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# GREETINGS FROM DAVE



Minerals are ubiquitous in modern-day life. They make up our houses and cars, the copper wire that carries electricity, the gypsum in our walls, and the quartz in our glass windows. Minerals are in our computers and even in our medicines. Minerals are common, but also rare, and can be like fine art.

Nature’s rare, inorganic mineral art only comes in few species compared to the abundance of living art such as insects or plants. Known species of insects number near one million and butterfly species alone tally over 20 thousand! Yet, the number of known mineral species is only about 5,000 and, of these, only 100 or so species are prized by collectors.

Unlike insects or plants, these mineral prizes never die, wilt, or decay, unless they are not collected and are allowed to erode away. Most crystals have lain hidden away in veins, cracks or watercourses in the earth’s rocky crust much longer than any living thing. In fact, not just millions of years, but tens and even hundreds of millions of years may have passed before those specimens saw the light of day and found their way to a display in this show.

I collect minerals because I am in awe of what nature creates. To me, mineral crystals are absolutely beautiful, naturally occurring, unique forms of art. These colorful sculptures were hidden in rock cavities in far off places, or just around the corner, waiting for someone to find them and make them available to you and me. That something so beautiful, so complex and so symmetrical can be found in the earth is a wonderful discovery indeed. That nature made all of these incredible crystals that I can possess, display and appreciate is what makes mineral collecting so marvelous.

Let’s let everyone know! Spread the word about minerals and their beauty! Spread your passion! This is indeed what we advocate at Fine Mineral Show LLC and so we are reaching out to those who appreciate all forms of beauty in life, but may never have been exposed to the beauty of minerals. We invite them to discover what many of us already know... that minerals are nature’s art! We exert ourselves here in Tucson, and at the Fine Mineral Show in Denver, to find new ways to spread this passion to everyone, not just the choir of established passionate collectors. As you read this, think about your love for minerals, and consider bringing a friend or family member with you to the show. They can talk with one of our 37 dealers or attend one of our weekend special events, and share the excitement with you.

The Westward Look Show features many of the world’s best mineral dealers. So, roam around, visit every room, marvel at the treasures and see if something irresistibly calls to you.

This Saturday, February 8th, the Westward Look Show will present “Collector Day” in the resort lobby from 10am to 4pm, featuring the Mineral Enthusiasts of the Tucson Area (META) and their selection of choice specimens from local collections brought just for our show. This is always a fun and “upfront and personal” event for everyone, so come by on Saturday to meet the META group. You might learn why there are so many world-class collectors in Tucson!

Another special event to be sure to attend is the Westward Look Show’s annual Sunday Evening Program in the Sonoran Ballroom! Join us for our social hour at 6:30pm, followed by the featured presentation at 7:30pm. This year, two talks will be presented from editors of *The Mineralogical Record*: Dr. Chris Stefano, the magazine’s newest editor, will present “World-Class Minerals from the Keweenaw,” and Dr. Wendell Wilson will present “Minerals in the Movies.” As has become an annual tradition, the American Heritage Mineral Award will be presented prior to the talks.

Enjoy the show!

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## TOURMALINE

Paprok, Kamdesh District, Nuristan, Afghanistan | 16.5cm | Photo Credit: J Callen



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# MINERAL ART: AESTHETICS, SCIENCE AND HISTORY THAT YOU CAN FRAME!

BY WENDELL WILSON

If you love minerals, you also enjoy seeing depictions of minerals, whether modern high-tech photography as in *The Mineralogical Record* or rare, hand-drawn and hand-colored artworks from centuries ago.

Mineral illustrations have always been indispensable to publications dealing with minerals, and in the centuries before photography, the only recourse for the author and publisher was to employ artists. It was understood that not even the proverbial thousand words could satisfactorily replace one of these pictures, because crystallized minerals are themselves among nature's most intriguing artworks. A mineral specimen has its own unique composition (in the artistic rather than chemical sense), a repetition of stylistic motifs (thanks to the laws of crystallography) and a harmony of colors that is often quite elegant and even spectacular. Since the 16th century, scholars who have loved minerals have recognized this imperative and have struggled to provide the best mineral depictions possible.

### SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATION

Historically, these depictions have usually been fairly rigorous attempts at formal scientific illustration; that is, they attempt the maximum level of accuracy with as little distortion and artistic liberty as possible, and they show the specimens actual size, suspended against a plain white background. Such artworks have advantages over photographs: each area of a complex specimen can be shown at the optimum level of illumination, and important but recessive characteristics can be subtly emphasized.

Among the earliest color illustrators was the famous botanical artist Maria Sybilla Merian (1647-1717); she supplied a color spate of mineral specimens (extremely rare today) for Everhard Rumpf's *D'Amboinsche Rariteitkammer* (1705). In 1742, Johann Hebenstreit provided exquisite hand-colored engravings of specimens in the collection of a Leipzig attorney, Johann Richter. Ore specimens for study by mining students were illustrated in color by Casimir Christoph Schmiedel in 1753. Jacques Favanne and other artists illustrated hundreds of fine specimens in a 1776 publication by Pierre Buc-hoz. In 1785, the Austrian Baron Franz Xavier von Wulfen published a detailed description of wulfenite

from Bleiberg, Austria, with hand-colored engraved images of no fewer than 46 specimens. It remains to this day the most lavishly illustrated new mineral species description ever published. And among the most famous of these early pioneers was Philip

Rashleigh in Cornwall, who commissioned many specimen illustrations for his published collection catalogs in 1797 and 1802. Of course there have been many others as well.

One of the benefits of such early mineral art is that we get to see some really fine and interesting specimens, many of them from centuries ago, most of which have not survived to the present day. These are the specimens our forebears collected and cherished, and the quality often stands up surprisingly well. It is an irony of history that many old specimens (hard "rock," if you will) are long outlived by their images on comparatively flimsy paper.



Hildegard Konighofer

### FINE ART

Some few artists, beginning at least as early as Alexander Leroy de Barde (1777-1828), took mineral art beyond purely scientific illustration and into the realm of "fine art." The most obvious difference is typically a painted background which places the specimen in the context of some specific environment, under more natural (rather than idealized, full-frontal) lighting, perhaps with shadows that may obscure some parts. Thus a mineral illustration is transformed into a "still life." Such artworks are far rarer than purely scientific treatments and generally were not made as a series. They are preserved as one-of-a-kind originals, whereas there may be no "originals" of simple illustrations (unless you count the long-gone



Wendell Wilson



cont. from page 7

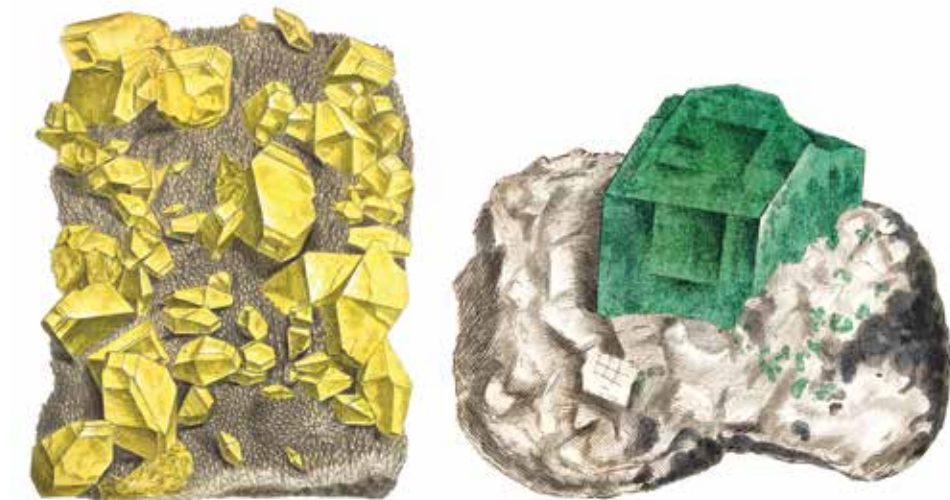
blocks of lithographic limestone and engraved wood blocks and copper plates).

LIBERTIES TAKEN

And some artists may take liberties with the specimen itself, shifting or removing a crystal or piece of ugly matrix for better composition, and enhancing certain aspects to provide a more refined, idealized representation of those qualities in the mineral that the artist finds most satisfying and attractive. James Sowerby, in his famous *Exotic Mineralogy* (1811-1817), published a hand-colored engraving of a large Sicilian sulfur crystal group; he was committed to actual-size renderings, and the piece was too big for even a fold out, so he “trimmed off” part of the specimen in his depiction, showing the remainder at natural size! A few modern artists, such as Frederick Wilda, though inspired by actual specimens, sometimes paint more or less invented fantasy specimens to show their impression of the essential, idealized aesthetic quality, charm and characteristics of the species.

