



# FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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*to promote, support, protect and expand the collection of mineral specimens and to further the recognition of the scientific, economic and aesthetic value of minerals and collecting mineral specimens.*

Friends of Mineralogy will meet on Friday, Sept 14th at the Denver Merchandise Mart in conjunction with the Denver Show. Details inside on page three. Please plan on attending to give your advice, voice, and support to the ongoing work of the group.

The Board has been working via e-mail on several issues and promising educational projects. Most are still in the initial feasibility discussions. Hopefully the Board will have a significant announcement coming in the near future toward advancing it's goals of education in mineralogy.

The local chapters are strong and active. Reports from a couple of them are included here. Please encourage your local chapter to submit material for the National publication so that your local is included.

**Keep Rockin',** *The Editor*

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Friends of Mineralogy, Inc. is affiliated with *The Mineralogical Record*, *Rocks and Minerals*, the Mineralogical Society of America, the American Geological Institute, and the Mineralogical Association of Canada.

Please forward newsletter corrections and updates to John Lindell, Newsletter Editor at [lindell4@aol.com](mailto:lindell4@aol.com).



# **FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY**

## **2011 FALL MEETING**

All Members Welcome

Friday, September 14

3:30 pm

Denver Merchandise Mart

Room K40-42

## FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY - CALL FOR PAPERS

The thirty-fourth annual Friends of Mineralogy symposium will be held in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show and will take place on Saturday, 16 February 2013. In addition to the Friends of Mineralogy, the symposium is sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society and the Mineralogical Society of America. The theme is the same as the show theme: *Fluorite*. Presentations on descriptive mineralogy, classic and new localities, and related subjects are welcome. An audience of amateur and professional mineralogists and geologists is expected.

Anyone wanting to present a paper should submit a 200-300-word abstract to Julian C. Gray, Tellus Science Museum, PO Box 3663, Cartersville, GA 30120; email [juliang@tellusmuseum.org](mailto:juliang@tellusmuseum.org); phone 770/606-5700, ext. 415. Presentations will be twenty minutes in length. Abstracts must be submitted by 31 August 2012.

*Julian C. Gray*  
Tellus Science Museum  
Cartersville, Georgia



**Fluorite with Barite, Rock Candy Mine, British Columbia, Canada, 8x5x5cm**  
Collected by Mark Mauthner. Collection and photo by John Lindell, j12299

**Friends of Mineralogy is both humbled and honored to receive  
this recent donation from a long standing member.**

Dr. Werner Lieber  
*Honorary Member*

Baden-Badener-Str. 3  
D-69126 Heidelberg  
*Germany*

15. June 2012

Mr. Allan Young, President FM  
Boise, Idaho, USA

Dear Mr. Young,

As a member of FM since its foundation in the  
seventeens, I enjoy its activities and the growing  
quality of the News Letter.  
I would like to make another donation to our  
Association today: Please, find enclosed

\$ 500 ( five hundred )

to use where it is mostly needed.

With best regards and "Glückauf",

*Werner Lieber*



## PLEASE SUPPORT THE RICE MUSEUM

The Rice Museum, in conjunction with its fine displays, has developed an educational program within the museum, offering outreach in the community and to the local community colleges and universities. A key part of the program is a new “Mineralogy Room”. The elements of this room include:

- A. What is a mineral; Crystallography
- B. Crystal Chemistry; Crystal Structure
- C. Physical Properties
- D. Mineral Habit; Mineral Uses
- E. Non-Silicates
- F. Silicates
- G. Hands-on Physical Properties

In addition to the specimens and materials already available to the museum, it will take approximately \$3,500.00 for additional specimens and supplies, revisions to the existing display cases, LED lighting for displays, plus construction of the “hands-on” work area and other miscellaneous items.

Dr. Lara O’Dwyer-Brown, Curator, has a well designed plan with an opening scheduled for the first part of September, in time for next school year. However, with Oregon’s very slow economy, the museum need help in funding this educational project.

Assistance is asked to make this important project happen. As an IRS 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, any donation made would be tax deductible.

