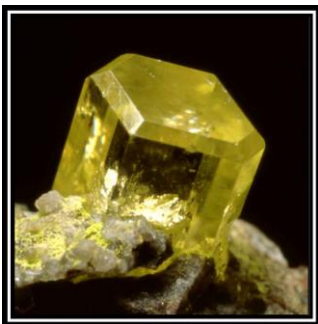


# What's New in the Mineral World?



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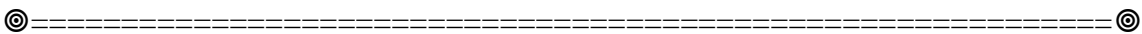


## What's Interesting (and Highly Collectible) on the Web

Beautiful specimens from Afghanistan showing stout, translucent to transparent, sky-blue **celestine** crystals on drusy calcite-coated white limestone have been appearing sparsely, in small lots, over the past few years, and I've mentioned them briefly in earlier print and online reports, but never before have I seen examples of this material quite as fine as the handful of miniature and small-cabinet-size specimens now on the website of Ghulam Mustafa's *Fine Art Minerals* (fineartminerals.com).



**Celestine, 8 cm, from Dara-i-Laman, Badghis Province, Afghanistan.  
Fine Art Minerals specimen and photo.**



Different locality designations have been given, but Mustafa tags his pieces with what seems now to be the consensus term, namely “Dara-i-Laman, Badghis Province.” Mindat clarifies (though without providing context) that there is a “Laman celestine deposit” in the Qala e Naw District of Badghis Province, northwestern Afghanistan. The sharp, glassy, bright blue celestine crystals, to nearly 5 cm, are short-prismatic to equant, appearing singly and as lightly intergrown clusters on yellow-white calcite druses on white limestone matrix, and the color-contrast provides top aesthetics. The specimen shown here is the best of Mustafa’s current examples (although some of his others approach it closely); it is 8 cm across and is priced at \$3,500. Even the best celestines from Madagascar and Michigan seem to have met their peers in this princely new stuff from the heart of Asia.

Dave Bunk (davebunkminerals.com) has a March 16 update with good things from medium-old occurrences in Colorado (plus, as usual, some fine thumbnails from the former Rich Olsen thumbnail collection). The Alice gold mine in Clear Creek County, Colorado was active from the 1880s until about 1938, and was completely filled in for environmental reclamation in 1988; up until that year, though, its “glory hole” pit produced excellent **chalcopyrite** specimens such as the several miniatures that Dave currently has on his website, with sharp, lightly striated, burnished-bronze disphenoids in loose groups without associations—the example shown below costs \$850.



**Chalcopyrite, 4 cm, from the Alice mine near Idaho Springs, Clear Creek County, Colorado. Dave Bunk Minerals specimen and photo.**

Mount Antero in Chaffee County, Colorado, has been a world-class locality for **phenakite** since the late 19th century, and collectors still, very occasionally, recover fine phenakite crystals from the granite pegmatites of the mountain and those of its neighbor, Mount White. Dave Bunk now offers four loose, thumbnail-size phenakite crystals from what is known as the “Keyhole area,” just west of the summit of Mount Antero: a collecting site known to have given up major phenakite finds in earlier years, most notably in 1989 and 2000. Dave’s phenakite crystals are loose, prismatic, and twinned in the characteristic “drill bit” fashion; they reach 3 cm long and are almost wholly transparent. One crystal is nearly colorless, the others are pale orange, and all four are lustrous and elite-looking. The 2.2-cm crystal shown here costs \$2,500 and the 3-cm one costs \$3,500—you may squint a bit at these prices, but what we have here is a classic occurrence coming in near the top of its game.



**Phenakite, 2.2 cm, from the Keyhole area, Mount Antero, Chaffee County, Colorado. Dave Bunk Minerals specimen and photo.**



**Phenakite, 3 cm, from the Keyhole area, Mount Antero, Chaffee County, Colorado. Dave Bunk Minerals specimen and photo.**

The Mount Antero pegmatites are famous as well for their crystals of **aquamarine**, and Dave has a few of these which are largely gemmy, possessed of rich color, and reach 6 cm long. All are loose except for the one shown here, a rare “combination” piece with a gemmy aquamarine up against a microcline crystal, this from a place called the Blue White Bench, Chip-n-Dale claim, Mount White (\$4,500).



