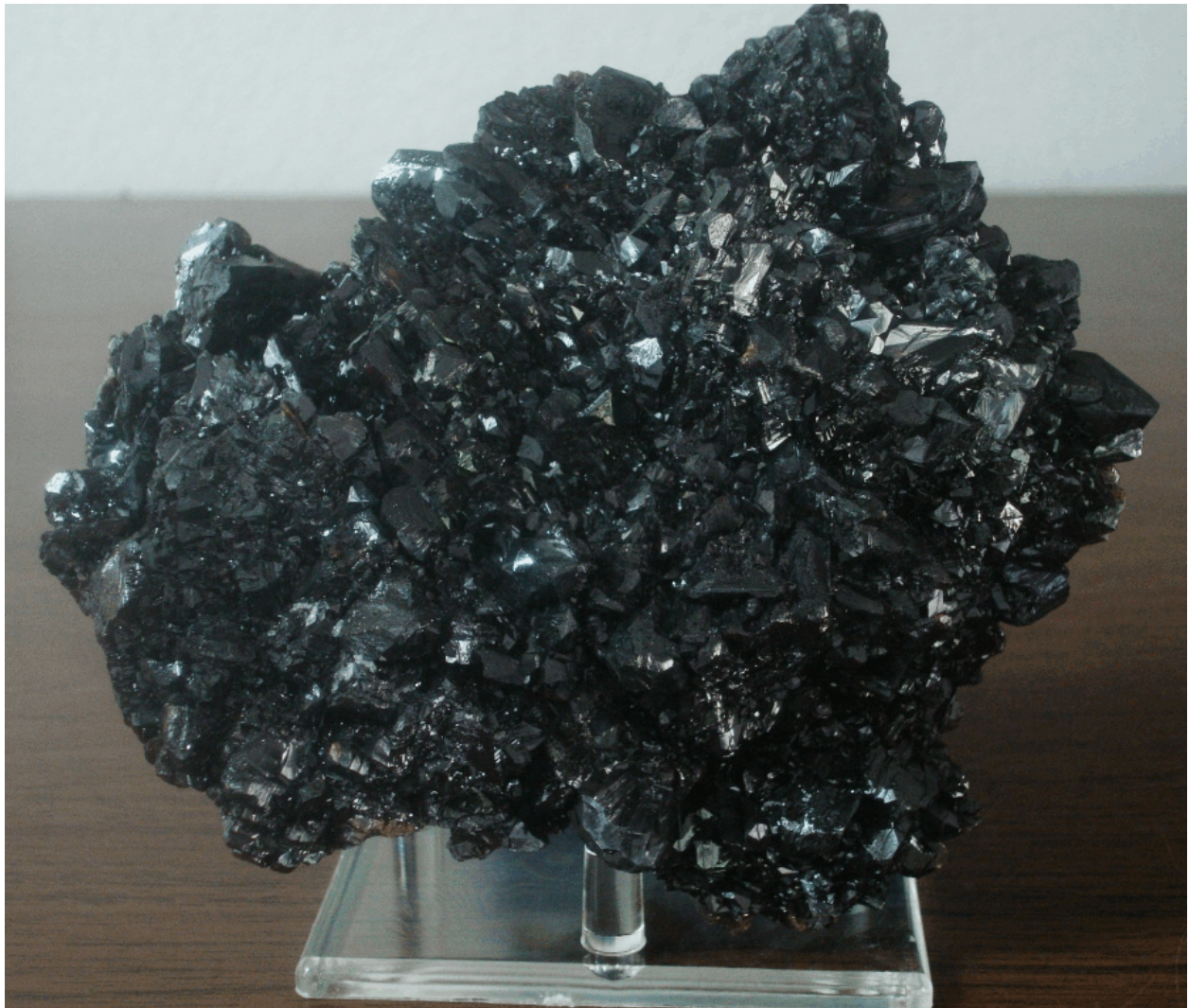


# April 2009 Platinum Member Offerings

## SPHALERITE Elmwood Mine, Smith County, Tennessee

In case you missed it, we still have 3 of the large Sphalerites left from last month, as described below, along with a good supply of the \$22.50 and \$35 specimens—from this renown locality, featured in the “American Mineral Treasures” exhibit and book produced in conjunction with 2008's Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, and rightly so!

The sphalerite has sharp crystals and great metallic luster, as the photos hint at, but don't quite capture. (The true beauty of many minerals is difficult to capture in photos!) The crystals look black, but are actually intensely red, which you will notice in the edges of some of the crystals when help in light. These are incredible specimens!



**Figure 1.** Sphalerite cluster, about 6" across and 5" high. Photo doesn't capture true luster.

# April 2009 Platinum Member Offerings

Sphalerite crystals on massive sphalerite matrix, about 2" to 2.5" by 1.5" to 2" \$22.50 (just like back in 1998!)

Sphalerite crystals on larger massive sphalerite matrix, about 3" by 2.75" \$35

Larger sphalerite crystals on larger massive sphalerite matrix about 5.5" across by 2.5" high for \$100– 1 left.

Flower-like cluster about 1.75" by 1.75" on matrix about 5" across and 3" high for \$150. 1 Left.

