
What's New in the Mineral World?



Report #36
November 14, 2013

by **Thomas P. Moore**
The Mineralogical
Record
TPMoore1@cox.net



Cool weather has at last come to Tucson, and since early September a few cool specimens have come to my collection as well, most of them acquired at the big shows in Denver and Munich. Here, though, is what could be the start of a Christmas-indulgence list for some visitors to this column: a selection of what's-new items being offered online at this pleasant time of falling leaves and chilled evenings...



Clinoatacamite, 5.6 cm, from the Lily mine near Pisco, Pisco Province, Ica Department, Peru. *Trinity Minerals* specimen; John Veevaert photo.

In my print report on the Munich Show (in January-February 2014), you will read of a new find of atacamite and the very rare **clinoatacamite** in the Lily mine, Pisco Province, Ica Department, Peru. In 1998 this copper mine began giving up beautiful specimens showing transparent, colorless gypsum crystals densely included by brilliant green secondary copper species (see the cover of the May-June 2000 issue), and since then it has been found that the included crystals once thought to be brochantite are atacamite whereas the crystals once thought to be paratacamite are clinoatacamite. The new specimens show prismatic atacamite crystals and (smaller) equant clinoatacamite crystals resting on cavity walls with drusy quartz and chrysocolla-stained calcite. At Munich, John Veevaert of *Trinity Minerals* was trolling, as usual, for things to buy and resell, and he landed the two superb miniatures of Lily mine clinoatacamite now offered on his site (trinityminerals.com). On the piece shown here, the deep forest-green clinoatacamite crystals reach 1 cm. The species identity has been confirmed by tests carried out by Jaroslav Hyršl.



Zirconolite, 1.2 cm, from Kyauk Tha Mountain, Mogok district, Myanmar. *Trinity Minerals* specimen; John Veevaert photo.

Trinity Minerals also has four thumbnail-size specimens of the extremely rare **zirconolite** ($\text{CaZrTi}_2\text{O}_7$), from an alluvial deposit near Kyauk Tha Mountain, Mogok district, Mandalay Division, Myanmar (Burma). John says he picked up these newly discovered crystals from Bill Larson (“Burma Bill”) at the Munich show—but I didn’t see them there myself, hence they’re not noted (as the Peruvian clinoatacamite is) in the print report. Admittedly the zirconolite crystals are not things of beauty: they are prismatic, dull black (though some are more lustrous than others) loose individuals, John Veevaert’s four crystals ranging in size from 6 mm to 1.3 cm. But probably they are the best specimens ever found of this exotic species; John asks \$1000 for the crystal shown here.

Before leaving the *Trinity Minerals* site, don't forget to scroll through the "back pages," with miscellaneous superb specimens of all kinds arranged in price categories. In the \$600-\$1000 section, for instance, are three outstanding small-cabinet-size specimens of **silver in arsenic** from the 1991 find in the Tellerhäuser mine near Pöhla, western Erzgebirge, Upper Saxony, Germany (most dealers mark these specimens "Pöhla mine" but in fact the Tellerhäuser is another small mine southeast of the town of Pöhla, almost on the Czech border). Sharp, bright white dendrites of native silver lie like fallen leaves all over the surfaces of dark gray hunks of native arsenic (the specimens are prepared by etching in oxalic acid), and no other silver ever found anywhere partakes of quite *this* style of attractiveness. And most of John's other back-page specimens are just as "classic" and classy as that.



Silver dendrites on native arsenic, 8.1 cm, from the Tellerhäuser mine near Pöhla, Obersachsen, Germany. *Trinity Minerals* specimen; John Veevaert photo.

