



Mineralogy FAQs

What is a Mississippi Valley Type Deposit?

Frequently, you may hear a mineral collector use the term "Mississippi Valley Type" when examining a specimen of sphalerite or galena. The term is much over-used. Mississippi Valley Type (MVT) is used by ore geologists to refer to lead-zinc deposits in which the principal ore minerals are sphalerite (zinc sulfide) and galena (lead sulfide) and the host rock is typically a sedimentary carbonate rock (or a sandstone). I would add that true MVT's should have simple mineralogy, be located in relatively undisturbed, unmetamorphosed host rocks, and have no obvious igneous heat source to form the ore minerals. This latter criterion would exclude the Illinois-Kentucky fluorspar district with its abundant fluorite and igneous heat source. Unfortunately, the MVT name has become so widely mis-used that it is becoming synonymous with "lead-zinc deposit".

The prototypical MVT deposit is the Upper Mississippi Valley district which is located in southern Wisconsin, northern Illinois and eastern Iowa. All of the mines in the Upper Mississippi District are now closed and the district has been largely forgotten, although some fine specimens of galena and sphalerite still come out of old collections. Other MVT districts include the Tri-State District (Joplin, Missouri, area), and the Viburnum Trend (in Missouri). It is interesting to note that the lead in these districts is unusual in that it has a strong radiogenic component. This doesn't mean it is radioactive (it isn't), but rather that these districts' leads are enriched in lead isotopes Pb-207, Pb-208, and Pb-209 which are formed by the decay of uranium and thorium. Sometimes these leads are referred to as "J-type" (for Joplin).

Mississippi Valley Type lead-zinc deposits occur world-wide and are major sources for lead and zinc. It is important to note, however, that MVT deposits account for less than 20% of the world's production of these metals.

By Andrew A. Sicree, Editor, FM Newsletter

Important Notices

NATIONAL FM ANNUAL MEETING AT 2004 TUCSON SHOW

3:30 pm Saturday, February 14, 2004, Tucson

Ask not what FM can do for you, but what you can do for FM...Roland Bounds described FM as an opportunity to contribute. We work as evangelists to convince others why they should also love collecting minerals and to increase our own knowledge about our passion. We should plan on putting more into FM personally than we get out of it, but in the end the contacts and friendships we develop seem to turn that around.

We can point with pride to an active awards program and an invaluable locality index project. Our chapters are stronger than ever. However, we still have an ongoing identity problem which requires your ideas. We need to find better ways to reach out to potential new mineral enthusiasts and FM members.

Please help us by attending our annual meeting if you will be in Tucson. Attendance lately has been abysmal, perhaps because we (the Directors) have not publicized the meeting well. We are planning the meeting as usual for Saturday afternoon, February 14 at 3:30 at the Tucson Convention Center. The time and room will be listed in the TGMS show guide and should be announced on the PA system.

FM needs **your** help and input. You can work on committees or chair them without being on the Board of Directors, so please, take the time to attend your one national FM meeting of the year.

Regina Aumente

Reports

NATIONAL FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2003 AT DENVER MERCHANDISE MART

Call to Order – 11:35 a.m. Vice President Bill Dameron chaired the meeting in the absence of President Susan Eriksson. Twelve directors were present, which is not quite a quorum (13 voting members) but it was noted that most of the business didn't involve passing motions that required a formal vote by Directors. Bill D. noted that Chapter presidents or their representatives were voting members. Present were: Dameron, Lueth, Hurlbut, Modreski, Huizing, Soregaroli, Sherwood, Aumente, Nikischer, Gray, Smith and Sicree.

Minutes of the Last Meeting – The board was asked for any changes to the minutes of the last meeting as presented in the January- May 2003 Newsletter (Vol. 33, issue 1). No changes were suggested.

Treasurer's Report – Jim Hurlbut presented the treasurer's report. The national FM account in California has a balance of \$ 13,238.56 after a \$ 3000 payment to the Mineralogical Record for the special issue on the petrographic microscope, approved at the last meeting. The national FM account in Colorado has a reported balance of \$ 3,386.44. A complete copy of the report, including reconciliation summaries and transaction details, was presented to the secretary. A complete membership list was also provided.

Southeast Chapter Report – Julian Gray reported the chapter has paid dues to the national chapter for this year and is reestablished. Travis Paris is the new treasurer. A letter to the former treasurer, requesting the old books and account information be sent without any attempt at reconciliation, will be sent soon. The Chapter has an upcoming symposium needs the money, and can't get to it.

Bylaws Changes – Many members not attending this meeting had already approved by e-mail last year's proposal to make bylaws changes. The secretary will insure ballots to FM members concerning the changes are sent out in January in the time period specified in the current bylaws so they can be finally put into practice. All members present also approved of moving ahead with these changes. The comment period for these changes is still officially open, and the proposed bylaws changes will be posted in the next newsletter. Bill Dameron noted that auditor Mike Kokinos had expressed his agreement with them.