TOOLS OF THE ARTIST

The methods used for the production and reproduction of mineral and mining art over the centuries have been drawn from the standard artist’s tool-box. Watercolor paintings and pen and pencil sketches have no doubt been the starting point since the beginning. The earliest published images of minerals in the 15th century (Jacob Meydenbach was the first, in his *Hortus Sanitatus* of 1491) are



Wendell Wilson

woodcuts. In 1565, Conrad Gesner published the first woodcut engravings depicting a Brazilian tourmaline crystal and a spectacular Kongsberg wire silver. Copper-plate engravings soon followed, then hand-colored copper-plate engravings. Fabien Gautier-d’Agoty created the first mineral illustrations with laboriously hand-printed colors in 1781, utilizing a technique almost more labor-intensive than hand-coloring. In the late 19th century the technology of chromolithography came into play (Louis Simonin’s publisher may have been the first to print mineral images by that technique in 1867), followed eventually



Eberhard Equit

by modern off-set printing. Today’s artists still utilize the same classical materials: pen and ink, watercolors, gouache, colored pencil, the “new” medium of acrylic paint—and oil on canvas, oil on panels or oil on copper plates. Just as the piano is the “queen” of musical instruments, oil painting is the “king” of artistic media.

THE ARTIST’S EYE

Hand-drawn art, much more so than photography, is an intrinsically human product, the result of some reality being filtered through a human mind. By subtle

or blatant exaggeration or distortion the artist seeks to share with the viewer something special that he sees in the subject, and so he must bring it out to the point where it is plain and clear while subsuming and obscuring competing but unwanted aspects. In this way we get to see the subjects anew, and appreciate an angle on their beauty and fascination that we would perhaps not have noticed without the artist’s help. Mineral collectors also do this in their own way, by carefully selecting minerals (from among the millions of specimens available to them today) that most prominently display those particular qualities of the mineral world that they find most appealing. My point is simply that each artwork should be evaluated on its own terms, whether it is rigorous or fanciful, subtle or dramatic, because each has something to tell us.

ART IN MODERN TIMES

Mineral art is by no means an obsolete genre; it has been used to advantage in books and publications regularly up to the present day.

Raymond Perlman (1923-2015) was among the first in modern times to illustrate a book (Herbert S. Zim’s popular *Golden Guide to Rocks and Minerals*, published in 1957) with paintings of minerals. Ten years later, the German artist Claus Caspari published a collection of 162 superb, full-page watercolor paintings of mineral specimens (*Mineralien: Sammlung naturkundlicher Tafeln*). In recent decades, mineral art has enjoyed a renaissance, with artists like Eberhard Equit, Fred Wilda, Sarah Sudkowski, Ladislav Pros, Martin Haubenreisser, Hildegard Könighofer and Leah Luten creating framing-quality originals that lend beauty and class to the decor of any lover of minerals.

If you would like to see more mineral art, from medieval to modern, be sure to visit the online **Mineralogical Record Art Museum** ([MineralogicalRecord.com](http://MineralogicalRecord.com)) where over 1,000 artworks by over 50 artists are posted for your enjoyment.



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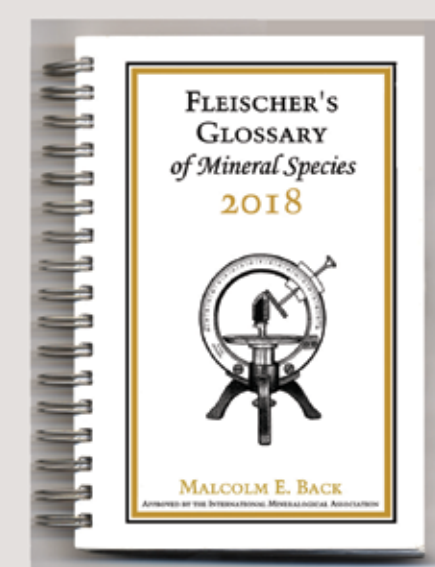
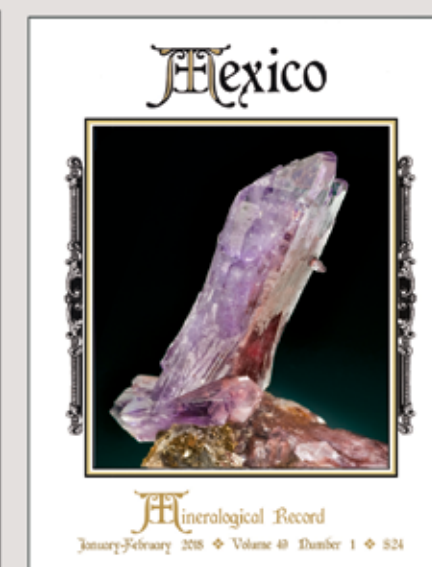
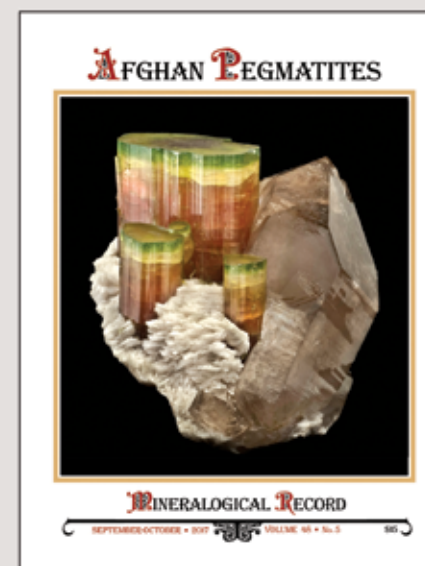
Fossils

Gemstones

Jewellery

## Stay Informed

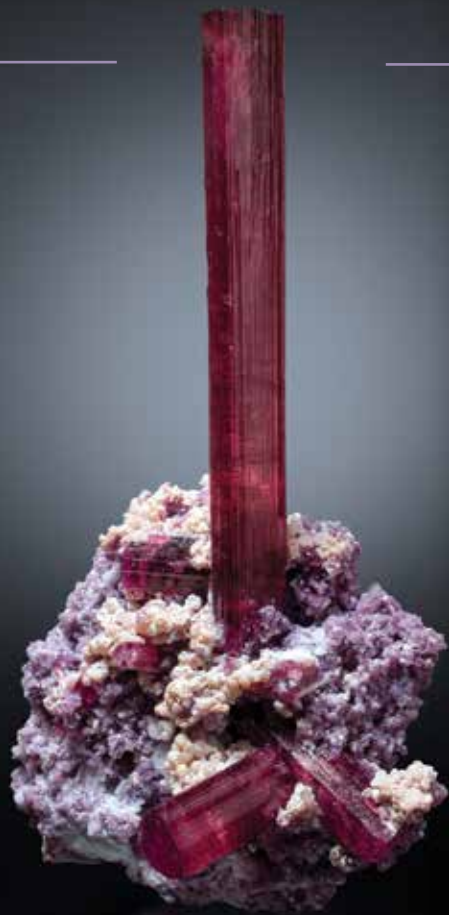
about the minerals you collect



The *Mineralogical Record* is the premiere international magazine for the serious mineral collector. Detailed, authoritative articles provide the information you need on the major specimen sources throughout the world. And the superb specimen photography gives you abundant information about the sizes and quality of examples in museums and private collections worldwide. Don't collect "blind." Stay informed through the *Mineralogical Record*.

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## SO, WHAT DOES 'WORLD CLASS' MINERALS MEAN?

BY PETER MEGAW



**The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society® is very excited about the Theme for our 2020 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®: World Class Minerals... and we're expecting it to bring an outpouring of top-quality specimens from all over the world.**

However, we are getting a lot of questions about what, "World Class" means, so here's a bit of an explanation. However, before touching on all the physical aspects of World Class mineral collecting, we need to acknowledge the World Class Mineral Community to which we belong, composed of people passionately interested in minerals and sharing their knowledge, time and specimens with others.

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® annually relies on this community to volunteer their precious pieces to help us assemble a World Class Mineral Museum that exists for a mere 4 days and then vanishes, never to be seen in that form again. You would have to travel the world and talk your way into the back rooms of every major world museum, and many of the best private collections, to see the things that come to Tucson year after year.

If you come to Tucson for minerals and don't stick around for the TGMS Show®, you're missing more than half the point. The TGMS Show Committee tries to pick themes that will stimulate exhibitors to use their imagination to determine how to play to the strength of their collections and have fun choosing what to show off that fits the theme of any given year...or a theme of their own making. Experience shows that the Show attendees appreciate the process...or at least the results. For participants, the process provides a great excuse to look at their collections in new ways, so for them it becomes much more than producing an exhibit case full of great rocks. It's no wonder many do it year after year once they get started (subtle hint department).

