

Friends of Mineralogy

affiliated with the mineralogical record

First Class Mail

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FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY NEWSLETTER

SEPT.-OCT.-NOV. 1987 #3

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MORE ABOUT DUES

This is a follow-up to the brief note in the last Newsletter, which brought in mostly 1988 dues that are not due yet, but are greatly appreciated. I think it is time to review our dues structure. National and international members should pay their \$7.00 annual dues directly to the national treasurer, if they are not members of a chapter. Members of a chapter should pay their annual dues to the chapter treasurer, who remits \$3.00 of this to the national treasurer.

Theoretically, dues should be paid by the middle of February for the year in question, since our annual meeting is held in February during the Tucson Show. However, the policy is to give members a grace period of about two (2) years before dropping them from the rolls, i.e., if you have not paid your 1986 dues, you will not be reinstated, it will be necessary to pay one year of back dues, in addition to the present year.

Dues payments are easy to forget. If you are not certain, dig out your old cancelled checks or contact the chapter or national treasurer. If you are a paid-up member and are not receiving your newsletter or membership list, contact the national treasurer. Everyone makes mistakes, including him!

MEMBER NAME TAGS

All members are entitled to a member name tag, if they wish one. If you are a member of an FM Chapter, see one of your officers, who should have a supply.

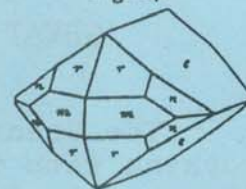
If you are a national or international member, contact the national treasurer. Better still, see him at the FM meeting in Tucson, where he will have a supply.

Al Kidwell, National Treasurer

Fig. 23.



Fig. 24.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

Doris Williams of Bellevue, Wa. had to resign from the committee to update FM Resource-Reference Booklet, and Lorna Goebel has taken over. She has made considerable progress on it, but would like to have cooperation of chapter members in a few areas, such as: (1) data about private mineral collections which may be open to the public, (2) libraries which may be a source of mineral information, names and addresses of rockhound and mineral dealers, specifically for Alaska, British Columbia and their won areas of Washington, Oregon, Montana and Northern California. Her address is L. Goebel, 9512 1st. Ave, N.E., Apt #101, Seattle, Wa. 98115

The 13th Annual Mineral Symposium was held on Sept. 25, 26, 27, 1987 at the Doric Motor Hotel in Tacoma, Wash. The program included speaker Keith Proctor, Joseph Peters and Bart Cannon, an impressive and very interesting group of speakers.

Fig. 3.

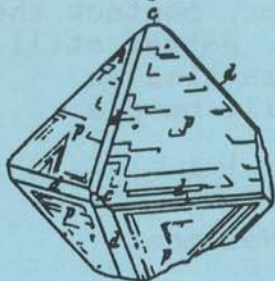
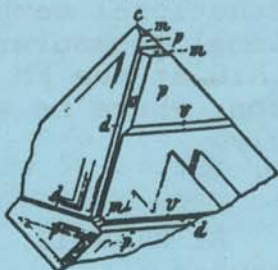


Fig. 4.



GREAT BASIN CHAPTER

The Great Basin Chapter is working with the Nevada Department of Minerals on a plan to have mining companies in the state preserve specimens from their mines for posterity. They will start by getting minerals for the state's universities and museums. They hope to be able to expand the scope of this project in the future.

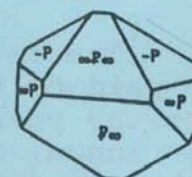
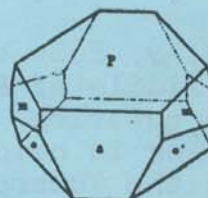
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Pres. Robert E. Reynolds reported that a significant specimen has been found and purchased for the California collection at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, and donated in the name of Jo McGuinness. It is a huge single crystal of hambergite from the Jensen Quarry. Tony Kampf, curator, knew of the piece, and was very happy to have it for the museum! Until now, it had not been available for sale.

Chapter members are hard at work in preparation for the S.C.F.M. Symposium at the M.S.S.C. show in November, 1987. The topic will be "Pegmatites of California", an interesting, informative, and well presented series of lectures.