**Aquamarine with Microcline, 4.2 cm, from the Blue White Bench, Chip-n-Dale Claim, Mount White, Chaffee County, Colorado. Dave Bunk Minerals specimen and photo.**

One of the best websites to keep checking out at very short intervals is that of Mike Keim’s *Marin Mineral Company* ([marinmineral.com](http://marinmineral.com)), whereon *five* generous updates appeared from March 10 to March 30. In the last of these, Mike offers four pages of unusual-looking, highly fluorescent specimens showing an association of **willemite with diopside**, not (as you might be inclined to suppose) from Tsumeb but from a “new find” at a place called Gotala, near Mindouli, Pool Department, Republic of Congo. These 25 specimens, of thumbnail to small-cabinet size, priced between \$150 and \$600, feature sharp diopside crystals to 1.5 cm on masses of smaller, white to colorless willemite crystals; most of the larger diopside crystals are doubly terminated and all of the willemite fluoresces a bright lemon-yellow. Mike writes that he “posted a number of specimens from this find a few months ago” (I missed it!) but that this newer lot represents “all available specimens that I’m aware of.” Will *more* pretty willemite/diopside specimens become available? Both central African “Congos” are on a mineralogical hot streak right now—so why not??



**Willemite and Diopside, 3.6 cm, from Gotala, near Mindouli, Pool Department, Republic of Congo.**

Mike Keim’s taste in minerals is widely eclectic and his postings are therefore full of surprises. His March 18 update, called “Final Tucson 2024 Minerals,” offers two full-blooded-looking specimens of **rhodonite in galena** from the Broken Hill mines, New South Wales, Australia, measuring 3.3 and 6 cm and costing \$1,500 and \$3,500 respectively. Concerning these distinctive oldies from an unnamed former collection, Mike writes quite correctly that “Australian rhodonites of this magnitude are rare to see available now”...so I’m happy to show you here the larger of his two examples.



**Rhodonite, 6 cm, from Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia. Marin Mineral Company specimen and photo.**

Those who harbor perverse (?) soft spots for radioactive specimens of secondary uranium and thorium species will find good shopping currently on the website of *Persson Rare Minerals* ([perssonrareminerals.com](http://perssonrareminerals.com)). I have never mentioned Phil Persson's dealership in one of these online reports before, but now is a good time to do so, as Phil has just acquired two collections rich in such things as yellow dustings and microcrystal films of carnotite and tyuyamunite on matrix, from Colorado and Utah; vividly yellow soddyite, kasolite and other hot rarities from Lualaba, Democratic Republic of Congo; spotted yellow-and-brown "gummitite" specimens from the old Ruggles mine in New Hampshire; even shiny black masses of "pitchblende" uraninite from Schneeberg, Jáchymov and Great Bear Lake. Don't we all know, though, that insanely bright, madly fluorescent yellow-green autunite and royally lustrous deep green metatorbernite are the prima donnas among the uranium salts? Well, Phil has fine **autunite** thumbnails and miniatures from a find in 2014 in the Assunção mine, Aldeia Nova, Viseu, Portugal—these from the former Dave Wilber collection. The best of the miniatures is marked "sold," but the thumbnail shown here is available (as of April 3) for \$175, and it is unusual in *not* being a fragile loose group of leafy sheaves, as most autunite specimens are, but rather the sheaves rest edgewise on what looks like a mass of somewhat corroded white feldspar.



**Autunite, 2.9 cm, from the Assunção mine, Aldeia Nova, Viseu, Portugal. Ex Dave Wilber collection. Persson Rare Minerals specimen and photo.**



Then there are the well-known, although increasingly elusive, specimens of “torbernite” (actually **metatorbernite**: see below) from the Margabal mine, Entraygues-sur-Truyère, Aveyron, Occitanie, France: Phil Persson has about ten thumbnails and small miniatures of this very attractive material, also from the Dave Wilber collection. And *then* there are the highly lustrous, very deep green “torbernites” (also, in fact, metatorbernites) from the Musonoi mine, Lualaba Province, Democratic Republic of Congo, of which Phil has a few excellent miniatures from the former Jack Nieburger collection, including the 5.5-cm example shown here which is priced at \$1,950.

