# DESTWARD LOOK SHOW

<u>FEBRUARY</u>

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• Jeff Scovil





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ABOVE - **Aquamarine**, Shigar, Pakistan, Joe Budd Photo OPPOSITE - **Fluorite**, Fujian, China - **Malachite**, Hubei, China - **Smithsonite**, Yunnan, China



Visit us for your free DVD of the 2017 Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium, courtesy of The Arkenstone and BlueCap Productions!



### **GREETINGS FROM DAVE**



Over 17 years ago I happened to be in the right place at the right time. The dealer room door was closed and a deep conversation was ensuing between two premier mineral dealers lamenting that they needed a quality venue for their world-class specimens, and where they were was definitely not it. I quickly volunteered to find just the perfect venue.

The Westward Look Show began with the concept of placing all the very best mineral dealers in the world at one location during the three week long Tucson show, and choosing a venue of high quality befitting their world-class minerals. We started out modestly, with only nine dealers in seven suites. Today we have 34 showrooms of world-class quality minerals. The Westward Look Show has

indeed become what it was intended to be.

From the beginning we have had amazing collectors during our "Collector of the Day" event on Saturday and presented special speakers at our Sunday Evening Program.

The Saturday "Collector of the Day" event in the Westward Look Resort lobby has brought the special personal collections of Bill Larson, Steve Smale, Gene Meieran, Jim and Gail Spann, Bryan Lees, Les Presmyk, Evan Jones, Al and Susan Liebetrau, Irv Brown, Kevin Brown, Ron Gladnick, Wayne Sorensen, Will Larson and Marshall and Charlotte Sussman.

Choice specimens from the collections of two amazing museums have also been our Collectors; The Harvard Mineralogical and Geological Museum and the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals. This is a new tradition that we would like to continue as mineral museums are such an important part of our hobby.

For our Sunday Evening Programs, we strive to bring the best and most topical, mineral-related presentations to you, often with standing-room-only attendance. Great topics like "The Golden Age of Minerals", "Mineral Artists", "Women in Minerals" and special presentations on mining localities like the Pederneira Mine, Rogerly Mine, Adelaide Mine and more have been given.

This year is no exception to the great events we have planned. On Saturday, February 3rd, Peter Megaw will have his private collection of Mexican minerals on display from 10A to 4P. Our Sunday Evening Program is entitled, "Ian Bruce: Chasing Minerals Across the Continents" and will be in the Sonoran Ballroom at 7:30P following a social hour at 6:30P.

So come to one, or both events, say hello and enjoy the 2018 Tucson show!

Dave Waisman

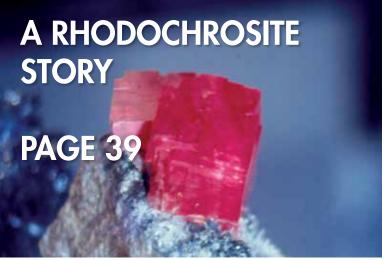
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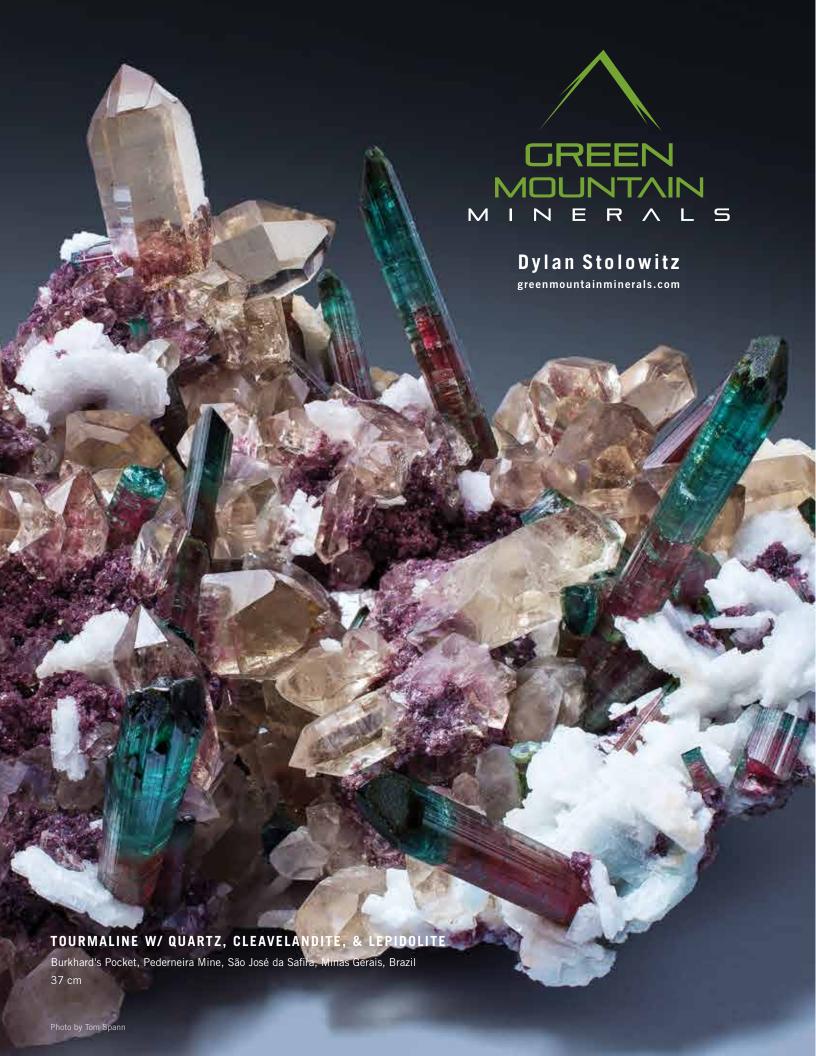












### PAUL DESAUTELS AND ELITE COLLECTING

BY WENDELL WILSON



Paul Desautels (1920-1991), the late Curator of Minerals at the Smithsonian Institution and the leading mineral connoisseur of his time, always felt that the finest

mineral specimens amount to masterpieces of natural art that should be regarded as highly as artworks by the Old Masters.

In his 1968 book *The Mineral Kingdom* he pictured a superb amethyst cluster from South Carolina alongside Jan Vermeer's famous painting of "A Woman Weighing Gold" (1663), equating them both as museum-quality classics. "Classic mineral specimens," he wrote, "like great works of art, achieve their status through experts' judgments."

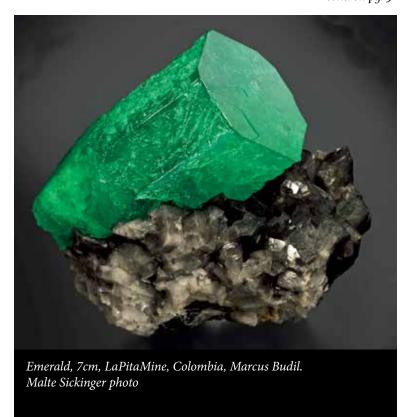
He went so far as to compare the collecting of recently found mineral specimens with the collecting of contemporary works of art, since neither has yet passed the test of time that would determine if they are true timeless classics qualifying as masterpieces. But he said that minerals were a "less speculative investment" than modern art, because the "beauty, quality, rarity and general desirability" of minerals are more obvious than those of, say, a Jackson Pollock painting.

Nor was Desautels uncomfortable with high prices being paid for the best mineral specimens. "Great collections," he said, "are created by cultivated taste—assisted by money to gratify that taste." In fact, in public lectures (in the 1960s and 70s) he often made the point that the finest mineral specimens were grossly underpriced relative to the finest works of the Old Masters, and he had no doubt that minerals eventually would and should catch up in their pricing.

Why were mineral specimens undervalued relative to fine art in the 1960s? Desautels attributed that disconnect primarily to the lack of illustrated publications showing fine minerals. He asked: What are these mineral "Rembrandts"? And how are they recognized? It is a simple matter to buy a colorillustrated catalog of the paintings of almost any great artist, complete with biographical information. Such guides do not exist for mineral specimens. Mineral collectors and museum curators, through comparison of collections and continual shop talk, have passed information along to each other, but only in bits and pieces.

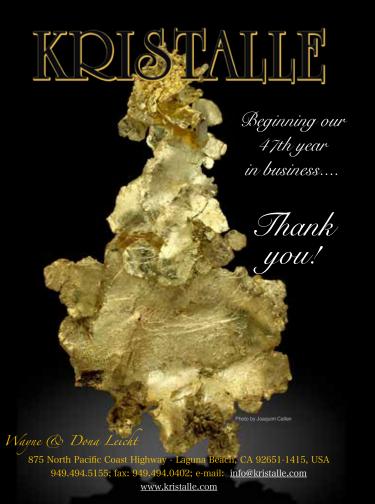
In other words, the only way for the aspiring connoisseur mineral collector to learn, in the absence of well-illustrated literature, was to actually visit museums and study the fine specimens on display. "The difficulty lies," he said, "in retaining exact mental pictures of these specimens while comparing various collections." "Some of them are pictured throughout this book to encourage the collector." Desautels wanted to help mineral collectors by picturing at least a few very fine specimens. Remember that *The Mineral Kingdom* was the very first "coffeetable book" containing many pictures of fine mineral specimens in color. The only mineral collector-level magazine of the time (*Rocks & Minerals*) never carried color photos of specimens, and even the black-and-white

cont. on pq. 9











GOBIN FINE GEMS AND MINERALS ROOM 278 BLDG. 29

### PAUL DESAUTELS AND ELITE COLLECTING cont.

We have been entering

a more mature phase

as the finest minerals

in the history of

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photos they published were generally of poor specimens poorly photographed. Up until that time, aspiring connoisseurs could learn only by viewing important specimens in person. Despite this difficulty, Desautels firmly believed that we were "living in a time of discovery of new mineral 'Rembrandts'."

