friends of mineralogy
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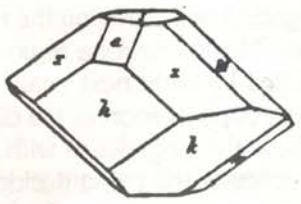
Kupferlasur
(Azurite)

Fig. 10.



FM Newsletter July/Aug./Sept. ■ 1991

So You Want to Write a Letter!

■ You ventured out into the National Forest to do some mineral collecting only to find that a claim had been staked on your favorite spot by the XYZ Mining Company. A Forest Ranger who happened to be in the area warned you about trespassing on a valid mineral claim.

■ Not too far away was a Wilderness Area where you knew that claims could not be staked. Surely, there would be no problems with your taking a hike and picking up a few smoky quartz crystals. You found a choice location near the top of a mountain where others had been digging, so you dug a small hole, opened up a few vugs, and got some good crystal clusters for your collection. On the way out you were stopped by a National Forest Officer, your specimens were confiscated and you were fined for digging in an area where only loose specimens on the surface could be legally picked up.

■ By this time you are furious with the Feds for causing all of this to happen. You decide to write a letter, and most of us would do the same thing. However, before writing the letter it is wise to sit back and analyze the situation.

■ RULE #1. You are hopping mad and no one should write a letter in the heat of anger. The only thing it will accomplish will be to make you feel better because you are making someone else mad!

■ RULE #2. Decide to whom you are going to write the letter, i.e. whose fault is it that you have the problem? The fact that the claim was staked is legal under the present system. If you want the system changed, you should write to your congressman.

■ The fact that you had a misfortune in the Wilderness area is due to rules arbitrarily made by the wilderness personnel, based upon their interpretation of the Wilderness Act. Writing to your congress man will probably not solve that.

■ RULE #3. Be Constructive! If you are telling your congressman that you want the system changed, tell him why and suggest what you would like to see done. Consider the alternatives to the Mining Law of 1872 and whether, under a system of mineral leasing, you would be free to continue mineral collecting at your favorite spot. Things could get worse with an environmental hand on the throttle.

■ In writing to the National Forest or Wilderness offices, recognize that there are going to be rules, but you can point out in a logical manner how mineral collecting can be done without any major impact on the environment. After all, these crystals are not endangered species, and what good will quartz crystals be to posterity if no one can dig them up and put them on display for all to see and admire? A stickler point is whether anyone should be allowed to mine a large quantity of them for sale.

■ In all contacts, stress the recreational aspect and even suggest that there be a certain amount of policing to prevent the sort of surface desecration that is causing the problem in the first place.

■ RULE #4. Remember that members of Congress are busy people, but most of them have a sincere desire to help their constituents. Any letter should be limited to three paragraphs on one page. The first paragraph states your purpose for writing the letter and establishes your credentials. The second paragraph goes into more detail regarding the issue of concern and how the legislation will affect you and others. The final paragraph asks for some type of action. If you support or oppose an issue or piece of legislation, say so. If you can suggest a better approach, do so.

■ If the opportunity arises, it is more effective to talk to your congressman in person, providing you are well prepared to advance your argument.

■ Much of the above information was taken from a brochure entitled: Communicating with Congress. It can be obtained free by writing to Public Information Division, American Institute of Physics, 2000 Florida Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.

■ Speaking of letters, after the fiasco with the Sawtooth National Wilderness in which all collecting was prohibited, I wrote to the District Ranger of the White Mountain Wilderness on June 8, inquiring about the policy concerning the collection of smoky quartz crystals, and about which many collectors are concerned. On September 28th I received a reply with apologies for having taken so long, since my letter had been passed from person to person, trying to find the proper information. The following two paragraphs are the answer to my questions.

■ "At this time, collectors may pick up any specimens that are on the surface; collectors may not use any equipment and may not disturb the ground in any way. Crystals must be collected as a hobby. No commercial use of the collected crystals is allowed. Generally, the area has been pretty well picked over by collectors.

■ The regional minerals specialist is currently researching,

investigating and clarifying the mineral collection policy for the New Mexico-Arizona region. He expects to have that completed by early next year. I will make sure that you receive a copy as soon as we do."