Make checks payable to the **Rice NW Museum of Rocks and Minerals** and mail it to:

**Dr. Lara O’Dwyer-Brown, Curator**  
**Rice NW Museum of Rocks and Minerals**  
**26385 NW Groveland Drive**  
**Hillsboro, OR 97124**

Help with this project is very much needed and appreciated.

**CALIFORNIA NATIVE ROCK PARK**

201 Triunfo Canyon Rd #144

Westlake Village, CA 91361

805-494-8464

claudiaaesherman@gmail.com

May 17, 2012

Allan Young  
President  
Friends Of Mineralogy  
315 E. Carter Street  
Boise, ID, 83704-5274

Re: ***CALIFORNIA NATIVE ROCK PARK***

Dear Mr. Young:

I am a landscape architect. I have been interested in rocks my entire life. I love what California has to offer in the form of its rocks, minerals, and rock formations. As a member of many rock clubs, I could see that there was not as much appreciation of rocks in the younger generation. I come from a family of two earth science teachers, who both tried to instill that appreciation in their students. Thus, I came up with the idea for an educational park, *California Native Rock Park*. The park is an opportunity for everyone to appreciate the beauty of which California has to impart in its geology, rocks and minerals.

Although I have a broad background with rocks and minerals, being a collector for most my life, I did extensive research into the geology of California. I have created a template for a park which celebrates and displays those geological formations of California. The park will be foremost an educational experience. The park is divided into its geomorphic areas, accentuating rock formations and focusing on the kinds of rocks, minerals, fossils, geology, Indian influence (such as petroglyphs), etc. of each area. Palettes of the regions are created to identify the metals, igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rock and rock formations of these areas. Each area will be representative of its region in vegetative form, giving the visitor the experience they would have in that particular region. This will be a park as natural as we can create, which would also include habitat. In the template, arches have been used as focal points introducing the visitor into each region. These arches would perform the function of educating through the signage within of the region to be entered. Some would also have restrooms.

Also included in the park will be an "interactive zone," where students can actually collect rock and engage in other educational activities. We also would like to use this area to set up a "geology camp" for students in the summer. Also, included in our template for the park is an

Allan Young  
Friends Of Mineralogy  
May 17, 2012  
Page 2

amphitheatre in the shape of the Ubehebe Crater which will exhibit the qualities of the inside of the crater with clear plastic seating. Inside this structure would also be a museum.

When we are ready to move forward to the design after the non-profit is funded, a team of consultants comprised of educators and geologists will be formed to assist us in the final design of the park.

The park will not only provide educational experiences for students, but for everyone. It would be an opportunity for people to visit one site instead of traveling all over the state for the same experiences. It is being designed for people of disabilities so they also would be able to experience the great state of California's rocks up close, something that would be difficult in the real world. It might also encourage them to visit our California Parks to see the real sites. The park will need approximately 12 acres. It is proposed to be sustainable in its construction and design.

California would not be what it is today if it wasn't for its rocks. It is time that we celebrated that and preserved rocks for future generations. This park can do that.

I am writing to you because I am in the process of setting up California Native Rock Park as a non-profit organization. To make this a reality I need the educational community to help me with their endorsements. After talking to many educators already, they have made it clear that this park will not only serve California but educators across the country and even the world. I have been receiving endorsements from educators and organizations across the state, but I need more. Could you please write an endorsement, either personal, or for your organization?

If you would like to see some of the template already created, I would be glad to send you a link and discuss this over the phone. This is a very special project. I hope you will support us.  
Thanks.

Sincerely,



Claudia Sherman, MLA, ASLA

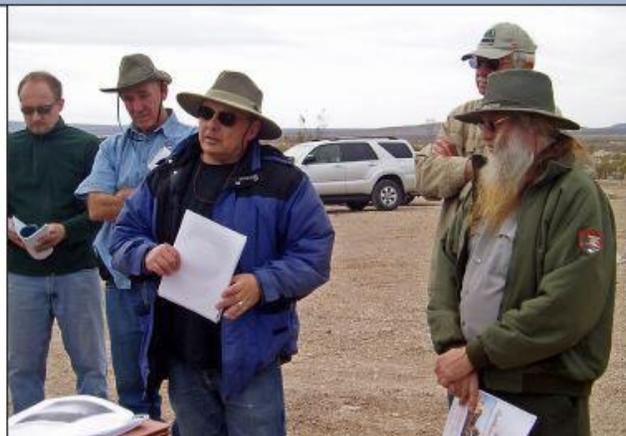
# SCFM *Notes*

Southern California Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy · July 2012