Werner Lieber Award – No chairperson has stepped forward to run the photo competition and it is too late this year to get advertisements in magazines. The Board is considering modifications to the award due to the lack of widespread participation the last couple of years. Any modifications will be instituted only after discussions with Dr. Lieber.

Locality Indices – Peter Modreski and Marie Huizing will prepare a formal report prior to the next meeting of the board.

Awards Committee – Bill Dameron reported that committees had been formed for this year's awards.

FM Display Case – Carol Smith will coordinate the specimens for the case for the Tucson show. Storage of the display materials in Tucson remains an issue that may be addressed by local FM members.

FM Page in the Mineralogical Record – Tom Wilson is in charge of the page and needs more material for publication. Symposium announcements and FM awards can be used to utilize space. Publication deadlines need to be promptly met.

Reports (CONT'D)

Letters to Retiring Directors – Another piece of unfinished business from Tucson was letters of appreciation to directors who retired last year and a special thanks to Karen Wenrich for her work on the Werner Lieber contest. Bill Dameron has composed letters and will see that they get out.

History of the Tucson Show Publication – Bill Dameron reported that Bob Jones' book would contain abundant information on FM awards. Bill assisted in documenting all past FM awards.

Dues Structure and Member Benefits – Tony Nikischer reported on his survey of eastern clubs concerning benefits they would like to receive. The need for meeting speakers, a source of newsletter articles, and field trips were identified in the survey. The board noted the cost of dues is nominal and possible changes were discussed.

Club Affiliations – In conjunction with the dues structure and member benefit discussions, the potential for expanding FM membership through affiliations with other clubs was explored. The development of a speakers list, built on an earlier list compiled by Andrew Sicree, was suggested. The designation and financial support of a FM distinguished lecturer was also discussed.

Newsletter – Andrew Sicree reported on the newsletter. He asked for contributions to the publication, especially to the recently initiated column named Mineral FAQs. The potential to sell advertising space to offset production costs was discussed and generally agreed upon. A. Sicree and T. Nikischer will explore this issue. There was general agreement on the need for firm submission and publication dates no matter how much is available. Thanks were expressed for including directors names and contact info.

Chapter News – Representatives of the Southeast, Mississippi Valley, and Pacific Northwest chapters reported on upcoming symposia.

Sponsoring Youth-based Events – Tony and others noted the need to reach out more to future collectors and members with youth programs.

FM Letter to the Denver Museum – It was suggested FM consider writing the Denver Museum of Nature and Science to express concern over saving money by terminating a highly qualified, well thought of professional mineralogist, leaving no professional mineralogist in charge of one of the country's best known collections. No decision was taken at the meeting.

Directors Meeting in Tucson – Regina Aumente asked about logistics for the next meeting. A Tuesday meeting date seemed to be the "least of all evils" and will be retained along with a social event and dinner meeting.

Awards and Competitions

NATIONAL FM AWARDS FOR EDUCATIONAL CASES

Friends of Mineralogy sponsors non-monetary awards at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show for cases which help explain an aspect of mineralogy. There is no restriction on the theme, but the case should have some special "instructive" feature. In keeping with the high standards of the TGMS, they should be aesthetically pleasing and contain specimens worthy of the show. Two certificates are awarded, one for private collections and one for museums/institutions, and the winners are honored at the Saturday night banquet, and the winners names are added to a plaque which will be featured at the Tucson show. No entry is necessary; all cases are judged. Instructive cases help the hobby grow and underline its scientific basis. Exhibitors at Tucson, both individuals and institutions, are asked to consider seriously such a feature for their cases.

Upcoming Symposia

25th Annual Tucson Mineralogical Symposium

Saturday, February 14, 2004 Theme: "Gold!"

SCHEDULE

NOTE: Each presentation is allotted 15 minutes plus a 5 minute question and answer period at the end, for a total of 20 minutes. ABSTRACTS for these talks will be published in the next newsletter.

