

Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society  
Of Southern California

Volume 882 Number 12

December 2011



The 882st Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

**Program: Archaeometric studies on Gems History through Garnets  
by Lisbet Thoresen**

**December 11, 2011 7:30 pm  
Geology Department, E-Building, Room 220  
Pasadena City College  
1570 E Colorado Blvd., Pasadena**

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**DUES ARE DUE**

### **Archaeological Science and the Historiography of Garnets from Prehistory through the Early Dark Ages by Lisbet Thoresen**

The history of garnets is a narrative developed from a long tradition of literary scholarship focused almost exclusively on ancient texts, principally the books written by Theophrastos, *On Stones* (ca. 315–300 BC), and Pliny the Elder, *Natural History* (AD 77). Gemological surveys of extant garnets in published collections—university, private, and public museums—have been quite limited. Consequently, the corpus of surviving gems has not been properly reconciled with the interpretation of ancient and later written accounts concerning the identification of garnets and their origins. Also, archaeologists and art historians who study beads and engraved gems of the ancient world, in general, do not appreciate that gem garnets are composed of different species whose chemistry is distinctive and colors are varied. Likewise, their prospective sources available in the ancient world are far more numerous and wide-ranging geographically than is realized.

Garnet chemistry and structure together with observable features such as color and inclusions provide characteristic signatures that sometimes help to associate garnets with their geographic origin. Applied to ancient and later period garnets, analytical provenance studies may illuminate questions concerning the trade and transmission of material culture, and so, help to rectify historical inaccuracies and illuminate aspects of the distant past that are otherwise opaque.

An overview of extant garnet species represented in different cultural epochs is presented, including the Indus Valley Civilization of Central Asia, the urban City-States of Mesopotamia, and the Egyptian, Greek, and Roman civilizations around the Mediterranean. The factors that enabled discovery and transmission of garnets at different periods from distant sources are also considered.

Several analytical provenance studies have been undertaken on ancient and historical garnets and are discussed here to illustrate their practical utility to ancient and historical gem studies. Such studies not only help to characterize accurately the garnet species known in different periods and suggest prospective geographic origins, but also contribute useful datapoints on garnet compositions found in nature that have not been observed in previously published mineral specimens.

Lisbet Thoresen (lisbet@lthoresen.com)

Independent Researcher, Beverly Hills, California

#### **Short Biography**

Lisbet Thoresen has been working on archaeometric studies on gems of the ancient world since 1991, applying analytical research and gemology to the archaeological, philological, and historical aspects of engraved gems of Classical Antiquity. Her interest in this field of study developed during her 17-year career as a conservator of antiquities at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu and Los Angeles, California, where she performed research, published papers, and lectured on topics related to art conservation, archaeometry, and ancient gemstones. She has worked as an independent scholar since 2000. Lisbet is volume editor and a contributing author of a pioneering reference book on the subject, *On Gemstones: Gemological Studies of Ancient Intaglios and Cameos*. More information about Lisbet Thoresen and her work on the archaeogemology of gems can be found at the web site, <http://ongemstones.lthoresen.com/>.

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### **MEANDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT by Ann Meister**

At the MSSC Board meeting in November, we started a discussion that is of major import to the general membership of the Society. It is a discussion about our meetings – when we meet, where we meet, and how often we meet. As you can imagine, there are many options and many questions.

Is the Friday night meeting too difficult because of traffic, interference with weekend activities, or some other circumstance? If we want to meet on a different night, we would most likely have to change our meeting place because the facilities at PCC are heavily used by students on the other nights of the week. At one time, the society met at the main Pasadena Public Library on Monday nights. We have also met at the Eaton Canyon County Park (then called McCurdy Nature Center) until it burned down in the 1993 Altadena fire. That facility has been rebuilt and we are going to take a look at it. We need a place that is easy to get to, has sufficient parking, allows us to serve refreshments, and is free or cheap.