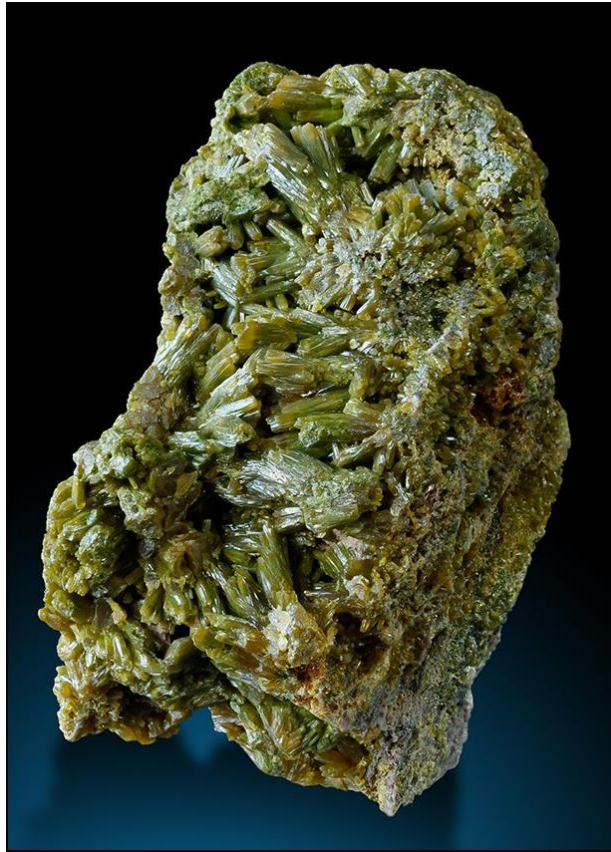


**Metatorbernite, 5.5 cm, from the Musonoi mine, Kolwezi, Lualaba, Democratic Republic of Congo. Persson Rare Minerals specimen and photo.**

Just by the way, torbernite, with 12 molecules of water, dehydrates, especially quickly in arid conditions, to metatorbernite, with 8 molecules of water, and normally, in the process, it goes from transparent.translucent to cloudy green. All specimens from the Margabal mine, the Musonoi mine, and the Gunnislake mine in Cornwall have been found to be—regardless of luster—metatorbernite, and should be labelled as such. (But the Gunnislake specimens originally crystallized as metatorbernite, and consequently Gunnislake is considered the type locality for the species.) If you want the whole scoop on

the matter, see Wendell Wilson’s three separate articles on these major localities for torbernite/metatorbernite in March-April 2016 (Margabal), July-August 2017 (Gunnislake), and March-April 2018 (Musonoi).

In online report #68, and even once or twice before that, I referred you to the website of *Via Mineralia* (viamineralia.com), an enterprise once run jointly by Austrian mineral enthusiasts Robert Kunze and Martin Grüll but now run by Grüll alone, Kunze having gone on to establish a second dealership which he calls *Mister Mineral* (mistermineral.com). Both websites are fun, educational, slightly eccentric, and loaded with European classics, although often with offerings, too, of *new* things seen almost nowhere else (that I know of) around the web. *Mister Mineral* is surely worth looking in on, but the present revisitation is to *Via Mineralia* only, since the expanded “All Minerals” page on that website now has about 150 fine photos of excellent one-of-a-kind old and new. Here are *six* representative *Via Mineralia* pieces...



**Pyromorphite, 5.5 cm, from Příbram, Bohemia, Czech Republic. Via Mineralia specimen and photo.**

In the European Classics department, a beautiful **pyromorphite** from one of the old mines of Příbram, Bohemia, Czech Republic, glistens all over its front with spindle-shaped, olive-green crystals, the whole as impressive as goodly numbers of “new.” i.e. post-World-War II, pyromorphites from Idaho, France, Spain and China. The specimen is now “on hold,” and so Martin does not give its price.



**Phenakite, 5.3 cm, from the Izumrudnye Kopi area, Malyshevo, Sverdlovsk Oblast, Russia. Via Mineralia specimen and photo.**

As just recounted, **phenakite** from Colorado can be very fine, as can phenakite from San Miguel de Piracicaba, Brazil and from the Paleini mine near Momeik in Burma’s Shan State. Old Russian phenakites found long ago in the emerald mines around Yekaterinburg, Sverdlovsk Oblast, are never as pretty as these, but there is a regal quality to the best of them—such as *this* one of Martin Gröll’s. The specimen is a 5.3-cm group of sizable, colorless and translucent phenakite crystals associated with fine-grained mica (as are the emeralds and alexandrites from the same region), priced by Martin Gröll at 1,080 euros ( $\approx$  \$1200).