Today the high-level market for the finest specimens is thriving, and top prices are beginning to approach the level of some Old Masters' artworks; more than one mineral specimen has sold for well over a million dollars, and prices in the multiple hundreds of thousands of dollars are not uncommon these days. I believe what has made the difference is the accumulated literature containing high-quality color photos of top-quality mineral specimens. It has

taken half a century since Desautels' ground-breaking book, but in that time many thousands of full-color specimen illustrations have been published in mineral books and magazines like the *Mineralogical Record*, and these photos remain available today for research and comparison. Aspiring connoisseur collectors can now begin to feel, with sufficient photo-based research, that they have a good knowledge of what a really fine specimen is, and what the "best" (or nearly so) looks like for most of the commonly collected display-quality species. And, as with the works of the Old Masters, we can all enjoy looking at the photos even if we can't afford to own the actual specimens.

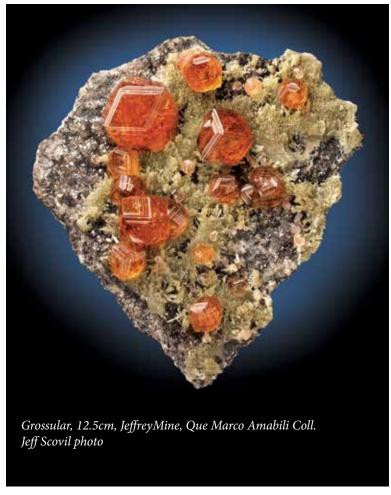
The art world still offers one major advantage to collectors that is, as yet, in a fledgling stage with minerals, and that is a massive referential backlog of auction sales data that is easily accessible to anyone. Nevertheless, many well-funded mineral collectors have been bravely taking the plunge, based on the substantial, accumulated amount of information now available to them. It is a truism in almost any field of collecting that well-chosen examples in the highest price category also have the greatest possibility (though not a certainty!) for appreciation down the road.

The average mineral collector today can only sit back and marvel at the fabulous specimens reaching the market, and the fabulous prices they bring. The surge of money that elite collectors inject into the mineral market stimulates more exploration for specimens, more careful extraction of them from the earth, and more skillful preparation of them for display. The result has been that

vastly more mineral specimens of great to fabulous quality have been reaching the market nowadays than ever did in the 1960s. The array of minerals for sale at the Tucson Shows in 1970-1972 can't hold a candle to what we see at the Tucson Show today (I remember because I was there). So it is hardly surprising that top prices have risen accordingly.

We have been entering a more mature phase in the history of mineral collecting, as the finest minerals take

cont. on pg. 10



### PAUL DESAUTELS AND ELITE COLLECTING cont.

their rightful place alongside the masterworks of man. As I have said many times before, we are living in a "Golden Age" of mineral collecting that benefits everyone. What makes it particularly exciting is that, whereas all of the Old Masters are known, the earth can unexpectedly yield stunning, new, never-beforeseen kinds of masterpieces. And trailing along behind them comes a whole procession of new specimens of lesser awesomeness from the same occurrences that are still attractive, still fascinating, and more affordable to collectors in all price ranges.

And, aside from the most popular display species (i.e. those potentially fetching the highest prices), there are literally thousands of other species that can tantalize the intellect through their unique manifestations of chemistry and crystallography. For collectors of a historical bent there are countless old, unassuming specimens dripping with stories of former ownership going back centuries, bringing history to life. Thus we can

all build collections of minerals that give us satisfaction and pleasure.

As for investing in any field, including mineral specimens, there are never any guarantees. But one thing we can all agree on is that minerals are a wonder and a joy to behold. Our passion for minerals is still its own reward, no matter what level or what specialty we collect.



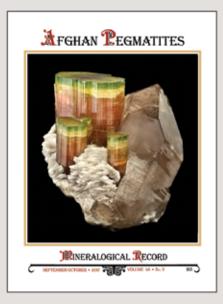
Proustite, 4.1cm, Freiberg-Saxony, Rob Lavinsky. Joe Budd photo

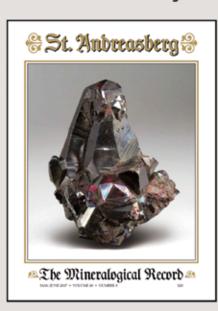


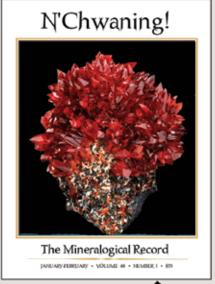
Scorodite XL, 1.5cm, Cabrestante Mine, Mexico, Scott Rudolph. Jeff Scovil photo

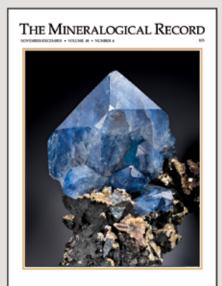
# Stay Informed

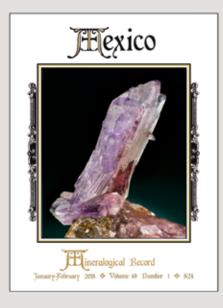
about the minerals you collect

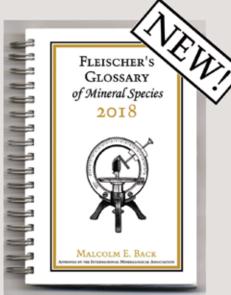












The Mineralogical Record is the premiere international magazine for the serious mineral collector.

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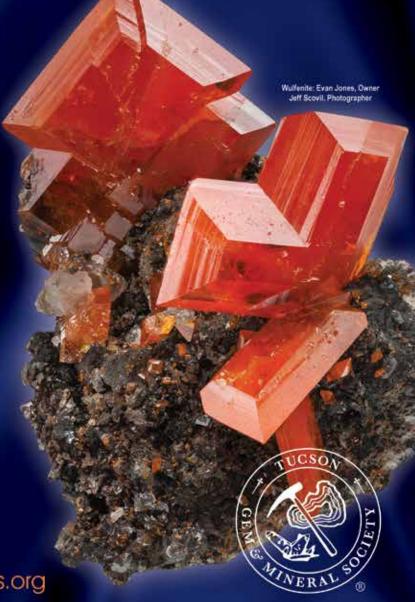
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# THE TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SHOWTM A 40 YEAR EVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVE

BY PETER MEGAW

Climb into Mr. Wizard's "Way Back Machine" for a quick spin back to 1954. Tucson was a dusty desert town of fewer than 50,000 people best known for orange groves, copper mines, dude ranches and a salubrious winter climate. The world was less than 15 years out of the Great Depression, and 10 years out of the devastation of World War II and folks were still patching their lives back together after the war ripped them out of whatever they were doing before.

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society™ emerged in 1948, formed by men and women who had an interest in learning about minerals sparked somewhere in their wartime peregrinations and in 1954 they decided to put on the first Tucson Gem and Mineral Show™. This was a modest affair held in a grade school lunchroom but it caught on and grew quickly, not least because there were also a few home-grown mineral collectors and mineral scientists eager to join in and provide collecting partners, analytical help, mineralogical education and connections to mineral authors and museum curators worldwide. The TGMS Show<sup>™</sup> snowballed quickly (an accurate, albeit climatologically inapt metaphor) after the Smithsonian brought an exhibit in 1961 and East Coast curators learned of a good excuse to enjoy a few days sunny respite from Winter. The Show went international in 1972 when the British Museum exhibited for the first time, followed quickly thereafter by the Sorbonne and ROM. The business side of things evolved almost equally quickly from one or two dealers in the first show to a cadre that eventually spilled over from the TGMS Show™ until full-blown "satellite shows" began occupying local motels and hotels. Such was the state of affairs in 1977 when Ed Huskinson casually asked me if I wanted to accompany him to the Tucson Show. I immediately responded "yes"...then asked "what's the Tucson Show"? Life would never be the same...

I had missed the first 23 Tucson Gem and Mineral Shows<sup>™</sup> due to youth (I was 2 in 1954) and ignorance. Although I was in a Master's program in geology, had haunted the geology museum on the New England college campus where I grew up and loved the displays

at the American Museum of Natural History, I had no idea the world produced more specimens than could be absorbed by a few museums. After five days cruising motels and the Main Show my eyes were opened wide and I was thoroughly hooked on mineral collecting. It was no contest 2 years later when I had to choose between jobs in Denver or Tucson, and I've lived here ever since. I was more than a bit surprised when after less than two years in the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society™, Bill and Millie Schupp (very early TGMS™ members) approached me and announced I would be the next TGMS™ President! (I couldn't believe there were not several more deserving and desirous candidates). Three years later the same trusty duo decided I should take over as Exhibits Chair for the Main Show when Frank Sousa decided to pass the job on. I've held that job for most of the time since and am privileged to have witnessed nearly 2/3rds of the evolution of the Tucson Mineral Experience. During that time I have seen some truly remarkable changes not only in the TGMS Show™ but in the overall Tucson Experience and mineral collecting in general.