ALL volunteers are welcome and should avail themselves of this opportunity for a "hands on" experience of working on a very interesting and exciting project.

Help is also needed--and welcome--on work in the Museum mineralogical collections. Again take this opportunity for a real museum experience, while making a definite contribution toward mineral systematics and preservation.

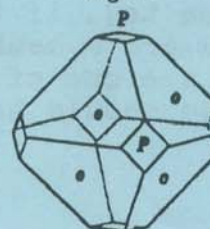


INDIANA CHAPTER

Indiana Chapter is working on the selection of a state Mineral. The selections, to date are millerite, calcite, marcasite, fluorite, barite, with options for others.

Shirley Allen is head of a committee to organize a display of Indiana minerals to be exhibited at various shows. She requests that members loan good quality specimens for this display. A worthwhile project to introduce the general public to the hobby of collecting and showing what is available from their own state--with some effort at times!

Fig. 1.



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

Vice-President, Jay Lininger reports that President, George Buchanan had to resign his office due to important family commitments. He will be missed, as he did an excellent job as Chapter President and Fall Symposium Chairman.

Jay reports that rock and mineral organizations seem to be suffering from a malaise of disinterest in recent years, and there is some concern as to the well being of the Pa. Chapter. Which in past years has been a bright spot of F.M. in previous years. They have one of the longest running mineral symposium of all the chapters. Presenting informative and unique programs not available to advanced collectors in any other circumstances. They have published several important mineralogical books, sponsored numerous Spring Field Conferences which have given excellent learning experiences as well as good collecting trips. And last, but certainly not least of these achievements is the Newsletter, which published original research on Pa. mineralogy, abstracted from worldwide mineralogical abstracts.

They are going to attempt some changes in this years Fall Symposium, at West Chester Univ., on November 6, 7, and 8. Retaining the popular "What's New in Pennsylvania" and the social hour of Friday night. A Saturday noon luncheon on campus, with an entertaining speaker will hopefully be more attractive and practical to the membership. Also new, this year, will be a swap on Sunday at a West Chester park.

Jay invites all Pa. members to come and participate in the

Symposium, and start the organization back to the enthusiasm of earlier days.

A sad note is the announcement of the death of Hilde Seel, widow of Paul Seel. She died suddenly on Aug. 18, 1987. A memorial service has been planned for September.

Atakamit

Fig. 10.

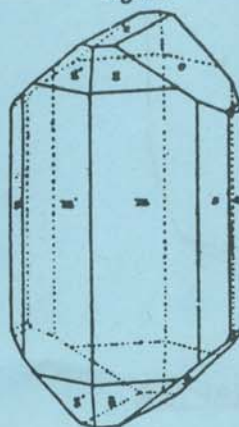
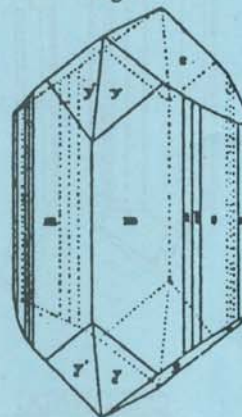


Fig. 11.

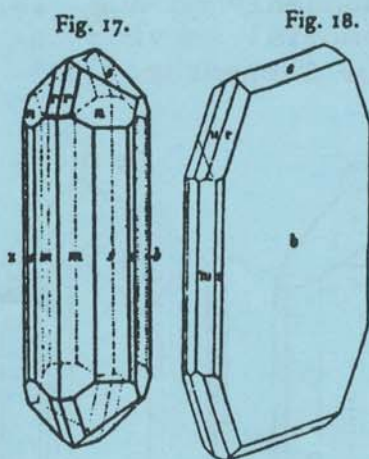


NEW MEXICO MINERAL SYMPOSIUM 8TH ANNUAL

November 15 and 16, 1987 will be the dates of the 8th Annual N.M. Mineral Symposium, held at Macey Center on the campus of N.M. Ins. of Mining and Tech., at Socorro, New Mexico.