**Bornite, 4 cm, from Redruth, Cornwall, England. Ex Mineralogical Institute of Bonn. Via Mineralia specimen and photo.**

**Bornite** is a common ore species, but euhedral bornite crystals are rare and highly prized—20th and 21st-century examples have come from Butte, Montana; Dzhezkazgan, Kazakhstan; and (very rarely) the Mangula mine in Zimbabwe. Here, though, is a wonderful 4-cm stack of sharp, complex, brightly metallic black bornite crystals from an unspecified, surely long extinct, copper mine around the town of Redruth, near the center of the 19th-century copper-and-tin mining region of Cornwall, England. Martin Gröll asks 590 euros (a little more than \$600) for this splendid antique.



Fluorite, 5.9 cm, from Aiguille Verte, Mont Blanc, Chamonix, Haute-Savoie, France. Via Mineralia specimen and photo.

Alpine specimens of **octahedral pink fluorite** may be either “old” or “new,” since small finds of crystallized clefts by intrepid *Strahlers* have been coming to light for at least 200 years (and probably for much longer than that), but regardless of its date of collection a *classic* air will inevitably attach to any fine Alpine pink fluorite specimen. This one of Martin Gröll’s, showing a somewhat rough but intensely rose-pink fluorite crystal atop a white feldspar matrix, is from a collecting site near one of the major glaciers high up on Mont Blanc, above Chamonix, France—5,200 euros (≈ \$5,400).



Stephanite with Pyrrargyrite and Calcite, 4.7 cm, from Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico. Via Mineralia specimen and photo.

**Stephanite** specimens from Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico can be just as impressive as their elders from Freiberg and Andreasberg, Germany and as their peers from Peru and the Yukon...and, well, just look at the *luster* (noting at the same time the fine aesthetics more generally) on this Fresnillo specimen of stephanite crystals with quartz, for which Martin asks 2,280 euros ( $\approx$  \$2400).



**Elbaite, 3.8 cm, from Beni Bouzra, Chefchaouen Province, Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region, Morocco. Via Mineralia specimen and photo.**

Silver sulfosalts of the caliber of the one just shown first emerged from Fresnillo during the 1970s, and continue sparsely to do so, but the last *Via Mineralia* piece in this little array is “contemporary,” perhaps a classic-to-be. The gorgeous red **elbaite** specimens from Beni Bouzra, Morocco, which debuted only a few years ago, are the prizes of expert collecting by a team from Tomasz Praszkiel’s *Spirifer Minerals*; they have been showing up fairly regularly on the market of late, but I don’t recall having seen anywhere, at a mineral show or online, a better, more flamboyant one than this matrix miniature for which Martin Gröll asks 640 euros (≈ \$675).



**Hemimorphite, 5 cm, from the 79 mine, Banner Mining District, Gila County, Arizona. McDougall Minerals specimen and photo.**

Significant specimens and specimen lots of the HQLP ("High Quality Low Price") type have heretofore been rather neglected in these online reports, although in the print reports on the major mineral shows in our magazine the "HQLP" subtopic is given a sub-report all its own. For purposes of the print reports we define an HQLP specimen as one that is very good for what it is, thus no-brainer desirable to the properly knowledgeable (if budget-strapped) collector, but priced at \$200 or less. Well, indeed, to begin the sampling here, Ray McDougall of *McDougall Minerals* often has specimens of just this kind on his website ([mcdougallminerals.com](http://mcdougallminerals.com)). His update from this past February offers six lovely specimens of **hemimorphite** from the 79 mine, Banner District, Gila County, Arizona, ranging from medium-miniature to small-cabinet in size and from only \$30 to \$80 in price. Arizona collectors know the old 79 mine as having excelled not only in wulfenite but also in hemimorphite, typically seen as satiny pale blue to white, botryoidal cavity linings—as in these specimens of Ray McDougall's. He doesn't give the specimens' ages, but it is suggestive that the 79 mine's best times for producing hemimorphites like these were in the late 1960s, 1970s and early 1990s. The price of the 5-cm specimen shown in the picture here—an instance of HQLP if there ever was one—is \$75.