Good stocks of two colorful items which have been seen at recent shows are now available on the site of *Wright's Rock Shop* (wrightsrockshop.com). First, Chris Wright has a whole gallery full of the dramatically bright red-orange **quartz** specimens now emerging from diggings on the South African side of the Orange River (which marks the border between northwestern South Africa and southernmost Namibia), these specimens ranging from loose single crystals of thumbnail size to clusters of miniature size to larger—and much rarer—matrix specimens. The main strike of "Orange Quartz" (the nickname referring both to the color and to the provenance of the material) happened in September 2011, and small selections appeared with a couple of dealers at the 2013 Tucson show. These specimens' brilliant luster results from the fact that the crystals, already infused with the red hematite responsible for their color, were overgrown later by

transparent, colorless, highly lustrous quartz. Some of the loose single crystals are doubly terminated and very cute. Shown here is of Chris's fine but less familiar matrix pieces.



“Orange” quartz on matrix, 6.2 cm, from the Orange River, Northern Cape Province, South Africa. *Wright’s Rock Shop* specimen and photo.



Turquoise, 2.5 cm, from the Mineral Park mine, Kingman, Arizona. *Wright’s Rock Shop* specimen and photo.

Also with *Wright's Rock Shop* right now are about a dozen specimens of the new **turquoise** being dug by Paul Cory of ITECO at the Mineral Park mine near Kingman, Mohave County, Arizona. As you will read also in the 2013 Denver Show report (in the forthcoming January-February 2014 issue), this mine yields mostly standard, massive, lapidary-grade turquoise, but some clayey seams have produced flattened clusters of little spheres of turquoise microcrystals; the form of the specimens is interesting, and the color is a strong baby-blue. Chris Wright's specimens range from thumbnail size to 4.8 cm.



Alabandite, 3 cm, from the Merelani mines, Arusha, Tanzania. *Marin Minerals* specimen and photo.

A few years ago we were surprised to learn that the Uchucchacua silver mine in Peru was yielding what are by far the world's best specimens of the rare manganese sulfide **alabandite**, and in fall 2013, at the Denver Show, we were even more surprised at the news that a second, almost as good, locality for alabandite crystals had come to light, and that it was the Merelani tanzanite mines in Arusha, Tanzania. Having seen a few of the Merelani alabandites in Denver, and a few more in Munich, I have been looking for them online as well...and it turns out that Californian Mike Keim of *Marin Minerals* (marinmineral.com) is the man with the goods. A September 17 posting on the *Marin Minerals* site offers about 20 loose, octahedral and cuboctahedral crystals of Merelani alabandite, 1.4 to 6 cm, dull black and all incomplete to one degree or another, but sharply formed and, most of all, *large* for the species. And, as if to verify the locality, some crystals have tiny blue tanzanite crystals hitching rides on their faces. The 3-cm crystal shown here is sharper than most, and is priced at \$950. This site also offers other

nice things from the Merelani mines, e.g. specimens of **axinite-(Mg)**, bright green **tremolite** and gemmy green “**tsavorite**” garnets. And on another recent update Mike shows off some loose, complete, thumbnail-size **wiluite** crystals from the Vilyui River Basin, eastern Siberia, Russia. If you’re still calling these crystals vesuvianite, as was the practice before 1998, when wiluite was distinguished as a new species of the vesuvianite group, well then it’s time to get with the program—and maybe pick up one of these elegant little crystals for your collection as well. Why not?—once common around the market, they are getting harder to find.



Wiluite, 2.5 cm, from the Vilyui River Basin, Sakha (Yakutia), Siberia, Russia. *Marin Minerals* specimen and photo.

The new **mimetite** specimens from the Ojuela mine, Durango, Mexico have been around for some months now, but it’s time that you saw a picture of one in this space. Of a different style than that of any previous finds of mimetite at Ojuela, these are groups of club-shaped, bright yellow and yellow-orange “stalagmites” attached loosely at the bases: very good thumbnails and miniatures of the material are (still) to be found on Geoff Krasnov’s *Geokrazy Minerals* site (geokrazy.com).



Mimetite, 3.5 cm, from the Ojuela mine, Mapimí, Durango, Mexico. *Geokrazy Minerals* specimen; Geoff Krasnov photo.



