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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING AND METALLURGICAL ENGINEERS

LOS ANGELES MEETING

MINING & MILLING DIVISION

OCTOBER 24, 1947

CORONADO COPPER AND ZINC COMPANY ORE CONCENTRATION AT JOHNSON CAMP REAGENTS AND REAGENT COMBINATIONS

BY

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This paper to be presented at the Los Angeles, California meeting of the American Institute of Mining & Callurgical Engineers, October 24, 1947. Permission is hereby given to publish, with appropriate acknowledgments, excerpts or summaries not to exceed one-third of the entire text of the paper. Permission to print in more extended form should be obtained from the Secretary of the Institute, 29 West 39th St., New York - 18 - New York.

CORONADO COPPER AND ZINC COMPANY ORE CONCENTRATION AT JOHNSON CAMP Reagents and Reagent Combinations

The Johnson Camp Concentrator is located about $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles northwest of Dragoon, Arizona. 190 tons of ore are milled daily. Most of the tonnage supplied is from the Republic Mine, with a small portion being supplied by the Mammoth Mine. Ore from the latter is trucked $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the concentrator. Both mines are owned and operated by Coronado Copper and Zinc Company.

NATURE OF ORE

The copper occurs mainly as chalcopyrite, with some bornite and a very small amount of covellite, chalcocite and metallic copper. The Mammoth Ore contains slight amounts of oxidized copper minerals. The zinc occurs mainly as a grey sphalerite with some dark marmatitic zinc. About 0.04% Cu and 0.11% Zn are present in oxidized form. The mill feed contains approximately 0.45 oz. of silver and 0.003 oz. of gold. About 40% of the silver is recovered in the copper concentrate and 40% in the zinc concentrate. Nothing is realized from the small amount of gold in the concentrates. The heads assay up to 0.11% tungsten and a trace of molybdenum but no attempt has been made to recover these in the concentrates. The gangue consists mainly of silicified limestone, hornstone and garnet with some pyrite. The Republic ore contains only about 0.5% pyrite and the Mammoth ore about 1% pyrite or slightly less.

"Sink and Float" tests were made on both ores but satisfactory results were not obtained due to the minerals being so finely disseminated and the specific gravities of the minerals and gangue being so near the same. The specific gravity of the garnet, combined with the other gangue minerals, varies from 3.8-4.0. The sphalerite is 4.0 and chalcopyrite about 4.1.

CRUSHING AND FINE GRINDING

The ore is discharged from either of two run-of-mine ore bins onto a $42" \times 36"$ Pan Conveyor traveling 3.84 feet per minute. This feeds a $13" \times 24"$ Telsmith crusher. The ore is crushed to 2" and is then conveyed by a $16" \times 75"$ belt conveyor, traveling 144 feet per minute to a 3" Symons cone crusher. It passes enroute under a Dings magnet to remove tramp iron. The Symons reduces the ore to 5/8" and it is then conveyed with a 14" x 56" belt conveyor, traveling 270 feet per minute over a Merrick weightometer. It is then conveyed to the mill fine ore

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bin with another belt conveyor, 14" x 192', traveling 192' per minute. This bin is of cylindrical steel construction and has a live capacity of 210 tons.

The crushing is done on one 8-hour shift.

The ore is conveyed from the fine ore bin to the ball mill by a 16" x 27' belt conveyor. This conveyor is driven with a vari-speed motor. The ball mill is a 6' x 8' Eimco overflow type ball mill, running at a speed of 27 revolutions per minute. The ball mill discharges into a 48" Akins type spiral classifier. Chilled 3" cast iron balls are used as the grinding media. These balls have a brinnell hardness of 450-470. The ball consumption averages about 2.3 pounds per ton of ore milled. Manganese liners are used in the mill; the liner consumption averaging 0.227 pounds per ton of ore milled.

Although the texture of the ore and the dissemination of minerals is not uniform, an effective liberation of the minerals is accomplished by grinding the mill feed to approximately 68% minus 200 mesh. A finer grind would not be warranted economically. Laboratory tests indicated that with a much finer grind, more zinc would be introduced into the copper concentrate due to sliming.

COPPER FLOTATION

The rougher copper section consists of 8 - #18 Denver Sub A cells. The cleaning section consists of 2 - #15 Denver Sub A cells. The feed, after a conditioning period of 10 minutes, is taken into #1 rougher cell. The product from the first 3 roughers goes to the cleaners for one cleaning and the product from the last 5 rougher cells returns to #1 rougher cell. The cleaner tails are returned, without regrinding, to #1 rougher cell.

