Hello again, browsers—it’s time for a midsummer update concerning What’s New On The Web. Of course, the sensible thing would be not to spend quite all of your mineral budget by shopping online if you’re going to Denver in mid-September or Munich in late October, and if you incline towards Springfield (going on right now!) it’s probably time, as you read this, that you were out the door. In any case, here are some interesting/educational cyber-temptations to which I’ll subject you:

On The Web

The highly knowledgeable and hard-working Kosnar brothers of Mineral Classics (minclassics.com) are offering some lovely specimens of what, up to now, we’ve been calling liddicoatite but should be calling (as the Kosnars’ text acknowledges) fluor-liddicoatite. Fluor-liddicoatite was described in 2011 as a species of the Tourmaline Group; it has F dominant over OH in a certain site in the jumbo-erector-set complexity of the tourmaline structure, whereas in the same site in liddicoatite OH prevails over F. Most of the Mineral Classics specimens are single, loose “pencil” crystals, some doubly terminated, but there is also a matrix miniature—pictured below—showing beautiful balance between the stout tourmaline crystal and the crude smoky quartz crystal that it adjoins. The crystals come from two or three different diggings in Madagascar, including the well-known Anjanabonoina pegmatite that made liddicoatite famous (one wonders how many of the old Anjanabonoina liddicoatites are actually fluor-liddicoatite). They boast spectacular color-zoning, with red, pink, orange, purple, green, brown and almost black bands dealt out among them, and in large part they are gemmy, lustrous and sharp:
Fluor-liddicoatite, 2.6 cm, from Tsarafara Sud, Sahatany Valley, Antananarivo Province, Madagascar. Mineral Classics specimen and photo.

Fluor-liddicoatite on matrix, 3.6 cm, from the Anjanabonoina pegmatite, Betafo district, Antananarivo Province, Madagascar. Mineral Classics specimen and photo.

Also, from a small pocket find in 2011 at Estatoby, Toamasina Province, the Kosnars have loose “pencil” crystals of beryl which, being milky pale blue, are nevertheless gemmy near their terminations. The crystals range in length from 4.2 to 5.5 cm and are noteworthy because even very pale aquamarine is rare from the pegmatites of Madagascar:
Until the late 2000s, fluorite was not among the most cherished products of the Ojuela mine at Mapimí, Durango, Mexico: of the several styles of “old” fluorite specimens from the great mine, the best known shows deep purple, transparent, cubo-dodecahedral crystals. But beginning around 2008, fresh ore exploitation in deep mine levels has yielded beautiful groups of gemmy, lustrous, blue-purple cubic fluorite crystals, and this “new” material is distinguished easily from the “old,” although neither is especially plentiful on today’s market. The latest update to the website of Andy Seibel Minerals (andyseibel.com) shows 13 excellent fluorite miniatures from the Ojuela mine, nine “new” and 4 “old,” the “old” showing typical purple cubo-dodecahedrons on matrix, the “new” featuring somewhat bluer, transparent and bright, cubic crystals. One of these latter specimens has sharp galena crystals with the fluorite: a rarity for Ojuela, where massive galena at depth is an important ore but macrocrystals are hardly ever observed.
“New” fluorite with galena, 5.3 cm, from the Ojuela mine, Mapimí, Durango, Mexico. Andy Seibel Minerals specimen and photo.

Gerd M. Wiedenbeck of Heidelberg is the author of *Mythos Tucson* (2009), a big German-language book about the Tucson Show which I reviewed favorably in the May-June 2010 issue. Gerd also runs a dealership, Alpine Minerals, and a visit to its site (alpine-minerals.de) right now will show you another novel fluorite occurrence: yellow to orange-yellow, transparent crystals to 3 cm from a new find in the area of Riemvasmaak, Northern Cape Province, South Africa. Recall that in the mid-2000s the market saw its first influx of the stunning, by now well-known, fluorites of Riemvasmaak, with crystals which for the most part are octahedral and which, once their drusy quartz coatings have been removed, are seen to be transparent and vivaciously lime to grass-green. An article by Bruce Cairncross in the July-August 2009 issue informs us that the specimens are dug from scattered pegmatite outcrops in a desolate desert area near the Namibian border, then remarks in passing that “other color varieties [of Riemvasmaak fluorite] are found as well.” The first among these “others” I’ve seen are the miniatures now on the Alpine Minerals site, with equant fluorite crystals, essentially cuboctahedrons but with complex modifications, from 1 to 3 cm, resting on milky quartz
crystals—and these fluorites range from pale yellow to orangish yellow, with very pale green core zones. Apparently Gerd scored these pieces at the last Tucson Show, as you’ll find them on the page marked Neuheiten aus Tucson—“New things from Tucson.”

