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AA MINERAL SPECIMENS

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26th April 2009

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Dear Dave Barthelmy

This week we are featuring a series of colourful secondary minerals. We have obtained a series of the unique azurite suns from the remote Malbunka Copper Mine in the Areyonga District west of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory of Australia. Having some time worked in the region we are well aware of the beauty of the region and have included a link, later in the newsletter, to a photo of the Areyonga settlement. It is well worth going to Google Earth and entering Areyonga to get some idea of the appeal of the region.

We also have some beautiful gemmy rhodochrosites from the Sweet Home Mine, Alma, Colorado, USA. The Sweet Home is no longer producing and the rhodochrosites that made it so famous are becoming harder and more expensive to obtain.

Zircons from the new discovery in Malawi are also featured. The demand for these items is growing and as with any mineral from a pegmatite source supply is uncertain.

There is a very interesting cuprite on native copper specimen from the Red Dome Mine in Queensland, Australia that displays the relationship between these two sought after minerals.

It is also worth remembering that on the homepage of AA Mineral Specimens there is a "USEFUL LINKS" section to be found by clicking on the "LINKS" tab. This section contains a Mineral Identification Key and a Rock Identification Key to enable the systematic identification of minerals and rocks very useful to the collector. For further reference there is also a Geological Time Scale, a Periodical Table of Elements and an Earth Science Periodic table.

All the best

Bruce and Susan.

NB: If you are having trouble displaying the images in this newsletter, you may need to click the 'display content' link at the top of your page. Also, adding our email address to your address book will in many cases solve the problem. You can also view this

Azurite Suns, Malbunka Copper Mine, Australia

The famous Central Australian artist, Albert Namatjira, was prospecting the remote Malbunka Aranda district of the Australia's Northern Territory in the 1950's and found copper stained outcrop on the edge of a desert creek in the rugged hills east of the Areyonga settlement.

Attempts were made in the 1960's to mine seams of azurite but failed to prove economic as a copper mine. However during these operations seams were found containing azurite in nearly perfectly round disks or 'suns'.

These azurite suns are unique to Australia and will occupy an important part of any collection of Australian minerals.

The source of the copper is an altered tuff containing minute blebs of copper minerals.

The copper has been mobilized and redeposited in an adjacent kaolinitic siltstone. The contrast between the blue of the azurite and the white of the koalinized siltstone provide the aesthetic appeal of these unique specimens.

There have been several explanations suggested for the occurrence of the azurite in this form but none has been widely accepted and until further research is completed the exact process remains a mystery.

Click [HERE](#) to see a picture of the remote Areyonga settlement in the Northern Territory, Australia.

New Stock



Azurite

Azurite suns, Malbunka Copper Mine, Areyonga, NT, Australia.



Azurite

Azurite suns, Malbunka Copper Mine, Areyonga, NT, Australia.



Zircon

Zircon crystal, Kasungu, Malawi.



Zircon

Zircon crystal, Kasungu, Malawi.



Cuprite, Native Copper

Cuprite, Native Copper; Red Dome Mine, Qld, Australia.



Rhodochrosite

Rhodochrosite, Sweet Home Mine, Alma, CO, USA.



Zircon

Zircon, Kasungu, Malawi.



Zircon

Zircon, Kasungu, Malawi.



Zircon

Zircon, Kasungu, Malawi.



Zircon

Zircon, Kasungu, Malawi.



Azurite, Malachite

Azurite, malachite, Malbunka Copper Mine, NT, Australia.



Zircon

Zircon, Gilgit, Pakistan.



Rhodochrosite

Rhodochrosite, Sweet Home Mine, Alma, CO, USA.



Rhodochrosite

Rhodochrosite, Sweet Home Mine, Alma, CO, USA.



Native Gold

Native Gold, Mt Kare, Papua New Guinea.



Actinolite

Actinolite, Mary Kathleen, QLD, Australia.



Actinolite

Actinolite, Mary Kathleen, QLD, Australia.



Manganocalcite

Manganocalcite, Pachapqqui, Peru.



Garnet var. Grossular

Garnet, var. grossular, Asbestos, Quebec, Canada.



Rhodochrosite

Rhodochrosite, Sweet Home Mine, Alma, CO, USA.



Rhodochrosite

Rhodochrosite, Sweet Home Mine, Alma, CO, USA.



Arsenopyrite, Quartz

Arsenopyrite, quartz, Yao Gan Xian, Hunan, China.



Ettringite

Ettringite, Kuruman, South Africa.



Azurite

Azurite Sun, Malbunka Copper Mine, NT, Australia.



Zircon

Zircon, Gilgit, Pakistan.



Pyromorphite

Pyromorphite, Block 14, Broken Hill, NSW, Australia.

Itinerary

April 2009

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17

Lismore Lapidary Club Gemshow
Lismore Showground (NSW)

October 2009

Saturday 3 to Monday 5

Gemkhana, Recreation Area
Braidwood Road, Goulburn (NSW)

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