

DECEMBER 2009 PLATINUM OFFER SHEET

In addition to the large lot of lazurite crystals we picked up for December, we were happy to pick up few pieces of polished Lapis Lazuli and of Afghanite to offer you this month. Free shipping on all these minerals in the U.S.!

Lapis Lazuli, Afghanistan. These are polished pieces with the intense royal blue color and calcite and pyrite inclusions so beloved since its discovery millennia ago! We have three smaller pieces with wonderful color and pleasing shapes—each fits into a 2.5" by 2.5" fold-up box and is available for \$60 and \$80, by weight. We have 4 larger pieces that fit into our 3" by 4" fold-up boxes, for \$100, \$120, and \$160, again by weight. A great companion piece to your lazurite crystal in matrix!



Polished Lapis Lazuli from Afghanistan. Ruler in front gives you an idea of their size. Front row piece: \$60. Middle row, left to right: \$80, \$100, \$80. Back Row: \$160, \$120, \$120.

Afghanite, Lapis Wash Mountain, Koksha Valley, Badakhshan Province, Afghanistan, type locality. With a chemistry of $[(Na,K)_{22}Ca_{10}][Si_{24}Al_{24}O_{96}](SO_4)_6Cl_6$, similar to lazurite's formula $(Na,Ca)_8Si_6Al_6O_{24}[(SO_4),S,Cl,(OH)]_2$, this rare member of the sodalite group is structurally similar to lazurite, but much rarer. We'll send the details on these to you in January 2010's Offer Sheet around January 4, 2010.

Celestite, Sakoany Mines, Madagascar, our December 2000 featured mineral. The name comes from the Latin word for “heavenly,” in allusion to the sky-blue color its crystals often have. (Other common colors for celestite are white, gray, and colorless.) We picked up a nice lot of good-sized, heavy specimens (celestite contains the element strontium, one of the heavier elements) at the show last month in Costa Mesa, California. We have pieces that fit into 3" by 4" fold-up boxes for \$30, \$35, \$40, \$45, and \$50, by size/quality. All the pieces have minor crystal bruising, probably from when they were collected.



Celestite, Madagascar, \$45 specimen.

Smoky Quartz with Phantoms, Ambatofinandahana District, Fianarantsoa Province, Madagascar. These are amazing! Single, polished crystals with great smoky color and luster and amazing phantoms inside! We knew we couldn't get a decent photo with our primitive set-up, so you'll just have to take our word for it—and we can send you one on approval so you'll appreciate their beauty, too! Crystals start at about 2.5" high for \$50, 3" for \$70, with the tallest/best for \$90 and \$120.

Cavansite on Stilbite, Wagholi Quarry, Pune, Maharashtra, India. We have a source for excellent specimens of this gorgeous mineral that we featured in April 1996 and April 2006! We have matrix specimens like the one in the photo for \$200, and \$250. Email if you'd like to see more photos.



Cavansite on Stilbite, India.

Herkimer “Diamonds,” Ace of Diamonds mine, Herkimer County, New York, our June 1997 featured mineral. We have only 5 or 6 of these left, so please let us know soon if you’re interested.

These are much larger than what we obtained 12 years ago. The smallest pieces consist of matrix about 4" to 6" across and about 4" high, each with a vug containing one or more excellent Herkimer “Diamonds” at least .5" across! These are available for \$65, \$75, and \$95, by quality.



Close-up of vug containing Herkimer “Diamonds.” Amazing!

Similarly-sized matrix pieces with more than 1 crystal-lined vug are available for \$110 and \$130. The largest, best pieces are about 6" across for \$175.



Variscite on Quartz, Canarana, Mato Grosso, Brazil. First time we’ve seen these! These have a similar radial structure to the cavansite, but with a pretty medium green color and a more spherical shape, like the one in the photo. We have only 4 left! All are on matrix: Two are thumbnail specimens, 1 for \$20 and 1 for \$40; One is on matrix about 1.75" across with a green variscite ball about 1/8" across for \$30; One 2.25" matrix piece with 1/4" variscite sphere is available for \$60.



Variscite on quartz—Variscite ball is about 3/8" across, matrix about 2.5", for \$100. (Sold.)

Clinochlore, var. Seraphinite,
Korshunovskoe mine, Irkutskaya
Oblast, Russia.

We picked up 7 more polished slices
from this incredible new find! We
shot a video of these pieces and put
it on our web site so you can see
them. We also made special pricing
on the slices for Club members as
you'll see when viewing the video.



Clinochlore, var Seraphinite from Russia, a polished slice from a stalactitic formation! This piece is about 8.5" across. We have seven from \$320 to \$1050.

Sugilite, Wessels mine, South
Africa. We have 1 piece left, the one
in the photo below and to the right, for \$375.

And we have 1 strand left of the high quality
Sugilite beads, at a special price of \$325.

And speaking of rare beads, we got another lot
of the beautiful and unusual **Shattuckite
beads** we had a few years ago! We can send
you an Email with information on them
including a photo. They are available for a
special price of \$60 for Club members, with
free shipping in the U.S. Email us and we'll
send you the information and photo.



Sugilite in matrix, polished, from South Africa. 1 left for \$375.

Gold in Conglomerate, Near Couto Magalhaes, Minas Gerais, Brazil. We have 3 left–pieces made up of little pebbles and quartz crystals naturally cemented together, each with a visible group of gold, still attached to the quartz it formed in! You'll need your 10x loupe to appreciate these, as the gold is only 1/8" across and slightly larger. Matrix about 2" by 1" to 2.5" by 1.75", for \$70, \$80, \$90, by size of gold.



Can you see the word "Gold" pointing to the gold?

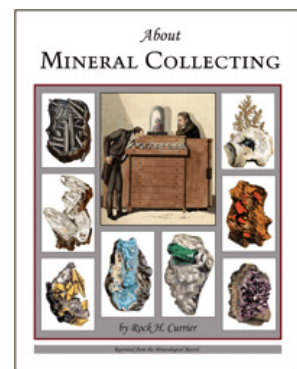
Alphabet Agate Set, Indonesia. We can send you a scan of a 1-page article in the Summer 2003 issue of *Gems and Gemology* about these amazing Alphabet Agates from Indonesia, as seen to the right, if you request it. Pretty amazing!

And we got some Tanzanite crystals from Tanzania, from \$200 to \$400. Email if you'd like a photo.



Alphabet Agate set from Indonesia. Yes, they are natural! Price upon request.

About Mineral Collecting by Rock Currier. This 48-page softcover publication is based on a series of articles in the *Mineralogical Record*. It covers all aspects of collecting minerals, including making purchases, organizing your collection, and much more. It's also full of humorous stories and asides that make it fun to read. And just one suggestion found inside could save you many times the cost of the publication! It's illustrated with drawings of minerals published in the 18th to early 20th centuries. \$15 plus \$2.75 Media mail shipping in the U.S.



Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to place an order. Call or Email to order–thanks! (Not responsible for any typos.)

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