Regarding how often we meet. A number of groups don't hold meetings in the summer because of interference with summer vacations. The August Picnic began for MSSC to allow greater family participation in a fun and socially oriented activity. We used to meet in a park and have games and such. Perhaps February should be "dark" since so many members go to the Tucson Show. We already change the date to the third Friday to avoid interference with Tucson. Then maybe in March, we should have a "Tales of Tucson" roundtable discussion to share what happened at the premier show in the country. As another possibility, we could have "meeting months" and "activities months" where an open house or field trip or other activity substitutes for a meeting. We usually have a December Open House at JTI. Could that serve as a monthly activity rather than a meeting in December when there are so many holiday events? Perhaps special interest groups within the Society, such as the Micro-mineralogists, could sponsor a month and have a "microscope night" to share their "micro" fascination with the "macro" world. The active field collectors could sponsor a "bragging night" to show off what they have found and talk about localities. Those who are interested in furthering their knowledge of mineralogy, crystallography, and/or geology might organize a study group that can substitute for a meeting night.

There are lots of permutations and combinations. We just need to find one that works for us. Your Society officers and board members need to hear from you. You can contact me at [president@mineralsocal.org](mailto:president@mineralsocal.org) and I will share your suggestions with the Board. This is really important and we need to hear from you. Thanks in advance for your comments and suggestions.

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### **Minutes of the November 11, 2011 Meeting**

The 882<sup>nd</sup> meeting of The Mineralogical Society of Southern California was held on Friday, November 11, 2011, at Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA. President Ann Meister brought the meeting to order at 7:51 p.m.

The following business and announcements were made:

(1) Minutes of last month's meeting were approved.

(2) Marty Zinn's West Coast Mineral Show is being held this weekend, November 11 – 13, 2011 at its new venue, the Holiday Inn on Grand Ave. in Santa Ana, CA.

(3) The Pacific Micromount Conference will be held in January 2012.

The evening's speaker was Alfredo Petrov who is a well-known expert on rare species, and the mineralogy of Bolivia and Japan. Alfredo trained in geology at San Diego State and worked in Bolivia as a geologist. Rock Currier recruited Alfredo to collect minerals, thus bringing him into the business. Alfredo spends several times a year field collecting in Japan, and gave a fascinating and entertaining presentation titled "Collecting Minerals on Active Volcanoes in Japan."

Nineteen people attended the meeting.

Geoff Caplette won the door prize.

President Meister brought the meeting to a close at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Griffis, Secretary

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### **Minutes of the Board of Director's Meeting November 20, 2011**

In attendance were the following Officers and Board members: President Ann Meister, Vice-President Bruce Carter, Secretary Bob Griffis, Treasurer Jim Kusley, Bulletin Editor and Federation Director Jo Anna Ritchey, Past President Geoffrey Caplette, and Board members Leslie Ogg, Fred Elsnau, and Linda Elsnau. Also in attendance was former MSSC Secretary Pat Caplette, and members Sarah Griffis and Angela Guzman.

As a quorum was present, President Ann Meister called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m.

The Minutes of the June 26, 2011 Board of Director's Meeting were read and were approved unanimously as published on the MSSC website.

The following agenda items, carried over from the previous Board meeting were discussed:

#### **Treasurer's Report and financial matters**

- ☒ The Treasurer reported that there has been little change in account values since June.
- ☒ The Treasurer will need to start preparing a budget for 2012.
- ☒ A motion was made and unanimously approved to create a PayPal account to provide another method for dues payments in the future.

#### **Banquet:**

- ☒ A motion was made and passed unanimously that a single entry fee will be published for the Banquet which all attendees will need to pay.

#### **Membership:**

- ☒ A letter to all former members, asking them to rejoin the MSSC was presented. Ann Meister will prepare personalized versions to be mailed out.

☒ A motion was made and passed unanimously to publish a hard copy version of the membership roster and mail these to current members only. New members will have their names only published in the Bulletin and will receive a copy of the roster as soon as practicable. This was the past practice, and the Operating Rules will be revised to reflect the specific details.

☒ The membership form will be modified to ask for specific permission to publish in the Membership Roster each or any of the following: (1) e-mail address, (2) phone number, and (3) mailing address. This form will be included in the Bulletin.

