

Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California



Volume 79 Number 12

December 2008

The 849th Meeting of The Mineralogical Society
of Southern California

Extra-terrestrial minerals: a tour of the solar system

by

Alyssa Morgan

Friday, December 12, 2008, at 7:30 p.m.

Geology Department, E-Building, Room 220

Pasadena City College

1570 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena

Featuring:

- Santa Rosalia, Mexico and cumengeite crystals
- 2009 AFMS program competition
- The cumengite crystals in Smithsonian Institute
- Open house at Jewel Tunnel Imports
- Agates from the Zerk collection

Extra-terrestrial Minerals for December



Alyssa Morgan will speak in December.

By Janet Gordon

Our Friday, December 12, 2008, meeting will feature "*Extra-terrestrial minerals: a tour of the solar system*" by Alyssa Morgan. Alyssa is an expert in high-Ti lunar basalts and the evolution of the lunar mantle, but she promises this will be a more general talk with an overview of the terrestrial planets, summarizing the

ongoing research in planetary petrology and comparative planetology. She'll give us examples of current research projects including hers and how they fit into the big picture. She will also bring some meteorites for us to examine and discuss.

Alyssa recently became the Collections Manager for the Mineral Sciences section of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and holds an M.S. in geological sciences.

The meeting will be held in the PCC Geology Department, E-building, room 220 at 7:30 pm as usual.

Minutes of the November 14, 2008 Meeting

The 848th meeting of The Mineralogical Society of Southern California was held on Friday, November 14, 2008, at Pasadena City College. President Geoff Caplette brought the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Vice President Janet Gordon then introduced the speakers of the evening, Bonni and Graham Macintosh, who gave a presentation entitled: “The Minerals, Rocks and Mining History of Santa Rosalia , Baja California.”

Bonni Macintosh, a registered nurse, with a lifelong interest in mineral collection, began traveling and rockhounding with Graham Macintosh in Baja California in 1993. Graham Macintosh is a travel writer, lecturer and author of four books documenting his adventures throughout Baja California. Please go to grahammackintosh.com for more information. Both are entertaining and informative speakers.

The desolate beauty, historic Santa Rosalia buildings, stubborn transportation animals and annoying insects of Baja California were colorfully described. One particularly interesting aspect of the presentation was the history of the El Boleo Company’s copper mining operations at Santa Rosalia from the 1880’s to the 1950’s. Incredibly, at the time of the couple’s last visit, much of the smelter facilities, the electric power plant, related mining equipment, personal protection devices and even ledgers, were available for exploration or examination.

Most importantly, Bonni and Graham Macintosh collected rare cumengeite crystals (see picture at right) , including “sixlings” overgrown on boleite cubes. Their hunting and research diligence, both in the ground and through scientific articles and surveys, made their finds possible. Their discoveries led to an article in *Rock and Gem*, and a footnote in *Mineralogical Record*.



Some of the cumengeite crystals in Macintoshs’ collection. The largest crystal to the left measured about half an inch give or take.

Photo by Shou-Lin Lee

The presentation was accompanied by numerous slides, and collected minerals and old glassware, pottery and the like, were displayed.

Jo Anna Ritchey announced that Rock Currier was the CFMS awardee, in honor of his many contributions to the teaching and understanding of the mineralogical sciences. He will select a college, and work with the appropriate educators there to designate a student for receipt of a scholarship. The student's course of study must relate to the mineralogical or geological sciences, or the lapidary arts.

Gene Reynolds stated that more material donations were needed for the upcoming Pacific Micro-Mount Conference.

The open house at Jewel Tunnel Imports will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2008.

The meeting was brought to a close at 9:00 p.m. by President Caplette.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Caplette Secretary

Pacific Micro-Mount Conference

The 44th Pacific Micro-Mount Conference is scheduled for January 30, 31 and February 1, 2009 at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands. You will receive registration information either with your dues notice or in a separate mailing. All members are welcome even if you do not own a microscope! Plan to be there!

Micro's Needed



Micro's are needed for the Pacific Micro-Mount auction.

Please send your specimens to:

**Walt Margerum
14892 Sutro Ave.
Gardena, CA 90249.**

2009 AFMS Program Competition

For those who would like to share your knowledge in the earth sciences such as geology, minerals, gems, fossils, field collecting etc, or your experience in how to prepare fossil/mineral specimen, making jewelry, carving or faceting stones, etc., with a broader audience than your club members the 2009 American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) offers a chance. The AFMS program competition is open for filing now. Following is the program competition rule and entry form reprinted from AFMS Newsletter Volume 62, Number 2, December-January 2009 issue.