Cu-rich adamite, 5 cm, from the Hilarion mine, Laurium, Attika, Greece. *Fabre Minerals* specimen and photo.

In his early October “pre-Munich update,” Jordi Fabre of *Fabre Minerals* (fabreminerals.com) shows off some specimens from a May 2013 find of **copper-rich adamite** in the old workings of the Hilarion mine, Laurium, Attika, Greece (Isaias Casanova of *IC Minerals*, icminerals.com, picked up some of these at the Denver Show too). Lustrous blue-green aggregates of adamite microcrystals line open seams and cavities in earthy brown limonite. The occurrence of adamite, especially the greenish Cu-

rich adamite, in the Laurium district has been known since ancient times (literally: these mines may date back as far as 1000 B.C.), but the new pieces are quite fine for the locality.



Axinite-(Fe), 6.3 cm, from Sayán, Huaura, Lima Department, Peru. Rosell Minerals specimen and photo.

The dealership websites named above have been cited before more than once—in some cases many more times than once—in these online reports, and doubtless they will be named again because, simply, these are among the dealers who (1) have excellent “eyes” for specimens, (2) have excellent sources and contacts, and (3) specialize, generally, in new occurrences. But I am pleased to say that the present report will introduce *six* dealerships not named in any of the previous 35 reports. Some of these are new to the web itself while others are making the news (*my* news) for the first time, but anyway it is a pleasure to welcome them all to the little world of “what’s new online.”

In this and the next two sections, three of these newbies are introduced—beginning with Spanish dealer Joan Rosell of *Rosell Minerals* (rosellminerals.com), whose November update features some very attractive new specimens of **axinite-(Fe)** from a recent discovery at Sayán, Huaura, Lima Department, Peru. The rounded, spiky, dense clusters of lustrous brown crystals, the clusters reaching 6 cm, have small, attached crystals of quartz, clinocllore and epidote. Speaking of **epidote**, in the same November update Señor Rosell also offers four miniatures of that species from the new find (noted in Denver) in a roadcut at Concesión Morgan 3, Coayllo, Cañete, Lima Department: these are groups of short-prismatic epidote crystals to 4 cm, typically pistachio-green and lustrous, with most crystals showing good terminations. And Señor Rosell has a few Spanish classics as well, for example a couple of miniatures with green octahedral crystals of **fluorite** to nearly 1 cm strewn thickly over granite matrix; these were found in 2001 in the Berta quarry, El Papiol near Barcelona, Catalunya, Spain.



Epidote, 3.5 cm, from Concesión Morgan 3, Coaylo, Cañete, Lima Department, Peru. *Rosell Minerals* specimen and photo.



Fluorite, 6.5 cm, from the Berta quarry, El Papiol near Barcelona, Catalunya, Spain. *Rosell Minerals* specimen and photo.



Cerussite, 8 cm, from the Lescure mine, Mayres, Ardeche, France. *Viamineralia* specimen and photo.

Next we have a dealership new to the web: *Viamineralia* (viamineralia.com), just inaugurated by two Austrians, Robert Kunze and Martin Gruell, who, to judge from their thumbnail bios on the home page, are highly knowledgeable about, and in total love with, fine minerals. Among the miscellaneous new, mostly European, specimens offered here is a cabinet-size cluster of **cerussite** crystals, with individuals to 2.5 cm long, from a just-revived locality, the Lescure mine at Mayres, Ardeche, France: see my 2013 Ste.-Marie-aux-Mines report in September-October 2013 for a quick scoop. The cerussite crystals on specimens newly found in this old lead mine are prismatic, white and opaque, with the best of them having an appealing silky luster. *Viamineralia*'s piece (shown here) is one of the largest I've seen. And have you ever seen or heard of a fine specimen of **gwindel quartz** from Slovakia? The one-of-a-kind *Viamineralia* piece, 9 cm across, is lustrous, colorless and quite handsome-looking, and is from a place called Tlsty Javor in the Banska Bystrica region of central Slovakia. The Austrians say that it's "one of only three that [have been] found in the whole country"



Quartz gwindel, 9 cm, from Tlsty Javor, Banska Bystrica region, Slovakia. *Viamineralia* specimen and photo.



