

SCIENCE

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THE PLENTIFUL RARE EARTHS

some facts about a clubby clan of elements that are rare in name only

a report by LINDSAY

We got to thinking the other day that perhaps a lot of industry folks are passing up a diamond-studded opportunity because they believe the rare earths are unavailable in commercial tonnages. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Rare earths are *not* rare! Commercial salts of the rare earths are available, right now, for prompt shipment in quantities from a gram to a carload.

That the rare earths are so plentiful is due, in large part, to Lindsay. During the last 50 years, Lindsay has developed the extraction and separation of rare earths to a high degree.

New equipment and processes are now in operation at Lindsay's West Chicago plant and are producing greater quantities of these versatile materials in higher purities than before.

FROM 57 THROUGH 71—Some chemists call rare earths Lanthanides, Lanthanons or the Lanthanum Series. Actually they are not earths, but trivalent metals, a rather amazing family of elements . . . atomic numbers 57 through 71. They are grouped together because they are always found together, with thorium and yttrium, in ores such as monazite, and all have closely related properties. While rare earths are technically metals, Lindsay produces them in chemical salt forms—individually or in combinations.

ATOMIC NUMBER	ELEMENT
39	Yttrium
57	Lanthanum
58	Cerium
59	Praseodymium
60	Neodymium
62	Samarium

ATOMIC NUMBER	ELEMENT
63	Europium
64	Gadolinium
65	Terbium
66	Dysprosium
67	Holmium
68	Erbium
69	Thulium
70	Ytterbium
71	Lutetium
90	Thorium

SOME USES FOR RARE EARTHS

LANTHANUM—As lanthanum oxide in a high refractive optical glass, particularly for aerial cameras and other instruments.

CERIUM—Glass polishing. Scavenger in explosives production. Radiation protection glass for atomic reactors. Opacifier for porcelain. Oxidizing catalysts in organic preparations. Ultraviolet light absorber.

MIXED RARE EARTHS—Misch metal for lighter flints and alloy uses. Motion sickness medication. Cores of arc carbon electrodes. Aluminum and magnesium alloys.

PRASEODYMIUM & NEODYMIUM—Dichroic colorants for ceramic glazes and glass. Used in better grade sun glasses. They do not lower light permeability and index of refraction when used as colorant or decolorizer. Ceramic capacitors.

The rare earths are becoming increasingly important in the production of steel and steel alloys. Small quantities added to the metal in the ladle result in a strong, fine-grained steel. Steel thus treated has great resistance to low temperature oxidation and corrosion. Stainless varieties have better hot and cold workability. Silicon and electrical

grade steels have better electrical qualities.

Rare earths added to cast iron act as powerful deoxidizers and help remove sulfur from the molten metal. They are responsible for cast iron that is resistant to scaling at higher temperatures and to certain corrosive atmospheres. In malleable metals, they act as a carbide stabilizer.

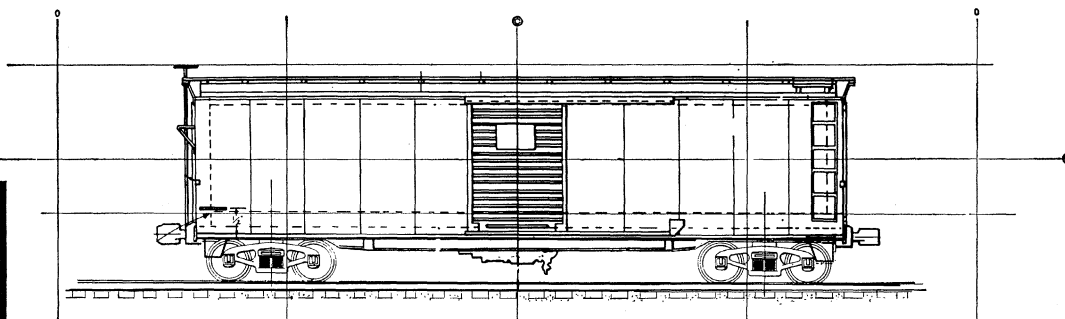
Magnesium-rare earth-zirconium alloys have excellent casting qualities and mechanical properties that make them ideal for important light-weight stressed components of aircraft engines.

Other rare earth compounds are used extensively for waterproofing, mildew-proofing, weighting and dyeing of fabrics and compounding printing inks and phosphors.

LIKE AN ICEBERG—You might compare uses for the rare earths to an iceberg. What you see is only a small part of what lies undiscovered under the surface. In all probability, there is a real place for one or more of the rare earths in your operations. New uses—and profitable ones, too—are being discovered constantly. These versatile elements offer so much promise in so many different ways they merit your investigation.

To industries interested in the rare earths, we offer detailed technological data compiled over the years by our research staff. We will also furnish samples for experimentation.

And please remember . . . the rare earths are *plentiful*. Lindsay can supply you with quantities from a gram to a carload.



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New operating habits to learn—complex designs require non-standard techniques.



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