■ I believe this provides us with an opportunity to be heard while policy is still being decided. If you want to make a difference, I suggest you send your recommendations to Southwestern Region Minerals Specialist, Federal Building, 5117 Gold Avenue SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

Al Kidwell, President. ■

Dan Kyle's Rebuttal to "Reply from the Editor"

(from Colorado Chapter Newsletter, September 1991)

■ (1) The commentary, contrary to the title, did not originate from the "Colorado Chapter" but was clearly stated to be my own (irresponsible) opinion.

■ (2) In no way did the commentary either state or imply that I advocate or prefer a "no use policy". Simply stated, the point is that the mining law as currently written is not doing the recreational collector any favors. For those of you who doubt this, check the BLM nonpatented claim records in the Crystal Peak area (and even Wigwam Creek or Devil's Head) - large tracts of property are held by individuals or rock clubs and are not open to collecting. And a large percentage (perhaps more than 60%) of Colorado is public domain that is subject to nonpatented mining claims. Collecting conditions in Texas notwithstanding, I was appalled when writing a recent manuscript on Colorado quartz (Rocks and Minerals, Sept.-Oct., 1991) at how many times it was necessary to insert a disclaimer that an area on public property was under claim and not open to collecting. My understanding of the proposed new mining regulations, as applied to nonpatented claims, is that they will become prohibitively expensive unless they meet the intent of the original 19th century mining law, i.e., that they be workable as an economic deposit. Voiding the tens of thousands of nonpatented claims in the west would, in fact, open up large tracts of public property for hobbyists to explore. (Yes, unless they make prospecting or collecting permits also expensive. - the editor)

■ It is important to realize that it is a separate issue from that presented which restricts recreational use of public land; it is that issue I think we should be focusing on. (Read Al Kidwell's column this Newsletter and past Newsletters - the editor).

■ (3) The other point (maybe not stated as clearly as it could have been) is that IN MY OPINION it does not serve FMCC's interest to align with an organization whose main thrust is directed toward logging and grazing interests. (Recent Denver newspaper articles have attested to serious overgrazing and concomitant environmental damage; while I don't consider myself an ardent "environmentalist" in most land-use situations, it is also important to keep in mind that writing off any environmental considerations is unrealistic and will only serve to undermine any effort to prevent restrictive land use legislation. I have seen the damage in Colorado done by overgrazing and uncontrolled off road vehicle use). It seems to me that the emphasis of FM should be to establish a liaison with the other earth sciences organizations (AFMS, etc.) and draft a workable land use protocol specific to the interests of mineral collectors, together with corollary petitions dedicated to the interests of our own members, and not those of diffuse interests.

■ (4) Lastly, the Jan.-Mar. 1991 issue of the FM newsletter stated "the motion was made and passed to endorse this organization, to circulate its information and petitions and encourage participation by our members." Art implied in the last national newsletter that this comment only "endorsed sending literature and petitions...," but if the earlier statement isn't an outright endorsement, then I don't know what is. Either way, this motion was presented as an accomplished fact at the last general meeting in Tucson, with no meaningful opportunity for comment from the membership.

■ (5) I wholeheartedly agree with Art's comment that further discussion is needed. I also sympathize with Art's statement concerning apathy - it is indeed difficult to get peoples' attention, especially at a level that results in action.

■ These issues are important to all of us, because even if you don't go into the field, a lot of what becomes available for sale or study results from the activities of "recreational" collectors. As I said earlier, (section omitted - editor) it is gratifying that this newsletter finally stimulated a response - and I think this topic merits further discussion. ■

Reply to Dan Kile by the Editor

■ I hope without beating the horse too much I can comment briefly on Dan's point number 4. An endorsement is to give approval of, in this case an organization. Yes, the FM Board did give an approval of People for the West. We agreed to support them by circulating their literature and petitions. FM as an organization does not necessarily agree with all their activities and policies. We recommend individuals participate with this organization when their objectives are the same. We have not promised nor necessarily recommended financial support. So it is an individual thing. We felt, and I still feel, that many of their goals may better serve the serious mineral collector than most of the other lobby groups involved with environmental issues and the mining law. Right, we are dealing with separate issues and the latter issue has important economic aspects. However, the no use policies and preservation policies recommended by many environmental groups can have a negative influence on both which may be detrimental to collectors. Just because People of the West represent the mining and timber industries and ranchers and farmers does not mean that they are anti-conservation or condone abuse of our environment. In 1989

A Page for the Mineral Collectors Note Book
from: Pacific Northwest Chapter, September 1991

