Time now for a spring-seasonal survey of what’s new on the web. By now most dealers who made their pilgrimages to the Tucson Show have returned to their homes, recovered, and taken account of whatever (in the way of new minerals) they picked up there, and here you’ll see some results. As usual I will avoid any thumping redundancies with what I wrote for the print report (to be published, as usual, in the May-June issue), although, also as usual, there are some enticing echoes...

...For instance, I reported from the Tucson Show that Dan and Diana Weinrich of Weinrich Minerals (danweinrich.com) had many superb galena specimens from a strike “within the last few months” in the Big Bear orebody in the Fletcher mine, Viburnum Trend, Reynolds County, Missouri; these include many which show large, sharp, lustrous spinel-law twins of galena. Now an April 8 update to the Weinrichs’ site announces that more, brand-new (i.e. post-Tucson) galena specimens have been taken from the same occurrence, and these, to judge from the photos, are quite up to the mark set by the earlier find. The really elite specimens are those which show platy, very thin spinel-law twins with hexagonal profiles, some exceeding 5 cm, with little white dolomite crystals around them. But excellent, too, are other specimens showing brilliantly lustrous cubic galena crystals set among much smaller crystals, with the same spotings of sharp white dolomite rhombohedrons. There are major price differences—the spinel-law specimen shown here costs $675 while the specimen with the big, bright cubic crystal costs only $75—but both represent an upwelling of serious galena specimens from this famous lead-mining region.
Galena spinel-law twin, 6 cm, from the Big Bear orebody, Fletcher mine, Viburnum Trend, Reynolds County, Missouri. Weinrich Minerals specimen and photo.

Galena, 4 cm, from the Big Bear orebody, Fletcher mine, Viburnum Trend, Reynolds County, Missouri. Weinrich Minerals specimen and photo.
Rob Lavinsky’s The Arkenstone (irocks.com) comes on strong this time with a couple of items seen also—with other dealerships—at the Tucson Show, and with a couple of other new things as well. First, we have some of the best-yet specimens from what is clearly the world’s best occurrence of the uncommon aluminum hydroxyl phosphate augelite. Beginning in 2005 we have seen fairly generous marketings of specimens with fresh-looking translucent apple-green augelite crystals nestled among “needle” quartz; the locality for these attractive specimens has been given as the Ortega mine in the Mundo-Tamboras district, Sanchez Carrion Province, La Libertad Department, Peru. I was told years ago that this occurrence was actually in a previously unnamed mine that the Ortega brothers, who developed it for the augelite specimens, had called, guess what? the “Ortega mine,” but Rob writes on his site that this was an intentional mislabeling to disguise the fact that the source was the “classic old Mundo Nuevo mine.” Mindat classifies the “Ortega mine” under “Mundo Nuevo mine,” saying that the Ortega is “the highest located adit in the Mundo Nuevo mining area, operated by the Ortega brothers in 2005-2006.” But however you choose to do your labels, the ten specimens now offered by The Arkenstone are exceptionally good, with razor-sharp, partially gemmy augelite crystals set individually or in little clusters on bright convocations of thin-prismatic, colorless crystals of quartz. There is one competition-quality thumbnail ($1,750), the rest of the specimens being splendid miniatures (to $1,950).