Fluorite, 4.5 cm, from the Riemvasmaak area, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.
Alpine Minerals (Gerd M. Wiedenbeck) specimen and photo.

Next, Rob Lavinsky of The Arkenstone, whose site (www.irocks.com) is, as usual, well stocked with desirable items, caught my thumbnail-sensitive eye with three loose, Chessy-like crystals of **malachite-coated cuprite** from the Nchwanga mine, Chingola, Copperbelt Province, Zambia. A hoard of “mixed” specimens—especially azurites—taken from the Nchwanga mine back in the 1970s was brought to the 2015 Tucson Show by Richard Le Sueur, a retired mine engineer who had stashed the specimens in his garage for those many years (see the Tucson report in May-June 2015), and among them were a very few, very green, octahedral, smooth-surfaced malachite-coated cuprites and clusters of same which look much, but not quite, like the famous old-timers from Chessy, France. The three thumbnails which Rob picked up and now has for sale are of diverse degrees of sharpness as reflected in their prices—$250, $750 and $1,250—and the last and best of these is still available; its photo is shown below. Look for it in Rob’s July 13 “Tucson 2016 Mixed Fine Minerals Updates.”
Malachite-coated Cuprite, 1.9 cm, from the Nchanga mine, Chingola, Copperbelt Province, Zambia. *The Arkenstone* specimen and photo.

And speaking of cuprite...on July 21, Isaias Casanova of *IC Minerals* (icminerals.com) e-mailed me photos of two spectacular specimens showing well individualized cuprite crystals on a matrix of massive white dickite, taken recently from the Milpillas mine, Cuitaca, Sonora, Mexico. Milpillas cuprite specimens seen up to now have had vivid luster and a gorgeous carmine-red color, as well as partial transparency, going for them, but the crystals have all been tightly intergrown as coatings in narrow seams, such that the specimens have looked unimpressively “flat.” On these new pieces, though, the cuboctahedral cuprite crystals are nicely “aerial,” i.e. they rise, exposed to at least the half-way level, from the underlying dickite. Isaias asks me to refer interested parties to the *Geokrazy Minerals* dealership of his business partner, Geoff Krasnov; there are none of the new Milpillas cuprites yet to be seen on the *Geokrazy* website, but wait! Geoff will have some of these specimens at his stand at the upcoming Springfield Show, and you might see more at Denver, as well as online, later, on the sites of both dealers. You heard it here first.
John Veevaert and his wife returned on June 8 from a two-and-a-half-week trip to Australia, the odyssey having included richly mineralized stops in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Tasmania. As a result, John’s Trinity Minerals site (trinityminerals.com) now has Australian specimens grouped in three separate pages: Broken Hill, the Adelaide mine in Tasmania (crocoite!), and “everything else.” The new specimens in general are superb and tend towards the unusual. John’s photos of them are beautiful, and his prices, I’d say, are low for such fine material. For instance, most pyromorphite from Broken Hill is dark brown and luster-challenged, but John’s new specimen (for $325) has lively-looking, sharply individualized little sprays of bright yellow-green prismatic crystals all over matrix. The “everything else” page contains surprises (most already Sold, I regret to report) such as four splendid azurites from different localities; a bright, root-beer-colored crystal of zircon from the Mud Tank locality in Northern Territory; a miniature-size mimetite included by duftite (and thus colored apple-green) from the Mt. Bonnie mine, Northern Territory; a gemmy pale blue topaz crystal from Mt. Gibson, Innot Hot Springs, Queensland; and amethyst crystals coating a crystal of fluorapatite, from the Mt. Elliot mine in Queensland. Also there are a couple of miniatures of something entirely new to me: glassy gray-brown tetragonal-pyramidal crystals of scheelite on massive black wolframite (ferberite?), from Dimbulah, Queensland. Both of the scheelites unfortunately are Sold, but who knows when more may appear, and so, for your edification and mine, I include a photo of one.
Pyromorphite, 6.7 cm, from the Broken Hill South mine, Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia. *Trinity Minerals* specimen; John Veevaert photo.