2009 Program Competition ENTRY FORM

I/we submit “

”

(title)

in [circle one] Class 1 Class 2 Class 3 Class 4

OR “EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION” (for programs produced “for sale”)

Producer(s) _____
(your name/s)

Club _____
Office _____ Federation _____
[if Club entry]

[street address]

[city] _____ [state] _____ [zip] _____
Home phone _____ e-mail _____

IS THIS PROGRAM FOR SALE? No _____ Yes _____

Cost: _____

2009 AFMS Program Competition Rules

The purpose of this Competition is to Recognize and Reward authors of presentations about the Earth Sciences and to make winning programs available to affiliated Clubs across the country. Slide, video or digital presentations relating to the Earth Sciences are eligible. Submit entries in one of the four amateur classes or “EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION” for “commercial” presentations. *Each program is judged on its own merits. *Entrants in amateur categories will receive a composite score sheet with comments / score. *Judging Form and “Tips for Good Programs” are available from AFMS Coordinator or your Regional Program Library.

WHO MAY ENTER

Any Club, Society, or members thereof, with 2009 dues paid to a Federation affiliated with AFMS may enter. (Does not apply to “Excellence in Education” entries)

DEADLINE for entry: April 15, 2009

CLASSES FOR ENTRIES

Class 1 -Educational - about geology, minerals, gems, fossils, etc.

Class 2 -Field Collecting - showing site(s), specimens, with some geology, collecting methods and other aspects of interest.

Class 3 -”How To Do It” - techniques/equipment for fossil prep., jewelry, metal work, carving, faceting, other lapidary, etc.

Class 4 -”Just for Juniors” - any of the above for youngsters.

“Excellence in Education” entries are judged separately.

JUDGING (Judges look for:)

-accuracy of information / educational value

-quality of photographs / visuals

-completeness of story narration that reads/moves well, one slide/view to the next presentations that explore an area of interest or demonstrate ideas/techniques which viewers may try
title, credits and “The End” slides

-phonetic spelling of unfamiliar words in script example: Sault Ste. Marie (SUE saint marie)

For CD or DVD, VHS VIDEOS entries

- submit a copy.
- may be 'live action' or static slides with narration.

For SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

- must be 35mm, in standard mounts.
- must be relatively new originals on Kodak compatible film, otherwise good copies may be impossible.
- must be spotted for projection, preferably with a red dot in lower left corner and coded with entrant's initials.
- must be numbered to match script.
- a script (written narration indicating when each slide is to be projected) preferably typed, ready for duplication.(sample formats available upon request) Script on a "floppy" or CD is very helpful but not required.

FOR EXCEPTIONS - contact Coordinator

AWARDS

A \$200 cash prize for the highest scoring program (with 95+ points),
\$100 if score is 94 - 90 points, (for highest score) in each Class 1 - 4.

In addition, Winners receive national recognition. A copy of each winning program is given to each Regional Program Library; thus winning programs are available to Clubs across the country. Winners will be announced at the AFMS Awards Banquet at Billings MT, August 1, 2009

PROGRAM LENGTH

Adult programs – 30 - 40 minutes is optimum
Juniors - 20 minutes suggested maximum

REPRODUCTION / DUPLICATION

By entering, all winners grant permission for AFMS to duplicate their entry for the Regional Libraries. 35mm slides will be scanned by a professional then returned to producer. Arrangements will be made regarding duplication of video/digital presentations. Non-winners will be returned after judging is complete. AFMS will take reasonable precautions to protect program while it is in our hands.

HOW TO ENTER

Fill out entry form (or copy) and ship with carefully packed program to address below.

DIRECT QUESTIONS AND ENTRIES TO:

AFMS Program Competition Coordinator, Marge Collins,
3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd. Buchanan MI 49107 269-695-4313
<margaret@qtm.net>

***Congratulation to Rock Currier
for being selected as
CFMS Scholarship Awardee***

**It's Dues Time Again
Membership dues are due again
Please reply promptly
When you receive the due notice in the mail**

Cumengite Crystals in the Smithsonian Institute

By Shou-Lin Lee

Last year while I was at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum, I saw the cumengite crystals in their collection (see next page). Not knowing anything about cumengite, I was struck by the vivid blue color, the perfect formation and the unusual shape of the crystal, not to mention the size of the crystals. Especially the single crystal to the left (see page 10), it was, well my memory was fuzzy, but I think it was about the size of my fist. I had no idea what a cumengite was, how rare the specimen was and the history of the town Boleo where these were found. I took the picture intending to learn more about the mineral, but somehow forgot about it. Thanks to the Macintoshes, now I have a better appreciation of the pieces.



Online Discussion Group in the History of Mineralogy and Crystallography

If you are interested in the history of mineralogy and crystallography, now there is an online discussion group called Oryctics. The site is managed by Paul Tambuyser of Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy. Topics of discussion include antiquarian books, publications and manuscripts,

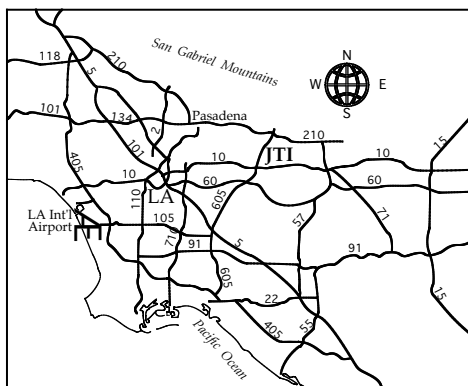
crystallographic goniometers and other antique crystallographic and mineralogical instruments, crystal models, and everything related to the history of these sciences. To subscribe go to: <http://www.mineralogy.be/oryctics.html>