Stilbite, 4.4 cm, from Awatere Station, Blenheim, South Island, New Zealand. *Rough Country Minerals* specimen and photo.

Another dealership new to this space is Dave Blakemore's *Rough Country Minerals* (roughcountryminerals.com), the "rough country" in question being New Zealand, whose minerals are not often seen in the international marketplace. Now being marketed on this site, among other things, are some decent-looking white **calcite** crystal groups, to 11 cm across, from the Golden Cross mine, Whahi, Coromandel, New Zealand, and some pretty specimens consisting of solid blankets of bright orange-pink **stilbite** crystals on brown matrix, from Awatere Station, Blenheim, South Island, New Zealand.



Shattuckite, 13.5 cm, from Anhui Province, China. *Khyber Minerals* specimen and photo.

Young, enterprising, mineral-infatuated Ibrahim Jameel runs the rich website of *Khyber Minerals* (khyberminerals.com), wherein a September 4 update has a few large specimens (7.6 – 13.8 cm) from a new find of **shattuckite** somewhere in Anhui Province, China; Ibrahim says that the material debuted in May at the brand-new Changsha, China show. Fuzzy, pale blue hemispheres of shattuckite microcrystals are solidly intergrown to form wide, flattish specimens—not as spectacular as the best of Namibia's shattuckites

but highly promising. Ibrahim also has three excellent cabinet-size specimens of **tennantite** from the Julcani district, Angaraes Province, Huancavelica Department, Peru, showing very sharp, pyrite-coated, tetrahedral crystals scattered thickly on matrix; these are from “more recent workings” at Julcani.



Tennantite, 11.1 cm, from the Julcani district, Angaraes Province, Huancavelica Department, Peru. *Khyber Minerals* specimen and photo.



Rhodonite, 3.3 cm, from the Broken Hill mine, New South Wales, Australia. *Andy Seibel Minerals* specimen and photo.

In my last online report I devoted generous space to the Bill McBride collection, recently purchased by Andy Seibel and now being marketed on his site (andyseibel.com). This collection, mostly of thumbnails and miniatures, is rich in unusual specimens from a few decades back, many from Japanese and Australian localities, and now I am happy to say that several *new* pages on Andy's site offer specimens from the collection which were not shown earlier. As examples, consider this fine **rhodonite** from Broken Hill (shown above)—a doubly terminated, 3-cm crystal on a shard of galena—and this superb **gratonite** (shown below) from the world's only serious locality for the rare Pb sulfosalt, namely the Excelsior mine, Cerro de Pasco, Pasco Department, Peru.



Gratonite, 2.2 cm, from the Excelsior mine, Cerro de Pasco, Pasco Department, Peru. Andy Seibel Minerals specimen and photo.



Wollastonite, 3.1 cm, from Wakefield, Outaouais, Quebec, Canada. David K. Joyce Minerals specimen and photo.

Another of the deserving repeat visitors to this column is *David K. Joyce Minerals* (davidkjoyceminerals.com), where we often learn of new finds from Canada. This time it's **wollastonite** crystals from Wakefield, Outaouais, Quebec, as a handful of specimens collected in December 2012 by Phillippe Belley. These are miniature-size groups of well formed, terminated, short-prismatic, pearly white crystals, with individuals reaching 4 cm. Originally embedded in calcite, the wollastonite groups have been expertly liberated and now must be counted among the best known for this species (which seldom, let's face it, makes macrospecimens that would impress your great-aunt; these new ones, though not colorful, are quite good).