Neither the Republic nor Mammoth ore is readily amenable to copper flotation. The copper is difficult to promote and floats slowly. This is due somewhat to the water available for milling. About 8% of the water has a pH of 7.8 and is supplied from the Republic Mine. The remainder has a pH of 8.6 and is pumped from a well near Willcox Dry Lake in Sulphur Springs Valley, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the mines and mill. This water combination, together with reagents introduced into the copper circuit, produces a pH of 8.6 to 8.8. The pH in the copper circuit was lowered to 7.3 with the addition of Sulphuric Acid. This resulted in a lower copper tailing but a higher percentage of zinc in the copper concentrate. Determinations of pH suggest the possibility that some of the interference may be due to various salts in the water. Analyses of the waters used show high contents of chlorides and bicarbonates, with a small amount of fluorine, but to date we have not been able to isolate any one of these as the known interference. Many reagents and reagent combinations have been tried. Thiocarbanilide 130 is used as the main collector for the copper with a small amount of Potassium Ethyl Xanthate - Z3. Z3 only was used for a short time, but the Thio.-130 proved to be much more selective, pulling less zinc into the copper concentrate. When using the Thio.-130, a lower copper content is realized in the copper tailing if a small amount of Z-3 is added to the copper conditioner and also if a small amount, mixed 50/50 with 301, is fed to #4 copper rougher cell.

Sodium Cyanide, Calcium Cyanide (Aero Brand), Zinc Sulphate, Sodium Sulphite and Reagent #505 have all been tried as zinc depressants and inhibitors. Sodium Cyanide was used for some time as the main depressant but Calcium Cyanide was found later to give much better results when fed in the dry form. Some of the better metallurgical results were realized by using Calcium Cyanide, which are probably due to the lime content of the Calcium Gyanide having a beneficial effect on the water; the lime combines with the bicarbonates, forming calcium carbonate and calcium hydroxide. Sodium Sulphite is used in conjunction with the Calcium Cyanide as a zinc inhibitor and has proven very satisfactory. In addition to its inhibiting effect, it produces a more brittle copper froth, floating the copper much faster. Zinc Sulphate is also fed, as a zinc inhibitor, to the copper cleaner cells. Reagent #505 has a good depressing effect on our zinc but trouble was had in reactivating the zinc in the zinc circuit. It could be reactivated in an acid circuit. When this was tried out the zinc recovery was much lower and the zinc concentrate contained more insol. than in the present alkaline circuit.

DuPont Frother B-23 and Cresylic Acid were both tried as frothers in the copper circuit. The alcohol frother produced a much lighter froth than Cresylic Acid, pulling less zinc into the copper concentrate. Pine Oil is used in conjunction with the B-23 so as to make a little stronger froth. Better results are obtained when the Pine Oil is fed to the ball mill.

Reagent #425 is used as a sulphidizer when enough oxides are present in the ore to warrant the use of it. Most of the ores, however, do not contain enough oxides or oxide coating to require the use of a sulphidizer.

Reagent #242 showed possibilities as a frother and collector in the copper circuit when tried in the laboratory. When used in the mill circuit, however, a high grade copper concentrate could not be obtained.

Minerac "B" was tried in the copper circuit, but when fed in the most minute quantities possible it pulled zinc immediately. It, therefore, was not used in the copper circuit but is giving very satisfactory results in the zinc circuit. It lowers the copper in the Final Tailing considerably and also lowers somewhat the zinc in the Final Tailing. Soda ash was tried for some time in the mill and produced a little higher copper concentrate, but too much copper was sacrificed into the Copper Tailing.

Calcium Cyanide, Thiocarbanilide - 130, Sodium Sulphite and Pine Oil are fed to the ball mill. Z-3 and B-23 are fed to the copper conditioner.

One of the major problems in the copper circuit is the variable amounts of cyanide needed to satisfactorily depress the zinc. Ore from some sections of the mine consume much more cyanide than ore from other sections. The reason is that some sections of the mine have more metallic copper and soluble copper salts than others. The cyanide consumption of Republic Ore varies from as low as 0.10 pounds per ton of ore to a high of 0.60 pounds per ton. Flotation operators have to learn to observe these changes in the ore and adjust the cyanide accordingly. If the cyanide is allowed to remain too high, much of the copper is depressed along with the zinc, and if the cyanide is not fed in sufficient quantities to dissolve the soluble copper salts present, the zinc will immediately be activated. Various methods have been tried in attempting to titrate for free cyanide in the copper circuit, but to date none has been satisfactory. The interfering elements in the titrations are the soluble sulphides present in the circuit which prohibit the use of the standard Silver Nitrate Method.

