

10180 Blue Verditer

Blue verditer or blue bice is a name now given to an artificial basic copper carbonate, $2\text{CuCO}_3 \cdot \text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2$, which is similar in composition to the mineral, azurite.

Blue verditer is a manufactured copper carbonate and was widely used as a wall paint in the 17th and 18th century, with a continuing use up to the 19th century.

This synthetic azurite with a deep blue, slightly more greenish hue than the natural variety and lends itself to more even applications. Microscopically, blue verditer may be seen as tiny, rounded, fibrous aggregates, even in size and blue by transmitted light. It is similar in color to finely ground azurite.

Historically, it was mixed with smalt for deeper shades. According to Laurie, the manufacture of blue verditer seems to have been carried on in England in large quantities at one time. Blue verditers were the best cheap substitutes for the more expensive azurite and ultramarine.

Blue verditer is suited for tempera and watercolor, not for oil.

Excerpts from:

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Painting Materials Rutherford J. Gettens and George L. Stout