

March 2005 Offer Sheet

April will be another special month, as we feature the rare phosphate **augelite**, from the Rapid Creek region, Yukon, Canada. It forms as small, very pretty light green crystals—in fact, its name comes from the Greek word for luster—which gives you a hint of its lovely color. Augelite rarely forms as large crystals, and because of its beauty and rarity, is an expensive mineral, so our Deluxe-level specimens will be smaller than usual. The matrix will range from about 1" by 1" to 1" by 2", and each will have several well-formed, lightly colored crystals. We do have an upgrade available, larger matrix specimens up to about 2" by 2½", with more small crystals, for an additional \$17.50.

As part of the large spessartine lot, we picked out a small lot of **smoky quartz crystals with spessartine** on them, no matrix, really neat! We have crystals up to about 2½" long with garnets on them for \$16; careful in handling them, we read that the garnets are very loosely attached, and can often be removed with only slight pressure.

We picked up so much new material in Tucson that we had to have 2 shipments sent home, along with loading our van to capacity. We're processing everything as quickly as we can, and will offer it to you as soon as possible. Included was a large lot of carved eggs and spheres made from unusual stones native to Australia:

"Rain Forest Jasper" is a pretty name for a pretty **green rhyolite with brown and clear zones of chalcedony** throughout, many of which fluoresce bright green under shortwave UV light. The fluorescence is caused by a few parts per million of uranium in the stone, which will also register on a Geiger counter, so use common sense when deciding to order one. We have 1½" spheres for \$12, 2" spheres for \$16, and 2" by 1½" eggs for \$18. We also have large spheres: about 3½" for \$36, about 4" for \$60, and bigger, for \$100, \$130, and \$240. (Call or E-mail about larger spheres.)

Another unusual stone from Australia is called **"Tiger Iron"**, because it's a combination of **gray hematite, red jasper, and yellow tigereye**. We have 1½" spheres for \$12, 1¾" by 1¼" eggs for \$12, and 2" by 1½" eggs for \$16; larger, heavier 3" spheres for \$84; bigger, for \$100 and \$180. (Call or E-mail about big spheres.)

"Printstone" is an Australian stone consisting of mineral-stained silt, with shades of creamy pink and earthy red, and streaks of dark brown running throughout. We have it in 2" by 1½" eggs for \$16; and 3" spheres for \$60, and bigger spheres for \$96 and \$120.

And the best for last: **"Peanutwood"** is a brown petrified wood with a difference: each piece has openings made by marine borer worms, naturally filled in by white silt of some kind! So unusual, that Rock & Gem magazine did an article about it—we'll try to find it and make copies to go with the eggs we have, a little pricier because of their rarity. We have 2" by 1½" eggs for \$30, and about 2¼" by 1½" for \$36.

We made a special deal at the end of the Tucson Show with one of our Russian suppliers and picked up a large lot of rare minerals, as follows. Most are not terribly attractive, but still good specimens for those who appreciate them:

From Sarany in the Ural Mountains, where our February 2001 uvarovite (green garnet) came from (also the type locality for uvarovite), **amesite** $[(Mg,Al)_3(Si,Al)O_5(OH)_4]$ as purplish chromium-rich minute barrel-shaped crystals about 1mm-2mm across. Each matrix specimen has many small crystals on it, matrix up to 3" by 2½" for \$18, \$25, \$40, and \$45, with larger matrix pieces for \$70, \$80

Also, **lorenzenite** $[Na_2Ti_2Si_2O_9]$ as sharp black orthorhombic crystals frozen in matrix, from the mineral-rich frozen tundra of the Kola Peninsula, Russia. We have a couple of loose crystals about 1" long for \$6, and ½" long crystals on matrix for \$6; a couple with associated aegerine for \$12; and bigger lorenzenite crystals in matrix for \$15, \$20, and \$25

March 2005 Offer Sheet

Epidote [$\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2(\text{Fe}^{3+}, \text{Al})\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{12}(\text{OH})$] as small sprays of lovely green color, similar to the color and translucence of moldavite, on matrix with pretty, clear needle quartz. We have pieces on matrix about 2" by 1½" to 3" by 2" for \$20, \$25, \$28, \$40, and \$50

Sharp octahedrons of **pyrochlore** [$(\text{Ca}, \text{Na})_2\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_6\text{F}$], one of the few niobium-containing minerals, from Siberia. We have brown specimens from about ¾" by ¾" for \$15 and \$20, with larger pieces for \$35 and \$40.

