

Contents

1	The Rare Earth Elements—A Special Group of Metals	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Atomic Structure	3
1.3	Radioactivity	3
1.4	Name	4
1.5	Geochemical Behavior	5
1.6	The Deposit at Ytterby	6
	References	11
2	The Ore Minerals and Major Ore Deposits of the Rare Earths	15
2.1	Major Ore Minerals	15
2.1.1	Monazite	15
2.1.2	Bastnaesite	16
2.1.3	Xenotime	17
2.1.4	Eudialyte	18
2.2	Minor REE Minerals	21
2.3	REE-Containing Rocks	22
2.4	Ore Deposits of the Rare Earths	22
2.4.1	Mountain Pass	25
2.4.2	Bayan Obo, Inner Mongolia, China	27
2.4.3	Mount Weld, South-West Australia	28
2.4.4	Ilímaussaq Alkaline Complex, South Greenland	30
2.4.5	Pilanesberg, South Africa	32
2.4.6	Steenkampskraal, South Africa	32
2.4.7	Hoidas Lake, Canada	34
2.4.8	Thor Lake	35
2.4.9	Strange Lake and Misery Lake	36
2.4.10	Nolans Bore Deposit, Australia	39
2.4.11	Norra Kärr, Sweden	40
2.4.12	Lovozero and Khibina Massifs, Kola Peninsula, Russia	40

2.4.13	Nkwombwa Hill Carbonatite Deposit, Zambia, and Other East- and Middle-African REE-Deposits.	41
2.4.14	Maoniuping, Sichuan, China	43
2.4.15	Chinese Ion Adsorption Deposits	44
2.4.16	Dong Pao, Vietnam	45
2.5	Resources in the Deep Sea	47
2.5.1	Pelagic Muds.	47
2.5.2	Crusts on Seamounts	47
2.5.3	Exploitation of Deep-Sea Deposits	48
	References	48
3	Physical and Chemical Properties of the Rare Earths	53
3.1	Introduction.	53
3.2	The Lanthanide Series	54
3.2.1	Lanthanide Oxides	56
3.2.2	Scandium and Yttrium	57
3.3	The Lanthanide Contraction	57
3.4	Radioactivity and Isotopes.	60
3.4.1	Lanthanum (Element 57).	60
3.4.2	Cerium (Element 58)	60
3.4.3	Praseodymium (Element 59)	60
3.4.4	Neodymium (Element 60)	61
3.4.5	Promethium (Element 61)	61
3.4.6	Samarium (Element 62)	62
3.4.7	Europium (Element 63).	62
3.4.8	Gadolinium (Element 64)	63
3.4.9	Terbium (Element 65).	63
3.4.10	Dysprosium (Element 66)	63
3.4.11	Holmium (Element 67)	64
3.4.12	Erbium (Element 68)	64
3.4.13	Thulium (Element 69).	64
3.4.14	Ytterbium (Element 70)	65
3.4.15	Lutetium (Element 71)	65
3.5	Magnetism	65
3.6	Chemical Behavior.	66
3.6.1	Air and Oxygen.	67
3.6.2	Nitrogen	67
3.6.3	Hydrogen	67
3.6.4	Carbon	67
3.6.5	Silicon	68
3.6.6	Refractory Metals.	68
3.6.7	Acids and Bases	68
3.6.8	Water	68
3.7	Luminescence	70
	References	71

4	Mineral Processing and Extractive Metallurgy of the Rare Earths	73
4.1	Introduction	73
4.2	Mineral Processing and Extraction of Rare Earths	74
4.2.1	Hard Rock Deposits	74
4.2.2	Placer Deposits	77
4.2.3	Chemical Treatment to Decompose the Mineral Concentrates	78
4.3	Separation Processes	83
4.3.1	Selective Oxidation	83
4.3.2	Selective Reduction	84
4.3.3	Fractional Crystallization	85
4.3.4	Fractional Precipitation	85
4.3.5	Ion Exchange	86
4.3.6	Solvent Extraction	87
4.4	Scandium	88
	References	88
5	Applications of the Rare Earths	89
5.1	Introduction	89
5.2	Scandium	89
5.3	Yttrium	90
5.4	Lanthanum	91
5.4.1	Alloy	91
5.4.2	Batteries	91
5.4.3	Catalyst	92
5.4.4	Special Optical Glasses	92
5.4.5	Superconductor	93
5.4.6	Phosphors	93
5.5	Cerium	93
5.5.1	Polishing Compound	93
5.5.2	Fluid Catalytic Cracking	93
5.5.3	Catalytic Converter	93
5.5.4	Component in Special Glass	94
5.5.5	Alloys	95
5.5.6	Pigment	96
5.5.7	Other	96
5.6	Praeseodymium	97
5.7	Neodymium	97
5.8	Promethium	99
5.9	Samarium	99
5.10	Europium	100
5.11	Gadolinium	100
5.12	Terbium	101
5.13	Dysprosium	101

5.14	Holmium	101
5.15	Erbium	102
5.16	Thulium	103
5.17	Ytterbium	103
5.18	Lutetium	103
	References	104
6	Economic Aspects of the Rare Earths	107
6.1	Introduction.	107
6.2	Global REE Production	107
6.3	How China Became the World's Largest REE Producer	110
6.4	The REE-Crisis (2009–2013).	112
	References	113
7	Recycling of Rare Earths	115
7.1	Introduction.	115
7.2	Sources for Recycling.	117
7.2.1	Permanent Magnets	117
7.2.2	Lamp Phosphors	119
7.2.3	CRT Screens and Flat-Panel Screens	120
7.2.4	Polishing Media.	121
7.2.5	Nickel-Metal-Hydride Batteries	122
7.2.6	Bulk-Waste Products	124
7.3	Recycling, Pros and Cons	124
	References	125