The purpose of the N.M. Mineral Symposium is to bring together for an exchange of ideas both professionals and amateurs interested in mineralogy. Although the symposium is on topics pertaining to the mineralogy of N.M., several papers on mineral occurrences other than N.M. will be presented. Informal trips may be set up by attendees, using the logs and road maps available at the meeting.

Informal pre-symposium social and tailgating session will be held at the El Camino Motel on Friday, November 13, 1987.



COLORADO CHAPTER

In the September meeting, the subject was "What's New In Colorado Minerals", and several important finds were reported during the last several months. The program featured four: GAHNITE from Canon City area, FLUORITE from San Juan County, SCHEELITE from the Camp Bird Mine, and AMETHYST from Red Feather Lakes.

The chapter entered a case of Colorado fluorite in the Denver Show, fluorite being the show's featured mineral.

The Chapter still has some copies of the Pegmatite Symposium book available. Contact the Chapter President for further information.

COLORADO CHAPTER MEETING by: Ray Lasmanis

Thanks to the U.S. Geological Survey, I had the occasion to be in Denver from Sept. 8 through the 11th. This gave me the opportunity to attend the Colo. Chapter meeting on Sept. 10th, held at the Denver Museum of Natural History. The mineral hall was open, so both before and after the meeting I was able to gaze upon the best of Colorado.

The well attended meeting was convened at 7:30 P.M. by Pres. Barbara Muntyan. After a short business session concerning the upcoming Denver Gem & Mineral Show, various speakers gave short slide presentations on new Colorado mineral finds for 1987.

Barbara Muntyan described the well publicized amethyst find from the End of Rainbow Claim, Red Feather Lakes area, Larimer Co. This established locality has been dormant for a number of years until this summer when two jewelers from Ft. Collins leased the mine and dug a large trench in the center of the old pit. Extremely large crystals (up to 4") were found in a pocket and a large amount will now be available for sale. The crystals are generally doubly terminated with a good dark color. They are not gemmy (typical) due to internal fracturing but better than anything removed from the locality since the 1940's. When I saw the specimens, I wondered how they would affect the value of the one old time specimen I had in my collection.

Mark Jacobsen was the next speaker and described the search for the blue corundum from Grape Creek, Fremont Co (see USGS Bulletin 1114, page 116). The blue mineral was located but turned out to be blue cordierite with accessory

dumortierite. However, the best find made in the same area was 1/2" to 1" octahedral gahnite crystals in a 1.5' by 15' long quartz vein. The country rock is metamorphic mica schists. Others in the party were Bob Sloan, Howard Bachman and Bill Hutchison.

In my opinion, the most spectacular find was described by Bryan Lees. He gave a chronology and mineral description of outstanding scheelite crystals from the old 5 level, East Camp Bird Mine, Ouray County. The level has been caved since the 1920's. Exploratory work during 1987 cleared the old drift and a crevice full of mud was

noted. Crystals on fluorite were thought to be barite by the mine geologist since no scheelite had been documented for the mine. A miner rounded up about 70 pcs with crystals on matrix well protected by pocket mud. The second batch was collected by attacking the granular fluorite wall rock. Specimens range from 9" plates covered with 3/4" crystals to 4" long stalactitic groups of crystals to 3" miniatures. Individual scheelite crystals up to 1 3/4" on a matrix of fluorite or quartz crystals (scepters) were collected. The scheelite is in two phases: colorless to grey elongated crystals and caramel to dark brown pyramidal crystals. Calcite is an accessory mineral. Short wave ultraviolet rays activate the calcite red, fluorite weak blue and scheelite mottled yellow on light blue. In another pocket across the drift, 1 1/2" fluorite crystals include small scheelite. a 1/4" to 1" molybdenite stringer is found nearby - also a new mineral for the Camp Bird Mine. Exploration on the 6 level may uncover additional finds.