**Creedite, 2.8 cm, from the Qinglong mine, Dachang orefield, Guizhou Province, China. Khyber Mineral Company specimen and photo.**

Another dealer who often emphasizes HQLP-type bargains is Ibrahim Jameel of the *Khyber Mineral Company* ([khyberminerals.com](http://khyberminerals.com)). Currently on Ibrahim’s “Under \$100” page we find a goodly number of aesthetically first-rate calcites and fluorites from several Chinese localities, as well as occasional less familiar items from China such as this thumbnail-size purple **creedite** from the Qinglong mine, Dachang orefield, Guizhou Province, for only \$38.



**Scheelite, 8.7 cm, from the Chashan mine, Xianghualing orefield, Linwu, Chenzhou, Hunan, China (?). Khyber Mineral Company specimen and photo.**

Permit me, however, now that I’m roaming around on Ibrahim’s extensive “Chinese” pages, to roam just slightly away from HQLP territory to show you a very interesting item priced at (gasp!) \$300: an attractive specimen with sharp, lustrous, milky white pseudo-octahedral crystals of **scheelite** richly strewn over an 8.7-cm matrix. Ibrahim writes that this specimen, and one other of the same kind also shown on the website, was found “around 2019” in the Chashan mine, Xianghualing orefield, Linwu County, Hunan Province...but these two specimens look to me very, very much like the scheelites brought to the 2023 Munich Show by a Chinese dealership, said by those folks to have come from the Dongqiang mine, Jiangxi Province. There is a picture of one of the “Munich” scheelites on page 120 of the January-February 2024 *Mineralogical Record*: compare it with the picture, shown here, of one of Ibrahim’s pieces. We know, of course, that Chinese locality designations often get “lost” in “translation” in one sense or another, and the three references at my easy disposal—Mindat, and the big books on Chinese minerals by Liu and Ottens—don’t resolve the problem at hand; can anyone help? At least the scheelites seen in Munich *were* of the HQLP type, having been priced between 100 and 200 euros.

Steve Hardinger’s *Dragon Minerals* website (dragon-minerals.com) routinely has, as Steve understates the case, “affordable minerals.” The prices of specimens here seldom reach even low three figures, but if you scroll down the *Dragon* pages attentively you will frequently find HQLP things that “should” be priced at that level at the very least, but are in fact priced far below it. A March 16 update of the website has a handsome 6.5-cm **gypsum** (“selenite”) specimen from the Guardak Basin in Turkmenistan: a parallel group of colorless, transparent crystals, apparently in excellent shape, which costs only \$30 (shown below).



**Gypsum, 6.5 cm, from the Guardak Basin, Lebap Province, Turkmenistan.  
Dragon Minerals specimen and photo.**



**Wulfenite coated with quartz, 4.1 cm, from the Finch mine, Keystone Gulch, Banner Mining District, Gila County, Arizona. Dragon Minerals specimen and photo.**

And here is a very “full,” sparkling specimen from an old Arizona-standby occurrence: a 4.1-cm plate of **drusy quartz-coated wulfenite** crystals from the Finch mine, Keystone Gulch, Banner District, Gila County, which costs all of \$18. If you want to refine your HQLP-shopper skills you ought to make regular visits to this modest, generous, often surprising website.

Currently on the website of Dan Zellner’s *DanZ Rock Shop* ([danzrockshop.com](http://danzrockshop.com)) there are a dozen or so loose clusters of yellow-orange cubic **fluorite** crystals from the Bergmännisch Glück mine, Frohnau, Saxony, Germany, in sizes from 4.8 to 8.9 cm. I have mentioned this occurrence before in online reports, as local collectors have lately been busy in the remains of the long-closed mine near Annaberg in the Erzgebirge, but Dan’s specimens are as good as any I’ve seen online or “in person” at the Munich Show.