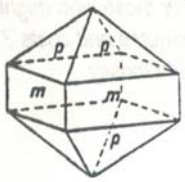
WASHINGTON PASS MINERALS

MINERAL SPECIES FOUND IN THE ALKALINE GRANITE OF THE GOLDEN HORN BATHOLITH, LOCALLY REFERRED TO AS THE "WASHINGTON PASS AREA". ALL SPECIES ARE FOUND AS FREE GROWING CRYSTALS IN MIAROLITIC CAVITIES EXCEPT THOSE MARKED <>, AND THOSE MARKED ** ARE ENDEMIC TO WASHINGTON PASS AND FOUND NOWHERE ELSE. SPECIES MARKED # ARE FOUND AS POLY-CRYSTALS INTERGROWN WITH ANOTHER SPECIES.

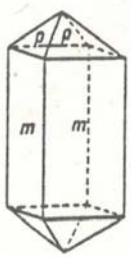
ACMITE	AENIGMATITE	AGARDITE-(Y)	ALBITE
ALLANITE-(Ce)	ANATASE	APATITE <>	ARFVEDSONITE
ASTROPHYLLITE	BASTNAESITE-(Ce)	BIOTITE	CALCIOHILAIRITE **
CALCITE	CALCIUM CATAPLEIITE	CERUSSITE	CHEVKINITE-(Ce)
CHLORITE (GROUP)	CHRYSOCOLLA <>	ELPIDITE	EPIDOTE
EUXENITE-(Y)	FAYALITE <>	FERGUSONITE-BETA(Y)	FERROFERRIWINCHITE
FERROHORNBLEND	FERRO-KATAPHORITE	FERRO-RICHTERITE	FLUORITE
GADOLINITE-(Y)	GAGARINITE-(Y)	GALENA	GOETHITE
HEMATITE	KAINOSITE	KAOLINITE <>	LAUMONTITE
LOELLINGITE	MAGNETITE	MALACHITE	MICROCLINE
MOLYBDENITE	MONAZITE-(Ce)	OKANOGANITE-(Y)**	OPAL <>
ORTHOCLASE	PARISITE-(Ce)	PHARMACOSIDERITE<>	PLAGIOCLACE
POLYLITHIONITE	PREHNITE	PYRITE	PYROCHLORE (GROUP)
QUARTZ	SCORODITE <>	SIDERITE	SOGDIANITE #
SPHALERITE <>	SPOINKOPITE <>	SYNCHYSITE-(Ce)#	THORIANITE
TITANITE	WULFENITE	XENOTIME-(Y)	ZEKTZERITE **
ZIRCON			

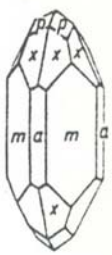
Unknowns: Either need more work or more and better material to classify.
3=Yellow hexagonal prism (possibly bastnaesite).
11=Dark blue tabular crystal, copper mineral?
13=Brown hexagonal, Amorphous (contains titanium and iron).
17=Tan blocky crystal (one only) Synchysite?
31=Dark brown lusterous needles.
36=White discs.
44=Yttium Calcium Silicate, Hellandite?
46=Pyrochlore group member.
47=White plates.
48=Diamond shaped cross section (blades).
49=Rosette of hexagonal plates.
52=Carbonate coating, fluorescent bright green.
55=Copper Sulfide?
57=Salmon colored plates, (zirconium silicate).
60=Minute black prisms, Thorite?
61=(Zirconium Silicate) near Wadeite but not the same.

ZIRCON-



LIST BY RUSS AND BOB BOGGS MARCH 25,1988





The Danish Royal Geological Museum

While on a recent business trip to Copenhagen, I had the opportunity to spend a Saturday afternoon at the Royal Geological Museum. The mineral specimens on display there are nothing short of spectacular and the fossils and other geologic exhibits are very good also.

The museum is a short distance (2 km.) from the DSB train station in the center of Copenhagen and sits on a corner of the Botanical Gardens (also a nice place to visit). The minerals and fossils occupy one wing of the Museum which is in a large 3 story brick structure built in 1893.

How many of you have ever seen a spacimen of native Iron? Probably only a couple of PNW chapter members own one. How many have seen crystallized Cryolite? You will see many such rarities at the Royal Museum. (Molten Cryolite is required for smelting Bauxite, the primary ore of Aluminum).

Even before you enter the building you get a hint of the unusual treasures that might be inside. Outside are giant specimens of native iron from Disco Island, Greenland. The larger is at least 1 meter in diameter and the smaller is 0.6 meter in diameter. Several large iron meteorites, including a 15 ton piece remaining from a 20+ ton monster are also out in the open. That particular visitor from space is the fifth largest known in the world and was found near Cape York, North Greenland in 1963.