We hope that the freedom and thoughtfulness we foster, encourages you to exhibit at the TGMS Show® (or Westward Look, if Dave taps you to be the featured Collector!) in the future. We welcome exhibits that play to the annual theme... and those that march to the beat of a different drummer. Our volunteers do whatever they can to make the experience as fun and easy for you as possible (if you're coming a long way, this can include

providing risers and liners, but many prefer to make their own). Importantly, we also provide very good security through the Tucson Police Department and are set up to maximize the safety of your rocks and minimize anxiety on your part. We would love to have you be part of the lifeblood that makes Tucson special! I am happy to field any specific questions you might have regarding exhibiting (*pmegaw@hotmail.com will get me most anytime*).

Back to 2020... To a significant extent what is World Class is up to you because there is no single, unique yardstick for World Class, although like fine art, most of us "know it when we see it," and are willing to discuss it endlessly. Merriam Webster defines World Class as "being of the highest caliber," which sounds simple, but who makes the call and based on what?

Mineral specimens are different from most other collectibles such as stamps, coins, cars, comic books and baseball cards where the ideal is a known physical paradigm to which each other example can be compared. In contrast, like fine art, each mineral specimen is unique, and appreciation is subjective on many levels; most mineral collectors use their experience and aesthetic sense to weigh their personal reactions to a Kongsberg silver versus an agate slice much as an art aficionado does with a Rembrandt versus a street-fair daubing.

What matters is what resonates with the individual, not what we think will resonate with an expert or group of experts. There may be consensus on what is aesthetic at a given time, but tastes change... Bosch, Renoir, Van Gogh and Picasso were not appreciated in their day, so stick to your guns on what you think is the best and let fashion catch up when/if it does.

To many, World Class conjures up visions of highly valuable giant colorful gem or oxide crystals; the kinds of things that grace the pages of Wayne Thompson's superb 2007 *ICONS* supplement to *The Mineralogical Record* (Happy 50th MR!) and the rooms of the many high quality dealers here at the Westward Look Show and the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®. If you haven't yet read Thompson's manifesto, get a hold of it and do so soon...if not before you make your next purchase. The threshold of entry to this level of collecting may be daunting and take some time to get comfortable with, but as Wayne notes, time...and taking it...are essential to building a world class collection.

However, to many minds World Class can also encompass a suite of specimens that have a geological, mineralogical or other context that makes the whole greater than the sum of its parts. Examples might include a group of minerals from a world class locality like Tsumeb, Ojuela, Broken Hill or Franklin; or superb wulfenites, sulfides, fluorites, quartz etc., from a single



# Generations

grounded in the business in so many ways.

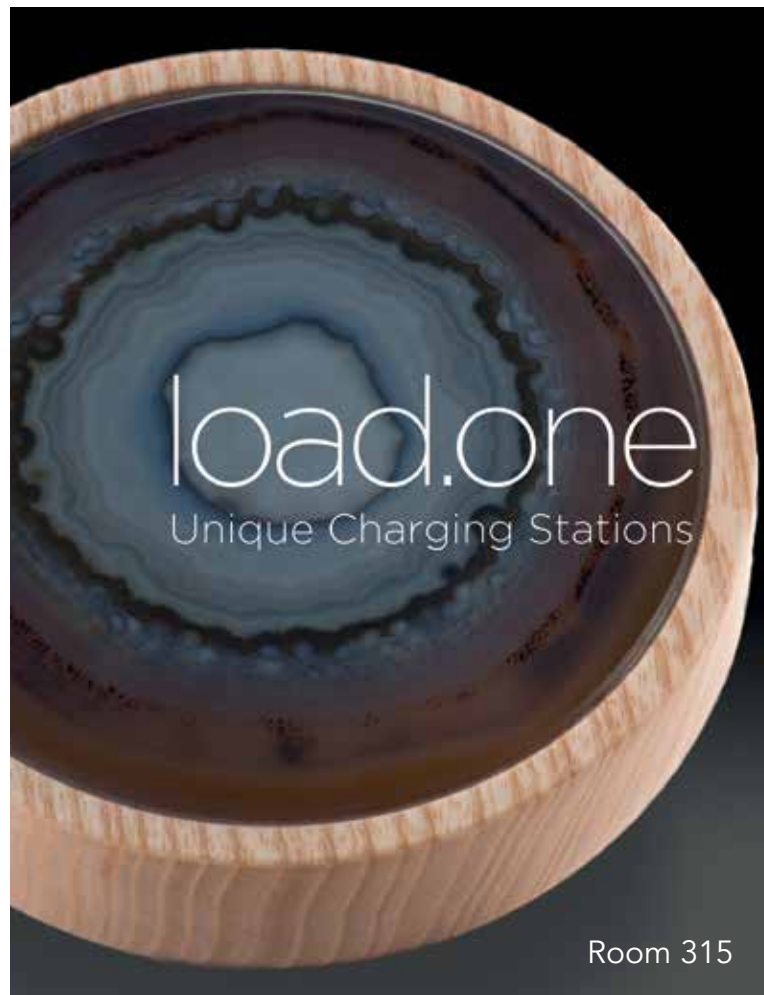


**BERGMANN MINERALS**



BIG ROCK MINERALS

Room 229



remarkable pocket or mine, or a range of localities. It can be a collection of nicely matched Thumbnails or Miniatures...or Micros (remember, many mineral species never get more than a few millimeters long, so the world's best may need a microscope for proper appreciation). The best specimens from a famous by-gone collector or author would clearly rate, as would the best specimens from your collection...after all they are the best in your world.

In the final analysis it is YOUR perception that matters... specimen value, or species popularity need not (many might argue should not) be your guiding criteria! But by all means, find a focus and strive to get the best pieces you can that fulfill it, over time that's what will make your collection special.

Another avenue collectors might enjoy exploring is how perceptions of what is World Class have evolved over time. Tastes change and many of the spectacular specimens available today, collected and prepared with exquisite care and artistry, reflect the effort to meet the demand from increasingly sophisticated collectors.

This ties nicely into celebrating the 50th Anniversary of *The Mineralogical Record*! Founded during the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® back in 1970, *The Mineralogical Record* (MR) has both documented the evolution of mineral appreciation and led the way by expanding awareness of what is out there and just how good, "good" can get (an integral aspect of World Class in the "iconic" sense especially). The MR has spearheaded focus on appreciating the artistic aesthetics of mineral specimens; something that has more and more influence on TGMS® Show exhibits, the Westward Look Show dealer's stocks and personal collections every year. Their inclusion of Bryan Swoboda's (aka BlueCap Productions) "What's Hot" series gives us a chance to see what's new worldwide and what's being offered at the shows we (hopefully just temporarily) can't get to.

The MR also strives to present the historical, cultural and geological context of the spectacular minerals in their feature articles, enhancing our understanding of where the specimens come from and how they get to us. The MR's modest subscription price is within reach of almost all collectors and provides exposure to the best of what exists, regardless of whether or not we personally can possess it. Simultaneously the MR has raised the bar for mineral publications across the world and has led us to today's well written and profusely illustrated journals including *Rocks and Minerals*, *Mineral Monographs*, *Mineral Up*, *Lapis*, *Mineralien Welt*, *Monde et Mineraux*, *Le Regne Mineral*, *Bocamina*, *Mineral Lover*, *Mineral Observer* and *Mineralogical Almanac*.

Combined, these publications let all of us build World Class libraries of mineral literature of a quality that simply did not exist before the MR came along! While you continue your search for a great new addition to your collection here at the Westward Look Show, or later at TGMS Show®, stop by *The Mineralogical Record* room/booth and first, congratulate and thank them for what they've accomplished and given us. Next,

if you have the background, offer to write an article (and submit your manuscript in a geologically reasonable period of time). Finally, if you are not a subscriber already... subscribe! And even if you are, subscribe for a young relative or friend, this is a great way to ignite the mineral collecting passion (disease?) in the upcoming generations. We are only temporary stewards of these magnificent treasures and it behooves us all to foster well the coming generations if we want our rocks to have a secure future!! (In that spirit, subscribe to as many mineralogical publications as you can...the best are all represented here and you'll never regret making these investments in your own, and others, mineralogical education!).

There is an unfortunate misperception that although we are in the Golden Age of Minerals that mineral collecting is an aging pursuit with few up and coming collectors. A major part of this misperception stems from the reality that many younger collectors get their minerals and mineral information on-line and not through the physical hands-on world of shows, museums and print literature. The Young Mineral Collectors guild is quickly showing that we have little to worry about. Although their unofficial motto is "We're Coming for Your Rocks", they mean this in the friendliest sense...they're preparing to be the next generation of stewards and many of them are very serious collectors. They are eager to learn about the benefits of direct physical interaction with the rocks, the science and especially the community... but likewise, the community has much to learn from them about how to keep mineral collecting vibrant in the electronic age. Remember those who brought you along as a beginner (thanks EJH Jr.) and pass it on!

Enjoy the Westward Look Show, and we hope to see you downtown for the world-famous Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®, where the World Class exhibits will knock your socks off!