Barbara Muntyan also announced a discovery for 1987. It seems that a geologist on a busman's holiday was poking around a long abandoned adit

in San Juan Co. and found a nice fluorite crystal in an open cleft. He left some of the walnut sized crystals (on quartz) with a rock shop in Ouray with directions to the mine. Robert Stoufer, Barbara Muntyan and Gene Tribbe have since collected in the adit. The crystals are clear to very faint green with complex cubo-octahedral faces. Embedded in the crystals are tiny twin chalcopyrite crystals. A very thin druse of quartz covers the fluorite. Crystal groups up to 8" long were collected with great difficulty as the wall rock is very tough quartz. The narrow cleft is an old water course so is full of slimy mud. Further up in the cleft, just out of reach can be seen 3 to 4" octahedrons of fluorite. Unfortunately they cannot be removed without shattering. The exact mine location has not been disclosed by the collectors at this time.

The last speaker was our host Jack A. Murphy, Curator, Dept. of Geology at the Denver Museum of Natural History. He mentioned old reports of turquoise having been found in the streets of Cripple Creek. In trying to substantiate the reports, a search of Cripple Creek was made during 1986. In a city operated gravel pit on the north side of the city a flat lying seam in granite was found to contain turquoise. During 1987 this seam was exploited by the owner and a large amount of turquoise with good color was mined. Beautiful jewelry made from this material was on display in the museum's mineral hall.

Fig. 5.

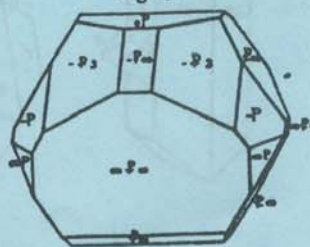
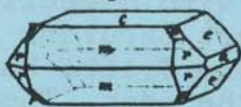


Fig. 12.



LAST MINUTE NOTES

The first joint meeting of the Southern California Chapter and Great Basin Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy will be held over two days, October 24-25, 1987, at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands, California.

Speakers for the SCFM Symposium on California Pegmatites have been announced.

They are:

Tony Kampf, "California Pegmatites: an Overview".

Jean DeMeuth, "Pegmatites of Central and Northern California".
Cynthia Magnussen, "Gem Pegmatites in San Diego County--the Himalaya Mine".

Al Ordway, "Crummy Pegmatites of southern California". (ed: THAT sounds like fun!)

The October SCFM Newsletter noted the death of H. Earl Pemberton, author of Minerals of California.

Fig. 29.



Fig. 30.

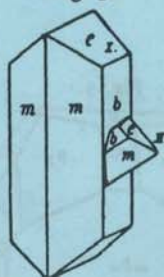
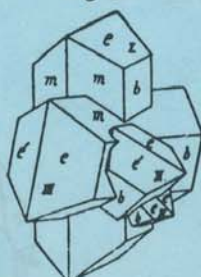


Fig. 31.



Friends of Mineralogy--PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER noted in the Fall newsletter that if you are interested in the history of mineralogy, you might wish to subscribe to "Matrix, A Journal of the History of Minerals" (L. Conklin, editor and J. Lininger, publisher. It is a new bi-monthly publication and will cover all aspects of the history of minerals, and mineral people. A subscription is \$12.00 a year, order from "Matrix", P.O.B. 129, Dillsburg, Pa. 17019. The first issue will contain an article on the Mount Joy, Pa. meteorite.

Also noted is a 33 page update from James Ferrailolo of his book "A Systematic Classification of the Nonsilicate Minerals". It is \$4.00, postpaid, to the author at 2206 Harwood Lane, Bowie, Md. 20716.

There are some really interesting publications on minerals and mineralogy being produced, and your secretary and editor would be happy to hear of any that you might know about.

We all should read and try and become more knowledgeable about our hobby and profession. Many of the older publications make fine reading on a cold winters night--and at times, can lead to some pretty decent collecting when the weather breaks in the spring and summer.

If any of you have heard of such reading--research and collecting, why not report to your local Chapter for general interest. One does not need to divulge full details of the locality, but might generate more interest in "enjoyable" research and perhaps some mighty fine specimens!

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1987 OFFICERS
(Elected board meeting, Tucson, Az., 2-12-87)

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