Scheelite on wolframite, 4.3 cm, from Wolfram Camp, Dimbulah, Queensland, Australia. *Trinity Minerals* specimen; John Veevaert photo.
On the Adelaide mine page, John Veevaert has put up some crocoite and crocoite/dundasite specimens, including some that he collected himself—courtesy of mine owner Adam Wright, who once also let me dig for crocoite in the great “Red River” pocket that to this day is still yielding specimens (see my and Wendell Wilson’s article in November-December 2012). What’s amazing about the best of John’s new specimens is that the partially hollow crocoite crystals stand up at fairly high angles from their (stabilized) gossan matrix, and yet, thanks to Adam’s technique of attaching the specimens firmly to bases of plastic boxes, John’s gleanings made it safely back to his home in Nevada, looking virginaly fresh. For the piece shown here, with a glade of extremely brittle, upstanding crystals on a 5-cm matrix, John asks only $60.

Crocoite, 5 cm, from the Adelaide mine, Dundas mineral field, Tasmania, Australia. Trinity Minerals specimen; John Veevaert photo.

Old Canadian-mineral specialists Rod and Helen Tyson moved in 2007 from Edmonton, Alberta to Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, and they report much success and much pleasure in their new recreation of digging zeolites from basalt cliffs around the Bay of Fundy. Furthermore, they are reviving the website of Tyson’s Fine Minerals (tysonsfineminerals.com), where browsers can now find about a dozen pages of specimens from around Canada, many dug, naturally, by the Tysons themselves. Some fine, pale purplish spherical aggregates of leifite from Mont St.-Hilaire may be seen here, and another standout page offers ten specimens showing lovely, transparent, lightly hematoid and thus orange-tinted crystals of quartz, as loose singles, loose crystal groups, and matrix pieces from Boylston, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia. This little-known locality is an abandoned road-fill quarry where the quartz crystals are found in pockets in quartz dikes which cut sedimentary rocks. The quartz crystals are bright, commonly doubly terminated, and of a quite pleasing tangerine-orange hue: just right for your worldwide quartz suite.
Quartz, 3.1 cm, from Boylston, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia, Canada. *Tyson’s Fine Minerals* specimen and photo.

Now, while in Canada, I get to do what I always enjoy doing: hailing a brand-new site on the web. It is run by François Lortie, a Québécois (that’s a French-speaking citizen of Québec), who inherited from his father, Paul Lortie, a love of minerals and a memory of an old business of Paul’s called *Collection Arkane*, now revived in a cyberspace incarnation called, likewise, *Collection Arkane* (collectionarkane.com). On his site you’ll find several interesting pages, e.g. one with specimens from a new find of native copper in New Brunswick; another with fine cubanites from Chibougamau, Québec; a host of big, flaring gypsum specimens from the Red River Floodway in Manitoba; and some good mineral books. Pictured here is one of 19 new specimens of *rhodochrosite* from an August 2015 find at St.-Hilaire, looking quite different from the St.-Hilaire rhodochrosite we’re used to seeing: not dark red-brown, flattened rhombs but rather sharp, undistorted rhombohedral crystals which are opaque pink and are adorned by small *leifite* and *aegirine* crystals. The rhodochrosite crystal groups range in size from thumbnail to small-cabinet; they show some corrosion and are spotted with an unidentified white stuff, but certainly they are good for the locality, and all of the thumbnails cost less than $100.

Rhodochrosite, 2.9 cm, from Mont St.-Hilaire, Québec, Canada. *Collection Arkane* specimen and photo.
Kevin Ward’s *Exceptional Minerals* site (exceptionalminerals.com) has ten “Tucson 2016 Showrooms” full of, well, exceptional one-of-a-kinders, with a big, gorgeous photo of each piece. Most recently Kevin has added the #6 showroom, which has, for example, some splendid East Coast classics, of which I’ll show just one here. It is a beautiful, 11.5 cm-wide plate abundantly busy with gemmy, pale yellow *calcite* crystals and bursts of white *strontianite*, from the Faylor-Middlecreek quarry, Winfield, Union County, Pennsylvania. (The Faylor-Middlecreek is a road-fill quarry in limestone, commercially worked between the 1940s and mid-1980s, with only sporadic investigations by mineral collectors occurring thereafter). Keep checking out Kevin’s site to see lots more superstars of this kind.

Calcite and Strontianite, 11.5 cm, from the Faylor-Middlecreek quarry, Winfield, Union County, Pennsylvania. *Exceptional Minerals* specimen and photo.
Jim Brown of *Hummingbird Minerals* (hummingbirdminerals.com) has recently bought two suites of cabinet-size beauties from the collections of Gregory Crenko and Dr. Ed David, respectively. Mr. Crenko (owner of *Top Shelf Minerals*) is a devotee of southern Illinois fluorite, and the selection on the Hummingbird site is “top shelf” indeed: 32 big pieces in all conceivable Illinois-fluorite colors, many with associations of calcite, sphalerite, galena etc. crystals. The majority of these specimens are already marked Sold, but here’s a superb one that isn’t—a plate of deep purple fluorite crystals with chalcopyrite from the Denton mine, a hearty 18 cm across and priced at $1,000.

