

From: news@aamineralspecimens.com
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To: dbarthelmy@webmineral.com
Subject: 2nd April 2009 Newsletter



AA MINERAL SPECIMENS

61 2 9980 9815

ABN 83 320 547 821

2nd April 2009

Dear Dave Barthelmy

We've had the pleasure of obtaining a series of specimens from a well known Australian collector. The list of minerals can only be described as eclectic (love that word eclectic, don't you?).

The items include a very unusual 'dogtooth' aquamarine from Brazil. Some unusually large shattuckites from Namibia. An amazing, gemmy spodumene from Afghanistan. Also from Afghanistan, an afghanite that will have particular appeal to those interested in fluorescent minerals.

We are particularly proud of the jeremejevite from Namibia. This is a bit of a coup considering the rarity of the species and the size and quality of the crystal.

Another specimen of special interest is the bixbite, also known as red beryl or red emerald. There are not many around of this quality.

For those who like their specimens large and colorful there is a huge labradorite (also known as spectrolite) from the famous locality of Ylmaa in Finland. Being a member of the plagioclase group of feldspars that occur as multiple twins its hard to call this a single crystal but it is a single face of extraordinary size and color. Double sided too.

The list goes on..we hope you enjoy the variety and appreciate the quality.

Bruce & Susan

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Spectrolite

Spectrolite is a commercial name for a particularly colorful variety of the plagioclase feldspar, labradorite.

Labradorite, as is typical of the plagioclases, has the habit of forming multiple crystal twins. This means that the crystals occur layered one against the other much as the pages in a book.

This layering has the effect of reflecting and refracting light as it penetrates into the stack of crystals. This cumulative effect has a similar result as passing natural light into a series of prisms. The light is split into its constituent wave lengths producing the splay of color we associate with labradorite. Much the same process occurs with opal giving the flash of color that is considered so desirable.

The term spectrolite is applied to particularly colorful labradorite found near the village of Ylammaa in eastern Finland and has quite an interesting history.

The Finnish geologist, Aarne Laitakari (1890-1975) was aware of the existence of this material and looked for its origin for some years. During the war with the U.S.S.R. in 1940 his son, Pekka, was building tank obstacles for the Salpa Line fortifications and in the process found the source of the colorful labradorite his father had been seeking for so many years.

After the war the Ylammaa labradorite was promoted commercially as "the stone of light". This was considered a bit cumbersome and the term "spectrolite" was coined to conjure the image of the multicolored flashes of light from the items produced from the stone.

The labradorite worked as spectrolite occurs as albite and anorthosite rich pods in rapakivi granites near Lake Ylijarvi. Generally the crystals rarely exceed 5 cm. The crystal face exposed on the specimen we are offering is over 12 cm long making it an exceptionally large specimen.

New Stock



Aquamarine, Tourmaline

Aquamarine, tourmaline & Albite, Erongo Mountains, Namibia.



Spectrolite

Spectrolite, Ylammaa, Finland.



Tanzanite

Tanzanite, Arasha, Tanzania.



Bixbite

Bixbite, Wah Wah Mts, Utah, USA.



Spodumene

Spodumene, Nilaw, Nuristan, Afghanistan.



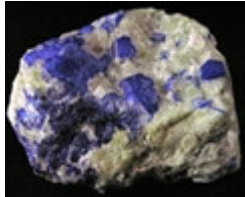
Jeremejevite

Jeremejevite, Arandis, Erongo, Namibia.



Cobaltian Calcite

Cobaltian Calcite, Kananga Mine, Katanga, Congo.



Afghanite

Afghanite, Badakshan, Afghanistan.



Aquamarine

Aquamarine, Mimoso Du Sul Mine, Espirito Santo Brazil.



Malachite

Stalactite Malachite, Katanga Mine, Congo.



Malachite

Stalactite Malachite, Katanga Mine, Congo.



Diopase

Diopase, Kaokoveld, Namibia.

Diopase

Diopase, Kananga Mine, Katanga, Congo.



Diopside

Diopside, Kananga Mine, Katanga, Congo.



Shattuckite, Malachite

Shattuckite, malachite, on quartz, Katanga Mine, Congo.



Rutilated Quartz

Rutilated quartz, Novo Horizonte, Bahia, Brazil.



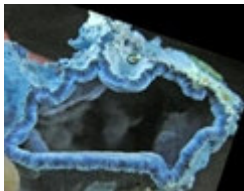
Tourmaline Grenade

Tourmaline Grenade, Mica Creek, Mt Isa, Qld, Australia.



Tourmaline, Quartz

Tourmaline and quartz, Erongo Mountains, Namibia.



Shattuckite

Shattuckite, Kaokoveld, Namibia.



Pyromorphite

Pyromorphite, Yangshun Mine, Guanxi, Hunan, China.

Stibnite in Calcite

Stibnite & Calcite, Le Cetine di Cotorniano Mine, Tuscany, Italy.



Cylindrite

Cylindrite, Santa Cruz Mine, Poopo, Bolivia.



Cerussite

Cerussite, Rum Jungle, NT, Australia.



Azurite

Azurite, Boomerang Mine, Mt Isa, Qld, Australia.



Itinerary

April 2009

Friday 10 to Monday 13 2008

Annual Gemboree

Wimmera Machinery Field Day Site

Longerenong Rd, Dooen via Horsham (Victoria)

May 2009

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17

Lismore Lapidary Club Gemshow

Lismore Showground (NSW)

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