The Southern California Friends of Mineralogy (SCFM) March Symposium was held on March 24 and 25 entirely in the mineral-rich eastern Mojave Desert. Members and students from San Bernardino Valley College, University of California, Riverside, and San Francisco State University participated in two days of mining history and investigating mineral deposits. Photos by Dr. Don Buchanan and geology student Cathy Livoni.

Day 1 started with Ted R. Weasma (Mojave National Preserve, Renewable Energy Coordinator) introducing Geology and Mining in the Standard Mining District, Mojave National Preserve, San Bernardino, County, California. Mineral interest by Americans in this area of the Mojave Desert goes back to at least the 1860s with the establishment of the Bullion Mining District just to the east of the Standard District. That interest continues today even though the area encompassed by the park was withdrawn from mineral entry in 1994. Over 19,500 mining claims have been filed on lands within the park boundary since the 1860s.

The trip started at the town site of Rosalie (aka: Copper World Mine smelter site) at Valley Wells. The field trip described the history of the Standard District south of the Mescal Range at Striped and Ivanpah mountains. The focus was geology, mining, mineral processing, and mining economics, along with the history of mineral exploration and development in the area. The trip included new information regarding on-the-ground changes that have occurred, and a discussion of mining in the Clark Mountain District. Participants were advised that no collecting of mineral specimens or historic materials is allowed within the National Preserve.



*Introducing historic mining in the eastern Mojave Desert, with (from left) Gregg Wilkerson (BLM), Larry Vredenburgh (BLM), Doug Shumway (Mitsubishi), and Ted Weasma (NPS).*



*Valley Wells copper smelter: processing tanks are located close to the miner's dug out cabins.*



*Riley's Camp: The staff of the Mojave National Preserve has preserved the historic cabin, assay house, and out buildings.*



*Head frame at the Evening Star tin and copper mine in the southwestern Ivanpah Mountains.*

SCFMNotes • July 2012

*SCFM group is introduced to the new processing plant at Molycorp's rare earth mine at Mountain Pass.*



*Above, Paul Dockweiler, Molycorp supervising mine geologist, describes the age and mineralogy of the rare earth ore body. Below, View south into the Molycorp rare earth open pit mine.*

The afternoon of Day 1 included a very comprehensive discussion and tour of renewed rare earth elements mining at the Molycorp Mine at Mountain Pass. This was led by Paul Dockweiler, Molycorp supervising geologist, and John Landreth, Molycorp chief geologist, with contributions from Dinah Shumway, TerraMins, and Mike McKibben, UCR. The tour followed the physical flow of the ore from the open pit through classification and mechanical enhancement. Details were presented about advances in plant technology, water conservation, and re-vegetation of surrounding areas. Each participant was presented with samples of bastnasite, a rare-earth mineral.

Saturday night we camped in a piñon grove at the Mid Hills campground, 35 miles south of Mountain Pass at the junction of Cima and Black Canyon roads.



*The Crank Family copper mine on southwestern Crescent Peak produces copper sulfides, copper oxides and turquoise.*

Day 2 was led by Suzanne Baltzer, Cal State Los Angeles, to the Crank Family Open Pit operation with copper sulfide and oxide minerals on the south side of Crescent Peak, NV. This mine is also the source of turquoise mined since pre-historic time, and historically by the Tiffany Corporation. The Denton Open Pit fluorite mine is located one mile east of Nipton, California, and was visited in the afternoon. In addition to fluorite, copper oxides were recovered.

**Save the date! The SCFM Fall Symposium will be held on the weekend of October 20th, 2012.** The topic will be Iron Ore Deposits. We will visit several localities in the Mojave Desert, California, and near Bouse, Arizona.