*Fluorite with chalcopyrite, 18 cm, from the Denton mine, Harris Creek district, Hardin County, Illinois. Hummingbird Minerals specimen and photo.*

*Hummingbird Minerals* specimens from the collection of Dr. Edward E. David Jr. (once Science Advisor to President Nixon) are mixed and one-of-a-kind, but all are impressive; many are “contemporary” (or at least 20th-century) classics. Consider for instance the chlorite-dusted cluster of albite (pericline) crystals from Acushnet, Massachusetts; and consider the stibnite from the long-gone White Caps mine, Manhattan, Nye County, Nevada (see the 1985 article on the White Caps mine in vol. 16, no. 1 of the *Mineralogical Record*). It holds its own in comparison even to top-flight Chinese specimens of the same species:
Albite ("pericline") dusted with chlorite, 8 cm, from the Aggregate Industries quarry, Acushnet, Bristol County, Massachusetts. *Hummingbird Minerals* specimen and photo.

Stibnite, 13.5 cm, from the White Caps mine, Manhattan, Nye County, Nevada. *Hummingbird Minerals* specimen and photo.
Fine specimens of **celestine** from the Hoosier Stone and Concrete Corporation limestone quarry at Salem, Washington County, Indiana appear uncommonly on the market, even while sporadic collecting goes on at the place. Dave Rush has gathered specimens of this Indiana celestine over several years past, and now he has sold an accumulation to Dan and Diana Weinrich; you may see 15 of the best in an August 2 update on the site of *Dan Weinrich Minerals* (weinrichmineralsinc.com). The celestine comes as sharp, lustrous, blocky, largely transparent crystals from 1 to almost 5 cm which are pale blue but have gold-yellow zones and glints caused (it is believed) by inclusions of marcasite. Loose singles and groups predominate in the Weinrichs’ selection, but the matrix pieces, with the celestine crystals perched lightly on white crystalline calcite, are (I would say) the most attractive:

![Celestine specimen](image)

**Celestine, 4 cm, from the Hoosier Stone and Concrete Corporation quarry, Salem, Washington County, Indiana. Weinrich Minerals specimen and photo.**
Bob Griffis Minerals (bobgriffis.com) has a July 25 update which offers eight stately magnetite specimens from the Iron Springs district (aka “Three Peaks”), Iron County, Utah. Loose crystal groups ranging in size from 4.3 to 12.5 cm are composed of sharp, medium-lustrous, black octahedrons, some with associations of yellow prismatic fluorapatite, chalcedony and ferro-hornblende. Prices for these very good magnetite specimens do not exceed $200 (the one shown here costs $175).

Magnetite, 4.7 cm, from the Iron Springs district, Iron County, Utah. Bob Griffis Minerals specimen and photo.

In my report on the 2015 Denver Show (in January-February 2016), I noted that Wayne and Dona Leicht of Kristalle (kristalle.com) had bought the extensive collection of minerals from Laurium, Attika, Greece, assembled by Laurium expert Wolfgang Wendel. “Extensive” is right: a July 20 update on the Kristalle site has eight pages displaying about 50 specimens from the ancient Laurium mines (which did much to fund the Periclean “golden age” of Athens in the 5th century B.C.; between the 1870s and 1970s the mines were revived and worked by a French company, and much specimen-collecting goes on today in adits of all ages). Check out the Kristalle site if only to learn more about the exotica of this deposit of silver-bearing galena. Most of the pieces shown offer colorful microcrystal druses of rare species, e.g. agardite-Ce, schulenbergite, jarosite, plattnerite, spangolite and many more; for the macrocrystal collector there are fine examples of calcite, fluorite, quartz, and gypsum, mostly in cabinet sizes, as well as examples of things in the rare-from-Greece category such as mimetite and wulfenite. I have always admired the distinctive barite of Laurium, with its rounded aggregates of platy, colorless but red-fringed (hematoid) crystals, and the Leichts have a beautiful, 11.8-cm example—shown below. See also the specimen of the rare sulfate serpierite from the type locality for the species, the Serpieri mine, Agios Konstantinos, Laurium.
Barite, 11.8 cm, from the Paleokamariza mine, Agios Konstantinos, Laurium, Attika, Greece. _Kristalle_ specimen and photo.

