DESCRIPTIVE MODEL OF Sn GREISEN DEPOSITS

By Bruce L. Reed

DESCRIPTION Disseminated cassiterite, and cassiterite-bearing veinlets, stockworks, lenses, pipes, and breccia in greisenized granite (see fig. 44).

GENERAL REFERENCE Scherba (1970), Taylor (1979), Reed (1982), Tischendorf (1977).

GEOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Rock Types Specialized biotite and(or) muscovite leucogranites (S-type); distinctive accessory minerals include topaz, fluorite, tourmaline, and beryl. Tin greisens are generally post-magmatic and associated with late fractionated melt.

Textures Common plutonic rock textures, miarolitic cavities may be common; generally nonfoliated; equigranular textures may be more evolved (Hudson and Arth, 1983); aplitic and porphyritic textures common.

Age Range May be any age; tin mineralization temporally related to later stages of granitoid emplacement.

Depositional Environment Mesozonal plutonic to deep volcanic environment.

Tectonic Setting(s) Foldbelts of thick sediments ± volcanic rocks deposited on stable cratonic shield; accreted margins; granitoids generally postdate major folding.

Associated Deposit Types Quartz-cassiterite sulfide lodes, quartz-cassiterite ± molybdenite stockworks, late complex tin-silver-sulfide veins.

DEPOSIT DESCRIPTION

Mineralogy General zonal development of cassiterite + molybdenite, cassiterite + molybdenite + arsenopyrite + beryl, wolframite + beryl + arsenopyrite + bismuthinite, Cu-Pb-Zn sulfide minerals + sulphostannates, quartz veins ± fluorite, calcite, pyrite.

Texture/Structure Exceedingly varied, the most common being disseminated cassiterite in massive greisen, and quartz veinlets and stockworks (in cupolas or in overlying wallrocks); less common are pipes, lenses, and tectonic breccia.

Alteration Incipient greisen (granite): muscovite ± chlorite, tourmaline, and fluorite. Greisenized granite: quartz-muscovite-topaz-fluorite, ± tourmaline (original texture of granites retained). Massive greisen: quartz-muscovite-topaz ± fluorite ± tourmaline (typically no original texture preserved). Tourmaline can be ubiquitous as disseminations, concentrated or diffuse clots, or late fracture fillings. Greisen may form in any wallrock environment, typical assemblages developed in aluminosilicates.

Ore Controls Greisen lodes located in or near cupolas and ridges developed on the roof or along margins of granitoids; faults and fractures may be important ore controls.

Weathering Granite may be "reddened" close to greisen veins. Although massive greisen may not be economic as lodes, rich placer deposits form by weathering and erosion.

Geochemical Signature Cassiterite, topaz, and tourmaline in streams that drain exposed tin-rich greisens. Specialized granites may have high contents of SiO (>73 percent) and K_2O (>4 percent), and are depleted in CaO, TiO_2, MgO, and total FeO. They are enriched in Sn, F, Rb, Li, Be, W, Mo, Pb, B, Nb, Cs, U, Th, Hf, Ta, and most REE, and impoverished in Ni, Cu, Cr, Co, V, Sc, Sr, La, and Ba.

EXAMPLES

Lost River, USAK	(Dobson, 1982; Sainsbury, 1964)
Anchor Mine, AUTS	(Groves and Taylor, 1973)
Erzgebirge, CZCL	(Janecka and Stemprok, 1967)

GRADE AND TONNAGE MODEL OF Sn GREISEN DEPOSITS

By W. David Menzie and Bruce L. Reed

COMMENTS See figs. 45, 46.

DEPOSITS

Name	Country	Name	Country
Altenberg	GRME	Coal Creek	USAK
Anchor	AUTS	E. Kempville	CNNS
Archer	AUTS	Hub	CZCL
Cinovec	CZCL	Potosi	BRZL
Cista	CZCL	Prebuz	CZCL

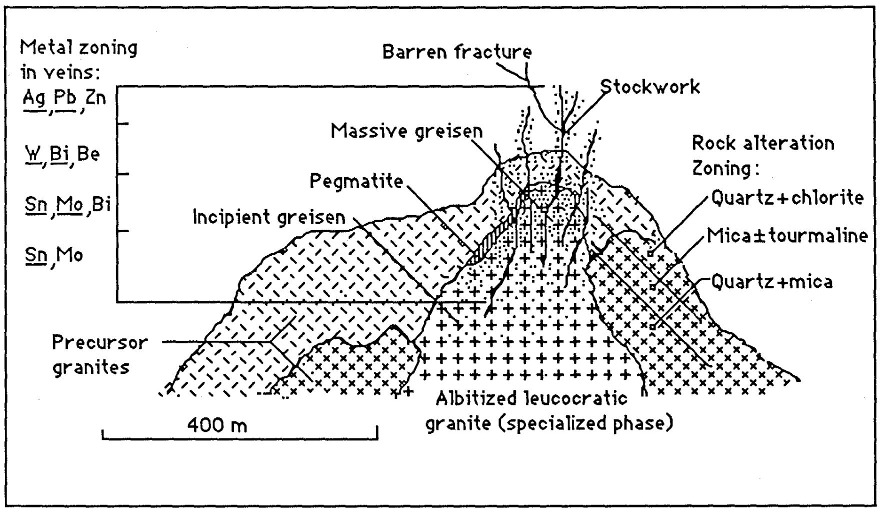

Figure 44. Cartoon cross section of a Sn greisen.

