

**XX. NOTES ON PERMANENT LABELS FOR THIN
ROCK SECTIONS MOUNTED ON GLASS SLIDES****A. C. SHEAD****From the Department of Chemistry, University of Oklahoma**

Carelessness in labelling rock specimens is all too prevalent and the permanent value of many excellent specimens is seriously impaired by loss of the label recording the time, place, manner and conditions of collection.

The object of these notes is to describe a method of making a permanent record on glass slides.

In making a thin section of a rock, the ordinary 2.5 to 3 inch by one inch glass slide is ground to a perfectly plane surface on one side by fine abrasive before affixing the rock specimen. After completion of the section, this ground glass surface of the slide makes an ideal surface for recording data. The record desired is printed on a thin, transparent piece of paper in heavy lines with black ink over a space available on the slide. The paper is inverted so the printing shows THROUGH it, inverted as in a looking glass or mirror. The glass slide is superimposed over this with the ground glass surface uppermost in position for tracing the data below. The data is then traced in WATER PROOF INDIA INK only, upon the ground glass surface and the ink allowed to dry thoroughly. The writing on the glass is thus inverted also. Now place a slightly moistened, heavy, non-transparent or translucent label, avoiding any sliding motion, over the ground glass with its inscription. The data will then show through the glass as ordinary writing and will be protected in front by glass and behind by the paper label from smearing and destruction by handling. The paper backing may be further protected by a coat of paraffin, water glass or collodion, if desired.

Printing backward is an art easily mastered and is one that can be applied directly to the ground glass surface instead of by tracing as provided for above.

Less permanent results may be obtained by printing on the Gummed side of a label in waterproof India Ink, in the ordinary manner and affixing the label to the slightly moist slide without any sliding motion so as to prevent smearing. In the latter case the ink is on the paper instead of on the glass as in the first case.

The operations detailed above are much more readily affected than the lengthy description would indicate and in a surprisingly short time, a neat and permanent label with a surprisingly large amount of detail can be firmly affixed.