Augelite on quartz, 4 cm, from the Mundo Nuevo mine, Huamachuco, Sanchez Carrion Province, La Libertad Department, Peru. The Arkenstone specimen and photo.
A significant scoop at the Tucson Show was a small number of thumbnails and miniatures of **clinoatacamite** from a find in late summer 2014 in the Lily mine, Pisco Umay, Ica Department, Peru. Clinoatacamite is a rare polymorph of atacamite and paratacamite, never found before in attractive crystallized specimens; the Lily mine is the place which once yielded specimens of transparent, colorless gypsum crystals shot through with forest-green prismatic crystals of atacamite (see the cover of the May-June 2000 issue). In Rob Lavinsky’s specimens (and in Luis Burillo’s, as seen in Tucson), clinoatacamite comes as very deep green, lustrous, tabular crystals, some twinned, to 1 cm, forming rosette-shaped aggregates or sprinkled singly on glittery drusy quartz rendered pale blue by chrysocolla inclusions or showing pale blue from a chrysocolla substrate, with patches of medium-green malachite here and there on the matrix. Rob also has specimens showing distinctively prismatic crystals of **atacamite**, many terminated, to 2.5 cm, in dense jumbles in pockets, from the same occurrence in the Lily mine. All of the pieces from this find are quite beautiful; get them while you can.

Clinoatacamite on quartz/chrysocolla, 9.2 cm, from the Lily mine, Pisco Umay, Ica Department, Peru. *The Arkenstone* specimen and photo.
An earlier update from *The Arkenstone*, posted on January 21, shows two new Chinese finds of significant note. First, according to Rob the Xiefang mine, Ganzhou Prefecture, Jiangxi Province last year gave up hundreds of bicolored barite specimens of which six are offered on the site. These are subparallel to jumbled crystal clusters, from 6.4 to 12.5 cm, without associated species but with lots of that dignified beauty characteristic of fine, big barites from anywhere. The wedge-shaped crystals reach more than 7 cm individually, and they boast opaque snow-white to ivory-colored outer zones and amber-colored, translucent interior zones. Also, a find in mid-2014 in the Yaogangxian mine near Chenzhou, Hunan Province, produced that famous locality’s first significant scheelite specimen lot, which, by the way, is rather surprising, as there are many Chinese mines which yield good supplies of well-crystallized scheelite; it’s just that the Yaogangxian mine has not until now been one of them (although I’ve seen, here and there, loner specimens from Yaogangxiang showing fine, sharp scheelite crystals to 2 cm, hinting at the potential for big lots). In Rob Lavinsky’s new pieces, gemmy orange, pseudo-octahedral scheelite crystals are sprinkled all over drusy white dolomite which in turn coats the faces of big, incomplete quartz crystals. None of the scheelite crystals are larger than 1 cm but the general orange-on-white effect is impressive enough in the miniature to small-cabinet-size specimens on display.
Barite, 6.4 cm, from the Xiefang mine, Ganzhou Prefecture, Jiangxi Province, China. *The Arkenstone* specimen and photo.

Scheelite on dolomite, 6.2 cm, from the Yaogangxian mine, Chenzhou Prefecture, Hunan Province, China. *The Arkenstone* specimen and photo.
In the December 15, 2014 update marked “New Collections and Acquisitions” on the site of Geokrazy (geokrazy.com), Geoff Krasnov pictures only one specimen of the bright, translucent greenish blue plumbogummite such as is now emerging in fair abundance from the Yangshuo mine in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China—but it’s a fine example, and I show it here as representing the best of the Yangshuo plumbogummites of this particular type. By “type” I mean the translucent greenish blue kind which looks as if poured thickly over the underlying short-prismatic crystals of pyromorphite, rounding all of their edges. As recent print reports have emphasized, the same locality also has lately produced huge specimens wherein the plumbogummite coatings are thinner, and the shapes of the big, deeply hoppered crystals of pyromorphite are still aesthetically dominant. The plumbogummites of the “poured” type are never as large as these, but can be very pretty, and Geoff says that he has more than 100 of the same kind in his stock. At the Tucson Show several dealers, Chinese and Western alike, had specimens of this material, but I saw none as nice as the Geokrazy example pictured here.