*\*So why all the ® symbols? We are delighted that the overall Tucson mineral experience has evolved into what it is from our humble beginnings in a grade school cafeteria, but the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society's "Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®" is a federally registered trademark and sometimes (especially at Show time) it is a challenge to keep our names from being misapplied to the 50 other shows that have grown up around us. The law says, "defend it or lose it", so we defend it. Have fun!*



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What's HOT In Munich 2019

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Show Host: Hart... Alan Hart

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- 2.) Create a FREE account or, if you already have an account, sign in to your existing account.
- 3.) Click on the **BUY \$19.99** button to place the video into your online Shopping Cart
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*Enjoy the show!*

**SCAN ME**

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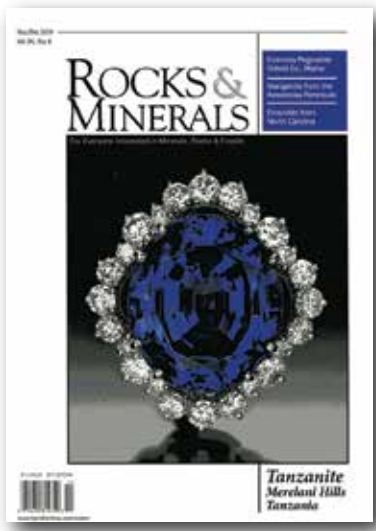
## FINE MINERAL SHOW

## DEALER DIRECTORY



FINE MINERAL SHOW is proud to bring many world-class mineral dealers to you in one show. At the Westward Look are dealers from the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, India, Austria, Australia, China, and France. They travel the world to bring you the finest specimens available. These dealers are all experts in our hobby. When you read about their businesses in the following pages, their passion and love of minerals is revealed. We urge you to take some time, get to know and learn from them. Share your interests and pursuits. But most importantly, enjoy the show!

## ROCKS & MINERALS



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## DREHER-CARVINGS

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Room 315

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Biography and additional dealer information listed in the following pages.





## 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.



## 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 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!



## 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 world's 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.



## DREHER-CARVINGS room 315

For five generations, the name Dreher has been synonymous with animal carvings of the highest quality, executed in precious gemstones. These unique works, whose quality was already appreciated in the 19th century by amongst others Peter Carl Fabergé, chosen goldsmith of the Russian Tsar family, are found in numerous private collections and public museums worldwide. Patrick Dreher continues these traditions today at the family headquarter in Idar-Oberstein. He learned the secrets of the trade and craft from his father. Especially how to select and “read” the precious stones – the structure and colour – correctly to bring out the hidden animal.



## FINE MINERALS INTERNATIONAL - DANIEL TRINCHILLO room 232

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.



## GREEN MOUNTAIN MINERALS room 317

Green Mountain Minerals grew from an early fascination with minerals as a manifestation of the perfection to be found in the world by those prepared to seek it. The ensuing journey has brought the business to the point of being a full-service dealer dedicated to sourcing the world's finest mineral specimens and making them available to discerning connoisseurs and collectors worldwide.

We are dedicated to the belief that representing the Earth's finest art to passionate collectors is not a commodity business, but a very personal relationship, both between the dealer and the collector and the collector and the mineral. We endeavor, therefore, to understand and further those relationships in all of our dealings. That extends to the relationships that we have formed with our partners in fine mineral preparation laboratories, custom mounting display craftsmen and photographers, whose skills we deploy to best frame and present Nature's work.

We are at home in the Hudson Valley town of Beacon, a short journey out of New York City where we maintain an exhibit of fine minerals at our offices. Collectors from far and near are welcome to come and visit us to share the passion and love of minerals.



## 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.



## KRISTALLE room 275

Wayne's interest in minerals began in 3rd grade when Mrs. Kirkby of the nearby Jurupa Nature Center in Riverside, California brought some ‘rocks’ to show to the class. It wasn't long after that visit when Wayne was disciplined at school because he was out collecting on the nearby hills and not in class! Spending summers at his grandfather's cabin near Yosemite was most likely when ‘gold fever’ hit him. Days were spent panning but the ‘mother lode’ was never found. Wayne and his wife, Dona, are nearing 50 years in the mineral business and California gold has always been a prominent part of that business. The great museums and private collections around the world all contain superb gold specimens acquired from KRISTALLE. The non-obsessive, laid-back, honest style of doing business has been a hallmark of KRISTALLE.

To learn more about Wayne and Dona see the following link on the Mineralogical Record website:  
[mineralogicalrecord.com/labels.asp?colid=1530](http://mineralogicalrecord.com/labels.asp?colid=1530)







## LOAD.ONE room 315

The term, “Heimat” is a German term with no direct English translation. The roughest English equivalent would be, “homeland” but that barely scratches the surface of the true meaning. “Heimat,” harkens back to pre-industrial, rural life where your Heimat was your community and the world to which you were connected. It has connotations of the warm, idyllic world where we are all safe and nestled within family, tradition and trust.

For Ralf Kelle, Idar-Oberstein is, “Heimat.” The world in which he was born and grew up. Now, after 30 years of working all across Germany in different industries, Ralf has created an idea to combine modern technology with exclusive gemstones in a product design that sings with echos of, “Heimat” - his homeland.

With the Load.One series of Qi charging stations, Ralf has combined selected woods and beautiful natural minerals to create a modern product with the soul of Idar-Oberstein that transcends the emotionless plastic chargers currently filling the market.

And for 2020, Ralf has partnered with Patrick Dreher - an old friend from Idar-Oberstein and the world's most famous hard stone animal carver - to produce a Special Edition of Load.One products with animal carvings.



## 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 our search!

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!



## 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 Plaza Denver.



## WILENSKY FINE MINERALS room 309

Stuart and Donna Wilensky have been collecting and selling exquisite minerals for 35 years. Now, joined by their sons, Troy and Connor, daughter-in-law, Erica, and Tom Sullivan, together they have conceptualized, designed and procured an exceptional curated collection of rotating mineral exhibitions for the gallery space open to collectors and the public.

If art is an expression of beauty, then the exquisite minerals at the Wilensky gallery are the highest form of aesthetic that nature has to offer. The universal connection between humans and these minerals is the focus of their Chelsea New York gallery. Wilensky offers the world's most stunning minerals, as wonders, as sculptures, as art. The power of these mineral marvels is undeniable and the gallery caters to all those who embrace their breath-taking experience. This is transformative, this is other-worldly, this is Wilensky.



## 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](http://www.weinrichmineralsinc.com).





# FINE MINERALS INTERNATIONAL

DANIEL TRINCHILLO | [www.FineMineral.com](http://www.FineMineral.com)



Quartz | Cabiche, Colombia. 14.5 cm

## WESTWARD LOOK MINERAL SHOW

245 E. Ina Rd. Room 232  
Tucson, AZ 85704

February 7-10

## TUCSON GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Tucson Convention Center  
260 S. Church Ave. Booth 826  
Tucson, AZ 85701

February 13-16

## FINE MINERALS INTERNATIONAL SHOW

450 N. Granada Ave.  
Tucson, AZ 85701

January 31 - February 15

## 2020 MAP & EXHIBITORS WESTWARD LOOK SHOW

### BUILDING 35

#### UPPER LEVEL

317 Green Mountain Minerals\*

316 Ausrox\*

#### STREET LEVEL

318 Crystal Classics Fine Minerals

312 Weinrich Minerals\*

#### LOWER LEVEL

315 Dreher-Carvings\* / Load.One\*

### BUILDING 34

#### UPPER LEVEL

310 Exceptional Minerals / Alpine Mineral  
Company / Barnett Fine Minerals

309 Wilensky Fine Minerals\*

#### STREET LEVEL

311 Collector's Edge Minerals

306 Graeber & Himes

#### LOWER LEVEL

308 Hospitality Suite (Restroom) /  
The Mineralogical Record

### BUILDING 29

#### UPPER LEVEL

279 Saphira Minerals / Rudolf Watzl

278 Christophe Gobin\*

#### STREET LEVEL

280 Stonetrust\*

275 Kristalle\*

#### LOWER LEVEL

277 Mintang

### 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

### 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 The Focal Crystal

### BUILDING 22

#### UPPER LEVEL

236 Anton Watzl Minerals

235 Wendel Minerals\*

#### STREET LEVEL

237 Miner's Lunchbox

232 Fine Minerals International\*

#### LOWER LEVEL

234 Nicholas Stolowitz Fine  
Minerals

233 Superb Minerals

\* Read more about these dealers in the Dealer Directory starting on page 17



## EXPLORE DISCOVER SHARE

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was founded in 1946 and began as a small group interested in the hobby of mineral collecting and lapidary. The Society's intent from the start was to further the knowledge and appreciation for a hobby that was just beginning to grow.