☒ No change in dues for 2012 will be proposed.

### **Pacific Micromount Conference**

☒ It was agreed to begin a review of the PMC and ensure that all practices meet the Bylaws and insurance requirements. No changes will be made to the upcoming Conference as there is insufficient time.

☒ The President agreed to create a Committee for the PMC chairperson.

### **Field Trips**

☒ Geoffrey Caplette had agreed in the March meeting to contact Dana Gochenour about a fall field trip to the Cryo-Genie mine which is a well known tourmaline- and beryl-bearing pegmatite. Dates are still pending.

☒ Bob Griffis agreed to attempt arranging a field trip to the Cascade Canyon corundum locality. It was discovered that the US Forest Service is harassing people who attempt to collect in this long established area, making a trip impossible.

The following New Business was discussed:

### **Nominations for 2012**

☒ All current officers and Directors have agreed to serve for an additional year, except for the current Secretary, Bob Griffis, who will resign effective December 31, 2011.

☒ Angela Guzman has agreed to seek the position of Secretary for 2012.

### **Bylaws and Operating Rules**

The current Bylaws and Operating Rules need to be changed to reflect current practices and the Society's operating situation. Bob Griffis agreed to begin working on proposed changes which will then be finalized by the Board and presented to the members for a vote.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Griffis, Secretary

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### **\*\*\* WE NEED SILENT AUCTION ITEMS FOR THE BANQUET \*\*\***

At the Installation Banquet on January 21, 2012 we will again have a silent auction to raise money for the MSSC. Take a look through your goodies and see what you can part with that someone else may enjoy. This would include mineral specimens, books related to the earth sciences, mining artifacts, field collecting tools, mineral show posters, and gems or jewelry (remember the Gem & Mineral Council from the Natural History Museum will be with us) and anything else that seems suitable. Thank you for your participation.

## NOMINATIONS FOR 2012

The nominating committee submits the following slate of officers and directors for service beginning in January 2012. Additional nominations from the general membership will be accepted at the December meeting before voting. If you wish to nominate someone, please have their approval first!

President: Ann Meister  
Vice President: Bruce Carter  
Secretary: Angela Guzman  
Treasurer: Jim Kusley  
Federation Director: Jo Anna Ritchey

Board of Directors  
Fred Elsnau  
Linda Elsnau  
Bob Housley  
Leslie Ogg

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## GUESTS ARE WELCOME

**An invitation for the members and friends of the  
Mineralogical Society of Southern California  
to attend an Open House at  
Jewel Tunnel Imports on  
Saturday December 10, 2011 from 10 AM to 4PM**

13100 Spring St., Baldwin Park, CA 91706, 626-814-2257

Map available at [jeweltunnel.com](http://jeweltunnel.com)

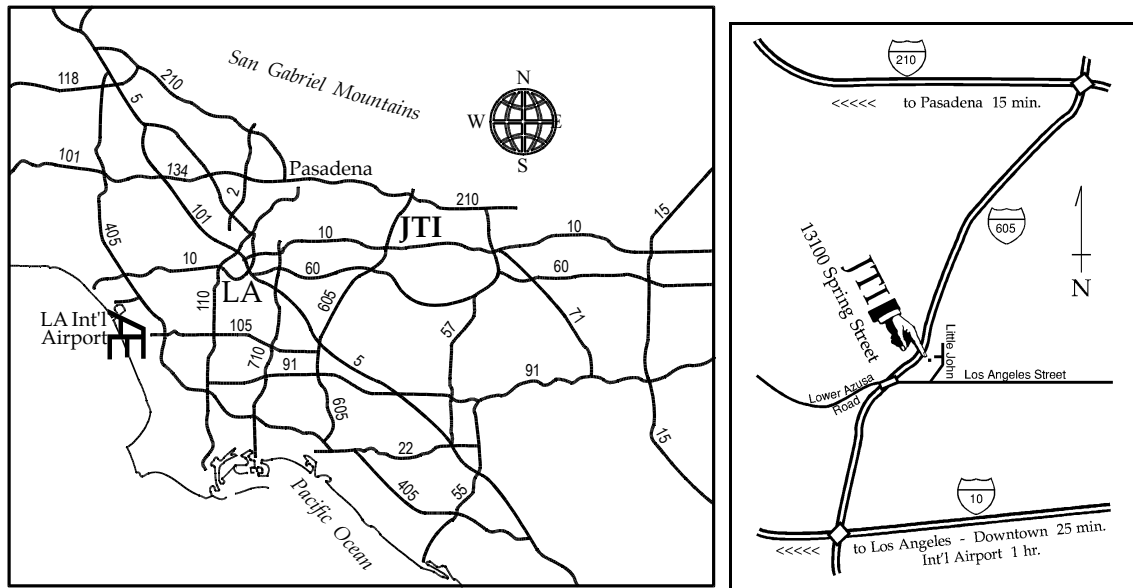
Refreshments will be served.