![Plumbogummite, 7.4 cm, from the Yangshuo mine, Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. Geokrazy Minerals specimen and photo.](image)

Among the goodies in an early April update on Jordi Fabre’s site (fabreminerals.com) are a few beguilingly odd-looking specimens of grayish green, botryoidal, copper-rich aragonite collected in 2012 on levels 07-08 of the Lina mine, Alzen, Foix, Midi-Pyrénées, France. Ranging in size from 7 to 17 cm, these specimens could do a good job of augmenting one’s suite of “odd-looking aragonite” (this could be a major collecting specialty). Jordi also has on hand some of the best of the new Milpillas mine, Mexico
brochantite specimens (mentioned in my Tucson Show report), showing well-terminated, prismatic brochantite crystals to several centimeters long, and some fine Milpillas azurites, as well as specimens from yet another new find of Moroccan vanadinite, some lovely examples of the new fluorite from Cantera Llamas in Spain, and even some interesting old malachite after azurite specimens from Chessy, France.

Aragonite (copper-rich), 7 cm, from the Lina mine, Alzen, Foix, Midi-Pyrénées, France. Fabre Minerals specimen and photo.

Once before in this space I mentioned Mintreasure (mineraliensammlung.com), Carsten Slotta’s site with a specialty in the minerals of the Clara mine—the venerable Black Forest locality where rare, colorful secondary species by the hundreds occur, and near where Carsten grew up and cut his teeth on mineral collecting. The Mintreasure site is even richer than it was earlier in Clara mine specimens, most of them micromount-scale, but for those who prefer to appreciate minerals naked-eyed there are six fine miniatures from a contemporary German occurrence I’ve mentioned in print but for
which I’ve never yet flashed a specimen picture, either in print or here. I’m talking about the handsome **pyrolusite** specimens now being dug from hydrothermal veins of manganese ore which cut through granite at Gremmelsbach, just north of Triberg in the Oberrötenbach Valley, in the central Black Forest (Schwarzwald), Baden-Württemberg. These are, as Carsten says, “among the world’s best specimens” of pyrolusite, with radiating fans of acicular, metallic black crystals. Most specimens seen at shows lately take the form of loose, crumbly groups of intergrown fans, difficult to handle safely, but the matrix specimens now on the Mintreasure site, wherein the fans are seen lined up as vein fillings, are representative of the best this occurrence offers: let’s hope that the Black Forest elves keep digging.

![Pyrolusite, 6 cm, from Gremmelsbach, Oberrötenbacher Tal, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. Mintreasure specimen and photo.](image)

And before leaving the Mintreasure site, let us pay homage (on the next page) to a one-of-a-kind German classic that Carsten prices at 4,200 Euros ($5,685)—but who can quibble, given that it is a 15 cm-wide matrix showing brilliant yellow-green **meta-autunite** fans all over, from Johanngeorgenstadt in the Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge) of Saxony? Meta-autunite specimens of this caliber usually bear labels attesting that they are from the Daybreak mine, Washington; or the Streuberg quarry in the Vogtland region of Saxony; or from hard-to-remember places in France or Portugal. But from the ancient mining district of Johanngeorgenstadt?!! The specimen, Carsten tells us, was “found in 1947 and kept for many decades in a private collection in Freiberg.”
Yes indeed, one has to love old classics. And that brings me to *Edwards Minerals* (edwardsminerals.com), the dealership run by Ed Rosenzweig of New Jersey, who feels as I do about old classics, and often appears at shows to sell off examples of same from his private collection. One superstar of the array presently shown on Ed’s site is a small miniature with typically tabular, untwinned crystals of bournonite to 1.3 cm standing up at high angles on matrix of pale brown siderite, from the long-defunct Georg mine, Rhineland-Palatinate, in the old German Siegerland mining region: Ed wants $850 for it but I think that’s a bargain, and of course there are more such classics to be seen on the site, as well as a contemporary item or two.
Jonathan’s Mineral Exchange (jonathansmineralexchange.com) is a new, Montreal-based site whose goal is “to acquire and redistribute Canadian mineral specimens to the collecting community.” Fair enough: the site currently offers, among other things, good quartz and calcite specimens from limestone quarries in the Beekmantown Formation of southern Quebec; excellent chabazite from Wasson’s Bluff, Nova Scotia; and, most excitingly, serious gold specimens collected during the 1950s in the Joe Mann copper-gold mine near Chibougamau, Quebec. This mine has been closed for a while but recently has been re-activated (and who knows what will follow?); the gold specimens, to 5 cm, etched from enclosing calcite, are masses of lustrous, fairly deep yellow microcrystals with individuals to 5 mm. The 3-cm piece shown here, priced at $1380, is marked “sold.”