As you enter the Museum, one of the first mineralogical displays is a well prepared fluorescent exhibit containing about 40 large specimens. Not suprisingly, about half are from the USA. Next comes the fossil rooms where you will drool over a huge Jurassic age dragonfly with a 15 cm. body and a wingspan of 18 to 20 cm. That specimen, like many specimens there, is from the Harz area of Germany. There are also spectacular single specimens, and huge groups, of crinoids (many from the USA), and a single 30 cm. Tertiary age Turetella from France. The fossil displays contain several hundred specimens in total.

But on to the minerals! Most classic locations are represented, but I could find only one Northwest specimen, a very nice hand specimen of Sphaerosiderite labelled "Estacada, Wa."(but probably really from Estacada, Or.). (Reminded me of the fine Realgar specimen in the California Minerals Display in the old Ferry Building in San Fran that was labelled "King County, California").

Although it was not the first cabinet in the room, the 1 x 2 meter cabinet of Kongsberg, Norway silvers immediately grabbed your attention. There were only 10 Silver specimens in that case, but what specimens!! The largest is a 20 x 25 cm. mass of wire Silver. Another had what appeared to be a single tangled wire that tapered from about 75 mm. at the base to a few mm. at the tip over a length of perhaps 60 or 80 cm.! Next to that cabinet was a large slab (0.6 by 1.5 meters) of Silver ore from Kongsberg that was mined in 1666. In a nearby cabinet were numerous smaller Kongsberg Silvers along with 20 Gold specimens (Calif., Colo., Australia), a couple specimens of Electrum, and examples of all the native elements.

Back by the door a beautiful 0.5 x 2 x 2 cm. gemmy light green Olivine crystal from the classic location at St. John's Island, Egypt caught my eye. Nearby was a 6 x 10 cm. Azurite group from Chessy, Lyon, France and a 10 x 12 cm. Ruby group from Greenland that sported a 2 x 2 x 7 cm. single crystal.

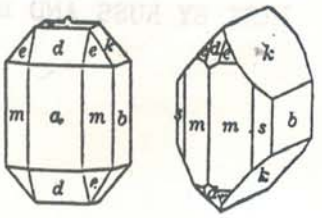
Other pieces that were especially fine included a 1 x 3 x 5 cm. clear light brownish yellow Sphalerite crystal from Mexico, a 25 cm. Japanese Stibnite, a 2 x 2 x 2 cm. Zircon from Greenland, and an Italian Hauerite of 2 x 2 x 2 cm. That's not all. How about Greenland Cryolite crystals up to 2 x 2 x 2 cm.; or a 1.5 cm. Swedish Magnetite; or a 2 cm. Russian octahedral Zircon; or a 1 x 3 x 4 cm. lavender Anhydrite crystal from the classic Simplon Tunnel location in Switzerland? There was a 1 x 1.5 x 20 cm. (yes, 20 cm. long) Cumberland Barite, and the largest Hedenbergite crystal I have ever seen. The latter was shiny black, 4 cm. on a side, and from Sweden.

One room was devoted to Iceland and Greenland. Most of the 75 species found at Ivigtut, Greenland were shown and there was a display on the Gardnier Plateau district of Greenland that included a 2 cm. Perovskite crystal. Another set of displays covered the Narsarsuk, Greenland localities, but by then I was so tired that I forgot to write notes!

Other rooms contain displays on crystallography, general geology, salt mines, etc. and there is a small museum store that had several reasonably priced thumbnail and miniature specimens. I found it intresting also the the Audio-Visual room was showing a very good tape of Mount Saint Helens, narrated in Danish of course.

For those who might make it to Copenhagen, the Museum is quite near the Norreport train station. A train stops every 10 or 15 minutes and costs 7 Danish Crowns (about $1.25). The Museum hours are 1300 - 1600 daily, it's free, and well worth your time.

Ed Godsey



OLIVINE

the 10 largest environmental groups had a collective membership of 11.3 million and annual revenues in excess of .5 billion dollars. How can we counter that except by an opposing organization? What have the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club and the Wilderness society, to name just a few, ever done to represent or further the mineral collector's interest? Nothing that I know of. Now, I am not completely against all the goals of these groups and I support many of their achievements, but many others are detrimental to mineral collecting, and I feel in these cases the People of the West is more representative of my views as a petroleum geologist and those of my hobby, mineral collecting, which depends on exploiting natural occurrences of minerals either by mining or collecting. I support the multiple use of public land by industry and individuals. Those that abuse the laws and environment should be dealt with but do not restrict all because of someone else's wrongs.