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

The Pacific Northwest Chapter held its spring business meeting at the Seattle Mineral Market in May. The revised club bylaws submitted by the Bylaws Committee was voted on and accepted by the members. Most changes were aimed at bringing the old bylaws in tune with how the club is currently operating and at streamlining the methods of communicating and conducting business in an internet age.

The members addressed the issue of cases for displays at the symposium. It was agreed that the club should own its own cases. The membership voted to have President Bob Meyer get bids on building new cases. It was later learned that the Denver Show had 20 cases that it was willing to sell. These were recently purchased and transported back to the PNW by Al Liebetrau.

The annual Washington Pass cleanup was held August 10th-12th. Members and guests spent three days camping, collecting, and doing cleanup for the Forest Service. This year's project involved removing dumped tires from the roadside. This annual event should be considered as a potential destination trip for out of state FM members as it provides an opportunity to collect the Washington Pass rare minerals with some of the local experts.

The PNWFM Symposium will be held on October 12th-14th in Kelso, Washington. The theme this year is "Sulfates" with speakers Les Presmyk, Dick Dayvault, Alfredo Petrov, and Bill Dameron.



Members Randy Becker, Ray Lasmanis, and Wes Gannaway with illegally disposed truck tires recovered for the Forest Service during the Friends of Mineralogy volunteer weekend at Washington Pass.

*The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy*  
**38th Annual Symposium and Mineral Show**

October 12-14, 2012  
Red Lion Inn, Kelso, Washington

## Show Theme: Sulfates

### Featured Speakers

#### Les Presmyk

*"Arizona's Fabulous Sulfates"*  
*"Sulfates and Other Minerals of Tiger, Arizona"*

#### Dick Dayvault

*"Celestine Bearing Geodes from the East Flank of the San Rafael Swell"*  
*"Book Cliff Type Barite from Western Colorado and Eastern Utah"*

#### Alfredo Petrov

*"Sulfates from Fumaroles on Volcanic and Burning Mines"*  
*"Sulfates from Decomposing Sulfides and from Evaporites"*

#### Bill Dameron

*"Barite"*

### Main Floor Dealers

**EARTH'S TREASURES:** Richard Kennedy  
**LEHIGH MINERALS:** Jim and Yolanda McEwen  
**PACIFIC RIM MINERALS:** John Meek  
**XTAL:** Dennis Beals

### Room Dealers

will be selling minerals from Pacific Northwest and worldwide locations  
in the North Hallway near the Main Floor Dealers

**The Show will feature at least sixteen world class mineral displays, including  
a display from the Northwest's finest mineral museum:  
The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals**