The cyanide irregularity could be overcome somewhat if the ores from the different sections of the mine could be more thoroughly mixed. Due to the inability to thoroughly mix the ores, the Mammoth ore has to be milled separately from the Republic ore. The reagent consumption when milling Mammoth ore is the same as when milling Republic, with the exception of the quantity of cyanide required. The Mammoth ore contains more oxidized copper minerals and metallic copper than does the Republic ore. The cyanide consumption is therefore higher, ranging from 1.5 - 3.0 pounds per ton of ore. Calcium Cyanide is replaced with Sodium Cyanide when milling Mammoth ore. Calcium Cyanide when fed in this large amount builds up such a high lime content in the mill waters that a satisfactory copper tailing or concentrate can not be made.

Return water can be used only to the amount of approximately 700 pounds per ton of ore or 20% of total water used. This varies somewhat as again the lime content is the controlling factor. When milling the Republic ore, where the Calcium Cyanide consumption is below 0.5 pounds per ton, 700 pounds of return water per ton of ore produces the best metallurgical results. Return water, used accordingly with Calcium Cyanide, is very beneficial to the copper flotation. The same amount of lime fed to the copper circuit has the same effect but, of course, would be at an additional cost. There is no overflow water from the concentrate thickeners used for return water. This water introduces a reagent build up that is uncontrollable in the copper circuit. Only overflow water from the tailings thickener is used and no trouble is had with reagent returns other than lime, as above mentioned.

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The present reagent combination and consumption for the copper circuit is as follows:

REPUBLIC ORE:

То	Ball Mill: Calcium Cyanide Thiocarbanilide-130 Sodium Sulphite Pine Oil	1	0.20 - 0.11 0.33 0.009	0.50	pounds " " "	per "	ton " "	ore " "
Τo	Copper Conditioner: B-23 Potassium Ethyl Xanthate-Z-3		0.12 0.02		71 91	11 11	ff T7	†† ††
Τo	#4 Cu Rougher Cell: Butyl Xanthate(secondary)-301 Potassium Ethyl Xanthate-Z-3				71 11	11 11	f1 f7	₹₹ ₹₹
Τo	Cu Cleaner Cell: Zinc Sulphate	1	0.11		f1	**	**	? !

MAMMOTH ORE:

Reagents are the same as for Republic ore except that Sodium Cyanide is substituted for Calcium Cyanide. The consumption of the NaCN varies from 1.5 - 3.0 pounds per ton of ore.

The copper recoveries for two typical month's run of Republic ore, using the above reagent setup, are as follows:

	<u>Assay</u>	Distribution	<u>Assay</u>	Distribution
	% Cu	% Cu	% Cu	% Cu
Head Cu Conc. Zn Conc. Tailing	1.94 29.99 2.38 0.087	100.00 : Head 84.27 : Cu Conc 11.94 : Zn Conc 3.79 : Tailing	. 2.52	100.00 75.37 18.49 6.14

The average copper recoveries while milling Mammoth

	Assay	Distribution
	%Cu	%Cu
Head	3.13	100.00
Cu Conc	30.20	83.75
Zn Conc	4.52	10.62
Tailing	0.21	5.63

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ZINC CIRCUIT

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The copper tailing is pumped to a 6' x 6' conditioner, where it is conditioned for 10 minutes and then gravity fed to the zinc circuit. The zinc circuit consists of 8 - #18 Denver Sub A cells and 2 - #15 Denver Sub A cells for the rougher section. for the cleaning section, there are 2 - #15 Denver Sub A cells. The feed is split between the first 3 rougher cells. The froth from the first 5 roughers is taken to the cleaners for one cleaning. When running on a low zinc head, as with Mammoth ore, two cleanings are made. The last 5 roughers return to #3 rougher, and as in the copper circuit, the cleaner tails pass on to #1 rougher.

Both of the ores are more amenable to zinc flotation than to copper flotation. No particular difficulty was had in arriving at an acceptable reagent combination. It is impossible to make an extremely high grade zinc concentrate, due, in part, to the necessity of recovering in the zinc concentrate, the copper remaining in the Copper Tailing.

Xanthates, Amyl - Z5, Pentasol - Z6 and Butyl (secondary) - 301, were all tried as collectors in the zinc circuit. It was finally determined that the 301 produced the lowest tailing and a concentrate of good grade was made.

Cresylic Acid is used as a frother.

Copper Sulphate, zinc activator, is fed to the conditioner and also to the fourth rougher cell to insure complete activation.