My "job" as an exploration geologist carries me worldwide, creating opportunities to visit many of the world's major mineral museums and private collections, with an eye out for what they should bring to Tucson (and what they have from Mexico). Increased interest in the Tucson Shows on the part of curators and collectors has made that job easier in some respects, but it also has meant that we have had to up our game in terms of quality, relevance and attractiveness of our exhibits as the collecting community has become more discerning. Our goal has become to annually create the TGMS™ Mineral Museum; a world-class museum destined to exist for 4 days before disappearing, never to be seen in the same form anywhere. We want mineral people of all stripes to feel they must see each year's edition!

TGMS<sup>™</sup> has been about mineralogical and earth science education since the beginning. People start learning about minerals by seeing and exhibits are one of the most effective means of visual mineralogical education available to us. Dealer booths are also good for this, but they show you what is available for purchase now, not what has been produced historically and/or not



Sign up for our e-news, and receive FREE Digital HD copies of our entire 2017 What's Hot... series! www.bluecapproductions.com/wh17

available now. Think of TGMS<sup>™</sup> as having top-flight sales galleries across the aisle from untouchable exhibits of Impressionists, Expressionists and Old Masters. This mix of now and then also reflects the changes seen in specimen sources over the years. The 60 year shift from market dominance by European and American classics, through Mexico and Africa, to Eastern Europe and Russia, to today's influx of incredible specimens from China is mirrored in the contrasts between what is on exhibit and what is for sale.

TGMS's long-term commitment to emphasizing focused exhibits (localities, mineralogical groups, environments and regions) has led to a consistent increase in participation by mineral scientists and museum professionals from all over the world, who come to exchange the latest scientific advances and obtain research and exhibit materials for their home institutions. TGMS™ is now effectively the largest informal/unofficial/unorganized mineralogical convention anywhere, attracting even academic mineral scientists who have seldom visited mineral shows previously. The knowledge that these folks bring along with their exceptional exhibits is available (within reason) to you for the asking... all are happy to share their knowledge and the stories of the pieces they bring... so ask!

In a similar vein, TGMS's commitment to featuring attractive exhibits of aesthetically important specimens (both in non-competitive and competitive contexts) draws in the general public and has led and mirrored the growing interest in aesthetic specimens throughout the worldwide collector community. The shift in focus in the collecting community towards "Fine Minerals" is one of the most profound changes witnessed over the last 40 years, and this evolution has in turn changed the entire demand and economic profile of the worldwide mineral market. Increased demand for a limited number of top quality specimens has moved these pieces into a realm akin to Fine Art, with a similarly well-heeled and competitive collector pool. The increased value of top quality specimens has in turn led to mining operations focused on specimens as "ore" (rather than a troublesome by-product) and a parallel industry of sophisticated specimen preparation and restoration rivaling that of the Fine Arts.

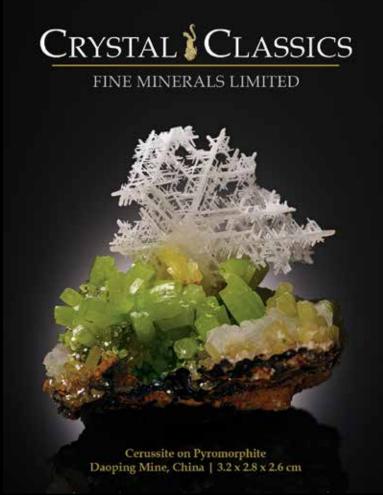
It is no accident that exhibits have grown in importance at virtually all major commercial and non-profit shows worldwide...following Tucson's lead. Turnabout being Fair Play, TGMS<sup>™</sup> has taken a page from the big international commercial shows like Munich and dramatically changed their approach to dealer booths.

Dealers are now encouraged to construct full-blown stores, complete with elaborate displays of "for sale" minerals, special lighting...and even carpeting! The improved economics of the market allow them to do this exuberantly, spreading out in ways they cannot in a temporarily rearranged motel room.

Little of this existed 40 years ago and not everyone is comfortable with the changes, expressing concerns over loss of the scientific underpinnings of mineral collecting and worries about how new collectors will be brought in when the threshold of entry for the top specimens is clearly pegged so high. Those who attend shows cite the preponderance of gray (or no) hair and prices difficult for a younger person to afford. But look closer and you'll see a growing number of younger collectors who started with the modestly priced materials widely available on the internet and are graduating to a more advanced level. Some are even becoming Show Dealers to add a physical side to their own on-line mineral businesses. You'll also see a growing number of young collectors exhibiting their carefully scouted-out affordable specimens in Junior Competition...right next to established high-end collectors vying for the Desautels Best of Show Trophy. The "hunt" for each is equally gratifying.

So what does the future hold for Tucson and mineral collecting? Mineral science will continue to identify new species and ways of understanding them. With luck folks will become more appreciative of the marvels embedded in Mother Earth revealed by geologists in the field. Mining operations of all kinds worldwide will bring us new and wonderful specimens to marvel at and acquire for our personal collections, both at shows and from home on the internet. After 64 years of putting on the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show™, TGMS™ shows few signs of slowing down and we expect them to be around for quite a while. Despite being referred to by the City of Tucson as "The Tucson Gem and Mineral Showcase" there is no umbrella entity that governs the 45 or so fiercely independent satellite shows, so it is highly unlikely that the "Tucson Show" is going anywhere. Quite the opposite, the satellite shows will probably continue to proliferate as one of the best examples of free-wheeling capitalism you can think of. In fact, there's nothing to stop you from opening your own show should you see an unoccupied niche in the business...just ask your host Dave Waisman, organizer of the Westward Look Fine Mineral Show.







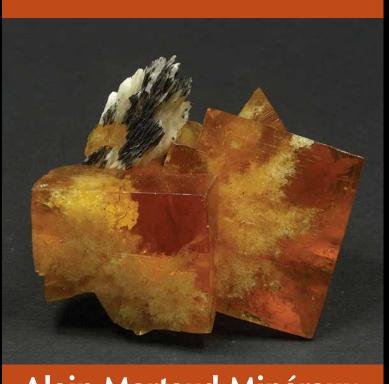
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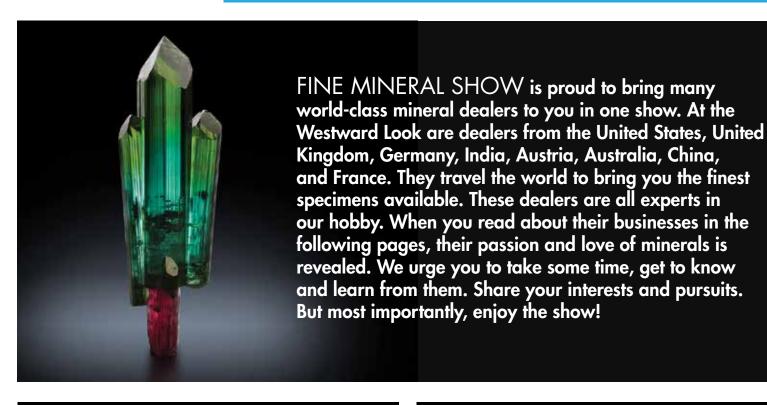


### Alain Martaud Minéraux

Chambéry, France alain.martaud@wanadoo.fr +33-6-18482749



### **DEALER DIRECTORY**





### ALAIN MARTAUD MINÉRAUX room 277

Alain made his first steps as a teenage prospector in the mines of Sainte Marie aux Mines (France), in the eighties. He studied geology in Paris. Then caving, equipment of sites and caves, museums, prospection of uranium, geotechnics engeneering put him little by little on the way to his job: fine minerals dealer for collection. After a few years in the mineral business, he created Alain Martaud Minéraux Company in 2005. Since then, his knowledge of French minerals made him an authority amongst the collectors. As a minéral addict, he recognizes his preference for fluorites although he has the pleasure to pursue minerals of exception or old collections.

Come share his passion for minerals, from rarities to crystals coming from the summits of the Alps.





### ALPINE MINERAL COMPANY room 310

Founded in 1999 by Kevin Dixon, Alpine Mineral Company specializes in fine specimens from alpine cleft and gem pegmatite mineral deposits worldwide, with an emphasis on U.S. localities. We maintain a number of active mining claims in Colorado, producing aquamarine, topaz, phenakite, amazonite & other feldspars, fluorite, and exceptional quartz specimens. We also work with miners in many areas and keep a strong inventory of minerals from the Tri-State and Viburnum Trend districts, the Illinois-Kentucky-Tennessee fluorite deposits, spectacular precious opal from Virgin Valley, Nevada, and much more.

In addition, Kevin provides high-quality mineral specimen and locality photography and graphic design services on a limited basis. His images have appeared in many publications including journals The Mineralogical Record, Lapis, Rocks & Minerals, and Rock and Gem magazine, as well as a number of books including American Mineral Treasures, the Sisk Gemology Reference, and many of the Lapis (English) monographs.

We work hard to make sure our mineral prices are always reasonable and reflect true market values. We're also enthusiastic about the social aspects of the mineral business and we host a number of cookouts and gatherings each year during the Tucson and Denver mineral shows. Hope to see you there!