This report concludes with bulletins from three more previously unmentioned websites. The Dutch dealership called *Magma Minerals* (magma-minerals.smugmug.com) has been offering specimens from the Elmwood mine, Tennessee, and from other mid-U.S. localities for many years. Its latest offerings are especially fine; and besides, really good material from Elmwood is getting scarcer close to "home." As you might infer from the Elmwood fluorite specimen (already sold) pictured here, many of these midwestern U.S. pieces that now find themselves, oddly enough, in the flat, muddy Netherlands, awaiting adoption, are very fine, and there are many more Elmwood pieces where that fluorite came from: see the recent fall updates on the *Magma* site.



Fluorite, 10 cm, from the Elmwood mine, Smith County, Tennessee. *Magma Minerals* specimen and photo.

Sound Minerals (soundminerals.com) is a new Seattle-based company, headed by Jasun Light Cosgrove, which specializes in gem crystals and which launched its website in 2011. Check out the site's good selection of worldwide gemmy items, e.g. this 9.3-cm **kunzite spodumene**, collected in the mid-1970s by Loren Beebe at the Beebe Hole mine, Tule Mountain, Jacumba district, San Diego County, California (\$1700).



Spodumene variety kunzite, 9.3 cm, from the Beebe Hole mine, Tule Mountain, Jacumba district, San Diego County, California. *Sound Minerals* specimen and photo.

Finally there is the very attractive new site of Nadya and Todor Georgiev's *Quebul Fine Minerals* (quebulfineminerals.com), with miscellaneous splendid, and splendidly photographed, one-of-a-kind specimens in a wide range of kinds and sizes. So juicy is this site that it's hard, and feels arbitrary, to choose pictures of specimens to pass on, but how about this exceptional miniature—one of several equally good on the site—of **uvarovite** from the Saranovskii mine near Sarany village, Permskaya Oblast, Middle Urals, Russia, with dodecahedral crystals to 2.5 mm on black chromite matrix. At every big show we find Russian dealers with many, many specimens of Saranovskii mine uvarovite, but in nearly all cases the specimens fail to excite because the crystals, though vividly green, are just too small and/or too tightly intergrown...however, these *Quebel* examples are quite a bit more like it.



Uvarovite on chromite, 3.7 cm, from the Saranovskii mine, Sarany, Permskaya Oblast, Middle Urals, Russia. *Quebul Fine Minerals* specimen and photo.

Also it seems time to show one of the new Chinese specimens of **chalcopyrite/siderite**, fair numbers of which have been brought to international shows of late, but always with vague—in some cases, conflicting—locality data. The piece shown here has sharp, highly lustrous chalcopyrite and siderite crystals in about a 50:50 ratio, and as such is typical of the material except that it's on the high end of the quality range. According to *Quebul* the locality is “Hezhang County, Bijie Prefecture, Guizhou Province”—still vague, but that's not Todor's fault; we will just have to keep asking questions until a consensus about the source of these beautiful pieces emerges.



Chalcopyrite and siderite, 6.8 cm, from Hezhang County, Bijie Prefecture, Guizhou Province, China (?). *Quebul Fine Minerals* specimen and photo.

And in my 2013 Denver Show report you will read of a recent very small trickle of new specimens of **pyromorphite** from the now famous Chinese locality, the Daoping mine, Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, with crystals which are not just lustrous and vividly lime-green, as is common for the occurrence, but also are translucent to *transparent*. So far the only website on which I've located a specimen of this gorgeous stuff is the *Quebel* website; and here's what the thumbnail in question looks like:



Pyromorphite, 2.6 cm, from the Daoping mine, Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. *Quebel Fine Minerals* specimen and photo.

You will find this one on page 11 of the October 5 update but, sorry, it's already sold. Continue to browse at *Quebel* and you'll find many more highly aesthetic specimens, including galena and sphalerite from Bulgaria; fluorite from the Okarusa mine, Namibia; African diopside; Pakistan elbaite and spessartine; stunning grossular and magenta-colored vesuvianite from the Jeffrey mine, Ontario; and much more.

Well, we've had a nice visit this time...and of course I'd be happy to visit in person, come February in Tucson, with anyone now reading this.