Processed lime is fed to the conditioner mainly as a pH regulator. The pyrite content of the ore is very low. Much experimenting has been done to determine the proper pH. Best results are obtained with a pH of 10.7 - 10.9 for the zinc circuit.

Hydrated lime was tried in place of processed lime, with no appreciable effect on metallurgy, but it does not have the good settling effect on the zinc concentrate. This, therefore, produces a much wetter cake on the filter discs. The processed lime is fed dry, with a belt feeder, and offers much less feeding inconvenience than does the hydrated lime. "Processed" lime is actually what they sometimes call pulverized quick lime. It has 96-97% CaO content with 88-89% available CaO.

Minerac "B", as mentioned previously, is fed to the zinc conditioner. It enabled us to make a much better recovery in the zinc concentrate of the copper remaining in the copper tailing. The zinc recovery is also improved somewhat. Due to its potency, this reagent has to be very carefully controlled.

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The present reggent combination and consumption for the zinc circuit is as follows:

To Zine Conditioner:

Copper Sulphate	0.68 lbs.	per	ton
Lime	5.41 "	11	11
Butyl Xanthate-Secondary-301	0.15 "	11	11
Cresylic Acid	0.087 "	71	11
Minerac "B"	0.0068"	11	11

To	No.	4	Zinc	Rougher	<u>Cell</u> :				
	Coppe 301	er	sulpl	nate		0.12	lbs.	ton "	

The following grades and recoveries ark for two typical months using the above mentioned sets of reagents:

	ASSA	Y	DISTRIBUTION				
	%Cu	%Zn	%Cu	%Zn			
Head	1.38	6.00	100.00	100.00			
Cu Conc	30.51	5.99	75.37	3.40			
Zn Conc.	2.52	54.85	18.49	92.58			
Final Tail:	ing 0.098	0.279	6.14	4.02			

	ASSAY		DISTRIBUTION			
	%Cu	- %Zn	%Cu	%Zn		
Head	1.94	5.92	1.00.00	100.00		
Cu Conc.	29.99	6.31	84.27	5.81		
Zn Conc.	2.38	55.02	11.94	90.42		
Final Taili	ng 0.087	0.263	3.79	3.77		

The following grades and recoveries are typical for a run of straight Mammoth ore:

	ASSI	ĮΫ	DISTRIBUT	LION
	%Cu		%Cu	%Zn
Head	3.13	4.4	100.00	100.00
Cu Conc.	30.20	6.4	83.75	12.63
Zn Conc.	4.52	49.3	10.62	82.41
Final Tail:	ing 0.21	0.26	5.63	4.96

There are only two changes necessary in the zinc circuit when milling Mammoth ore. The Xanthate - 301 has to be nearly cut in half or too much insol. is pulled into the zinc concentrate. Secondly, due to the lower zinc head, two cleanings are necessary on the zinc concentrate. Although it has no connection with the metallurgy, Ferrous Sulphate is fed to the final tailing when milling Mammoth ore. This is for the purpose of neutralizing any possible free cyanide that may remain. Both concentrates are pumped to their respective thickeners with $\frac{1}{2}$ Denver concentrate pumps. The zinc concentrate thickener has a diameter of 20' and is 8' deep with a capacity of 18,000 gallons. The copper concentrate thickener is 18' x 8' with a capacity of 15,000 gallons. The thickened concentrates are pumped with 4" Dagley Diaphragm pumps, one for each concentrate, to an American Filter with 6'3" discs. Two discs are used for the zinc and one for the copper concentrate. By maintaining a thick feed to the filter, about 70% solids, both the zinc and the copper can be filtered by one man, in one 8-hour shift. The concentrates drop from the filter to the concentrate floors, from which they are scraped over grizzlys with a $7\frac{1}{2}$ H.P. Sullivan slusher into trucks. The moisture content of the zinc concentrate is about 9% and the copper concentrate about 7%.

The final tailing discharges into a thickener 30' in diameter by 10' deep with a capacity of 53,000 gallons. The tailing goes into the thickener at about 22% solids and is pumped out at around 40% solids with a Wemco diaphragm pump. The diaphragm pump discharges into a 4' x 10' tank and from here the tailing is pumped with a 2" Wemco sand pump through a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " pipeling 900' to the tailing pond. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ " line continues around the outer edge of the pond with tees and plugs at 21' intervals. With this arrangement, the coarse material is deposited at the outer edges of the pond with the slimes flowing to the center. The tailing pond is built on a side hill slope and is approximately 400' by 800'.