Gold, 3 cm, from the Joe Mann mine near Chibougamou, Quebec. Jonathan’s Mineral Exchange specimen and photo.
A much longer-established Canadian dealership—and a frequent presence in these reports—is that of David K. Joyce (davidkjoyceminerals.com), whose latest update features a recently collected lot of 12 miniatures showing translucent to transparent, bright red-orange sphalerite crystals to 3 cm, some loose, some on pieces of pale gray dolostone matrix, from the Flamboro crushed stone quarry, Dundas, Wentworth County, Ontario. Ever since Rod Tyson brought a selection of Flamboro quarry fluorite, marcasite and sphalerite specimens to the 2003 Denver Show (and I got mine), I have thought that the sphalerite of this locality is underrated—to the extent that collectors know of it at all. Few sphalerites from other places can boast the same combination of red-orange color (some is orpiment-orange) and bright resinous luster, and I had just about given up hope of seeing examples again on the market (Rod Tyson having withdrawn a while ago from the show scene) until I saw these fine new ones of David Joyce’s.

![Sphalerite, 3.5 cm, from the Flamboro quarry, Dundas, Wentworth County, Ontario. David K. Joyce Minerals specimen and photo.](image)

Still another Canadian dealer of note is Ray McDougall of Bancroft, Ontario and of McDougall Minerals (mcdougallminerals.com), whose site always offers good browsing and a few pleasant surprises. In his latest update, Ray has some new titanite specimens from Quebec (well-formed but dull brown), some cabinet-size dioptase specimens from the venerable type locality in Kazakhstan (flashy but hardly “new”), and some good tetrahedrite clusters from the Mundo Nuevo mine in Peru (which seems in a productive mood right now). But this time our featured Canadian item from McDougall Minerals will be pale pink gmelinite from the sea-steeped basalt cliffs of Two Islands, Nova Scotia, with sharp, lustrous, discoidal, twinned gmelinite crystals to 1.4 cm in miniature-
size clusters without matrix. These, collected in 2003 by Terry Collett, are just the thing if you have a soft spot for zeolites, especially slightly weird but aesthetic, slightly rare, pastel-tinted specimens.

Further, Ray McDougall has scored four superb miniatures of inesite which, he says, were taken from a very small pocket opened in 2014 in the N’Chwaning II mine in the Kuruman manganese field, Northern Cape Province, South Africa. Now, the inesite specimens found in spring 1992 in that same field’s Wessels mine, showing dramatic pink to deep red, subparallel fans to 2 cm and spherical clusters to 6 cm, are the world’s best for the species, but the orange-pink inesite specimens found in the late 1970s and in 1996 in N’Chwaning II are not far behind: it’s a pleasant surprise to find out that specimens found much more recently rival these. Ray’s are brushy groups of pinkish orange, bladed crystals splayed out in all directions on slight white bits of matrix; the 4.5-cm specimen shown here is priced at $700.