**Fluorite, 5.5 cm, from the Bergmännisch Glück mine, Frohnau, Saxony, Germany. DanZ Rock Shop specimen and photo.**

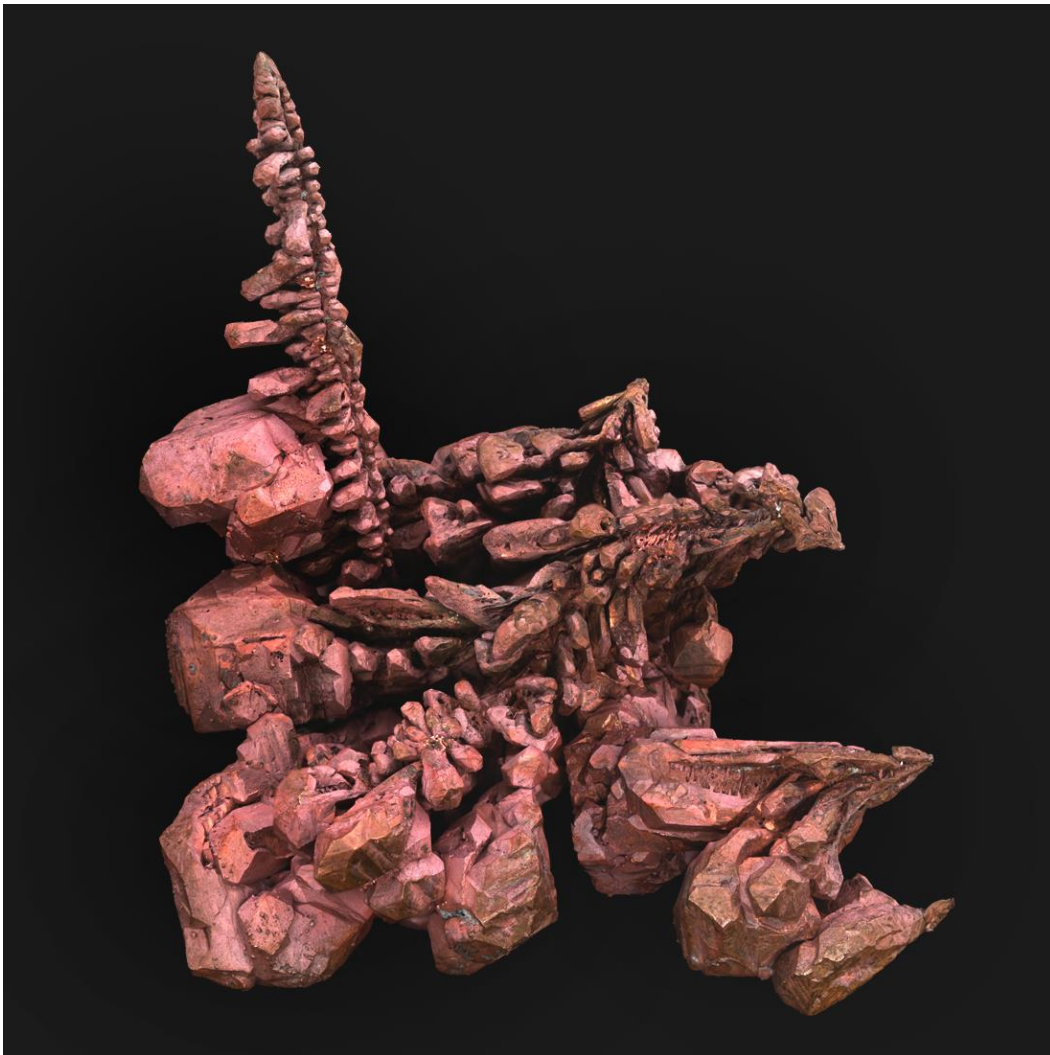
The bright, gemmy fluorite crystals are spotted with little crystals of chalcopyrite; inside them, what's more, there are thin brown and bluish lines near the surfaces of, and parallel to, the cube faces. For one of these beautiful Saxon additions to your fluorite suite Dan Zellner asks between \$300 and \$800.