10:00-10:20 a.m.	The Crystal Forms of Gold	<i>Carl A. Francis</i>
10:20-10:40 a.m.	The Systematic Study Of Regolith Gold	<i>Rob Bowell</i>
10:40-11:00 a.m.	The Harvard Mineralogical Museum's Gold Collection	<i>Carl A. Francis & Robert B. Cook</i>
11:00-11:20 a.m.	Russian Gold: A Review	<i>Michael Leibov</i>
11:20-11:40 a.m.	The World's Greatest Gold Deposit: the Witwatersrand Goldfield, South Africa	<i>Bruce Cairncross</i>
11:40-Noon	An Island of Gold: An Overview of Specimen Gold from Papua New Guinea	<i>Lawrence D. Queen</i>
LUNCH BREAK		
1:00-1:20 p.m.	Recent Specimen Gold Activities in Australia	<i>Mark I. Jacobson</i>
1:20-1:40 p.m.	Canadian Gold: A Review of Gold-Specimen Producing Localities Past and Present	<i>Mark Mauthner</i>
1:40-2:00 p.m.	Gold in the Southeastern United States	<i>Julian C. Gray & Travis A. Paris</i>
2:00-2:20 p.m.	Geology, Mining, and Gold Recovery History of the Olinghouse District, Washoe County, Nevada	<i>Scott Kleine</i>
2:20-2:40 p.m.	The Gold Tellurides of Colorado	<i>Ed Raines</i>
2:40-3:00 p.m.	The Round Mountain Gold Mine, Nye County, Nevada	<i>R. Scott Werschky</i>

Theft Notice

Gene Rydall, past president of the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse had his home burgled over this past weekend and lost most of his inventory of minerals. He trades under the name "Gem Hunter Minerals".

As you attend shows in the near future, be on the lookout for any individual attempting to sell minerals with the "Gem Hunter Minerals" label or someone who is not a dealer at the show you're attending trying to sell. If you should encounter such a situation, please notify the local police immediately.

Carolyn Weinberger

Chapter Reports

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER 2003 SYMPOSIUM

The 29th Annual Pacific Northwest Friends of Mineralogy Symposium was enjoyed by approximately 95 registrants at the Red Lion Hotel, in Kelso/Longview, Washington, September 26 through 28, 2003. The theme was "Minerals of China." A total of 17 displays were presented which included displays from Chapter members, the Rice NW Museum of Rocks and Minerals, and the Houston Museum of Natural History. Once again, we thank the Mt. Baker Club for loaning us display cases.

There were four dealers on the main floor: John Kilian, Lehigh Minerals, Oxcart Minerals, and a Northwest Group of collectors. As usual, our floor dealers brought a great selection of material from well-known localities and some new finds from both new and old localities. Just off the main floor in the North Wing of the hotel there were ten Satellite Dealers who brought a variety of minerals including selections from commercially mined localities, private collections, and various discoveries by Northwest field collectors. We thank all of them for their part in making this a very successful Symposium.

Presentations began Saturday morning when Master of Ceremonies, Bill Dameron, welcomed all symposium participants and introduced Dr. Robert Cook, who gave a fascinating, timely overview of Chinese mineral localities, complete with maps and pictures of outstanding specimens. Dr. Cook presented "Collector Minerals of China, A Comprehensive Review", utilizing the highly-praised presentation and material put together by Bert Ottens for the Rochester Symposium this year, and added some information based on Bob's own China experiences. Rock Currier followed with "Collecting Tales From China", a mineral dealer's perspective on various aspects of Chinese culture, archaeology, history, food, and mostly, navigating the peculiarities of the Chinese mineral market. During the afternoon presentations, Dr. Cook continued his morning presentation and also presented "Minerals of the Yaogangzian Tungsten Mine and Bigiashan Lead-Zinc Mine", while Rock Currier followed with "Collecting Adventures in Zaire". Sunday's Master of Ceremonies, Bob Meyer, began by introducing PNW Chapter member Doug Merson who presented "Set-Up and Techniques in Digital MicroPhotography". Saul Krotki, also a PNW Chapter member, gave a presentation on digital mineral photography and image improvement using PhotoShop.

The annual and lively auction, spearheaded by dueling auctioneers Bob Smith and Rock Currier, was held during the Saturday night banquet and netted over \$1,100. The proceeds were used to help defray symposium expenses. Silent auctions were held throughout the weekend and added an additional \$60 to the PNWFM coffers. All specimens and mineral-related items were donated by dealers, members and friends.

Bob Meyer, with assistance from Doug Merson, hosted the micromineral program which included activities on the main floor and late-night socializing. The micromineral program also included presentations by Bob Meyer on the Black Pine Mine near Phillipsburg, Montana, and by Aaron Wieting on the Reward Mine near Independence, California. Lanny Ream organized the contests and presented awards to Al and Sue Liebetrau (Best Chinese Mineral Specimen) and Doug Toland (Best Self-Collected Specimen) at the Sunday morning meeting. Awards consisted of plaques with working miners' lamps prepared by Lanny Ream and Norm Radford of Silver Capital Arts in Wallace, Idaho.

The Noble V. Witt Memorial Outstanding Service Award is presented each year in recognition of perpetual service above and beyond the call of duty to our organization. The award was presented this year to Sharleen Harvey for her long time support of the PNWFM Chapter and her many contributions towards the preservation of mineralogical specimens. Sharleen has been a Chapter officer in several positions including President, is a continuous contributor to our annual Symposiums in various capacities, and is currently an FM Director for the national organization. Sharleen's parents, Richard and Helen Rice, are responsible for building the collection that provides the foundation for the Rice NW Museum of Rocks of Minerals and are previous recipients of the Noble Witt Award. Sharleen was also instrumental in the founding of the Rice NW Museum of Rocks and Minerals in 1996 and served as Curator until 2003.