TUCSON  
GEM & MINERAL  
SOCIETY

3727 E. Blackledge Drive  
Tucson, Arizona 85716



Worldwide Fluorite. Photo by Kenneth Bon

GENERAL MEETINGS

EDUCATIONAL CLASSES

MICROMOUNT MEETINGS

FIELD TRIPS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SCHOLARSHIPS

PROMOTION OF MINERAL KNOWLEDGE

AND THE WORLD FAMOUS TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SHOW®

For more information on the Society visit [www.tgms.org](http://www.tgms.org)  
and the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® at [www.tgms.org/show](http://www.tgms.org/show)

THE TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS:

## THE 66<sup>TH</sup> A TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SHOW®

FEATURING:

HONORING 50 YEARS OF  
MINERALOGICAL RECORD

RETAIL DEALERS | EXHIBITS

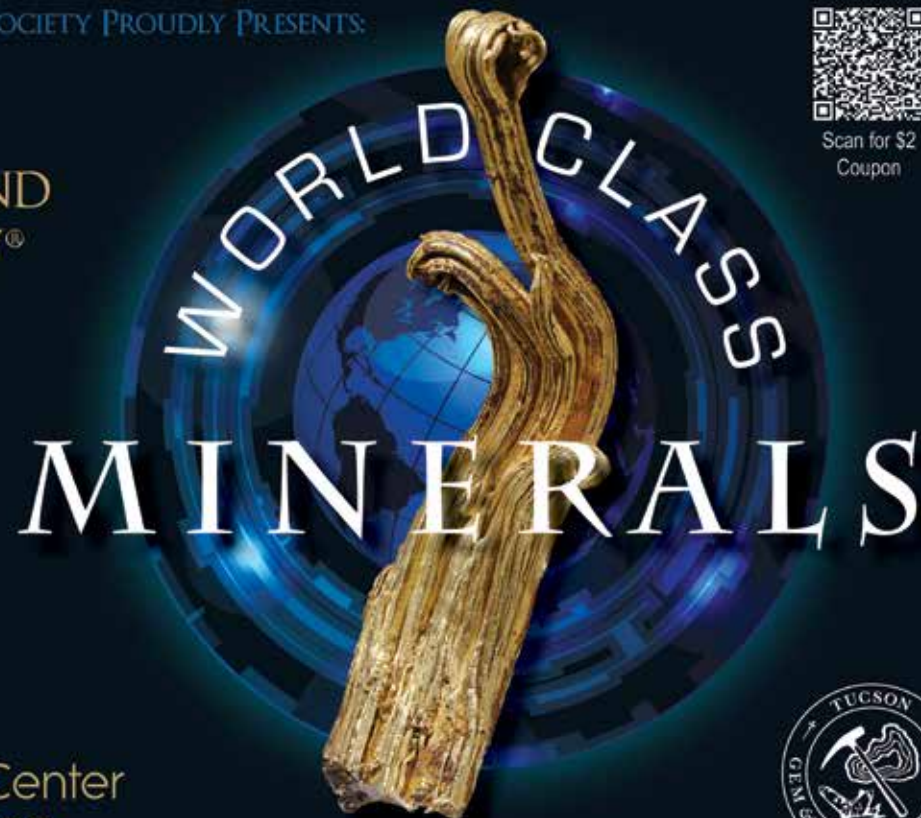
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SATURDAY NIGHT PROGRAM

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February 13-16, 2020



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# NINETEENTH ANNUAL EVENT WESTWARD LOOK SHOW

## SPECIAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> : 10AM-4PM



## Collector Day

SPECIAL GUESTS

**META** (Mineral Enthusiasts of the Tucson Area)

The META group of collectors will show their prized worldwide specimens and be in the lobby to meet the public and show their minerals on display.

This is always a fun and "upfront and personal" event for everyone!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>

## Sunday Evening Program



Courtesy of Mineralogical Record

FEATURING THE EDITORS OF THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD MAGAZINE:

**"World-class minerals from the Keweenaw"**

PRESENTED BY: Chris Stefano

**"Minerals in the Movies"**

PRESENTED BY: Wendell Wilson

**In the Sonoran Ballroom**

(north of the Lobby)

Social Time: 6:30pm

Presentation: 7:30pm

\* The program will follow the presentation of the annual *American Mineral Heritage Award*.

Everyone is welcome!



Courtesy of Mineralogical Record



# AN EVENING WITH THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD



## CHRISTOPHER STEFANO

The evening's first lecture will be a look at "World Class Minerals from the Keweenaw." Fabulous native copper and native silver specimens are the stars of the show, especially the coppers enclosed in clear calcite. Chris Stefano, *The Mineralogical Record's* new Staff Editor, will bring his extensive knowledge of Michigan's Copper Country that he gained from

his years as Curator of the fabulous Seaman Mineral Museum in Houghton, Michigan. Not only Seaman specimens but fine examples from museums and private collections around the world will be featured.

Born in Cleveland, Chris earned his bachelor's degree in Geology from Kent State University (*Cum Laude* 2004), then went on to the University of Michigan where he was a Graduate Student Instructor, receiving his PhD in Igneous Petrology in 2010. Following graduation he did Postdoctoral work at the University of Michigan, and was hired as Associate Curator at the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum (Michigan Technological University).

Chris first became seriously interested in minerals when he took a mineralogy class at Kent State University under the late Ernest Carlson. He found that he had a talent for sight identification of minerals and became fascinated by the stories the minerals could tell about the history of the Earth. He learned about mineral collecting as a serious hobby when he attended a small mineral show near Kent and met Bill and Anne Cook there. He learned more about the hobby in general from Bill Barr in Ann Arbor, Michigan, than from any other single individual. Chris met Bill after starting graduate school at the University of Michigan and joining the local Huron Hills Lapidary and Mineral Society. Soon Chris was an avid attendee at major mineral shows, beginning with Denver in 2009 and Tucson in 2012.

In 2006, while still in graduate school, he established his own mineral business on the side, selling specimens on eBay, but it was always just a part-time activity. He played a significant role in selling parts of the Robert Nowakowski (Detroit, Michigan) collection and the Robert Rothenberg (Oneonta, New York) micromount collection. He also led an effort to sell off the Charles Noll (Milwaukee, Wisconsin) collection while at Michigan Tech, which enabled the museum to acquire the most significant specimens in that collection. He ceased dealing in minerals in 2013, so as not to be in conflict with his curatorial duties. Chris also played a key role in the creation of the Michigan Mineral Alliance, under which the University of Michigan's important mineral collection was transferred to the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum for curation and exhibit.

Chris's personal collection consists primarily of thumbnail-size specimens, focusing on exceptional examples of rare species. He got started by collecting minerals in Ohio and southern Michigan, hunting for common species like fluorite, celestine, sphalerite and calcite. He also keeps worldwide examples of these same species. Highlights of his collection include a rare mimetite and wulfenite epimorph after a cerussite twin from Death Valley, California, and one of the best despujolsite crystals from the recent discovery at the N'Chwaning III mine in South Africa. Chris also has a small collection of micromounts, mostly extremely rare species. He has enjoyed field-collecting in the quarries of northwestern Ohio, in the northern Michigan iron and copper mines, at Magnet Cove in Arkansas, and at various other localities from New York to Bancroft, Ontario and Southern California.

A few years ago Chris acquired over 50 historical specimens from the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences collection. Building this suite was a key inspiration for his interest in the history of mineralogy and mineral collecting. Included among these vintage specimens is a group of pink elbaite crystals in matrix from Chesterfield, Massachusetts, collected by William MacLure (1763-1840), who is credited with drawing the first geologic map of the United States.

Before joining *The Mineralogical Record* as a staff editor in 2019, Chris published a number of articles of collector interest in *Rocks & Minerals* magazine: "Lucius Lee Hubbard: One of the Copper Country's Greatest Mineral Collectors" (with W. Barr, 2018), "Who's Who in Mineral Names: Rodney C. Ewing" (2017), "List of Selected Geological Museums in the Midwest" (2017), "Mimetite Epimorphs after Cerussite, Death Valley, California" (2016), "The Life and Collection of Eberhardt W. Heinrich" (2015), and "The Mineral Collection at the University of Michigan" (with K. Erwin and R. C. Ewing, 2013).

Chris has received numerous awards for his work as curator: Best Educational Exhibit by an Institution (Tucson Show, 2019), the Clayton Gibson Memorial Trophy for Best Museum Exhibit (Tucson Show, 2018), the Donna Chirnside Trophy for Excellence in Museum Exhibits (Denver Show, 2011), Most Educational Exhibit (Southeast Michigan Gem and Mineral Show, 2013), and the Mineral Investigator Award (in recognition of stolen specimen recovery, University of Michigan, 2008).



## WENDELL WILSON

In the second lecture, Wendell Wilson will provide an entertaining look at "Minerals in the Movies," focusing on the role that minerals have played in five motion pictures dating from 1937 (Walt Disney's "Sleeping Beauty") to 1995 ("Congo")—with some surprises in between.