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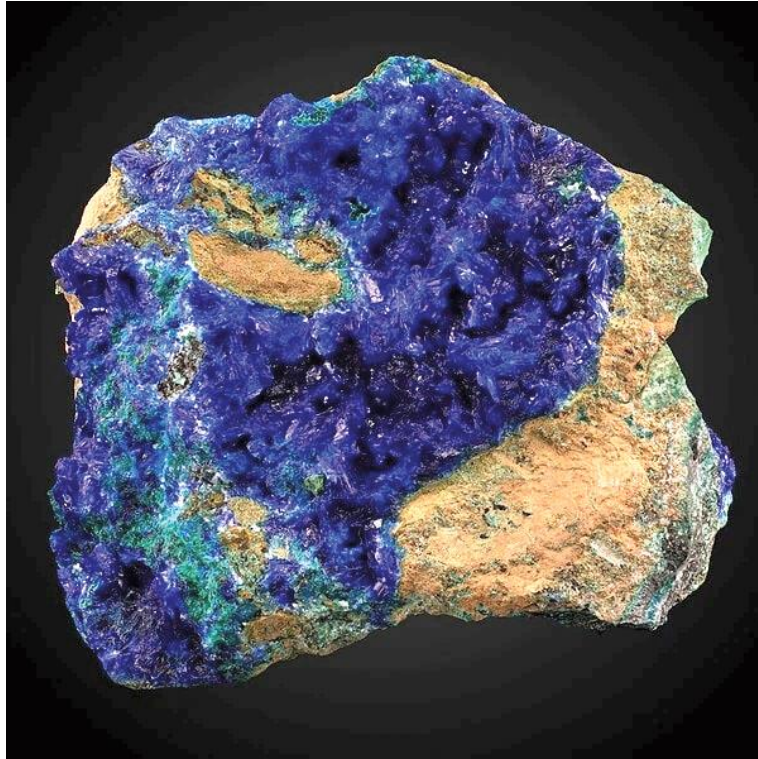
The rest of this online report will feature some one-of-a-kind, both “old” and “new,” of significant note—whereby to repeat the idea that the pleasure, fun, and educational value

of surfing the mineralogical web consists as much in ogling such specimens (whether or not you can afford them) as in shopping too single-mindedly for “what’s new.”

Right now, many dealers are offering one-of-a-kind from old collections and/or fine pieces which contemporary collectors are de-accessioning with the dealers’ help. As I’ve written in my print reports on the 2023 Denver and 2024 Tucson shows (the latter to be seen in the upcoming May-June 2024 issue of the *Mineralogical Record*), Gail and Jim Spann have released for resale through Bryan Lees’ *Collector’s Edge* dealership a few *hundred* fine specimens from the Spanns’ young but already world-class collection. Here are three of them which I happen to find most impressive: a wonderful **copper** miniature from the Onganja mine in Namibia (\$8,500; now SOLD); a rare **linarite** from the earliest days of work in the first oxidation zone (or perhaps even in the original “Green Hill” outcrop) at Tsumeb (\$10,250); and a stately **franklinite**, with a huge black octahedron, almost free of damage, in calcite, from the Sterling Hill mine, Franklin District, New Jersey (\$2,500). Prepare to ogle:



Copper, 4.7 cm, from the Onganja mine, Seeis, Windhoek District, Khomas Region, Namibia. Jim and Gail Spann collection, now being offered by Collector’s Edge. Invenio Fine Minerals photo.



**Linarite, 6.2 cm, from Tsumeb, Namibia. Jim and Gail Spann collection, now being offered by Collector's Edge. Invenio Fine Minerals photo.**



**Franklinite in calcite, 7.2 cm, from the Sterling Hill mine, Franklin District, Sussex County, New Jersey. Ex Herb Obodda collection. Jim and Gail Spann collection, now being offered by Collector's Edge. Invenio Fine Minerals photo.**

And now *eight* more remarkable one-of-a-kind specimens which I have been pleased to discover hiding out inconspicuously on Athos Locatelli's *Minservice* website (minservic.com)—an online consortium of six Italian dealerships, all of which offer predictable “what’s new” items but specialize, really, in rare species, mostly from Europe.



**Serpierite, 4.2 cm, from the Serpieri mine, Laurium, Attika, Greece. Minservice specimen and photo.**

The specimens’ pictures as first seen on-screen are quite small, and their captions make you say (1) “what is *that*?”...but when you click to enlarge the pictures you’re more apt to say (2) “well, yes, I have heard of *that*, but never imagined that *that* could be *that* attractive, desirable, and (in the useful if overused term) “collectible.” All of the goodies shown here are from the update of March 14 on *Minservice*, where all six dealers obligingly give their prices not only in euros but also in U.S. dollars. First, from the



*Minservice* dealership itself, here is a probably-good-as-it-gets example of **serpierite** from the type locality for the species, the Serpieri mine, Laurium District, Attika, Greece: a dense cavity filling of sky-blue rosettes of serpierite microcrystals (\$162).



**Gismondine, 3.7 cm, from the Osa quarry, Osteria dell'Osa, Rome, Lazio, Italy. Minservice specimen and photo.**

And here is a very attractive specimen of the rare zeolite **gismondine** from the Osa quarry, inside the city limits of Rome, showing octahedral gismondine crystals to 4 mm, with little crystals of phillipsite-K as well, on matrix (already SOLD).