Biggest sphalerite crystal cluster, about 9" across and 8" high for \$180. 1 Left.

## **CALCITE** Elmwood Mine, Smith County, Tennessee

We have about 9 left with excellent color, luster and translucency, excellent forms and terminations! The calcite is susceptible to bruising during extraction and handling, and almost all Elmwood calcite seems to have slight bruising, and these do too, though hardly noticeable. No matrix on these.

Calcite crystals, very light color, about 2.5" long and 2" wide, \$25, \$30, & \$40

Calcite crystals, champagne color recognizable for being from Elmwood (gorgeous), about 2.5" long and 2" wide, \$50, \$60



## **PINK HALITE**, Searles Lake, near Trona, San Bernardino County, California.

We have only 5 of these left, so this is the last time we'll be mentioning this lot. We first featured this halite in January 1997, and have handled a lot of it over the years, but these are the nicest pieces we have ever seen! Evidently, the crystals grew more slowly than usual, so that some of them are almost transparent, which is quite unusual. Most of these are on a bed of the rare evaporate mineral nahcolite, which makes for a nice contrast! The smaller pieces of course sold first, but we have these 5 beauties left, for \$120, \$150, \$180, \$225, and \$280.



Pink Halite, \$125 piece, about 7" across and 4" high—SOLD.

# April 2009 Platinum Member Offerings



Pink Halite, \$175 piece, about 7" across and 5"–SOLD.



Pink Halite, \$250 piece, about 10" across and 5" high–SOLD.

## **BROOKITE**, Kharan District, Balochistan Province, Pakistan

During Tucson 2007, we got a terrific deal on a large lot of Brookite from the new find in Pakistan. The importer kindly gave us a huge discount so we could feature it in our Club! The lot included some of the best specimens, making it possible for us to offer you at less than one third of their original retail price. The brookite, a rare polytype of  $TiO_2$ , is trimorphous with Anatase and Rutile. (Let me know if you'd like us to send you a copy of our write-up on it.)

The brookite is found as thin, bladed crystals of a reddish-brown color on matrix, sometimes associated with pretty needle quartz, as seen in Figure 2. We have 4 specimens left, and that will be all she wrote:

1.5" by 1" matrix piece, retail \$200, your price \$62.50

3" by 2.5" matrix piece, retail \$220, your price \$70.

About 4" across by 5.5" high matrix , retail \$280, your price \$90.

About 4.5" across by 6.5" high matrix, retail \$480, your price \$150.



Brookite crystals on matrix from Pakistan.

# April 2009 Platinum Member Offerings

Nice specimens available from the upcoming April Offer sheet:

**UVAROVITE GARNET\***, Sarany near Per'm, Central Ural Mountains, Russia. Another beautiful garnet group mineral! The matrix is of gray chromite about 2" by 2", coated with lots of very small, intensely green, gemmy crystals that come alive when viewed under magnification. Even without magnification, the pieces are quite striking! About 2" by 2" for \$20, with a few slightly bigger/better pieces for \$30. We also have a couple of large matrix pieces: over 7" across and almost 4" high with lots of brilliant green crystals for \$170, or about 4.5" across and 3" high for \$210.

**LABRADORITE\***, Madagascar. One of our favorite minerals, although according to the latest *Glossary of Mineral Species* it no longer is an officially approved mineral--wonder what it's supposed to be called now? Anyway, these are polished pieces that give off a flash of color (due to crystal twinning, as explained in the write-up,) known as "labradorescence" when viewed from the correct angle--mainly shades of yellow, green, and blue. About 2" by 2" pieces are \$18 and \$20, and about 2" by 3" pieces are \$22 and \$25.

**CALCITE-REPLACED AMMONITES\***, Madagascar. Ammonite fossils replaced by calcite, polished to show off their beauty, about 2" by 2" for \$22.50. Also, some slightly larger ones that give off a red iridescence that is quite stunning, for \$34, \$42, and \$48, by size/quality.

**GROSSULAR GARNET**, Coyote Front Range, near Bishop, Inyo County, California. Nice brownish-red garnets with good form and faces, on matrix about 1.5" by 1.5" for \$12; about 2" by 3" for \$20 and \$25; biggest and best for \$35, \$40, and \$50. We were hoping to feature these, but couldn't get quite enough specimens.

**RED BERYL\***, Violet Claim, Wah Wah Mountains, Beaver County, Utah. We obtained last month in Tucson one last, small lot from the mine geologist's collection. We have 8 Red beryls mounted in 1.25" plastic boxes: 2 with opaque crystals on a small amount of matrix for \$30 and \$35; and 6 with crystals showing some gemminess and no matrix to speak of for \$35, \$40, \$45, and \$60. We also have 3 specimens with a nice but opaque Red beryl crystal about .5" on white matrix about 2" by 1" for \$65, \$80, and \$85. And we have a few left with larger crystals and larger matrix for \$180, \$210, and \$550.

**2008 GLOSSARY OF MINERAL SPECIES** We have 5 copies left, newly updated with all the new species approved since 2004, and all the changes to mineral groups, for \$26 plus \$3 shipping.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to order one or more. Thanks!

Richard

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