Jewel Tunnel Imports is a leading wholesale distributor of mineral specimens, crystals, fossils, tumbled stones and many different kinds of lapidary items like balls, eggs, jewelry etc. made from different minerals. We have a warehouse in excess of 10,000 sq. feet full of mineral related natural history items, perhaps the largest of its kind in the United States.

Historically Jewel Tunnel Imports has had limited open house parties for mineralogically and geologically oriented groups such as the students and faculty of various university geology departments and members of certain gem and mineral societies. These open houses, by invitation only, on a few weekends just proceeding Christmas, offer a chance for individuals belonging to these groups to buy minerals and crystals at wholesale prices and to learn something about the wholesale gem and mineral business.

Jewel Tunnel Imports is a wholesale only warehouse and this invitation is only for the date of the open house. If you wish to return during the year to purchase items you will need to obtain your own resale permit from the California State Board of Equalization. If you have items to trade, Rock Currier, owner of Jewel Tunnel Imports, has been known to do that especially if he finds it suitable for his own personal collection.

### Directions to Jewel Tunnel



### MSSC Banquet January 21, 2011

This Banquet & Meeting will be held jointly by MSSC and the Natural History Museum Gem and Mineral Council.

The cost of the Banquet will be \$35.00 (subject to change as I have not verified this amount). Plan to pay your dues at the same time. Dues are officially due 1/1/2012.

The speaker will be Brenden who will speak on his experiences in Tibet. Lots more info in the January 2012 Bulletin.

Location will be the same as last year (Oak Tree Room next to Coco's on Colorado Blvd. and Michelinda Ave, East Pasadena. Exact address also will be in the January 2012 Bulletin.

### CFMS Board of Director's Meeting, Visalia, CA Saturday 11/12/2011

I arrived Friday afternoon and attended the Cracker Barrel that evening. Jim Brace-Thomas had all the Veterans stand up and give their last rank and serial number. The Army and Navy were well represented. Buryl LaRue (who I know retired from the Air Force) arrived later. It was something that I shall remember for a long time. Of course, we had one who said he did not remember his serial number—which we all thought was amazing.

It was at the Cracker Barrel that I heard a little bit about the exciting news regarding the Museum and Janie Duncan. I expect Janie will tell more in an article of her own. Her dino bone and the story that

goes with it is amazing.

On Saturday we had the General Director's Meeting. We had 72 clubs represented, 7 Chairmen and 5 Officers. The meeting went smoothly. The CFMS Show in Anderson did very well and presented the CFMS with a very photogenic check (3 feet long I think) for over \$12,000. They made this in spite of rain on Sunday. They also proved that a CFMS Show that far north be in an Auditorium nearby. The 2013 Show is being put on by Conejo, Oxnard and Ventura Clubs. The exact date will be announced later.

The CFMS had been paying the subscription to Diamond Dan for all Junior Members. This publication has all kinds of activities and interesting information aimed at the younger set. It was on a trial basis for 2 years. The CFMS and Diamond Dan have continued their relationship, except that now it is open to all members. I can't wait as I have been thinking of subscribing. Probably next month I will describe the process needed to subscribe.