Gmelinite, 4.7 cm, from Two Islands, Nova Scotia. McDougall Minerals specimen and photo.
For a couple of one-of-a-kind treats from which we may learn a thing or two in the field of specimen mineralogy, let’s look at the page called “The Vault” on the site of Shelter Rock Minerals (shelterrockminerals.com). **Kermesite** from the Caiwa mine, Danfeng, Shaanxi Province, China is almost exclusively seen as loose, skinny single crystals or loose, low-angle subparallel fans—but Shelter Rock has a truly three-dimensional cluster of loosely attached fans, and as a bonus there is a generous sprinkling of sharp-looking, transparent and colorless little crystals of **senarmontite**. This occurrence of kermesite was a one-shot affair in 2002, and if you don’t like specimens which are no more than loose, brittle stalks it is nice to know that at least one Caiwa mine kermesite is otherwise; the price of the piece from Shelter Rock is $3,000. And then on the same site there is a former Scott Rudolph collection piece showing gorgeous crystals of **catapleiite on analcime** from Mont St.-Hilaire, the catapleiite tabs standing upright in parallel, a soldierly little platoon, from a matrix of intergrown sharp, milky white,
trapezohedral analcime crystals—an association I don’t think I’ve seen before. The price of this beauty is $4,900.

Kermesite/Senarmontite, 4.8 cm, from the Caïwa mine, Danfeng, Shaanxi Province, China. Shelter Rock Minerals specimen and photo.

Catapleiite/Analcime, 9.5 cm, from St.-Hilaire, Quebec. Shelter Rock Minerals specimen and photo.
Among the tasteful miscellaneous items that crowd thickly onto the site of Mark Kielbaso’s *Open Adit West* (mineratminerals.com) are about a dozen specimens of the new Chinese *wulfenite* that, I have noticed while prowling the last few big shows, is experiencing a revival of sorts. When these wulfenite specimens first appeared in the mid-2000s there were, as usual for China, several incorrect, or at least vague, localities given for it, but an article by Wendell Wilson and Marcus Origlieri in the January-February 2007 issue of our magazine clarified that the source is a small Fe-Mn mine, probably called the Jianshan mine, in the Kuruktag Mountains of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in far-western China. What is peculiar about the specimens offered on *Open Adit West* is that they are attributed to a locality called—-with the quotation marks—“Stone Crack,” in the Kuruktag Mountains. I don’t know what this means but I do know that many of the Chinese wulfenites which have been showing up lately, including many offered by Mark on *Open Adit West*, are of very high quality, with brilliant red-orange crystals in jumbled groups on dark matrix, Arizona-style. Some of these wulfenite crystals have overgrowths of white calcite, and not all are so lustrous as the one pictured below ($2,400), but it is heartening to see such beautiful things coming out once again…now if only Mark, or someone, would explain “Stone Crack”…

![Wulfenite, 7.5 cm, from “Stone Crack,” Kuruktag Mountains, Shanshan County, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China. *Open Adit West* specimen and photo.](image-url)
A more recent contribution of China to Our Collecting Pleasure has been the complex, spiky, rainbow-hued specimens of **chalcocite coated by chalcopyrite**, with subordinate djurleite and perhaps other odd sulfides too, from the Tonglushan mine in the Daye district, Hubei Province—see the report by Rob Lavinsky *et al.* in the January-February 2014 issue, describing in detail the pocket finds of 2012-2013. Never numerous to begin with, these specimens have remained elusive, but John Veevaert picked up a few from a Chinese dealer who had them under his bed in the InnSuites during the 2015 Tucson Show, and so they’re available for Your Viewing Pleasure on John’s *Trinity Minerals* site (trinityminerals.com). The Lavinsky *et al.* account calls the copper mine in question the Tongshan mine, but both Guanghua Liu and Berthold Ottens, in their books on Chinese minerals, call it the Tonglushan mine; and John Veevaert on his site calls it the Daye mine although the Daye mine proper (also known as the Tieshan mine) exploits iron, not copper, ore. Well, okay, we’re in China, where no one ever knows where anything has come from. John’s large thumbnails and small miniatures of chalcocite/chalcopyrite are variously arresting, some for their rainbow colors, some for their Giacometti-like or botryoidal or other unusual forms. The miniature in the picture costs $400.