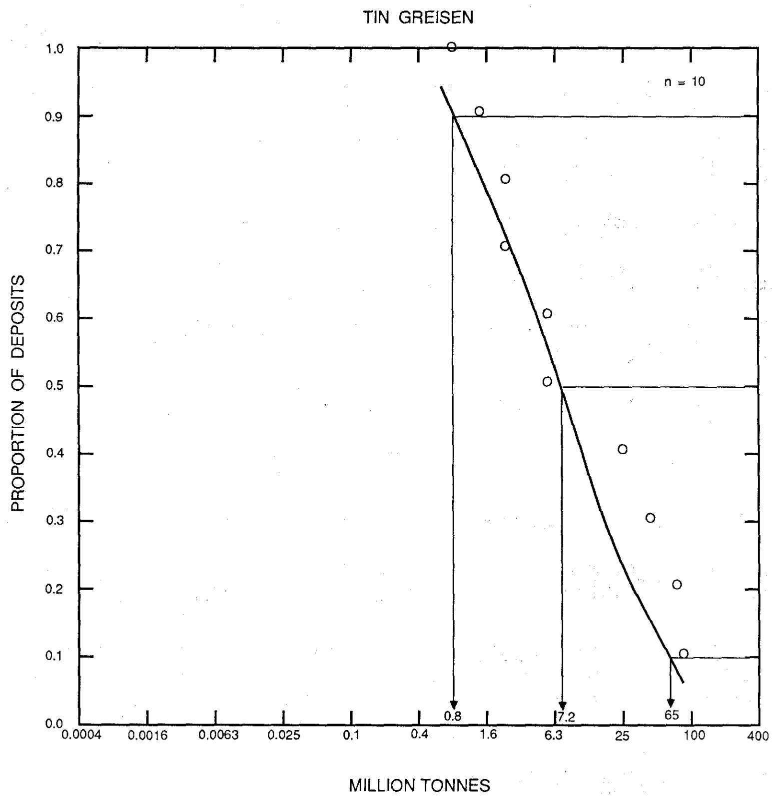

Figure 45. Tonnages of Sn greisen deposits.

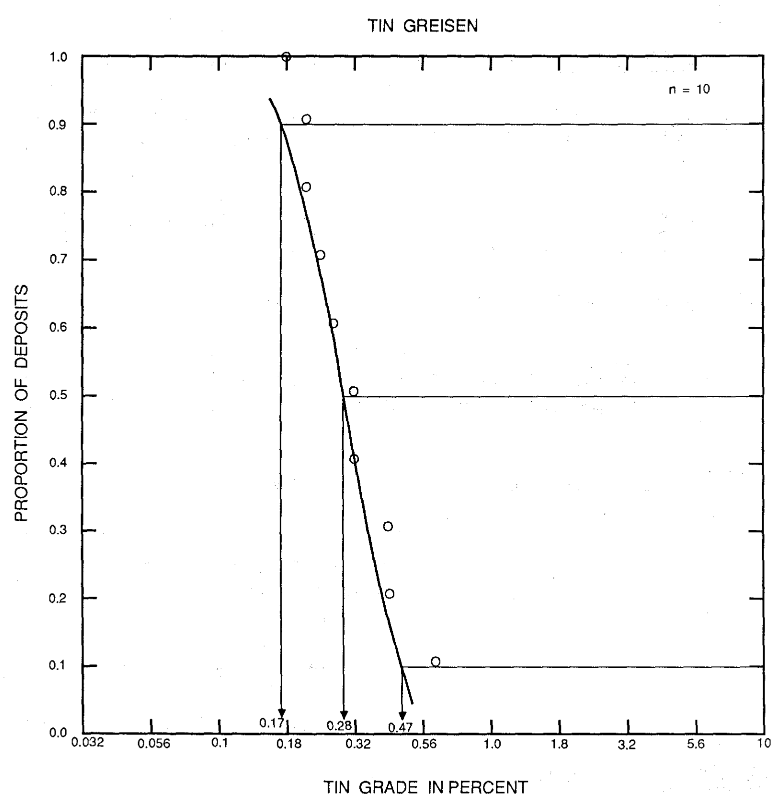

Figure 46. Tin grades of Sn greisen deposits.