

Preface

This text has resulted from some forty years of experience during which the author has puzzled over the meaning of ore textures. The learning process has been slow and is still incomplete. The bemusement began directly upon leaving the academic confines, which in retrospect left one keen young geologist very ill-equipped to interpret the mineralising process via field or hand lens style observation of the rocks. Enlightenment has proceeded via a series of events:-

1. The slow process of field observation as an industry-based mine and exploration geologist.
2. The opportunity to visit numerous different styles of ore deposit both as an academic and consultant.
3. The need to answer questions from several generations of enquiring students.
4. The privilege of being able to conduct research.
5. The good fortune to be associated with a few top class economic geologists who actually knew what they were doing!

Professor Willard C. Lacy deserves the most credit for quietly demonstrating the value of first principles concerning fluid channelways, combined with an ability to look properly at the textures. Despite rapid technological advances this skill remains fundamental both to the practicing exploration geologist and to the academic researcher who is interested in understanding ore forming processes.

The five volumes comprising this presentation were originally compiled individually over a period of eleven years, and aimed to progressively guide the observer through the principles of recognition concerning infill, alteration, overprinting, and finally to ore-related breccias.

Most observers have no significant problems with infill and alteration concepts in relation to narrow veins, but frequently flounder when the same components are repackaged as breccias.

The plates have been carefully chosen to illustrate recognition procedure whilst giving a visual guide to a wide range of examples. The plate captions have been specifically written in a lengthy simplistic form to assist the genuine beginner. They contain a wealth of detail which is intended to lay a foundation for good textural observational methodology. A few more complex plates have been sporadically included to add appeal for those at connoisseur level.

The book is not intended as a rigorous academic text. However, it is noted that the subject of textural interpretation still remains absent from most institutional training courses, and it is thus hoped that this contribution will be of direct assistance to many enquiring readers.

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Ore Textures

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