Most serious mineral collectors world-wide are familiar with *The*

*Mineralogical Record* magazine and with its long-time Editor-in-Chief, Wendell Wilson—who has held that post for 44 of the last 50 years. During that time he has bootstrapped the magazine from a minimally illustrated, 32-page black-and-white publication to an award-winning, full-color journal that typically publishes over 1,000 pages per year. In fact, Wendell has overseen the publication of over 30,000 pages during his tenure. In addition, he has served as the magazine's Graphic Designer and has written over 230 major articles since his first article on Arizona's Apache mine appeared in 1971 - just a year after the magazine was founded.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Duluth Campus, on the shore of Lake Superior, Wendell carried a double-major in Art and Geology, then went on to earn a Master's Degree in Mineralogy at Arizona State University. "I spent half my time in classes and half in abandoned underground mines collecting minerals," he says—perfect preparation for his present job. In the years since then he has written in-depth articles on many of Arizona's most famous mineral localities, including the Rowley, Hilltop, Hill Top, Red Cloud, Ford, Morenci, Metcalf, Old Yuma, Flux, Carlotta, Total Wreck, Castle Dome, North Geronimo, Iron Cap, Glove, Ray and 79 mines.

After earning his M.S. Degree he went on to earn his PhD at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, where he worked on the Lunar samples and on rubidium/strontium age dating of Minnesota's oldest rocks. After graduating he was hired by *The Mineralogical Record* founder John White to take over as Editor in 1976, and the rest is history. Wendell ultimately moved the offices of *The Mineralogical Record* to Tucson in 1980 and has produced the magazine from there ever since. His love of Arizona mineralogy has resulted, over the years, in the publication of seven special issues and two supplements to *The Mineralogical Record* devoted to Arizona, and he is also a coauthor of *Mineralogy of Arizona* (1995).

Honors have been many: the new species minrecordite (1982) and wendwilsonite (1987) were named in honor of the magazine and of Wendell, respectively, and both the magazine and Wendell have also been recipients of the Carnegie Mineralogical Award (1994 and 2001). The magazine has also won numerous printing industry awards for its high quality of graphic design, illustrations and printing.

Wendell began his first mineral collection in 1956, at the age of ten, while on vacation with his family in Duluth. Local mineral dealers Rocky Quinn and Adeline Hector showed him their

collections, and he was hooked. Thereafter every rock shop on the highway was a must-see. Minerals have remained his passion ever since. In 2013 Wendell received the two highest awards in mineral collecting: the Paul Desautels Trophy and the Walt Lidstrom Memorial Award for specimens exhibited at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show.

He was also a pioneer in high-quality mineral photography which helped set the standard for later mineral magazines published in countries around the world; he is the earliest/oldest photographer profiled in the book *The Grandmasters of Mineral Photography* (2004), published in Russia by *Mineralogical Almanac*.

Wendell has also maintained a long-standing interest in antiquarian mineral books, especially those containing mineral illustrations (a conjoining of his parallel interests in mineralogy and art). Over the years he has published studies of numerous early authors and their works including Conrad Gesner (1516-1565), Johannes Kentmann (1518-1574), Georg Everhard Rumpf (1637-1706), Nehemiah Grew (1641-1712), Albertus Seba (1665-1736), Johann Ernst Hebenstreit (1702-1757), Johann Caspar Zeisig (1720-1755), Christian Ludwig Stieglitz (1724-1772), Franz Xavier von Wulfen (1728-1805), Philip Rashleigh (1729-1811), Pierre Joseph Buc'hoz (1731-1807), Dmitrii Alekseevich Golitsyn (1734-1803), Jean-Baptiste Romé Delisle (1736-1790), Fabien Gautier d'Agoty (1747-1781), Johann Georg Lenz. (1748-1832), Joseph von Baumeister (1750-1819), Nickolay Ivanovitch Koksharov (1818-1893) and Victor Goldschmidt (1853-1933). His Antiquarian Reprint Series has rescued a dozen such very rare works from near extinction.

Wendell's most important historical publication is probably his 243-page *History of Mineral Collecting, 1530-1799* (1994), although it must vie with his online Biographical Archive of over 1,900 biographies of mineral collectors, dealers and curators, with nearly 5,000 illustrations.

In his limited spare time Wendell continues to produce mineral and mining-related art, especially oil paintings and watercolors. Over 100 examples of his artworks are currently posted online in *The Mineralogical Record* Museum of Art, along with over 1,000 artworks by 50 other mineral artists.