The Banquet on Saturday evening was interesting. The hotel set the room up for 50 people while we had ordered 60 meals. So, of course, they had to set up another table of 10. Our new CFMS President, Susan Chasen-Wal bloom, lost her mother last week. Her entire family (father, brothers and sisters, grand-child and a very well behaved baby attended. This meant that the staff had to set up another table—this time one with 4 place settings, and since Susan set with her family, there was an extra space at the end of the Head Table. Some might have called this the Children's Table, but we got served at the same time as the Head Table—which was very nice.

Part of the entertainment was a DVD made by John Martin showing activities at ZZZZX and Camp Paradise. This DVD is on sale for \$10.00 with the proceeds going toward the Educational Studies.

The variety of skills being taught is amazing. Camp Paradise offers more than ZZZZX, partially because they have more space I think. Susan gave her in-coming officers a piece of coprolite, wrapped up with toilet tissue. All-in-all everyone had a good time.

Jo Anna Ritchey  
CFMS Director

PS. I would like the MSSC remind the CFMS and all its members that mineralogists are still an active part of the organization by having a lot of good mineral cases at the next CFMS Show that will be in Riverside. The Show will have security in the exhibit area, and you may or may not put your name on your case, but I really want MSSC noted



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California Gold  
 Jeff Scovil Photo©

## 6 FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN SELECTING FINE MINERAL SPECIMENS

by Eric Greene

Many collectibles, such as stamps and coins, are assessed based on just two factors: rarity and condition. Evaluating a fine mineral or crystal specimen is more akin to looking at a sculpture. When viewing and displaying the specimen, or debating its aesthetic merits, many criteria must be considered. Some of these are highly subjective (“Oh my, isn’t that pretty!”), while others are fairly concrete and scientific (e.g., what habit does a crystal display?).

Of course, a specimen can also be beautiful and important simply because you enjoy its appearance. Still, the more knowledgeable you become about the factors which affect

this perception, the better able you will be to identify and select fine quality mineral and crystal specimens. And the better the specimens you pick, the higher the quality level of your collection, and the more you will be able to enjoy it. Who hasn’t experienced disappointment when looking at specimens acquired as a novice collector? I certainly made mistakes back then, and I definitely don’t want to repeat them today.

The criteria listed below are my personal standards for selecting specimens for a display collection. I hope they will help you choose particularly worthy specimens for your personal collection from the millions available today at shows, on the internet, etc.

### 1. BEAUTY

The dictionary defines beauty as: “The

quality that gives pleasure to the mind or senses and is associated with such properties as harmony of form or color, excellence of artistry, truthfulness, and originality.” We all know that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, so what is perceived as beautiful will vary from person to person. Nevertheless, when looking at a mineral specimen, there are some elements of beauty that are pretty universal. For example, how are the crystals placed on the specimen? Are they grouped nicely?



A beautiful red quartz specimen from Fujian, China

Are they presented in a balanced fashion? Or, are they crowded together, all on one side, or too near the top or bottom? Are they of varying sizes, proportional to one another, or all one size? Is the color bright and appealing, as appropriate for the species? Are individual crystals sharp and well-defined? Do the crystals and matrix relate well to each other in size, ratio and form? Does it have an attractive composition, with a pleasing sculptural or architectural feel to it, with appealing three-dimensional viewing angles? Do the crystals interact with space in a pleasing way?



Prase quartz from Serifos Island in Greece - an excellent example of the beauty of crystals interacting with space

Just like viewing a work of art, these highly subjective factors contribute to the perceived beauty of a fine mineral specimen. This perception results from a pleasing aesthetic arrangement that appeals to your eye, and plays a major role in the pleasure you get from looking at a specimen.

## 2. Color & Contrast

It's simple: Vivid colors catch the eye and make a high-impact visual impression. So, minerals with bright, highly saturated, intense colors are naturally more desirable than white, black, or gray minerals.