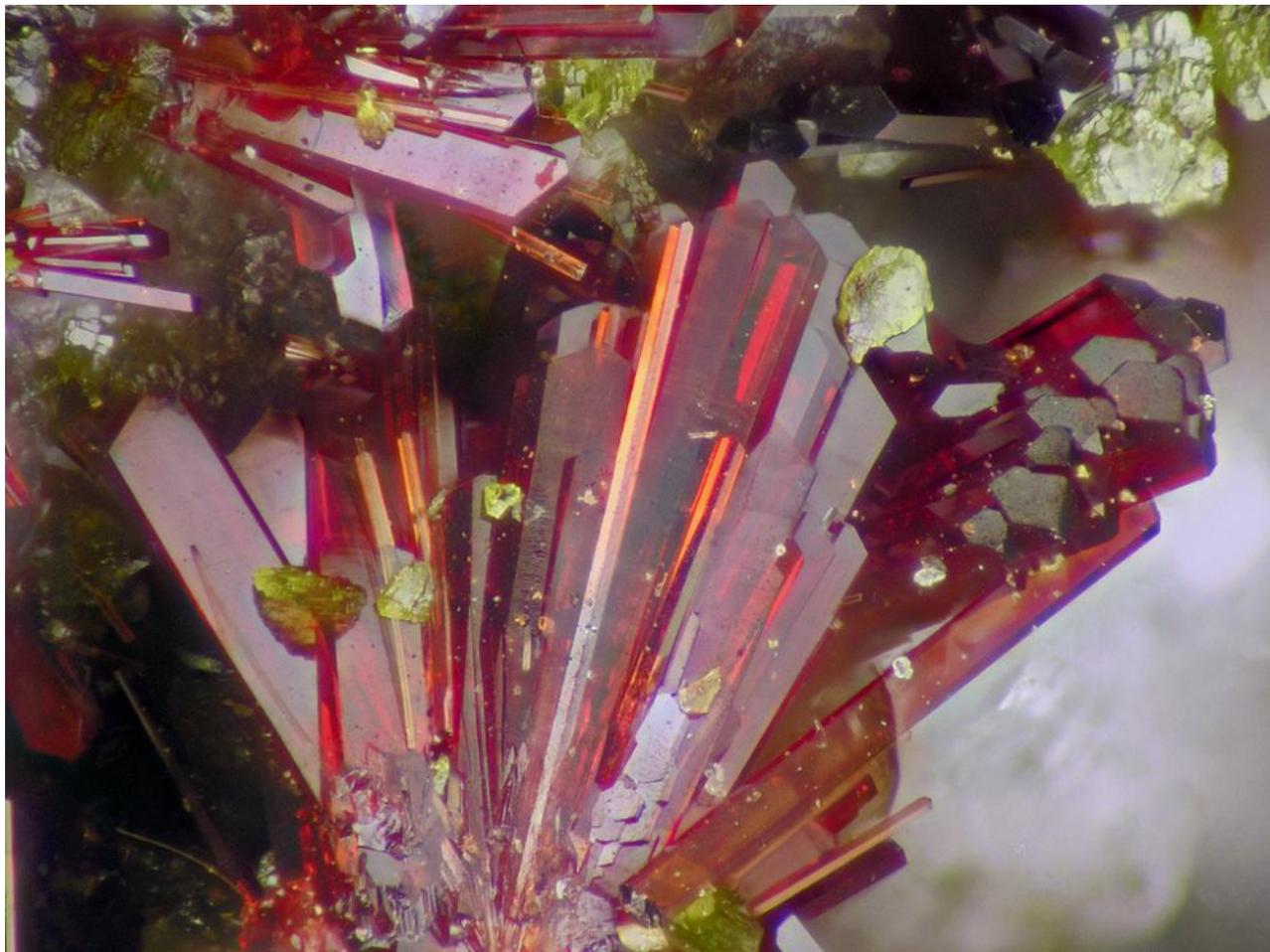
### Free Admission to the Mineral Show and Dealers

For more information contact Bob Meyer ([pyrite111@hotmail.com](mailto:pyrite111@hotmail.com), 425-433-1088)  
or Albert Liebetrau ([liebetrauam@msn.com](mailto:liebetrauam@msn.com), 541-504-4751)

Reprinted from PNWFM Newsletter. Thank you Bob!