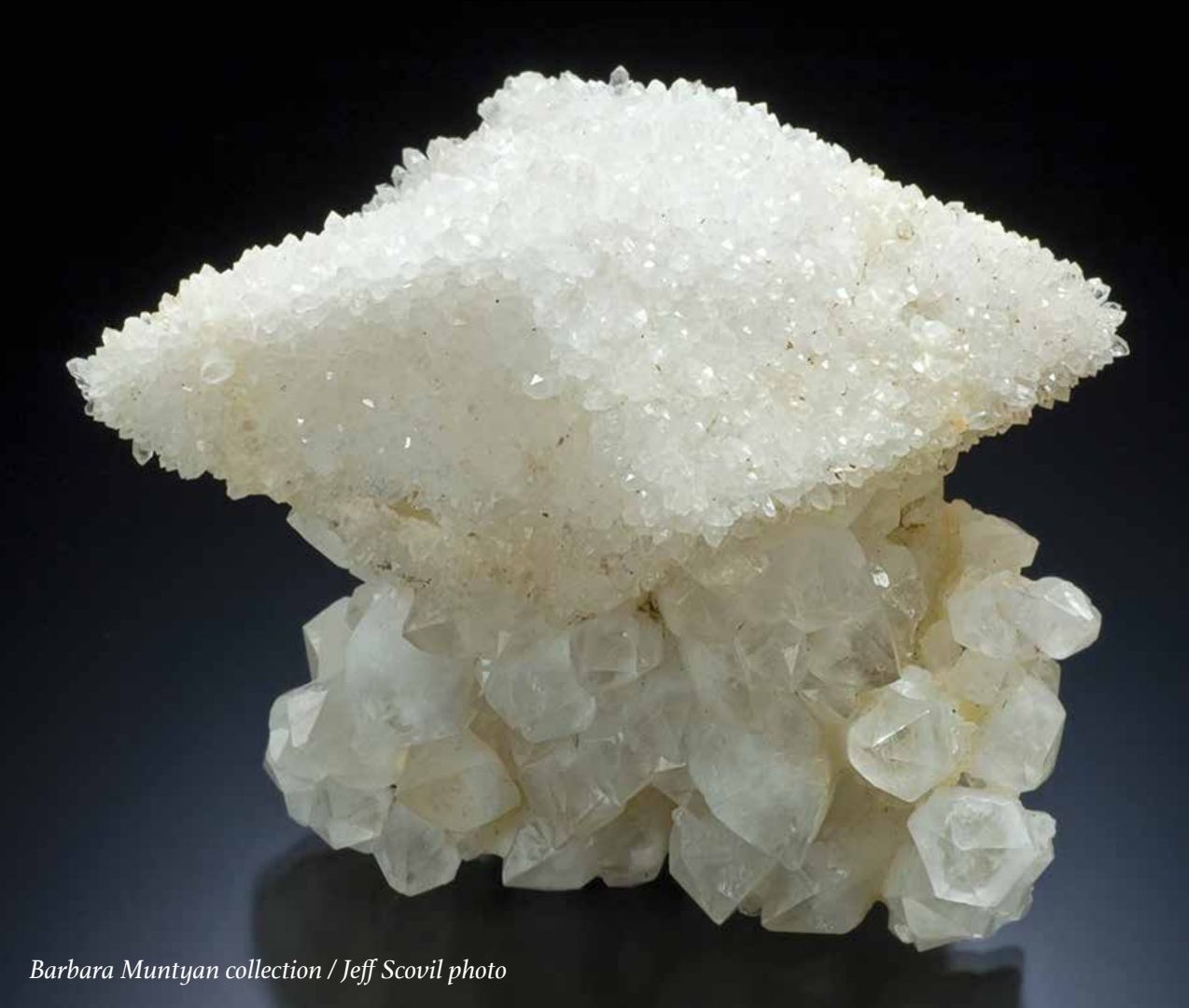
SPECIMEN SHOWCASE - META GROUP



Grandidierite - Alex Schauss collection



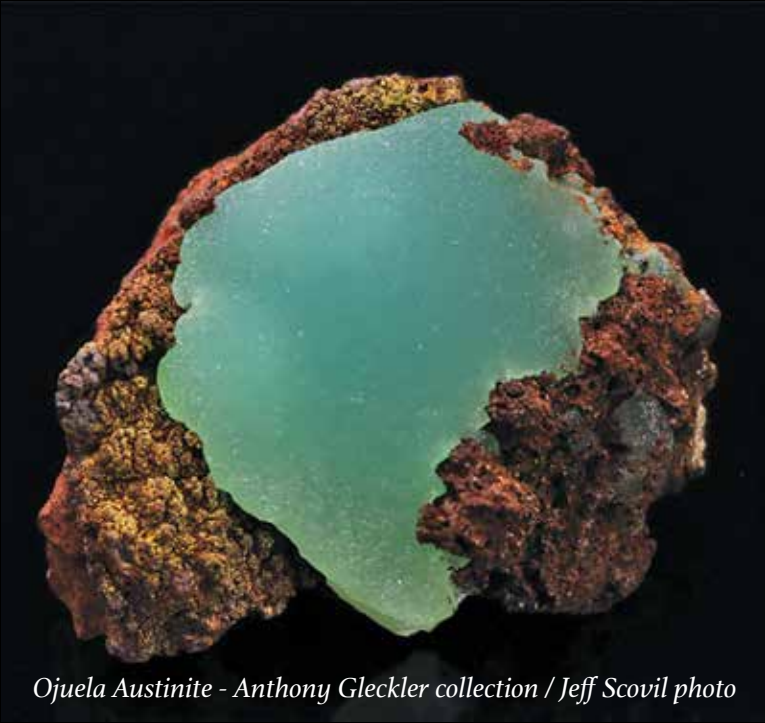
Silver - Alex Schauss collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Barbara Muntyan collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Marialite - Alex Schauss collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Ojuela Austinite - Anthony Gleckler collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Rhodochrosite - Peter Megaw collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Francis Sousa collection



SPECIMEN SHOWCASE - META GROUP



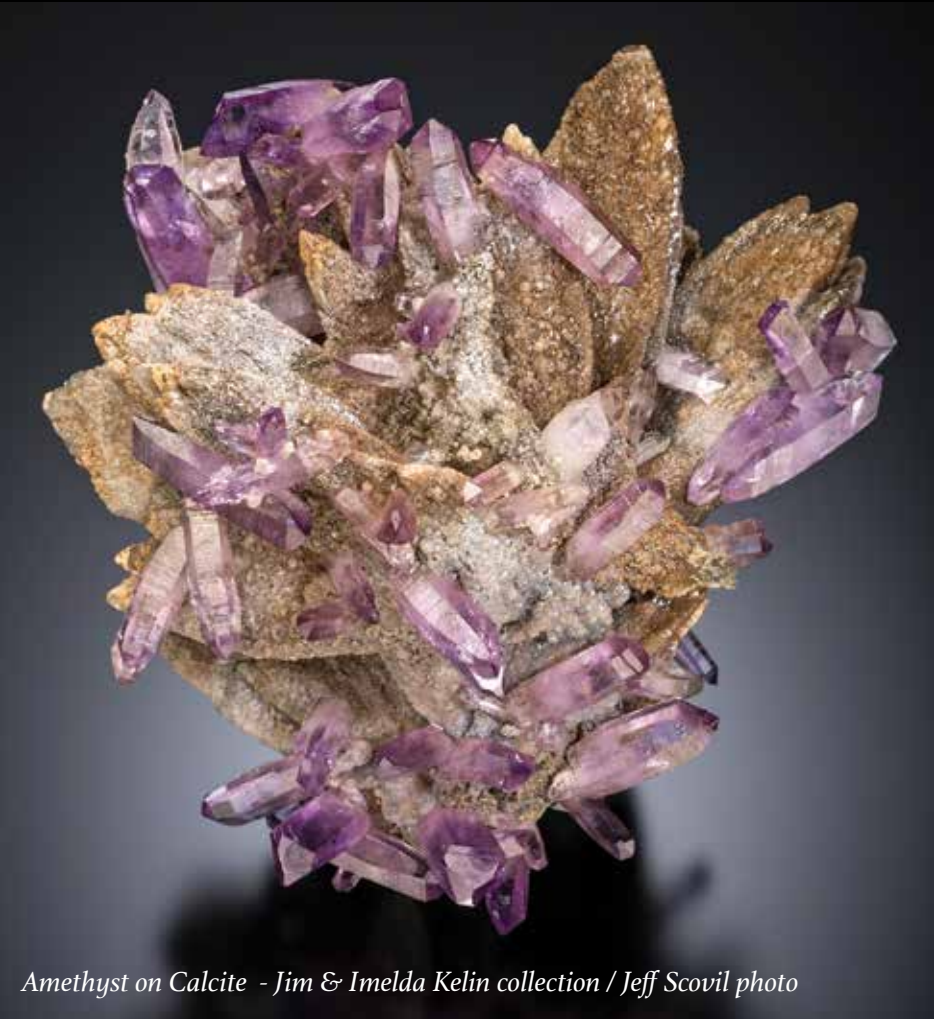
Barbara Muntyan collection/ Jeff Scovil photo



Bill Besse collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Bill Besse collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Amethyst on Calcite - Jim & Imelda Kelin collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Smithsonite with Adamite - Jim & Imelda Kelin collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Francis Sousa collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Amazonite - Barbara Muntyan collection / Jeff Scovil photo



SPECIMEN SHOWCASE - META GROUP



Wulfenite - Alex Schauss collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Smithsonite after Calcite - Peter Megaw collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Wittichenite - Alex Schauss collection



Calcite - Jim & Imelda Kelin collection  
Jeff Scovil photo



Francis Sousa collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Legrandite - Peter Megaw collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Copper after Cuprite - Alex Schauss collection



Calcite - Peter Megaw collection / Jeff Scovil photo

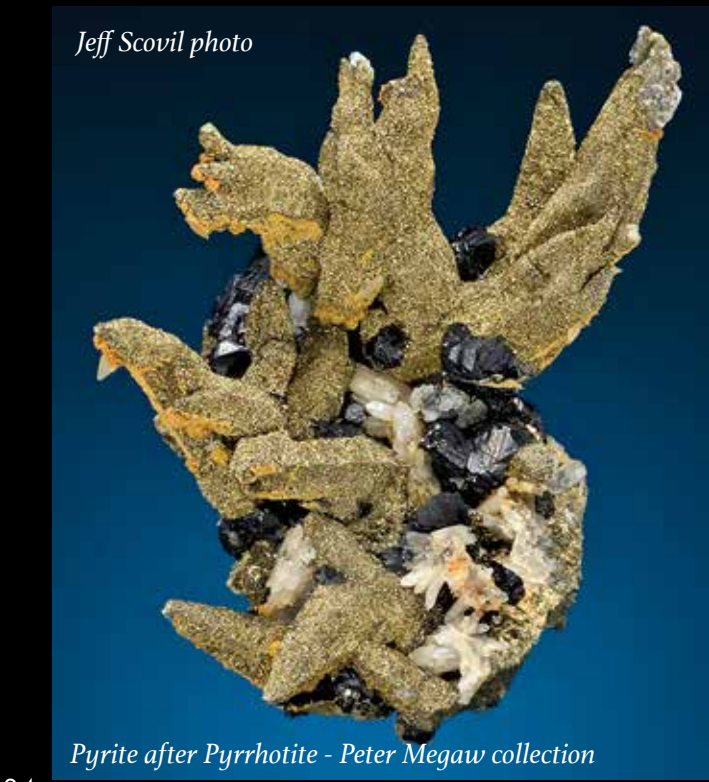




Wulfenite Mimetite - Anthony Gleckler collection



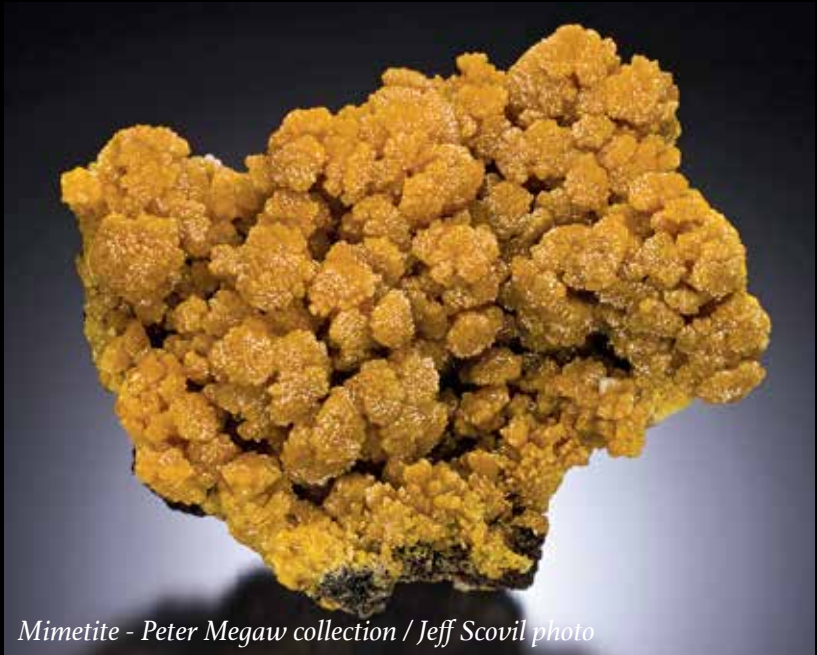
Paradamite - Ronald Pellar collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Pyrite after Pyrrhotite - Peter Megaw collection



Rhodochrosite - Peter Megaw collection / Jeff Scovil photo



Mimetite - Peter Megaw collection / Jeff Scovil photo

BOB'S CORNER - WORLD CLASS MINERALS

BY BOB JONES

Every year the exhibits at the famous Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® seem to exceed expectations. Museums and private collectors vie for the attention of visitors as they exhibit their very best minerals, based on the theme chosen by the show committee. Each year the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® theme is different, and always exciting. The Fine Mineral Show also offers a different special exhibit each year, featuring either a museum or private collection. This year, in the Westward Look resort lobby, the minerals will not be from a museum, but from some of Tucson's finest private collections. The minerals will represent the collections of a small group of expert local mineral collectors - Mineral Enthusiasts of the Tucson Area (META).