Keep in mind that lighting makes a huge difference in how the eye perceives color. Specimens viewed in sunlight almost always look significantly different (better) than when viewed in fluorescent, incandescent or halogen light. A customer once wrote, concerned about the lack of yellow color in a citrine crystal she purchased from us. I suggested she take it out in the sun to see its

true color. She wrote back that the color was great, but that she was still disappointed that it didn't look that color in her display cabinet! Confusion over this issue prompted us to include a link in all our listings to an article detailing what we do to ensure accurate color representation in our photos (click [here](#) to read the article). To sum it up, we recognize sunlight as the universal standard that everyone, anywhere in the world, can use to judge color in a mineral specimen. That's why we use TruColor lighting that is as close as possible to 5000° Kelvin, which is the color temperature of sunlight. You might consider using similar lighting in your display cabinet to show off your minerals at their best.



The mesmerizing, brilliant red color of crocoite from Tasmania.

Another physiological factor is that the eye sees colors differently depending on what color they are seen with. You may recall the arrangement of color opposites on the color wheel from your school days: green is opposite red, orange vs. blue, yellow vs. purple. When viewed side-by-side, color opposites both appear to be more vibrant, intense and saturated than either color alone. This is the principle behind color contrast.

Similarly, light colors set on dark colors appear brighter and more vivid, and also clearly define crystal edges and enhance three-dimensionality, thus making the specimen more appealing to the eye.



Prehnite with epidote, showing the appeal of dramatic contrast

Another form of contrast is that between the crystals on a specimen and a duller matrix. Neophytes sometimes ask how to get the crystal out of the rock, but the fact is that a specimen on or in matrix is far more interesting and appealing (and has more scientific value) than a loose crystal.

The late Marvin Rausch built a world-class collection by specializing in high-contrast mineral specimens, such as red rhodochrosite on blue fluorite from the Sweet Home mine, green prehnite on near-black epidote from Massachusetts, and more. Though he had only 600 specimens in his collection, about 50 of them had graced the covers of a major mineral magazine, and the rest were selected for their intense colors. You could do worse than following his lead!



### 3. Luster & Transparency

Luster is a description of the way in which light interacts with the surface of a crystal. There are 10 commonly used terms to describe luster (or lustre):

- ☒ **Adamantine** – the brilliant look of very gemmy crystals (diamond)
- ☒ **Dull** - a non-reflective surface of any kind (feldspar)
- ☒ **Earthy** - the look of dirt or dried mud (psilomelane)
- ☒ **Fibrous** - the look of fibers (asbestos)
- ☒ **Greasy** - the look of grease (opal)
- ☒ **Gumdrop** - the look a sucked on hard candy (stream-worn gemstones)
- ☒ **Metallic** – the look of opaque and highly reflective crystals (pyrite)
- ☒ **Pearly** – the look of the inside of a mollusk shell or a shirt button (talc)
- ☒ **Resinous** – the look of crystals with a golden, soft sheen (amber)
- ☒ **Silky** - the look of silk, similar to fibrous but more compact (fibrous malachite)
- ☒ **Submetallic** – the look of a poor metallic luster, opaque but reflecting little light (sphalerite)
- ☒ **Vitreous** - the look of glass - the most common luster (quartz)
- ☒ **Waxy** – a fairly dull look, as if coated with wax (jade)



Quartz - an example of vitreous luster

Because reflected light is highly appealing to the eye, specimens which have the glint of light from a cut diamond or the gleam of gold are perceived to be more attractive than those with dull surfaces. Transparency, which is closely related to luster, is highly desirable in the crystals on a specimen.