## The Micro Mineral Collector

By Bob Meyer



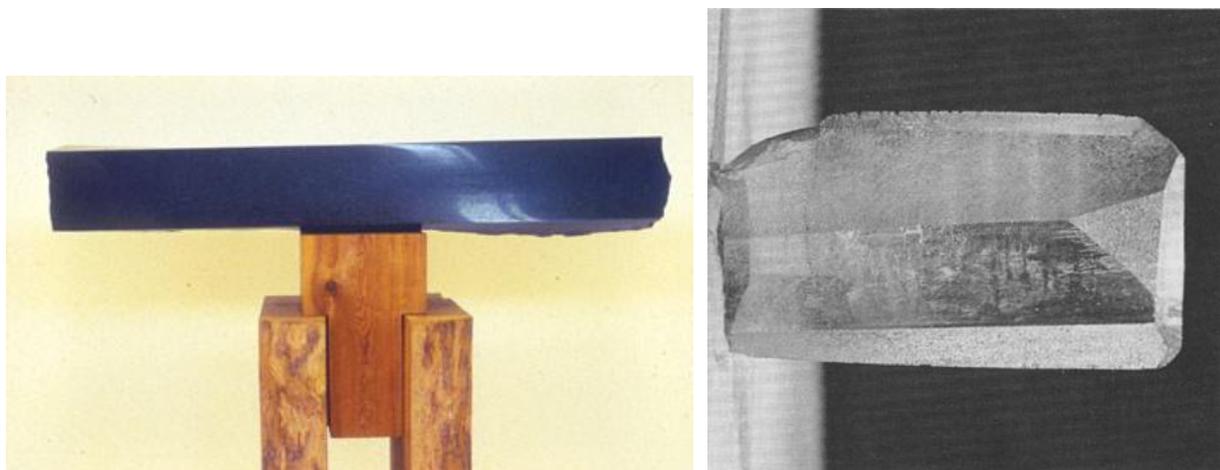
Carminite—a spray of exquisite red crystals with green Gartrellite from Tsumeb, Namibia. Carminite occurs from a number of world-wide localities, but specimens from Tsumeb certainly rank as *classic examples of the mineral*. The quality and size of the crystallization of Carminite from Tsumeb exceeds that from other localities, such specimens are extremely scarce, and those rare pieces that are available are highly prized by collectors. This specimen was part of a lot circa 1978 from the noted Tsumeb collector Walter Kahn, and was in the collection of Renton collector John C. White until his collection was sold a few years ago. The Gartrellite on this specimen was originally labeled as “mineral TK” and was first recognized as being a new species from Tsumeb, but the mineral was eventually described from material collected at Ashburton Downs, Western Australia. FOV-1.8mm.

### Buy and Use a Good Microscope—adopted from Neal Yedlin

*Classics* are those things that are recognized as being standards of the highest class or quality. This appellation is most often bestowed on things of cultural significance—the works of human beings—such as art, music, architecture, cuisine, or literature. In addition, the idea of classicism has more than crept into the realm of natural objects such as minerals, with this label being used perhaps a bit too freely as a marketing term among collectors and purveyors of mineral specimens.

*The idea of there being classics among mineral specimens seems quite appropriate.* Mineral collectors understand quite well the natural artistry, symmetry, beauty, and rarity of fine mineral specimens. It is uncanny as to how closely some specimens can resemble works of art, while at the same time we know them to be of natural origin. This dichotomy is particularly poignant to us as mineral collectors, and when specimens are “artistic” we find them to be particularly appealing. The irony of this dichotomy is that it is not nature that mimics art, but that art mimics nature.

The idea that a great deal of our sense of the aesthetic stems from the symmetries and fractals of nature should seem obvious to mineral collectors. The “art” that we are closest to is sculpted by the hand of nature, and examples of human effort reflecting the attributes of mineral specimens abound.



Art reflecting nature—obvious parallels: on the left, *Night Wind* by Isamu Noguchi 1970, Gabbro, 8 x 47 x 8 ½ inches. (Noguchi Museum), and on the right an image of a Quartz crystal twisted along the a-axis, Switzerland, 2 inches long, American Museum of Natural History collection. (Frondel)

*There are classics in the area of micro minerals as well.* While the idea of classic mineral specimens brings to mind dusty cabinet specimens in historical collections or museums, there are standards that stand alone as being of the highest class among the tiny. Lengthy essays and articles have been written on the subject of what defines a classic mineral specimen. However, very little has been written on the subject of micro minerals. The following group of photographs will explore some of the aspects of being micro mineral classics. With these examples, we will expand our definitions somewhat into the realm of micro minerals, but we will not attempt to provide a definitive explanation of the criteria that might establish what makes a specimen classic.



**Classics: Specimens of historical significance.** Licroconite, as vibrant blue crystals associated with Quartz (and Olivenite-below), from Wheal Gorland, St Day United Mines, Cornwall, England. Licroconite has certainly come to represent a standard of the highest class. Specimens are very difficult to obtain and most were collected a hundred years ago or more. The beauty and amazing color of the mineral defy the ability of the digital media to reproduce. From the collection of John C. White, who obtained the piece from David Wilber at the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies national show, held in September 1971 at Seattle, Washington, USA.  
FOV 3.8 mm above and 7.0 mm below.