### ANTON WATZL MINERALS room 227

Collecting minerals has been my biggest passion since the early days of my childhood. So many different shades of colours, shapes, clarity, luster - what a diverse and magic world of crystals! Hence it was just a matter of time until I decided to make minerals my full-time profession. In 2007 I swapped my hobby and my job, and I have never regretted that step ever since. The majority of my personal collection, which I had assembled by then, became my first dealer stock. Business has been growing every year, and today many collectors all over the world ask me to look for special new crystals which they would like to acquire and add to their collections. Connecting mineral sources and collectors is indeed a very challenging and thrilling venture. I have never considered it a job, it is much more than that, it is living a passion. I have met so many great people in this business, and I constantly meet new ones. Friendships have developed and I am pretty sure some will last forever. In my heart I have always stayed a collector, and that is probably one of the key features of running a successful dealership: to select the specimens of your inventory with a collector's eye.

Advanced collectors and certainly also beginners are very welcome to see my mineral specimens regularly at Tucson, Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines and Munich mineral shows.



# THE ARKENSTONE room 225

The Arkenstone (founded 1986) has been literally the pioneer of the online mineral world since the mid-1990s and has helped to expand the breadth of this hobby that we love worldwide. Dr. Robert Lavinsky initially pursued a career in academia while dealing minerals on the side through years of school. Rob earned his doctoral degree from the University of California-San Diego in Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics and then broke from academia to pursue a full-time career dealing in minerals as the field matured in significance and value over the last 20 years.

The Arkenstone enjoys a rich history of show attendance and has been participating in the Tucson show since 1991 (at the Westward Look show since 2004.) We now are anchor dealers in the world's largest shows in Munich (Germany), Chenzhou (China), Tucson, and Denver (USA). The Arkenstone is also the founding sponsor and organizer of the Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium, held each August.

In 2013, The Arkenstone opened the only Western full-time gallery in Shanghai, China to serve that country's museums and private collectors, and in 2017, The Arkenstone upgraded to new headquarters in Dallas, Texas to showcase over 8,000 sq. ft. of mineral displays and museum space, in addition to our photography studios and offices.





# AUSROX room 316

Robert Sielecki was born in Melbourne, Australia in 1958. He developed an interest in minerals at an early age through collecting agates with his uncle in Northern New South Wales. Later he went on to university and his interest in minerals convinced him to study Geology. Upon graduating in 1980 he went to work for a number of mining companies, mostly in base metal and gold exploration. This created an opportunity for field collecting and before long he had made a number of discoveries and began to trade and sell some of the surplus minerals.

In 1984 he started Ausrox which continues to this day as one of the premier Australian mineral dealerships. Rob has been trading at many of the worlds major mineral shows since 1987 under the Ausrox name. In the past few years for various legal/administrative reasons he registered an LLC Company in the USA – Ausrox/Crystal Universe LLC which now controls the business in the USA.

Through all this the interest in mineral specimens has remained strong. There is certainly a bias towards Australian specimens, but he also has an interest in rare species, gold specimens and in recent years meteorites.





# BERGMANN MINERALS room 229

Mike Bergmann has spent his entire life fascinated and intrigued by the wonders the earth produces and has been fortunate enough to spend his life trading these beauties amongst similarly fascinated enthusiasts worldwide. Bergmann Minerals today is a lifelong accumulation of passion, wonder, appreciation, and hard work for the study, acquisition, preparation and sales of minerals, fossils and antiquities of the mining trade. He has not only been lucky enough to travel the world to achieve these goals, but has had the great fortune to have his family join him in his achievements. As a family, Mike, Sally, Matt and Rob have enjoyed being a significant part of the mineral community and look forward to many more adventures ahead. One of their current bucket list projects is mining for Rhodochrosite at the Sara Rose Mine in Alma CO. Hopefully this will prove to have a rosy future. Both Matt and Rob are involved in the mineral business on several fronts. Matt has the same intense drive that his Dad has enjoyed all these years and together with his brother owns and operates Big Rock Minerals. Rob has made his way as an accomplished professional geologist who has had the good fortune to strive in his field owning and

professional geologist who has had the good fortune to strive in his field owning and operating a highly successful geology firm, Big Rock Exploration. The talent doesn't end there. Just ask Penelope, Hazel and Lyle what their favorite minerals are!





### COLLECTOR'S EDGE MINERALS room 311

Collector's Edge Minerals, Inc. of Golden, Colorado is recognized as one of the world's premier sources for collector-quality mineral specimens. Since 1984, the Collector's Edge has engaged in specimen mining projects around the world, developed mine-direct sources, and has purchased many significant private collections. We look forward to having you shop with us during Tucson 2018 at our four sales locations: Westward Look Fine Mineral Show (Room #311); TGMS "Main Show" (Booth #904); Arizona Minerals & Fossil Show @ Hotel Tucson City Center (Suite #170-171); 1801 Oracle Road Wholesale Show





# CORNERSTONE MINERALS room 220

Greg Turner, owner of Cornerstone Minerals and life-long lover of nature, became mesmorized by minerals in 2003, which lead him to opening his business Sacred Earth and to become involved in all major tradeshows across the country. In 2005 he opened a retail store in Asheville, NC (with stores in Savannah, GA and Charleston, SC following 10 years later) and consolidated his tradeshow business with the retail side under the name Cornerstone Minerals. Beginning in 2008, Greg began traveling abroad to develop business relationships, so, he could source minerals directly to bring new and varied minerals to the tradeshows and his stores. Today, he works mainly with mines in Colombia that have been producing amazing emeralds, blue dolomite, pyrite and many quartz varieties. Over the next few years, Greg plans to open more stores in the Southeast and to develop additional mine contacts worldwide.





### CRYSTAL CLASSICS FINE MINERALS room 235

Crystal Classics is one of the best known sources for fine and rare mineral specimens worldwide. Our highly skilled team of mineralogists travel the world to bring the best of new finds from working mines and also the finest classic minerals from old collections. We aim to provide not only the finest quality minerals but also the best possible advice and have been instrumental in the formation of some of the world's finest collections.





# DAVE BUNK MINERALS room 226

Collecting minerals underground at the Black Cloud Mine in Leadville, Colorado sparked a passion for minerals in Dave Bunk that has never waned. And while Dave has traveled extensively in search of specimens, brokering collections has become the focus of his business. The fascinating variety of styles, sizes, species, and localities reveal much about their collectors, bringing a human aspect to Dave Bunk Minerals. Notable collections from Jim and Dawn Minette, Bill and Carol Smith, Gene and Salle LaBerge, David Byers, Wendy and Frank Melanson, and many others have provided a stream of new material and stories through the years. Dave also partners with miners, and has recently been working with Stan Esbenshade to bring world-class copper specimens from the Chino Mine in New Mexico to market.





## EARTH'S TREASURES room 315

Established in 1984 by Rick Kennedy, Earth's Treasures goal has always been to offer fine mineral specimens and rare gemstones. Partnering with Paul Geffner, we also offer "Mine direct" mineral specimens and gemstones from American localities such as Jacksons Crossroads, Hallelujah Junction and the California Blue mine.





# eSHOP MINERALS room 316

eShop Minerals was founded in 2006 as a part-time mineral selling business while Armin was also working in his market research institute in Frankfurt/Germany. His grandfather and his father were miners from the well known Siegerland mining district and Armin grew up at the Marienshaft Mine in Wölsendorf/Bavaria when his father was working at that mine. Living between minerals at home he started his collection with self-collected minerals from the Siegerland area and then switched to Tsumeb minerals. In 1994 he stopped collecting and founded a market research company in Frankfurt. In 2006 he came back to the minerals with the idea to be a fulltime mineral dealer at the time he would start to retire from the market research job. In 2013 the eShop Minerals moved to Bavaria and since then Armin enjoys being in the mineral business as a fulltime dealer. After working mainly with Tsumeb material for some years eShop Minerals now handles minerals world wide and since a couple of years thousands of minerals are additionally moved on weekly auctions. As a side business eShop Minerals produces customized acrylic mineral bases for collectors.



# EXCEPTIONAL MINERALS room 310

Since 1997, Exceptional Minerals has been offering the finest quality mineral, crystal, and rock specimens from around the world in a variety of display sizes.



# FINE MINERALS INTERNATIONAL DANIEL TRINCHILLO room 318

Fine Minerals International is a purveyor of fine mineral specimens and a resource for discerning collectors. We offer a full suite of services including: expert curation, professional photography, and state-of-the-art displays. Led by Daniel Trinchillo, with more than 25 years of experience, FMI strives to present only the finest caliber specimens in an effort to maintain the art and integrity of mineral collecting. All of our services are rooted in a deep passion for minerals and a dedication to quality.







## CHRISTOPHE GOBIN room 278

Christophe Gobin is the manager of "Fine Gems and Minerals", providing collectors and natural history museums with the very finest minerals and gems directly from the source.

I am the second generation of family dealers, with my brother Brice, after my late father Christian, a very well-known mineral dealer who gave me the passion for the travels and the sourcing of the best mineral specimens.

Travelling to the sources as Morocco, Pakistan, China, Namibia, South Africa, Congo... I am the direct link between the miners and the collectors, providing the newest and the finest mineral specimens.





## GRAEBER & HIMES room 306

We go to great depths to bring you fine specimens.

For nearly forty years, Cal Graeber and Leonard Himes have joint-ventured in minerals. Both of us are professionally trained in geological sciences and have wide experience with specimen localities.

We have provided high quality mineral specimens at reasonable prices by mining, careful shopping with reliable providers, and by learning how to improve modest specimens to make them more desirable.

We are happy to be a long-time supporter of the Westward Look and other Fine Mineral Shows. We welcome you also to visit our home offices in California and Colorado or our booths at TGMS, Denver, Santa Ana and Springfield.