■ I am willing to make a wager with you, Dan, a Texas celestite crystal against a Colorado quartz crystal that any new legislation concerning the mining law passed in the next few years will probably be detrimental to mineral collectors instead of helping us if the present "preservationalist attitudes" remain unchecked. Plus we will have more and more restrictions on collecting on public lands of all types even without new legislation.

■ Well, at any rate, Dan, thanks for your thoughts and in-put. I, too, am glad that at least you read the FM Newsletter and think enough about it to comment on it. However, it would probably be cheaper if we corresponded directly instead of boring the membership who do not seem to care or have an opinion to share. ■

The 2nd Annual Pacific Northwest Chapter Friends of Mineralogy Field Trip

■ As in 1990 , the members chose to spend a weekend (August 16-18) in the Washington Pass area. There was an excellent turnout with nineteen members and guests attending.

■ On Saturday, teams spread out along State Highway 20 from Rainy Pass to the Kipchuck campground to pick up trash from scenic pullouts and trail-heads. The team of Lanny Ream and Randy Becker get the prize for collecting the most garbage. They worked the steep slopes around the big switchback below Liberty Bell. Bob Boggs joined us and took on the task of assisting the U.S. Forest Service in preparing the interpretive display at Early Winters. Following our public service activities, collectors scoured the hill sides for those elusive crystals. Besides the usual assemblage found in arfedsonite granite, Lasmanis and Ream found zektzerite crystals, and Bill Smith found a very nice zircon group at the Silver Star viewpoint. A great time was had by all. ■

Good News!!!!

■ Just in case you have not heard the good news, Marie Huizing will remain as Managing Editor of Rocks and Minerals. The magazine was started by Peter Zodac, a mining engineer, in 1926. It was published by him until his death in 1967. For several years after his death the magazine deteriorated in style and content. Following its purchase by Heldref Publications in the 1970s, the magazine gradually became better and better. The last 13 years of this upgrading was the result of Marie's leadership and efforts. The past few years have seen it become a first class publication that we all can enjoy and find not only entertaining but extremely useful. I think even Pete Zodac would be amazed and proud, if he could see it now. Keep it up Marie. ■

Great Basin, Pennsylvania and Indiana Chapters – Where are you? And what are you doing?

■ Nothing from these chapters since June. We hope you are active and well. Please send bulletins to the National Chapter Secretary.

■ The Colorado, Southern California, and Pacific Chapters are meeting regularly. Projects include an update of the California and Colorado Mineralogies and the 17th Annual Symposium in Tacoma, Washington, in September. The fine July-August issue of Rocks and Minerals was a result of the Pacific Northwest Chapter. It can be ordered for $6 from Terry Huizing, 4341 Thrasher Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45247.

What's New in Colorado Minerals: (cc Newsletter)

■ Bryan Lees has negotiated a lease with the owner of the Sweet Home Mine to operate it for specimen recovery. I understand that this will be a relatively long-term and steady operation. Rumor has it that a few nice rhodochrosites have been recovered, together with some superb, large tetrahedrite crystals.

■ For those non-Colorado mineral enthusiasts, the Sweet Home Mine is west of Alma on the east side of the Mosquito Range in Park County. Leadville is on the west slope of the range. The Sweet Home Mine is Colorado's premier rhodochrosite locality – the editor. ■

FM Newsletter

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Fig. 12.

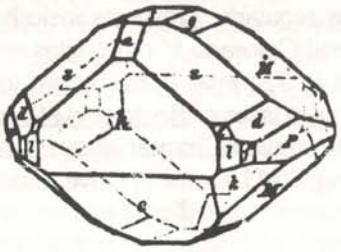
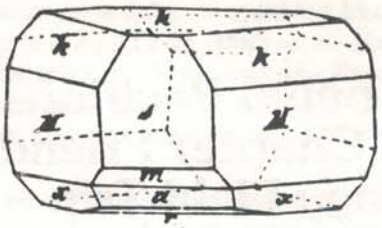


Fig. 16.



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First Class Mail

Drawings from Goldschmidt's *Atlas der Krystallformen*.