laws cease and metaphysical laws

begin, or vice versa; or if they are all natural laws or all metaphysical laws, the difference being merely in our lack of understanding.) However, locked in these little crosses of Nature, along with other natural phenomena, are profound secrets that when discovered will revolutionize our thinking.

God has placed His textbooks all around us: in the splendor of the skies and in the changing seasons of earth’s loveliness. Others He has laid humbly at our feet. □



“Maltese Cross” *staurolite*



Maltese Cross

—Ida Smith