# GREEN MOUNTAIN MINERALS room 314

Founded by Dylan Stolowitz, Green Mountain Minerals is a full-service dealer for the high-end mineral collector, dedicated to sourcing and presenting the world's finest mineral specimens. Our dedication to exploring Earth's purest art form has allowed us to forge close ties to mineral connoisseurs and collectors worldwide for whom we represent and develop exemplary private and public collections.

To offer our clients extraordinary presentation experiences, we have established close relationships with fine mineral preparation laboratories, custom display mount craftsmen, and award-winning photographers.

Our fine mineral gallery is located just north of New York City, in Beacon, New York.



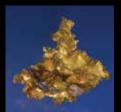


KRISTALLE room 275

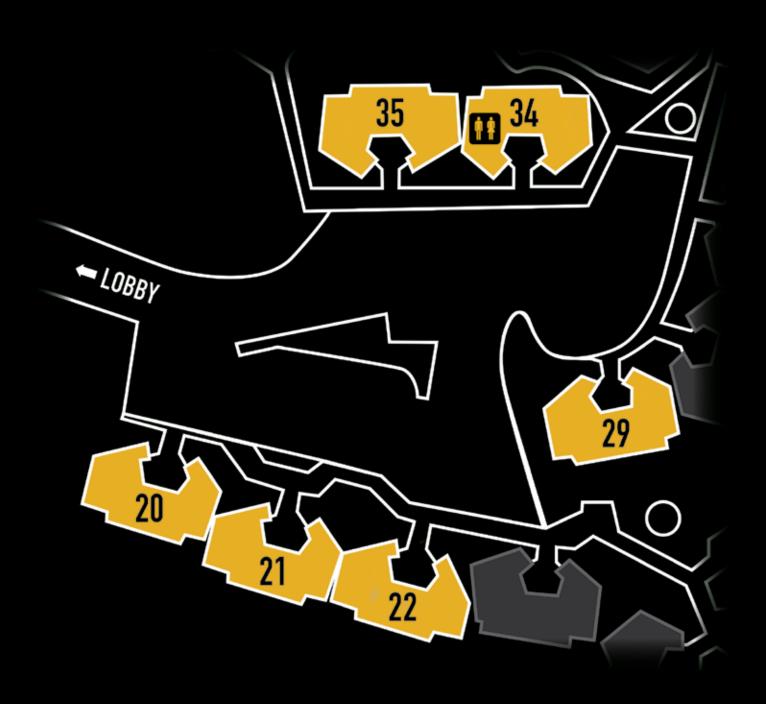
Leaf gold, nicknamed "The Corsage," - one of the most famous specimens of crystallized gold ever found. The specimen was mined in the spring of 1959 at the Red Ledge Mine in Nevada County, California. Shortly after it was found, Sam and Stella Tracy, owners of the mine for many years, allowed their daughter Lyla to take the specimen to her elementary school for 'show and tell'.

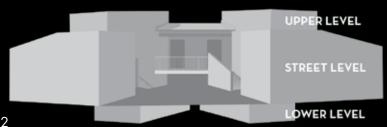
The specimen was later exhibited at the famous Calaveras County Fair where Wayne Leicht first saw it when he was a young man. At that time, it was owned by Charles Crespi, the manager of the Bank of America in Angles Camp, California. The entire Crespi collection was purchased by Wayne and Dona Leicht dba Kristalle in 1978. There are several remarkable things about the specimen: (1) note a clear quartz crystal attached to the gold. Quartz crystals are actually quite an unusual occurrence with crystallized gold, despite the fact that most of the gold forms within quartz veins in the mines.

The crystal is firmly attached to the gold with some gold actually penetrating the crystal, (2) found in a pocket directly under a fallen pine tree, the roots of the tree grew into the pocket and around the gold. The root is now captive and cannot be removed without damaging the specimen, (3) the dendritic leaf form is typical of gold from this mine, but a specimen of this size and brilliance is unique.



# 2018 MAP & EXHIBITORS ESTWARD LOOK SHOW







Restrooms located in the Hospitality Suite - Room 308 Lower Level/Building 34

### **BUILDING 20**

### **UPPER LEVEL**

224 Pala International

223 Unique Minerals – Evan A. Jones

### **STREET LEVEL**

225 The Arkenstone

220 Cornerstone Minerals

### **LOWER LEVEL**

222 Mineral Masterpiece / Pinnacle 5

Minerals

221 Mineral Décor / Mineral Movies

### **BUILDING 21**

### **UPPER LEVEL**

230 Brian Kosnar – Mineral Classics

229 Bergmann Minerals

### STREET LEVEL

231 Marcus Budil Fine Minerals

226 Dave Bunk Minerals / Cristalli

### **LOWER LEVEL**

228 The Sunnywood Collection

227 Anton Watzl Minerals

### **BUILDING 22**

### **UPPER LEVEL**

236 Wendel Minerals

235 Crystal Classics Fine Minerals

### STREET LEVEL

237 Miner's Lunchbox

232 Red Gallery / Fine Minerals International

### **LOWER LEVEL**

233 Superb Minerals

234 Nicholas Stolowitz Fine Minerals

### **BUILDING 29**

### **UPPER LEVEL**

279 Saphira Minerals

278 Christophe Gobin

### STREET LEVEL

280 Stonetrust

275 Kristalle

### **LOWER LEVEL**

276 Mintang

277 Alain Martaud Minéraux

### **BUILDING 34**

### **UPPER LEVEL**

310 Exceptional Minerals / Alpine Mineral

Company

309 Wilensky Fine Minerals

### STREET LEVEL

311 Collector's Edge Minerals

306 Graeber & Himes

### **LOWER LEVEL**

308 Hospitality Suite (Restroom) /

The Mineralogical Record

### **BUILDING 35**

### **UPPER LEVEL**

317 Rock Acquisition Group

316 Ausrox / eShop Minerals

### STREET LEVEL

318 Fine Minerals International - Daniel

Trinchillo

312 Weinrich Minerals

### **LOWER LEVEL**

314 Green Mountain Minerals

315 Earth's Treasures



# MARCUS BUDIL FINE MINERALS room 231

Quartz with fluorite from Planggenstock, Switzerland, 44 cm. Robert Brandstetter photo.





### MINERAL CLASSICS -BRIAN KOSNAR room 230

Mineral Classics, located in Colorado, was founded in 1970 by Richard A. Kosnar. Richard was born in New Jersey in 1946, and showed a tremendous passion for mineral collecting at an early age. Shortly after moving to Colorado he started several important mining projects including the first ever specimen recovery operation at the famous Sweet Home Mine in 1977. In 1993 the species Kosnarite was named in his honor for his contributions to the mineralogical community.

In 1997, Richard's son, Brian took over the business full time at the age of 17. Later, Brian's brother, Brett, and his wife Allyce started their own custom gem and jewelry business, Kosnar Gem Co. Brian has been successfully running Mineral Classics for the last 20 years with the help of his wife Angela, his son, William and his mother Tresa. They have travelled the world buying and selling fine minerals and gems with a special focus on rare species and "not so typical" specimens including superb examples of various "black rocks" that are not often seen in dealers' inventories.

Today the family-owned Mineral Classics is running strong with the largest and most diverse selection of minerals and gems in the history of the company. Their inventory offers a wide-ranging assortment of collector quality worldwide minerals extending from classic to contemporary, along with numerous unique and rare specimens.



# MINERAL DÉCOR room 221

Our names are Hemant and Priya Merchant. Our company is Mineral Decor. We've been supplying collectors with high quality minerals from India since 1977. We've participated in the mineral shows in Munich, Denver and Tucson for many years. While zeolite minerals are our primary focus, we are also scouring India for other minerals such as amethyst scepters from Tamil Nadu and quartz from Himachal Pradesh. We invite you to visit us in our room at the Westward look. We have many minerals in all price ranges and we would be happy to answer any of your questions about Indian minerals. We can also ship wholesale lots of good quality minerals direct from India. It will be our pleasure to meet you!





# MINERAL MASTERPIECE room 222

Since 2009, Thomas Spann of Mineral Masterpiece has specialized in aesthetic fine mineral specimens, offering them for sale at venues such as the Westward Look Show or direct to private customers. A browse through his displays reveals top quality miniatures from around the world, unique combination pieces, and quality, sculptural pieces among other beauties.

For the last four years, he has worked as a professional mineral photographer, seeking to capture the "essence" of these mineral treasures in an accurate yet artistic way. His approach to photography sets him apart as he seeks to highlight the three-dimensional nature of each piece while also rendering colors with as much accuracy as the media allows.

Thomas makes his home in Northwestern Montana but can be found at a number of the fine mineral shows throughout the year. He and his wife, Melissa have six kids...many of whom have begun to share the passion for minerals.

You can contact Thomas to discuss minerals or to set up a photo shoot via email at tom@mineralmasterpiece.com or mobile (903) 574-0196.





Jeff Fast, Pakistan 2016, second from the left

# MINERAL MOVIES room 221

I've been collecting rocks since I was 8 years old. So almost 20 years now. I'm sorry, 30...I mean 40...actually FORTY-FIVE years. Time flies while you're having fun...and I've had fun!