Rutile [TiO_2] as small grey crystals with metallic luster on matrix from Azerbaijan. We have matrix pieces up to about 2½" by 2" with lots of sharp crystals about 1/16" to 1/8" for \$40.

Another rare titanium mineral, **Ilmenite** [$\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{TiO}_3$], from the Ural Mountains, as black crystals on 2" by 2" matrix, from ½" crystals up to 1¾" for \$25, \$50, \$70, \$80, \$100, \$120

From Bazhenovo in the Ural Mountains we picked out some matrix pieces with small, pale peachy **grossular** [$\text{Ca}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$] garnets on them. You'll need your loupe or magnifying glass to see these pretty crystals well. Lots of little crystals on matrix from about 1½" by 1½" to 2" by 3" for \$5, \$15, \$18, \$20, and \$25

Also, **smoky quartz crystals with small anatase crystals** on them, from the Polar Urals. We have crystals about from about 2" long and ¾" wide to 3" by 1½" for \$15, \$18, \$20, \$22, \$25, and \$35. Each has many minute anatase crystals on it.

Blue topaz pieces about ¾" by ¾" for \$10, from Volinskoe, Ukraine, with some orthorhombic faces on each.

Astrophyllite, our July 2001 featured mineral from the Kola Peninsula, Russia. These attractive specimens feature golden-brown needle-like crystals of astrophyllite in star-like radiating groups frozen in white feldspar and black aegerine-augite. Great specimens! We have 2" by 2" specimens for \$10 and \$15, and larger pieces for \$20, and \$25.

Eudialyte, our April 2001 featured mineral, from Kipawa Complex, Villedieu Township, Quebec, Canada. Mining was underway when we featured this pretty pinkish-red granular mineral, but has since ceased, so supplies will dwindle as the years pass. We picked up a small lot of pieces about 2" by 2" for \$12.

Cavansite, our April 1996 featured mineral, from Pune, India. These are bright blue balls of radiating crystals about ½" wide on matrix up to about 2" by 2", for \$22.50.

Apophyllite, our June 1996 featured mineral, also from India, as gemmy, translucent, pale green crystals about 1" long with white stilbite or heulandite crystals on matrix up to 2" by 3" for \$22.50.

Highly fluorescent fluorite from the Rogerley Mine, England, our March 2002 featured mineral. These are so sensitive that the UV rays in sunlight will turn the corners of the crystals blue! We have Deluxe-size specimens for \$22.50, and bigger/better crystallized pieces for \$25, \$35, \$40, \$60, \$75

Pyrite from Navajun, La Rioja, Spain, our March 1996 featured mineral (our first month). We picked up some graduated sets of the near perfect cubes, as follows: 15 graduated cubes from 1/16" to 3/4" for \$60; 17 graduated cubes from 1/16" to 1" for \$90; or 20 graduated cubes from 1/16" to 1¼" for \$150. Lay these in a row and they make quite an amazing display!

Quartz, variety rock crystal, our December 1998 featured mineral, from Minas Gerais, Brazil. We picked out a new lot of pretty polished mostly-clear quartz crystals, with their bottoms cut flat, so they will sit perfectly on the rotating LED light stands we offer for \$29.95. We have crystals up to 4" high and 1¾" across for \$24, with taller crystals for \$26, \$28, and \$30.

One of our best sellers at the Tucson Show are the objet d'art items carved from the **beautifully banded green, purple, and clear fluorite** from China. We have small cups about 2" in diameter for \$20; bowls about 3" across and 2" from front to back with lovely color for \$28; larger bowls about 4" across and 3" from front to back for \$40, with bigger bowls for \$50, \$60, \$70, and \$80. These make great gifts.