Serpierite, 7.6 cm, from the Serpieri mine, Agios Konstantinos, Laurium, Attika, Greece. _Kristalle_ specimen and photo.
The July 27 update of *Rosell Minerals*, a dealership run by enthusiastic lifelong collector Joan Rosell of Barcelona, has lots of interesting, out-of-the-ordinary specimens, mostly from European localities old and new. By “out-of-the-ordinary” I mean things like the 12.4-cm specimen of balangeroite from the type locality, the Poggio San Vittore mine, Balangero, Torino, Piedmont, Italy. Described as a new species in 1983, balangeroite is a fibrous Mg, Fe and Mn silicate, and according to Mindat the Poggio San Vittore is an “asbestos mine”; the Rosell website calls it a “serpentine quarry,” adding that it has been abandoned since 1990.

Balangeroite, 12.4 cm, from the Poggio San Vittore mine, Balangero, Piedmont, Italy. *Rosell Minerals* specimen and photo.

Less surprisingly, the *Rosell Minerals* site offers a few small-cabinet-size matrix specimens from significant recent finds of hyaline opal (hyalite) in the Tarcal Colas Északkő andesite quarry at Tarcal, Zemplén Mountains, Hungary (specimens have been noted in recent reports from the Ste.-Marie-aux-Mines show), with bubbly flows and coatings of colorless, transparent hyalite over dark matrix. The hyalite of course is brilliantly fluorescent, both longwave and shortwave ultraviolet light evoking green:
Hyalite, 6.5 cm, from the Tarcal Colas Északko quarry, Tarcal, Zemplén Mountains, Hungary. Rosell Minerals specimen and photo.

We will finish the what’s-new survey with a Hallo to German dealer Wolfgang Wendel, who still has a few of the wonderful manganite specimens from Ilfeld, Harz Mountains, Thüringen, Germany, which he has had in stock for some time, proudly displaying them both at major shows and on his Wendel Minerals site (wendel-minerals.com). Ilfeld is still the world’s best locality for manganite (see the article in the November-December 2010 issue), but the little, near-surface manganese mines turned out most of their best specimens in the 19th century, plus a short peaking during World War I; lesser specimens have been dug from the old dumps in post-Cold War times. On the Wendel Minerals site, go to “Fine German Classics” and you will find a few of these beautiful manganites, unspecified as to age, including the 5.7-cm crystal group (shown below) priced at 2,450 Euros (about $3,300). The specimen’s photo is of a sort of Götterdämmerung (“twilight of the gods”) style, but it is clear that the piece is dramatic enough in its own right. No collector partial to Fine German Classics should be without one of these.
A New Museum in France

*Mineralogical Record* subscriber Sue Marcus has written to say that she and her husband, Roger Haskins, discovered an excellent new museum of minerals during their trip to France last October. *Le Musée du Mange Cailloux* is in Mortagne-sur-Sevre, about 55 kilometers southeast of the city of Nantes, in western France. To quote from Sue’s very enthusiastic review, the museum is the result of “the exquisite vision and workmanship of geologist and educator Thierry Charrier. After working in mineral exploration for many years, Charrier grew tired of the corporate world. He was and is a mineral collector [and] a co-author of the description of the new mineral fogoite-(Y).”

Sue goes on: “Charrier’s museum features a room of well-lighted and labelled displays of beautiful minerals, with drawers beneath the display windows relating objects for which those minerals are used. Another room presents natural geological whimsies, like a koala-shaped prehnite specimen and agates with landscapes and faces. There is a display of fluorescent minerals, [and] maps show where mining occurred in Vendée (western France), though he noted to us that there is no active metal mining, at least when we were there.”
Enticingly—“The museum shop offers a good selection of French specimens for sale, along with some from other locations...all at reasonable prices.”

Finally Sue observes that “Thierry built this museum himself—walls, display cases, painting, everything. He would like to share his interest, knowledge and enthusiasm for geology with local schools. Yet he, like others in many countries, including our own, is met with ‘It is not in the curriculum and therefore we don’t need to teach it’”—a piece of circularity smelling of School Board-ese explanations of why mineralogy is not taught in schools “in many countries, including our own.” It’s always good news when “local” museums like this get started—so let’s try to look in on Le Musée du Mange Cailloux if we’re ever traveling in west-central France.

The museum’s website is www.mangecailloux.com; you will also find it on www.facebook.com/lemangecailloux/.

No sweat: the summer is more than half over already. And maybe I’ll see you (feel free to say hi) in Denver in September and/or in Munich in October.

Tom Moore