My adventures as a mineral dealer began with some milky quartz I collected in Connecticut. But they really got off the ground in the 1990's, when I made nearly a dozen trips to Dal'negorsk to buy minerals (thank you Viktor and Sasha!). At about the same time, I made my first of now 50+ trips to Mexico (with silver minerals as my primary focus). Over the years, I've also visited Madagascar, Brazil, and Colombia as a mineral dealer. I especially enjoyed six trips I made to Pakistan in the 2000's (thank you Saeed!), and several trips to Peru (thank you Veronica!).

It may seem self serving to thank the many customers who have supported me and my business through these years...but it's also heartfelt. Thank you all!





# MINER'S LUNCHBOX room 237

Miner's Lunchbox business was built on traveling to exotic places and sourcing fine minerals. While this continues to be a recipe for success, there are dramatic opportunities closer to home. Mining industry contacts from Scott Werschky's previous geology career have grown into a specialty focused on crystalline gold. Our geographic home in Reno, Nevada is central to two of the best gold-producing regions in the world-the California Mother Lode, and the gold mines of Central Nevada. Over the years you have seen some fantastic golds in our display cases. This year will be no different. While most of the mines are now closed significant specimens continue to surface from old collections. Fortunately, a new mine is now showing great promise of world-class specimens. We have secured an exclusive contract with the Fire Creek Mine in East-Central Nevada, and will be exhibiting several fine specimens here at the Westward Look Show. These gold

specimens show unique crystal habits not seen anywhere else in the world. Many of these golds grew into open space, contrary to most gold specimens from any of the other famous localities. Stop by our room in building 22, room 237 to check them out.





# MINTANG room 276

Mintang LLC was established in 2013 after I moved to Colorado from China, however, I have been in the business since 2006. Started in Europe, followed by 6 years dealing in China, and now in the US. I absolutely enjoy delivering fine Chinese as well as other choice worldwide specimens to collectors all over the world.





### NICHOLAS STOLOWITZ FINE MINERALS room 234

I developed an interest in minerals at an early age. As a child, I was an avid collector of rocks. This interest evolved over the years into a passion for finding, collecting and selling of minerals to discerning collectors. I continually search for superior minerals, and I take pride in connecting a passionate collector with an exceptional example of Nature's beauty. My experience in the industry has led to opportunities to handle many of the world's premier mineral specimens, allowing me to work closely with many of the top collectors and dealers. I have developed a network that enables Nick Stolowitz Fine Minerals to handle any aspect of the industry, including mine direct sourcing, handling great collections to advising and curating both personal and museum collections.

The criteria used for NSFM to stand behind a mineral is simple: it must be beautiful. A beautiful mineral stirs an emotion. It causes us to respond from within ourselves.

My appreciation for Nature has never waned and I am excited to pass this on to my two sons. I live in Stowe, Vermont with my wife Claudia, and sons Henry and Jack. When I am not on the hunt for beautiful rocks, I spend winter mornings skiing, and weekends at the mountain with my family.





# PALA INTERNATIONAL room 224

Pala International is home to some of the planet's finest gem and mineral specimens. It's roots began in 1968, Bill Larson, a connoisseur of quality gems and minerals, formed Pala Properties International (PPI; now called Pala International) and purchased three San Diego County gem mines: the Stewart Lithia, Tourmaline Queen, and Pala Chief. Located in the foothills of northern San Diego county, these mines are part of a local mining history dating back to the 1800s, when tourmaline accounted for the largest percentage of gemstones mined here. American, European, and Asian gem houses were actively involved, including Tiffany's, which had part-time buyers in the Pala and Mesa Grande mining districts. Even the Chinese were fond of tourmaline, using the gem in carvings and on mandarin clothing. Gemstone production during the early 1900s was recorded in county records as exceeding two million dollars.

Today Pala International is run by the Larson family, and continues to partake in the rich mining history of San Diego county, as well as other locations in partnership around the world. Our goal is to supply customers with the earths finest natural art. Here at the Westward Look you will find the finest minerals from all over the world for the fine connoisseur!





# PINNACLE 5 MINERALS room 222

Pinnacle 5 Minerals is the leading producer of amazonite and smoky quartz combination specimens in the world. As a family owned and operated business, Joe Dorris, his wife Susan, and their three children- Scott, Tim, and Krystle, all work for the company. With over 35 years of experience mining in the Crystal Peak Mining District, Tarryall Mining District, and Mount Antero District, the Dorris family continues to produce world-class specimens from their mining claims.

In addition to their combination specimens, Pinnacle 5 Minerals offers an array of fine minerals including topaz, fluorite, aquamarine and many more Colorado and worldwide locality pieces.

Some of the greatest specimens produced by the Dorris family include the Legend, which resides at the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum, and the Smoky Hawk King, the largest quality amazonite and smoky quartz plate discovered in history. The Smoky Hawk King will soon be on display at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The Dorris family has also placed a number

of other important specimens in various museums and private collections.

Many of you may have seen the family on the television series, "Prospectors", which aired nationally on the Weather Channel and is still airing internationally on National Geographic International.





# RED GALLERY room 232

The RED GALLERY in the city center of Hamburg/Germany features in a 9000ft<sup>2</sup> exhibition a broad selection of finest handpicked specimens from all over the world. The fine minerals are collected on the background of 45 years of experience of the owner, Andreas Guhr.



# ROCK ACQUISITION GROUP room 317



# SAPHIRA MINERALS room 279

Our company specializes in the purchase and selling of high quality mineral specimens from all localities of the world. It was founded by Rudolf Watzl who, after several years of experience as a sole trader and joint partner of "Watzl Minerals GmbH", started his own enterprise in early 2013 to advance his own notion of trading fine and rare minerals for ambitious collectors.

To offer the best possible service for our customers, we are always looking out for new minerals from any possible locale worldwide. We buy single pieces and whole collections of international minerals, be it Alpine classics, Brazilian gemstones or African treasures.

In monthly updates on our website we share these new minerals to an ever growing community of friends and customers, from the ambitious beginner to the sophisticated collector of high end minerals!

Another important pillar of Saphira Minerals are the worldwide Mineral Shows we are attending. Tucson – Sainte Marie – Denver – Munich. Stop by at our booth on any of these occasions and have a look on our newest rocks or just to have a little chat with our Team!

We are proud to offer our collective experience of over 50 years in minerals!





# STONETRUST room 280

Our journey as mineral sellers was conceived in the passion of a 7-year-old kid who fell in love with rocks found in a quarry in Fort Wayne, Indiana. That was 60 years ago.

Developing long-term relationships is a fundamental goal of our company, and we do this through the principles of respect and honesty. We owe our longevity and success to this commitment.

Mineral collectors are on a vigilant quest for the next addition to their collection, and we understand the zeal that motivates. We share that same enthusiasm, and are eager to employ that energy to find that next perfect acquisition. We do that best when we understand the goal and can partner with the collector.

We have built our business on cultivating great relationships with clients, collectors, mineral dealers and miners. Sometimes it takes many months
— or even years — to find and acquire the specific mineral specimen that will satisfy the collector's desire. Patient diligence fuels

Appreciation and interest in minerals crosses a wide spectrum. We look forward to meeting you along the way! Stop by room 280 for an espresso or a cup of tea. We have a gorgeous selection of minerals to show you!





# THE SUNNYWOOD COLLECTION room 228

The Sunnywood Collection is the industry leader in the display of minerals, fossils, and other collectibles. In addition, they are a dealer specializing in the sale of aesthetic and unique middle to high end mineral specimens. Any specimen purchased from Sunnywood comes with a custom base.

Formed in 1985, Sunnywood began making wood bases for large collector specimens and was the first to offer custom acrylic bases to the collecting community, coming in many different shapes and sizes. Every Sunnywood base is custom fitted with the specimen to ensure a perfect fit. Supports are added if necessary and a label is also custom attached if the customer desires one.

In 2014, Adam & Heather Reimnitz acquired the company from Bill & Elsie Stone. Adam and his team are very experienced in helping customers through the process of figuring out to best display their collection. Specimens can be dropped off to them throughout any of the major mineral shows in the United States

or shipped at any time. Customer service is a priority at The Sunnywood Collection and great pride is taken on the careful handling of customer pieces.

Based in Aurora, Colorado, the company has over 4,000 sq. ft. of office, manufacturing, and show room that is available by appointment.





our search!

# SUPERB MINERALS room 233

Superb Minerals India Pvt. Ltd. is the world leader in Indian Geological Specimens (Zeolites) Since 1992.We are always striving to provide the best for our esteemed customers.

Our professional experts do not in any way compromise with the quality of the product & always deliver the best.





### UNIQUE MINERALS -EVAN A. JONES room 223

Unique Minerals, Inc. is a fine mineral dealership comprised of longtime Arizona collector and dealer Evan Jones and Philadelphia collector Marc Miterman. Both started collecting minerals in the 1970's and together have 80 years experience collecting and dealing in minerals. They currently supply select fine minerals to collectors and institutions throughout the world. UMI specializes in aesthetic and colorful fine minerals from worldwide locations with special emphasis on minerals of Mexico, Arizona, classics and gem crystals. Unique Minerals can be found in Room 223 at the Westward Look Fine Mineral Show and Room 216 at the Denver Fine Mineral Show.





# WEINRICH MINERALS room 312

Weinrich Minerals, Inc. has been in business since 1989. We travel the world searching out the finest mineral specimens for our clients, often buying whole collections. We are very visible at all of the major mineral shows across the world, as well as with our website: www. weinrichmineralsinc.com.