META members have chosen specimens from collections assembled over countless decades of collecting. They really know fine minerals, with the extensive experience of working as volunteers or dealers at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®, where they have seen the best on exhibit. Participation in the show has given these collectors many opportunities not only to study world class minerals, but to acquire them as well. They will be sharing their knowledge and some of their minerals, with show visitors on Saturday, in the Westward Look lobby.

What may prove to be even more exciting for visitors, will be the time to chat with the members of the META group. Their cumulative knowledge of world class minerals, collecting in Arizona, and working at the Main Show is profound. You can meet and chat with this special group of collectors between 10A.M. and 4 P.M.

Chatting about minerals at length with collectors whose minerals are on display seldom happens at the Main Show, but here you can! Every mineral in the display is selected for a reason and every collector has lively and interesting stories to tell about their minerals. They all love to talk about their minerals, so it is an opportunity to get to know these collectors and enjoy hearing about their experiences. This small but exquisite exhibit is really special. You'll also have the opportunity to take photos of superb minerals, whether they are spectacular or historically significant, or not!

The META exhibit is not the only exciting event during the days of the Fine Mineral Show at The Westward Look. The Sunday evening program is the traditional special social event in the hotel's Sonoran Ballroom. This is the premier social hour in Tucson. It starts at 6:30 P.M. with a delightful social hour, a real mixer where you get to chat with all the friends you missed in your travels around the many shows in the area.

At 7:30, the formal program begins and will feature two talks and the all important presentation of the very deserving American Mineral Heritage Award, which recognizes someone among us who has made major contributions to our mineral hobby through diligent collecting. The award will be presented by Dr. Gene Meieran. The American Mineral Heritage Award Committee receives nominations and selects someone from the large list of collectors nominated each year. This award is sponsored by *The Mineralogical Record* magazine, which was born in 1970, as the brain child of John White.

For the Sunday Main Event, the speaker will be Chris Stefano, newly added to the staff of *The Mineralogical Record* after years of diligent work with minerals at Michigan Tech on the Keweenaw Peninsula. The entire collecting world knows well the amazing copper, silver and other species that came forth from the mines of the Keweenaw for a century or more. Chris' talk will feature world class minerals from Michigan's famous copper country.

The second talk will be by *The Mineralogical Record's* Editor-in-Chief, Wendell Wilson. His talk is, "Minerals in the Movies," a title that instantly arouses my curiosity. Being an old black-and-white movie fan, I don't recall much in the way of minerals being important in the movies... aside from gold. I do recall a wonderful full-color movie titled "Green Fire," a story of emerald mining in Colombia, starring Stewart Grange, Grace Kelly, and Paul Douglas. Beyond that, my mind draws a blank. You can bet I'll be in a front row seat when Wendell tells us all about the minerals that have been in the movies. It is a talk none of us should miss.



From Francis Sousa's collection - META Group



# THE STATE OF MINERAL COLLECTING FROM THE YOUNGER PERSPECTIVE

LAUREN MEGAW



If I had a dollar for every time I've heard, "there are no young mineral collectors," I could buy a really nice mineral specimen! The decline of the mineral collecting hobby once seemed like an inevitable reality.

However, that assumption is wrong, and the nearly 900 members of the Young Mineral Collector's group would argue that point. The group was founded at the Denver Mineral Show in September of 2018 by myself and Gawan Fiore. The group is hosted on the Facebook platform, becoming an online community for young collectors worldwide to gather. Whereas prior generations' communities are the products of shows, this community is based online. In many ways it is different, but at the core, they are the same: a group of people who share a passion for minerals.

Many young collectors purchase some of their specimens online. They buy off websites, but also via a thriving market on social media. For example, there are mineral dealers with thousands, tens of thousands, and even a hundred thousand "followers!" That is a tremendous number of people engaging with minerals! Not all are regular or major buyers... yet. However, this does showcase the mass appeal of minerals.

This isn't a harbinger for the end of the mineral shows we love like the Westward Look Show. Minerals are still a physical commodity. The desire to see, hold, and inspect specimens personally is an intrinsic part of the hobby. Statistics on buying preferences done by Matt McGill, one of the many fantastic YMC group moderators, suggests that about 50% of young collectors prefer to buy their specimens at shows!

Additionally, we can say that the rumors of only collecting thumbnails and flashy minerals are not true. Collecting philosophies within the group are as diverse as the more mature set of collectors. For example, there are aesthetically-driven collectors, thumbnail collectors, species collectors, locality collectors, habit and morphology collectors, micromounters, and even Pokemon look-alike collectors!

There is a contingent of YMC members who already regularly attend shows, and a significant percentage of the group hopes to attend one for the first time soon. However, since the group is composed of people in their teens, 20s, and 30s, the constraints of school and fledgling careers make going to shows less feasible.

Travel, lodging, and food cut into a mineral budget considerably. There are efforts underway to showcase the importance of attending events, especially highlighting the educational value of seeing a vast array of specimens and meeting members of the community. Luckily, access to programs such as BlueCap Productions' "What's Hot" series allows everyone to get a glimpse of the minerals at the big shows if they physically can't be there.

At this year's Tucson show, there will be a pod of YMC cases including three group cases alongside seven "Collector Spotlight" cases highlighting individual collections (and one collaboration). Besides our "World Class" case there will be a "Specimens Acquired for Under \$100" case, highlighting the breadth of the collectors' resourcefulness. Young collectors tend to have less disposable income than the more established set, so many have to be strategic with their acquisitions. By saving up for one big piece, working-off mineral specimens, studying the mineral periodicals to recognize better "sleepers," dealing to fund their collection, and field collecting many in this younger generation have built fine mineral collections. While our spending power may be less at the moment, the future looks bright for our continued pursuit of fine minerals! Be prepared to see more young collectors at shows like the Westward Look in the future!

The mineral collecting world is composed of fantastic people, and shows like the Westward Look are a great place to meet and foster relationships with other collectors. If you have the bandwidth, whether you're a collector or a dealer, consider mentoring a younger member of the community.

If you want to learn more about the future of the hobby, Matt McGill - a YMC moderator - will be giving a talk on the "Modernization of the Mineral Collecting Hobby" this year at the Tellus Mineral Symposium on March 21st, 2020. Matt has been working with Erin Delventhal to poll collectors and create demographics, comparing collecting styles and perceptions in order to explore possible solutions for the disconnect between the two groups.

Visit Young Mineral Collector's Facebook page:  
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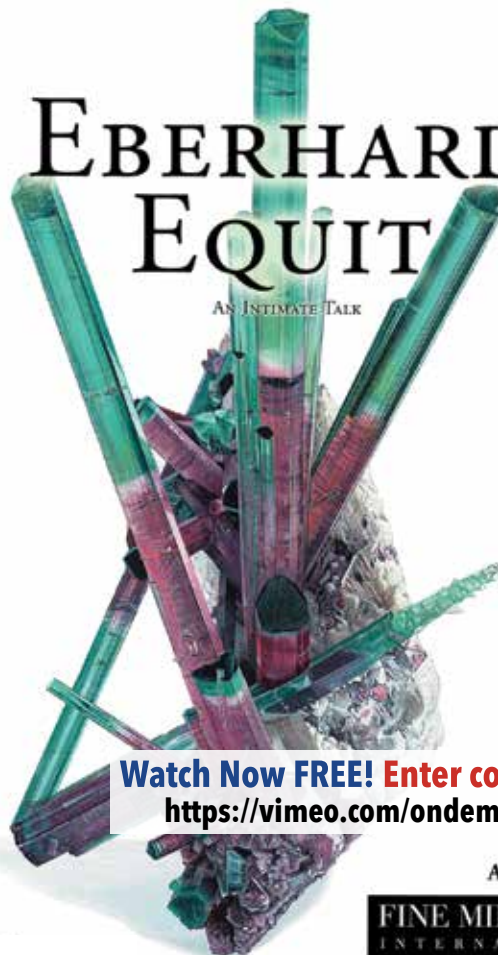
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