Chalcocite coated by chalcopyrite, 4.2 cm, from the Tonglushan mine, Daye district, Hubei Province, China. *Trinity Minerals* specimen; John Veevaert photo.
A few pages on the site of Kevin Conroy Minerals (kcminerals.com) show small-thumbnail-size specimens of silver minerals from the great mines at Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico—these specimens having resided for a long time in “a flat that Reo Pickens of Waukegan, Illinois had stashed away in his garage.” The little crystal groups of acanthite, stephanite and pyrargyrite appear modest enough at first in their mini-photos—little black blobs representing things which we know are no more than 1.75 cm across—but then hit “Enlarge,” and the specimens are seen to be quite snazzy indeed, and especially so at Kevin’s prices, which are no more than $25 per piece. Makes one want to take up collecting “macros”…as some people call specimens of a size between 5 mm and 1.5 cm or so.

Stephanite, 1.8 cm, from Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico. Kevin Conroy Minerals specimen and photo.
I mentioned from the 2014 Munich Show, then again from the 2015 Tucson Show, that Ian Bruce and Diana Schlegel of *Crystal Classics* (crystalclassics.co.uk) have purchased the Milton Lavers collection of minerals from Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia and are now reselling it piece by piece. Lavers, once a miner at Broken Hill, spent decades collecting and dealing for really good specimens of classic—oh, you know—rhodonite, spessartine, azurite, anglesite, cerussite, pyromorphite etc., etc., and in the 38 Broken Hill specimens offered on *Crystal Classics*’ April 2 “Most Recent” update there are examples, of course, from that list. But what really intrigued me were numerous good-looking specimens of species not at all thought of, generally, as “Broken Hill” ones, e.g. inesite, pyrite, gahnite, wurtzite-coated galena, wire silver and more. Of the three specimens pictured here, the *goethite-coated cerussite after anglesite* is the familiar Broken Hill Classic; the *linarite* and yes even the *apophyllite* are exotica that you’d only be likely to see in a “native” collection like this. It is almost as nice an experience to scroll through these things on the *Crystal Classics* site as to pull out specimen drawers containing them at a big mineral show (I said “almost”).

Goethite coating cerussite pseudomorphs after anglesite, 4.9 cm, from Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia (ex Milton Lavers collection). *Crystal Classics* specimen and photo.
Apophyllite, 4.4 cm, from Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia (ex Milton Lavers collection). Crystal Classics specimen and photo.

Linarite with malachite-coated cuprite and aurichalcite, 3.6 cm, from Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia (ex Milton Lavers collection). Crystal Classics specimen and photo.
Staying in Australia for the finale, I’ll mention that the Collector’s Edge website shows us a couple of lush-looking crocoite specimens from the Red Lead mine in Tasmania, and says the following: “New crocoite specimens discovered at the Red Lead mine!...New pockets with gemmy red crystals on matrix have been recovered recently and should be ready for market by the Denver Show in the fall of 2015.” Remember that crocoite comes (or came) from several mines in the Dundas district, and the localities are distinguishable: for instance, only the large, thick Red Lead crystals, which cross deep cavities in dark goethite, are ever gemmy; crystals from the Adelaide mine (now likewise active, courtesy of Adam Wright) are more orange than red, always opaque, and usually associated with waxy-looking white gibbsite. Adam’s Adelaide Mining Company has been bringing out tremendous crocoite specimens for the last few years (see the article in November-December 2012), but competition from Bryan Lees and from the Red Lead mine will be healthy for all, so let’s be on hand for it come Denver time in September.

![Crocoite, size not specified, from the Red Lead mine, Dundas, Tasmania, Australia. Collector’s Edge specimen and photo.](image)

Here’s wishing everyone a good summer (and counseling my fellow Tucsonans to practice patient endurance). And here’s reassuring subscribers that, yes, that DVD on the Pederneira mine, which should have come with the Pederneira Issue but has been delayed by technical issues, will be forthcoming.