# WENDEL MINERALS room 236

For over 40 years mineral collecting has been our passion. We both started collecting minerals —independently — at a very early age Beginning in 1982, both of us could be found at local mineral shows as exhibitors. It comes as no surprise that we met at a mineral show in 1995 and got married almost two years later. Since that time, our mineral business has evolved dramatically and, more and more, taken over our lives. Furthermore, the mineral business expanded and we began to exhibit at the shows in St-Marie-aux-Mines, France and Munich, Germany. Soon, minerals took an increasing portion of Wolfgang's professional live and in 2006, he successfully transitioned to full-time professional mineral dealer. The next step was to approach the US market and within a short period of time, Wendel Minerals became an individual dealer at the three most important satellite shows in Tucson - Tucson City Center Hotel (formerly Inn Suites Hotel), Westward Look and the Main Show of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society®. In 2013 we added the Denver Gem and Mineral Show® (Main Show) and shortly thereafter, the Denver Fine Mineral Show at the Marriott West Hotel and Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show in Crown



# WILENSKY FINE MINERALS room 309

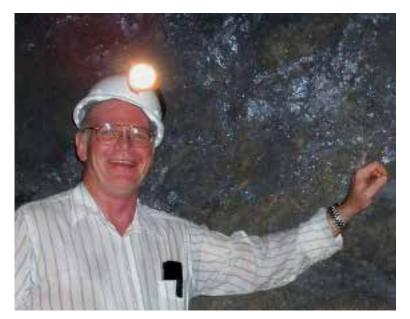
For over 30 years Wilensky Fine Minerals has been selling exceptional mineral specimens. Our goal is one of consistent quality and beautiful aesthetics. We encourage collectors to strive for the very finest, the specimens that have no equal. They are special, unique and memorable. Every specimen we offer goes through a rigorous and thoughtful process to be sure it meets these expectations. These distinctive specimens are extremely rare.

With the opening of our new gallery in the Chelsea Art District of NYC, presenting fine minerals among the world's great art galleries. It is with this in mind that we will choose the pieces that go on display in our gallery. We look forward to your visit (opening: April, 2018 - #173 10th Ave., New York City).



Plaza Denver.

### SATURDAY COLLECTOR DAY



Read more about Peter on page 31.

SPECIAL GUEST: PETER MEGAW
COLLECTION: MINERALS OF
MEXICO

Saturday, February 3, 2018 10:00am – 4:00pm Westward Look Resort Lobby

### **SUNDAY EVENING PROGRAM**



Ian & Diana Bruce



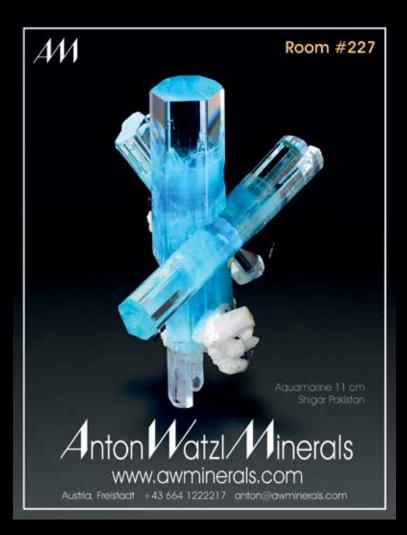
Martin Števko



Phil Taylor

IAN BRUCE: CHASING MINERALS
ACROSS THE CONTINENTS
Presenters: Ian Bruce, Diana Bruce,
Martin Števko, Phil Taylor

Sunday, February 4, 2018 6:30 PM – Social Hour 7:30 PM – Presentation Westward Look Resort, Sonoran Ballroom





You have the opportunity to help us advance our scientific and educational programs, leading to the expansion of public knowledge and awareness of the crucial role minerals play in contemporary life.

**BID ON A BARGAIN AND SUPPORT MINDAT.ORG AT** 

### THE SILENT AUCTION

TGMS Saturday Night Program, February 10, 6:00-8:30 pm, The Copper Ballroom Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Street, Tucson

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT MINDAT.ORG!** 

### **VISIT US**

at the Fine Mineral Show - February 4, 6:30-8:30 pm at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show - February 8 - 11 www.mindat.org/donate

COLIDO

# Good luck and great success in Tucson!

Catalog your new treasures in Colido right now and check out other great pieces on the new Colido Marketplace! Collection Management rethought



Start now: www.colido.de

### **ABOUT THE COLLECTOR – PETER MEGAW**



Dr. Peter K.M.
Megaw Consulting
Geologist President
of IMDEX/Cascabel
and co-founder of
Minera Cascabel
and MAG Silver.
Peter has 40 years
involvement in
Mexican geology

and has become well-known in the Mexican Mining industry and is a frequent speaker at international academic and technical symposia.

His Ph.D. work at the University of Arizona was an exploration-focused geological/geochemical study of the Santa Eulalia Ag-Pb-Zn District, Chihuahua and Carbonate Replacement Deposits (CRDs) in general. He has published extensively on CRDs in both geological and mineralogical journals and books. He and his team are credited with the significant discoveries at Platosa, Durango; Juanicipio-Fresnillo, Zacatecas; and Cinco de Mayo, Chihuahua. Peter was awarded the Society of Mining Engineers 2012 Robert M. Dreyer Award for excellence in Applied Economic Geology and the Prospectors and Developers of Canada's Thayer Lindsley Award for Significant Global Discovery.

Peter has been a passionate mineral collector since first setting foot in Santa Eulalia in 1977, followed shortly thereafter by attending his first Tucson Gem and Mineral Show™ in 1978. He moved to Tucson in 1979 and quickly joined the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society™, serving in most roles over the years. He took on the job of Exhibits Chair for the Tucson Show in 1984, a job he has kept for most of the last 30 years, giving him the opportunity to visit most of the world's major mineral museums with a special eye out for what they should bring to Tucson. He is currently also serves as TGMS Show Co-Chair.

Peter's mineral collecting has come to focus almost exclusively on Minerals of Mexico. He won the Desautels Trophy at the TGMS™ Show in 2006 for a case of Mexican Minerals and he has thrice been awarded the

Romero Trophy for the best Mexican specimen on exhibit in the Show. His mineralogical writing has also been rewarded: he was the first recipient of the FM Student Paper Award in 1985 with his paper on the East Camp of Santa Eulalia; in 2003 he was co-recipient with Tom Moore of FM's Best Paper in Mineralogical Record award for their article on the Ojuela Mine, Mapimi, Durango Mexico; and he received the 2010 FM Best Paper in extraLapis award for his article on "The Geology and Genesis of (most) Collectible Smithsonite". He has written for Mineral News since its inception and is a consulting editor and occasional author for Rocks and Minerals. He has written for Mineralogical Record (with daughter Lauren) and his latest contribution is their January-February issue devoted to the Minerals of Santa Eulalia, Chihuahua, Mexico. He is Mindat photomoderator for Mexico and co-moderator of the FMF Mineral Forum, often with tongue planted firmly in cheek. A combination of some of the above led him to be awarded the 2009 Carnegie Mineralogical Award.

"As a geologist I like to see minerals in their geologic context at the pocket, stope, mine, district or regional level... to me a rock without a meaningful framework is just a rock. As a metals explorationist, I especially love all kinds of primary and secondary base and precious metals minerals and their associated gangue species. I am equally fascinated by how minerals from a particular deposit type worldwide tend to look so much alike, or don't. Although I appreciate seeing and learning about minerals from all over and all environments, specializing "exclusively" on Mexico was probably the most liberating step I have taken as a collector: it helped me focus my acquisitiveness while perversely (?) broadening the scope of what belongs in my collection. What you'll see here today at the Fine Mineral Show is a sampling of my more conventionally aesthetic pieces, but these are backstopped by a large research collection including micros and rarities to pieces only a locality lover could love. Many have been rescued from historic collections before being scattered forever. I am also fascinated by collecting philosophies... each shelf shown here today reflects a different theme, with a single thread linking them all."