**Böhmite with Natrolite, 4 cm, from the Saga 1 quarry, Porsgrunn, Telemark, Norway. Minservice specimen and photo.**

*Minservice* also offers a winningly pretty miniature of **böhmite**— $\text{AlO}(\text{OH})$ —from a quarry in the alkaline pegmatites of Telemark, Norway, with delicate tufts of white crystals in a vug with natrolite (SOLD).

From the *Rolando Minerals* dealership on the *Minservice* site we have a tiny but exquisite thumbnail of orange **phillipsite** (whether  $-\text{Ca}$ ,  $-\text{K}$  or  $-\text{Na}$  is not specified) from northern Italy, for just \$30.



**Phillipsite, 1 cm, from Fittà, Soave, Veneto, Italy. Rolando Minerals specimen and photo.**



**Libethenite, 3.6 cm, from L'ubietová, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia. Rolando Minerals specimen and photo.**

And from *Rolando* again we have a classic **libethenite** from its type locality of L'ubietová (German: *Libethen*), Banská Bystrica, Slovakia, showing lustrous, razor-sharp, black-green crystals to 2 mm sprinkled over a 3.6-cm matrix (an HQLP bargain for \$56).



**Dickite, 5.7 cm, from Lodève, Hérault, Occitanie, France. GMineral specimen and photo.**

From the *GMineral* dealership on *Minservice*, a specimen of **dickite** from Lodève, Hérault, Occitanie, France has a wide, shallow vug lined by tiny, waxy white tabular crystals of the clay mineral such as you probably never saw or imagined before (RESERVED).



**Cylindrite, 6.7 cm, from Poopó, Oruro, Bolivia. GMineral specimen and photo.**

*GMineral* also has a fine 6.7-cm specimen of metallic black **cylindrite**—the rare sulfosalt whose “crystals” are always cylindrical—from Poopó, Oruro, Bolivia (\$73).



**Axinite-(Fe) with Quartz, 10.5 cm, from Dalnegorsk, Primorskiy Kraj, Russia. Silvia's Crystals specimen and photo.**

And finally, to prove that showboat-type specimens of more familiar kinds may also be found on this website, *Silvia's Crystals* has a spectacular 10-cm specimen of **axinite-(Fe)** from Dalnegorsk, Primorskiy Kraj, Russia, with translucent brown, lustrous, bladed crystals to 1.5 cm, plus overlying quartz crystals to 2 cm (\$499).

It has become my habit to end these reports by displaying a single world-beating specimen from somebody's website, but this time I've found the world-beater, not on a mineral dealer's website but on a March 26 Yahoo! posting of a CNN story about a giant partial crystal of **emerald** unearthed on October 2, 2023, in one of the "Kagem" mines of the Kafubu pegmatite field, in the Kitwe District of north-central Zambia, "about 45 km southwest of [the town of] Kitwe, in the southern part of the Zambian Copperbelt." The quoted part of the preceding sentence comes from the article called "The Kagem Emerald Mine," by Steve Behling and Wendell Wilson, in the January-February 2010 *Mineralogical Record*—which see for abundant details concerning this major emerald-mining region, second only in productivity to the centuries-old Colombian Muzo/Chivor region. The article tells us that Zambian emeralds have been mined since 1928, but that there was no effort made to save emerald *specimens* for collectors until 2004, when the *Collector's Edge*

dealership contracted with Gemfields PLC—the company which runs the mines—to extract and prepare showpieces whereon sharp, gemmy emerald crystals to multi-centimetric sizes rise from matrix of massive white quartz. The enormous emerald which is the subject of the CNN story is of good, deep color, and gemmy through much of its volume; it weighs almost 1.1 kilograms (2.5 pounds) and the story claimed that it would produce gems to the tune of 5,655 carats. Unfortunately, the story informs us, it will be “cut into smaller pieces and auctioned in Singapore in November,” but meanwhile we do have this fleeting chance to ogle it. Ah, “Green, I want you green,” sighs the poet Lorca...and (setting aside the paucity of crystal faces) have you ever seen such a lump of emerald loveliness of such a *size*? I didn’t think so.



**Emerald, about 15 cm, from the Kafubu pegmatite field, Kitwe District, Zambia.  
Gemfields PKC specimen; photographer unknown.**

Have a fine, busy, fruitful time this summer adding nice minerals to your collection.

**Tom Moore**