MANPOWER:

There is a total of 13 men employed for the 24 hour mill operations. Each 8 hour shift has one shift boss, who acts as flotation operator, and one ball mill operator. Day shift includes one filter operator and two crusher operators. The tailing pond is maintained on two shifts with one man to the shift. There is one relief man for the 6 mill operators and one relief man for the filter, crusher and tailing pond. The following shift staggering allows every man to work 12 days and then have 2 days off:

	<u>r1</u>	Ball Mill			<u>Uperators</u>		
Da ys Week	Swing	Day	Grave	Swing	Day	Grav	e Key to Days Off*
Fri. Sat. Sun. Mon. Tues.	A A A A A	C C B B	R R R R C	EEEE	G G G G	D D D D R	A-Wed. & Thur. B-Fri. & Sat. C-Sun. & Mon. D-Tues.& Wed. E-Thur.& Fri.
Wed. Thus. Fri. Sat.	A A A A	B B B B B B B	0000	EDDD	G G G G E	R R R R	G-Sat. & Sun. R-Mon. & Tues.
Sun. Mon. Tues. Wed.	A A A R	BBBBB	00000		L E E E	R G G G	A B C D B Operators
Thur.	R	B	c	D	4 64	G	D) E) Ball Mill G) Operators
				- 8 -			R Relief Men

OPERATING COSTS:

Following are the costs per ton of ore at a milling rate of 190 tons per 24 hours:

Labor - \$0.95Power - 0.28Reagents - 0.35Supplies - 0.25Balls - 0.07Liners - 0.06Misc. Costs - 0.01\$1.96 per ton of ore milled

The above cost shown for labor includes the 13 regular mill men plus mill supt. and also all repair and maintenance labor. The above costs do not include workmen's compensation insurance or taxes. General supervision, office or assaying was not allocated to the above costs.

The reagent cost breakdown is as follows:

Calcium Cyanide	\$0.026	Alcohol-B-23	\$0.017
Copper Sulphate	0.053	Zinc Sulphate	0.006
Processed Lime	0.078	Minerac "B"	0.006
Xanthate 301	0.037	Pine Oil	0.001
Xanthate 2-3	0.005	Sodium Cyanide	0.031
Cresylic Acid	0.009	Reagent #425	0.001
Sodium Sulphite	0.025	Ferrous Sulphate	0.014
Thiocarbanilide-130	0.043	Total	\$0.352

The above cost per ton figure is for the total tonnage milled of both Republic and Mammoth ore. Sodium Cyanide and Ferrous Sulphate is used only on Mammoth ore. The average cost per ton of Mammoth ore milled is 29% for Sodium Cyanide and 14% for Ferrous Sulphate.

COBRIZA DUMP

The Cobriza Dump is an old reject dump for sorting operations on Republic ore mined during 1912-22. This dump consists of coarse ore, plus 2". It is milled occasionally when sufficient tonnage cannot be supplied from the Republic and Mammoth mines. The metallic content averages about 1.0% Cu and 2.0% Zn. One would expect considerable oxidation during the 26 year minimum period it has been exposed to moisture and air. However, the oxide content is nearly the same as in newly mined Republic ore, about 0.04% Cu and 0.11% Zn. A little more oxide coating can be seen than with Republic ore.

The reagent combination for flotation of the dump ore is nearly the same as for Republic ore. The main change is in reagent consumption. Thiocarbanilide and the Xanthates are cut

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down in the copper circuit. More Reagent #425 is fed to this circuit as a sulphidizer for the oxide content. The Xanthate -301 is also cut down in the zinc circuit to about half and the zinc concentrate is double cleaned, resulting in a product assaying about 46% zinc. If more cells were available for cleaning, a higher grade zinc concentrate could be made by increasing the circulating load. The lower grade zinc concentrate is mixed with the normal 54 - 55% zinc concentrate so as to make an acceptable shipping product.

Average grades of concentrates and recoveries of copper and zinc from Cobriza Dump ore are as follows:

		ASSAY	DISTRI	IBUTION
	%Cu	%Zn	%Cu	%Zn
Head	1.00	1.8	100.00	100.00
Cu Conc.	29.75	6.2	73.42	8.50
Zn Conc.	5.26	46.0	17.15	83.13
Final Tailing	0.10	0.16	9.43	8.37

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500 5 ore 6.25 g Coke 1.25% 7.5 5 N2C 1.50% 15 cc H10 3.0 %

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750 Charge in - No dust Considerable fumes 4:07 5:07 750° Gas off - cool 200 ° 5:16 Start 25 min. grind.

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Ken McGriffin

ASSAY REPORT

MINERAL SERVICES INC

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