# SPECIMEN GALLERY - PETER MEGAW COLLECTION









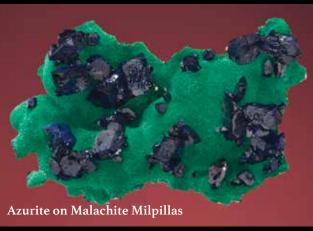


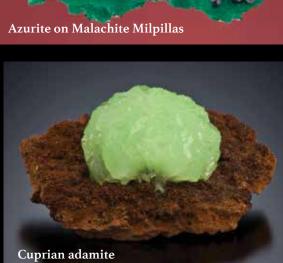
























# SPECIMEN GALLERY - PETER MEGAW COLLECTION

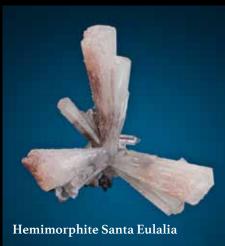


















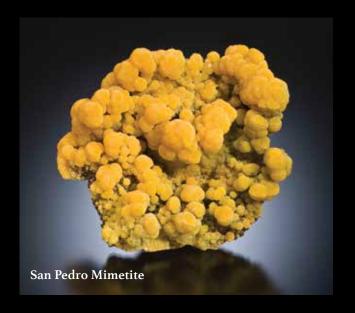


# SPECIMEN GALLERY - PETER MEGAW COLLECTION

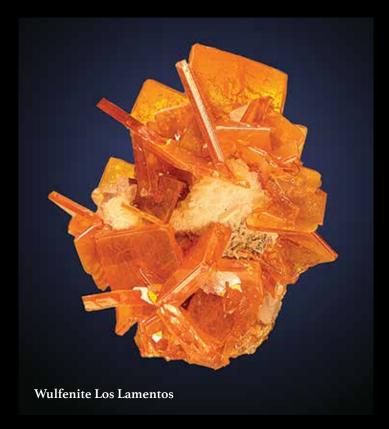




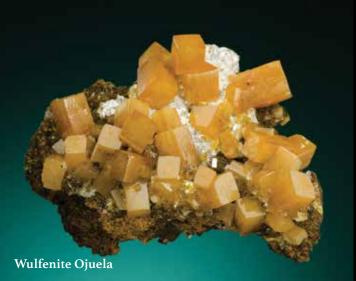






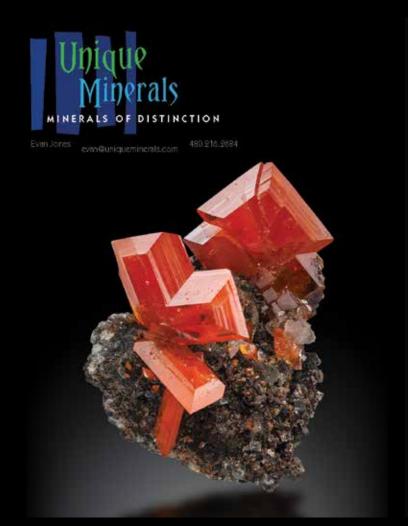


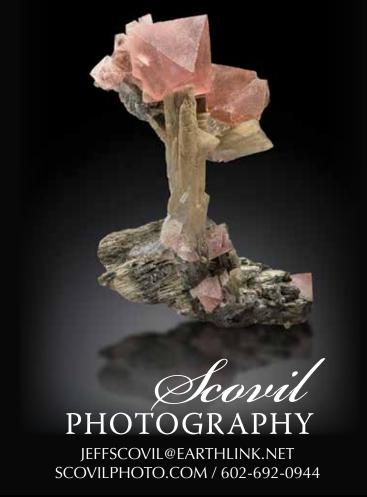




















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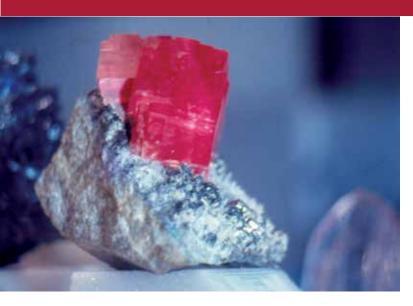
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### A RHODOCHROSITE STORY



I doubt there is a mineral collector anywhere in the world who doesn't own or wish to own a gorgeous red rhodochrosite. We all admire the rhodochrosite specimens on display in museums and available on the market today.

Known since prehistoric times and formally identified approximately in 1813, this manganese carbonate is self-coloring which simply means the manganese atoms act as a chromophore. Understand, dear reader, that rhodochrosite can be several other colors. For example, rhodochrosite from Mt. St. Hilaire in Canada is know to be an interesting mahogany color. But the pink to red forms of this lovely mineral gets the nod from collectors world-wide.

Specimens from several older European mines have always been historically popular but it was not until a couple of 20th century deposits began showing up that the collector world was lit on fire. With their brilliant red crystals of exceptional sizes, these finds finally pushed rhodochrosite up into the "must have" list.

In the early days of silver mining in the Leadville, Colorado era, rhodochrosites were known, and probably collected, but it wasn't until the 1950s until collectors really began to take notice. When Standard Metals Co. began tunneling through the Gold King Mine, near Silverton, quantities of rhodochrosite began to hit the market raising awareness, and demand, for these incredible specimens. The American Tunnel produced vast amounts of quite nice, sometimes slightly rounded rhombohedral, crystals of a pleasant pink color that ranged up to an inch on an edge. These specimens

occurred on quartz and, at the time, were eagerly collected.

Meanwhile, across the pond, the manganese fields of South Africa also began to produce exceptionally fine, red, scalenohedral crystals of rhodochrosite. It is interesting to note that most of the African rhodocrosite crystals are dog tooth or scalenohedral in form versus the American crystals which are rhombic in form.

Of all the rhodochrosite specimens that had an impact on the American market, one specimen stands out above all others. It is not the most beautiful specimen found but its appearance caused such a stir that it proved to be the catalyst for other major finds that followed.

This particular crystal specimen had been dug in the Sweet Home Mine, near Alma, Colorado, in approximately 1974. At the time, the Sweet Home Mine, which had been a silver mine, had been closed for decades but historically it had yielded nice rhodochrosite during its mining days.

So during its years of operation, collectors, including this writer in 1957, would visit the mine hoping to find crystal but often meeting with little success. However, in the early 1970s, an old miner – called, "John" for the sake of this article - trespassed into the Sweet Home Mine and began a serious attempt to find specimens. His efforts were incredibly successful as he discovered one major specimen, among others, that went on display at the Tucson Show in 1975. This exhibit triggered some very serious efforts to find rhodochrosites in the Sweet Home Mine culminating with Bryan Lee's project that began in 1992.

Once Bryan, and the Collector's Edge crew, began to produce these superb rhodochosites from the Sweet Home, I decided to try and find Old Man John and get the complete story. It took me a while but I finally tracked John down to a small south-western town where he was living in retirement. The old fellow was more than willing to tell his story but he would not allow tape recording or even allow me to use his name in print. He was sure there a warrant out for him and he was still a little gun shy! In addition to his story, he also gave me some very poor, out of focus prints of his find which he had laid out on a blanket at the mine. These are now archived with Collector's Edge.

### A RHODOCHROSITE STORY cont.

Old Man John's story begins when he snuck into the Sweet Home Mine back in the early-70s, determined to find rhodochrosite. Old Man John did some prospecting, as he was a very experienced miner, and finally settled on a spot that looked promising.

He spent two, back-breaking days hammering, prying and mucking out his area until he finally broke into a narrow seam with color. Emboldened, lots more work was required before it began to yield small, nicely-formed rhodochroisite crystals on small quartz crystals. Most of the red crystals ranged in size from an inch to maybe an inch and a half but he could see one crystal, located way in the back of the seam, that looked significantly bigger.

He worked and worked and finally was able to carefully pry the piece out. About the time he made that find, and unbeknown to him, his car had been spotted near the mine and someone anonymously reported him to the mine owner. Since the mine entrance was right along the county road going from Alma to Leadville, over the Mosquito Range, many tourists would use the road on their sightseeing jaunts. In fact, while our Old Man John was at work he was visited by a tourist from Boston who saw some activity at the mine and stopped to check it out. John recalls the fellow was a doctor, and he sold him one of the better rhodochrosite specimens he had already dug.

Be that as it may, the mine owner, when he heard about the trespasser went to the sheriff and lodged a complaint. There is some question as to whether a warrant was actually issued but John thought it had. Either way, the sheriff was ready to head up to the Sweet Home and arrest Old Man John for trespassing. Luckily, a friend of John heard what was about to happen and drove up to warn him, giving him ample time to gather his tools, gather his specimens and make a hasty departure.

As it so happened, around this time a big mineral show was scheduled for Las Vegas so John boxed his specimens and headed over there. As usual, a specimen owner inevitably finds a buyer at a show and this show was no different. Old Man John happened to run into an avid collector who immediately understood the significance of this find and ended up buying the entire lot – including the one major piece John had discovered. The name of that collector? Dr. Peter Bancroft. Bancroft, knew that if he didn't make an offer right away, he might lose out

on this incredible opportunity so Bancroft offered him a whopping \$5,000 for the entire lot – a considerable amount of money at the time.

The major piece that was in that collection became known as the, "Bancroft Rhodochrosite" and was immortalized when it was placed on the cover of Bancroft's seminal book, The World's Finest Minerals and Crystals.

By April of 1974, Bancroft made the decision to sell a significant portion of his collection including the rhodochrosite specimen. A new, up-and-coming collector in the mineral world met with Bancroft and negotiated a special deal with him. He would be allowed to cherry-pick 52 pieces from Bancroft's collection in exchange for the most anyone in the world had ever spent on a mineral collection. \$400,000. That would be equal to over \$2 million dollars today and, going by today's mineral prices, it would still be considered a bargain. The buyer was none other than a young David P. Wilber. Dave tells me he bought the collection specifically because of the rhodochrosite in it but there were many other great pieces including a small phosphophyllite.

The following year, in 1975, Wilber put the Bancroft Rhodochrosite on display at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show and absolutely stunned the mineral world. I remember seeing that lovely rhodochrosite sitting regally at the end of Wilber's display cabinet and watching advanced collectors and dealers marvel over such a superb rhodochrosite specimen. It caused such a stir that several serious dealers and collectors determined to open the Sweet Home Mine and find pieces for themselves. They did just that during the later 1970s and 1980s. Although some success was experienced, it wasn't until Bryan Lees put together his, "Dream Team" of collectors and investors to launch the first serious, specimen-focused mining effort at the Sweet Home that rhodochrosites became legendary.

And while Lees closed the Sweet Home in 2004, the question has always remained, "Is this the end of the Sweet Home rhodochrosite saga?" You'll have to wait until Bryan Lees and The Collector's Edge finish some exploratory work they just began back at the legendary Sweet Home Mine!



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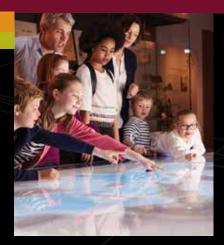
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