***Classics: Classic Localities.*** At times, certain localities have become synonymous with the idea of classics. To be a classic specimen, though, individual pieces from such locales must also possess those attributes for which the locality itself is considered to be classic. The photograph on the top is of the mineral Zincite, as red well-formed crystals from Franklin, New Jersey. FOV: 5.5 mm. The photograph on the bottom is of the mineral Carminite, as bright red crystals with yellow Segnitite from the Ojuela Mine, Mapimi, Durango, Mexico. FOV: 3.0 mm. Both of these localities has produced prolific quantities of specimens, many of which are of average quality. These two examples could be considered as classics because they occur from classic locales *and* because they represent world-class caliber.



**Classics: Rarity.** Bellingerrite, a doubly terminated crystal of this extremely rare copper iodate from Chuquicamata, Antofagasta, Chile. FOV: 1.8 mm. This species is highly prized among collectors due to the fact that it occurs from just one locality; that locality, Chuqui, is highly significant; there are very few specimens, and the species is quite attractive.



**Classics: Quality.** Papagoite, a group of outstanding sharp electric blue crystals from the New Cornelia mine, Ajo, Pima County, Arizona. FOV: 5.0 mm. Another specimen that exemplifies many of the criteria pertaining to being a classic, from a classic locale, excellent form and color, quite rare, and because they just don't come in better quality. Part of the original find circa 1960, ex: Scott Williams specimen.



**Classics: Unusual Composition.** Two more photographs that well illustrate another dimension of classic-dom—unusual composition. The top photograph is of the unusual mercury oxide mineral, Montroydite, as odd insectoid reticulated crystals hosting droplets of native Mercury on Quartz that is “silvered”—turned into a natural mirror due to a thin layer of mercury. From the Socrates Mine, Sonoma County, California. FOV: 2.7 mm. The bottom photograph is of the copper chloride mineral Marshite, as sharp well formed crystals from Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia. FOV: 2.3 mm.



**Classics: Royalty.** The idea of a classic composition comes to fruition when one considers the presence of the precious—in this case gold and silver. This photograph is of brassy crystals of the mineral Krennerite, which is a gold, silver telluride, the tips of which are overgrown with Melonite, on Quartz with small pyrite crystals. From Cripple Creek, Teller County, Colorado. FOV: 5.0 mm

#### Works Cited

Fron del, Clifford. "Characters of Quartz Fibers." *American Mineralogist*. 63 (1978): 17-27. 10 June 2005. <[http://www.minsocam.org/msa/collectors\\_corner/arc/qtzfibers.htm](http://www.minsocam.org/msa/collectors_corner/arc/qtzfibers.htm)>.

*The Noguchi Museum*. 2005. 10 June 2005. <<http://www.noguchi.org/>>.

## FM AFFILIATES



The Friends of Mineralogy is a long-time affiliate of *The Mineralogical Record* magazine. The magazine was founded in 1970 by John White, who was at that time a curator in the Mineral Sciences Department of the Smithsonian Institution. With the initial help of a financial backer, Arthur Montgomery, White succeeded in launching and bootstrapping the fledgling publication to the point where it was marginally self-sustaining. After seven years as editor and publisher, White stepped aside for a new Editor, Wendell Wilson. Since then the *Mineralogical Record* has grown steadily in size, quality and prominence, thanks to the contributions of over 700 authors, photographers, artists, advertisers and donors. It has become a collective labor of love on the part of the entire mineralogical community worldwide. It is the only journal to have a new mineral species named in its honor (minrecordite), and it is the only journal to have received the Carnegie Mineralogical Award. Subscriptions, back issues, books and a variety of free databases are available online at [www.MineralogicalRecord.com](http://www.MineralogicalRecord.com).

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[www.rocksandminerals.org](http://www.rocksandminerals.org)



### MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

If you are interested in earth, planetary, industrial, or biogenic minerals or mineral-like materials, you may want to learn about the Mineralogical Society of America



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 website: [www.minsoeam.org](http://www.minsoeam.org)

In closing:



Quartz (amethyst-smoky scepter); 6.2 cm tall.  
Little Gem Mine, Boulder Batholith, Jefferson County, Montana, USA.  
Russ Hage collection; Mark Mauthner photo.