During the Symposium, new Chapter officers were elected for two-year terms which included Aaron Wieting as President, Wes Gannaway as Vice President, and Bill Dameron and Karen Hinderman continuing as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Everyone enjoyed the interesting programs, lively speakers, spectacular presentations, excellent displays and shopping for specimens with a great group of dealers. As always, old friends managed to catch up on latest finds and collecting tales.

Aaron B. Wieting, President PNWFM

Chapter Reports

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER SPRING 2003 FIELD TRIP

Members of the F.M., Pa. Chapter gathered on the morning of March 29, 2003, with trip leader Roger Mitchell at Cedar Hill Quarry, rarely open to collectors. The quarry, near the Pa.-Md. state line in Lancaster Co., is noted for minerals of the serpentine, including several minerals new to Pa., discovered by Roland Bounds, late President of the Chapter Board.

About 11 a.m., the group moved on to nearby Nottingham Park, in Chester Co., for lunch and a talk by Johnny Johannson, a mining engineer employed in environmental permitting of the crushed stone industry, on local mining history and the Park programs.

In the afternoon, the dumps of the Wood Chromite Mine were the scene of a hunt for minerals associated with the ore and the serpentine host rock.

Upcoming National Board of Directors Meeting

Current plans are for members of the National Board of Directors of Friends of Mineralogy to hold their Annual Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 at 6:00 pm at Club 21, 2920 N Oracle Road, Tucson, AZ (520) 622-3092. All board members and chapter officers are strongly encouraged to attend.

Notes from your Editor

The next issue of the National FM newsletter is planned to go out before December 31, 2003. Please have materials to me before December 14th, 2003. This issue will include abstracts for the Tucson Symposium. I'm looking for people willing to write short articles on some aspect of mineralogy. Articles should be understandable by the amateur collector.

Also note that, as a test, we will consider a *limited* amount of advertising in upcoming issues. If you wish to place an ad, please send me camera-ready copy and I'll quote you a price. Funds from ads will go to the FM to help defray newsletter costs. Thank you!

Andrew A. Sicree

Membership Form

Friends of Mineralogy ❖ Application for Membership (or Renewal) / Member Data Sheet

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State/Province: _____
Country: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____
Telephone: _____ (Home) _____ (Office)
FAX: _____ (Home) _____ (Office)
E-mail address: _____ Chapter Affiliation Desired: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Friends of Mineralogy, Inc., is composed of members of 7 local chapters, plus national members not affiliated with a chapter. **Prospective National Members** should send their application and \$10.00/year dues to Jim Hurlbut, 2240 S. Adams St., Denver, CO 80210-4912. Phone 303-757-0283. Prospective members of a chapter should submit form directly to the chapter contacts (Colorado, Midwest, Pacific NW, Miss. Valley, SouthEast, Pennsylvania, or Southern California). You will be billed for your chapter dues, since they vary with individual chapters.

Leadership

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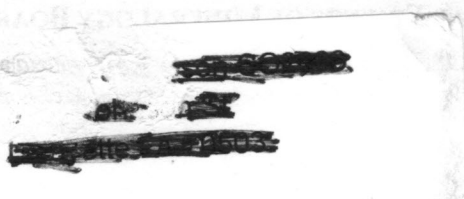
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SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR EDUCATIONAL CASES

At the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, the Friends of Mineralogy sponsors non-monetary recognition for cases which help explain an aspect of mineralogy. There is no restriction on the theme, but the case should have some special "instructive" or "educational" feature. In keeping with the high standards of the TGMS, they should be aesthetically pleasing and contain specimens worthy of the show. Two certificates are awarded, one for private collections and one for museums. The winners are honored at the Saturday night banquet and their names are added to a plaque which will be featured at the Tucson show. No entry form necessary; all cases are judged. Educational/Instructive cases help the hobby grow and underline its scientific basis. Individual and institutional Tucson exhibitors are asked to consider seriously such a feature for their cases.

Past institutional and individual winners have been: 1999: U. of Bonn Mineral Museum – *German Mining Districts*; Mary Murphy – *Mineral Books*; 2000: Calif. Academy of Sciences – *Refractive Index*; Si & Ann Frazier – *Quartz Pseudomorphs*; 2001: Colo. School of Mines – *Mineral Fakes*; Jack Thompson – *Quartz*; 2002: Cincinnati Nat'l Hist. Museum – *Encrustation Pseudomorphs*; Chuck Houser – *Calcite Twins*.