March 2005 Offer Sheet

We got new lots of the **specular hematite** from the Champion Mine, Mi, cut into thin slabs and coated with acrylic rather than polished. We have pieces about 2" by 3" for \$8, and about 4" by 4" for \$16.

Also, a new lot of the pretty, polished **sand dollar fossils** from Madagascar, at a great price. We have pieces about 2¼" in diameter for \$8; about 2½" to 3" for \$16, and bigger for \$24 and \$30.

A nice lot of **ferroaxinite** we picked up in Denver. These specimens from the Polar Urals, Russia, are considered to be the world's finest. We have glassy greyish brown crystals with hints of red and purple, and lots of striations. Loose crystals up to 1" by 1" for \$30, \$32, and \$36

Pyrite, our October 2003 featured mineral, from Peru. We have clusters up to about 2" by 1½" with sharp, well-formed crystals, combinations of octahedrons and pyritohedrons, for \$12, \$14, and \$16 by quality.

Hemimorphite, our October 2000 featured mineral, from Mexico. We have small pieces with lots of small white crystals jutting up on matrix about 1" by 1" for \$5. Also, **diopase**, our September 2001 featured mineral, from Kazakhstan. as small but very pretty, intensely green crystals on matrix about 1" by 1" for \$6.

Quartz after apophyllite from a new find, the Summer Storm claim, Challis, Idaho. We considered these for the Mineral of the Month Club, but the collector could not recover enough specimens. We have 1" by 1" pieces for \$4 (2 left), up to 2" by 2" for \$16 (1 left) **Microcline, variety amazonite** from the Crystal Peak area, Teller County, Colorado. These pieces were collected more than twenty years ago, and have good color, pieces about 1" by 1" for \$6

Variscite, our April 2000 featured mineral, creamy green pieces that many confuse with turquoise, although variscite is certainly beautiful in its own right. These are about 2½" by 1½" and have been polished to highlight their beautiful color. Many pieces also include matrix, as turquoise often does, for \$10– 4 left.

VESUVIANITE, OUR MARCH 2000 FEATURED MINERAL We mentioned a couple of months ago that the Jeffrey Mine in Quebec, Canada, is closing, so these vesuvianites will soon become a thing of the past. We picked up a lot of sharp green crystals with good terminations, about 1" high and more, mounted on plastic stands so they display well, for \$15, \$20, \$25, \$30, \$35, \$40 and \$50 for the biggest and best.

"Star Mica," the pretty tan-colored variety of muscovite with starburst-shaped twinned crystals, our September 1997 featured mineral, from Brazil. We have smaller pieces about 2" by 2" for \$8, regular Deluxe-size specimens about 2½" by 3½" for \$16, \$20, and \$24

(7 LEFT!) NEW! 2004 Fleisher's Glossary of Mineral Species. This excellent reference has the following information for all currently accepted minerals: Names (obviously), chemical formula, crystal system, and type locality where known. Also, relationships to other minerals are mentioned. This book can be helpful in organizing your collection, too. This 300 page loosely bound book is available for \$24 plus \$2 for Media Mail in the U.S. and will be mailed separately.

Okenite from India, our January 1998 mineral, white puffballs of soft crystals that people at shows think are cotton balls or some kind of fungus! Try not to touch your piece too often, as the oil from our fingers will make the crystals dirty. We have specimens on gray basalt matrix covered with associated zeolite and other minerals. The matrix ranges in size from 2" by 2" to 3" by 4" for \$6, \$8, \$12

Instant collection! A flat with 54 different minerals and rocks, everything from opal to tinchalconite, to epidote to rose quartz, all nicely mounted in 1" by 1" boxes. Each flat is slightly different, with specimens mostly from the western U.S. augmented by world localities, for \$78.

1 pound bags of copper nuggets for \$10, specify small (about nickel size to quarter size) or large (half-dollar size and bigger.)

4 left- Rutile on hematite from Novo Horizonte, Brazil, our June 1999 featured mineral. These are thin, needle-like crystals of golden rutile oriented on gray hematite. These are small specimens, similar in size to what we sent Club members then, about ¾" by ¾" for \$16. **7 Left- Brochantite** [Cu²⁺₄(SO₄)(OH)₆] as very