You are invited
Open house at Jewel Tunnel Imports
Saturday, December 13, 2008, 10 AM to 4PM

13100 Spring St., Baldwin Park, CA 91706, 626-814-2257
Map available at jeweltunnel.com
Refreshments will be served.

Jewel Tunnel Imports is a leading wholesale distributor of mineral specimens, crystals, fossils, tumbled stones and many different kinds of lapidary items like balls, eggs, jewelry etc. made from different minerals. We have a warehouse in excess of 10,000 sq. feet full of mineral related natural history items, perhaps the largest of its kind in the United States.

Directions to Jewel Tunnel Import's warehouse.



Historically Jewel Tunnel Imports has had limited open house parties

for mineralogically and geologically oriented groups such as the students and faculty of various university geology departments and members of certain gem and mineral societies. These open houses, by invitation only, on a few weekends just preceding

Christmas, offer a chance for individuals belonging to these groups to buy minerals and crystals at wholesale prices and to

learn something about the wholesale gem and mineral business.

Banquet and Auction Reminder

It will be here sooner than you think! Save Saturday evening, January 24, 2009, for an evening of fun, great food, and a special talk on the minerals of Mars. Start planning now to contribute to the silent auction of minerals and related items such as books, gems, and mineral memorabilia. Please contact Janet Gordon if you have questions, items to donate, or ideas about how to make the evening even more fun.

Some Agates from The Zerk Collection

By Shou-Lin Lee

Oscar Ulysses Zerk, invented the grease fitting which bears his name (Zerk fitting) and which made Mr. Zerk a very wealthy man in the first part of the 20th century. Mr. Zerk was a very prolific inventor in his time, with more than three hundreds patents of his inventions. However, it is unsure whether any of his inventions were related to mineralogy, or lapidary. So you ask, why am I talking about him here?

Well, he was a very discriminate fossil and mineral collector. After he moved into a 15 room mansion that he named "Dumovin" in Kenosha, Wisconsin, he converted the third floor of the house into his own private museum. The museum was sealed by his widow after his passing in 1968. Mrs. Zerk continued living in the house until her passing in 1995. Sometime after that, Mrs. Zerk's niece, the executor of the estate, auctioned off the contents of the house. The collection of fossils and minerals was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Olson of the Donald Olson and Associate, Inc.

I first learned about the collection when Dave Hignett showed me a suite of four iris agate cabochons from the collection. The iris of one of the pieces has such an exceptional quality that the iris is visible even under reflected light (see picture). Not knowing that Mr. Hignett got the agates from the Olsons, I told Mr. Olson about this great iris agate of Zerk Museum and asked if he knew any thing about this Zerk museum because no one seems to know any thing about this Zerk museum. To my surprise, Mr. Olson told me that he could vouch the provenance of the pieces because he purchased the whole mineral collection from the Zerk estate. After searching in vain, both on internet and library about the Zerk collection, I was excited to find that someone I know actually saw the museum. Mr. Olson told me about the Zerk's gold and silver crystal collections that were stolen and never recovered, the carved ivory collection that caused a bidding frenzy, and the correspondences between Mr. Zerk and his lapidary in Germany. Apparently, Mr. Zerk was quite particular when it came to how to cut the stones. In addition to the iris agate collection, Mrs. Olson also showed me some of the Montana agate cabochons from the Zerk collection (see picture to the right and in next



This picture was taken with the agate placed on a piece of glass with a mirror underneath the glass. The distance between the glass and the mirror was about two inches. The larger image on top is the actual agate while the smaller one with brighter color is the mirrored image of the agate. So far this set up is the only way I was able to get the color of the iris successfully.



page).



ARIZONA MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW

TUCSON ~ JAN. 31 - FEB. 14, 2009

Show Hours: 10 - 6 daily

4 LOCATIONS

- ★ **Quality Inn - Benson Hwy.** - I-10, Exit 262, Northeast corner of Benson Hwy at Park
- ★ **InnSuites Hotel - Downtown** - 475 N. Granada Ave., at St. Marys
- ★ **Ramada Ltd. - Downtown** - 665 N. Freeway, at St. Marys
- ★ **Mineral & Fossil Marketplace** - 1333 N. Oracle, at Drachman

Over 400 dealers with the best minerals & fossils in TUCSON!

Retail ★ Wholesale ★ Open to the Public ★ Free Admission & Parking

Special wholesale ballroom - Quality Inn - Benson Hwy.

DAVE BUNK MINERALS ★ ROCKS OF AGES BOOKS

Martin Zinn Expositions L.L.C., PO Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, fax: (505) 867-0073, email: mzexpos@aol.com, www.mzexpos.com

2008 Calendar of Events

December 6-7 2008, Barstow, CA Mojave Gem & Mineral Society Cora Harper Community Center 841 S. Barstow Road
Hours: 10-5 Both Days

HAPPY HOLIDAYS