A gemmy heliodor crystal showing excellent transparency

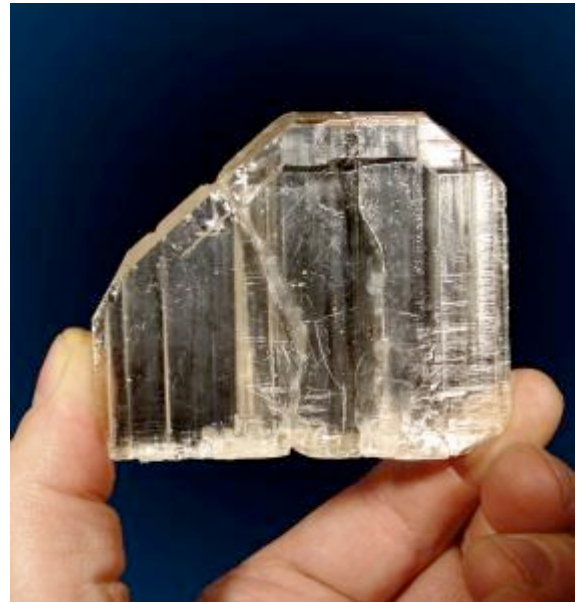
“Gemmy” or “gem” crystals are so called because they have a cut gemstone-like appearance. Since the earliest times, people have been fascinated by the unique properties of a solid object that is transparent. At least part of this attraction is that light shining through a crystal creates a luminescent glow which the eye finds mesmerizing.

#### 4. DAMAGE

You can't get around this fact: damage is damage (and more often than not, even the *appearance* of damage is damage). Damage can range from infinitesimal, barely visible wounds (called “Wilburs” after world-class collector Dave Wilbur), to dings, bruises, nicks, breaks, internal fractures, cleaves (breakage along natural cleavage planes), contacts (where a crystal grew against another crystal), and broken off, missing crystals. I have yet to see a mineral specimen that is truly perfect, though there are a select few that are nearly so. Realistically, some degree of compromise is required – especially for those without the financial resources to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for a world-class specimen. My main rule is that if damage is really noticeable and interrupts my enjoyment of the specimen, then I don't want it. That being said, I consider where the damage is (e.g., off to the side is better than smack dab in the middle). I also consider the rarity of the mineral: damage on amethyst is unacceptable because there's so much of it available, while I might be willing to live with it on a kammererite specimen because this mineral is so rare.

What about saw marks on the bottom or back of a specimen? Purists avoid these, preferring a “natural” specimen. But who's fooling whom? A well-placed saw cut can

turn an average specimen into an excellent one, whether by cutting off damaged areas, by achieving a better balance between crystals and matrix, or by giving a specimen an enhanced orientation that displays the crystals just so. And, using today's equipment and techniques, saw cuts can be disguised so well that they look just like natural breaks and become “invisible”.



Though repaired, this world-class cerussite crystal from Tsumeb is still a very desirable specimen

Finally, there's the question of repairs and reconstruction/restoration. Due in part to the outstanding restoration work performed on Sweet Home rhodochrosite by Bryan Lee's crew, most collectors no longer consider a repair an automatic deal-breaker. The sky high prices of the Sweet Home material, and their escalating values since the mine was closed, have proven that invisible or near-invisible repairs do not automatically negate the investment value of a specimen. And sometimes repair is the only way to preserve a really significant specimen of great value or rarity.

### 5. Crystal Size, Quality, Form and Definition

Large, perfect crystals are rare, and are thus more desirable to a mineral collector than smaller, imperfect crystals of the same species. It's only human: almost everyone wants to own the biggest, the brightest, or the best "shiny objects". Mineral collectors are no different. On the other hand, keep in mind that while a 6" tourmaline crystal is rare and thus more valuable than a 3" one, a near-perfect, transparent 3" one is more appealing than a larger one that is flawed.



Who says size doesn't matter in a quartz crystal?

In addition to size, other factors to consider are a crystal's sharpness, definition, form, and the quality of the termination. Cleanly defined edges, without rounding or irregularity are highly prized. Picture-book, classic terminations that are symmetrical, attractively shaped, and in proportion are more desirable than ones that are irregular or overly complex, because they add to one's enjoyment of a specimen, rather than distracting from it.

### 6. WERE YOU STRUCK BY LIGHTNING?

Always buy specimens that are a joy for you to behold. Almost ten years ago, when we were set up to sell Wise Mine fluorite at the Inn Suites in Tucson, a customer came in to look around. I asked him what kind of minerals he collected, and he said, "I'm a lightning-bolt collector." Seeing my perplexed face (I was thinking fulgurite), he said, "Yes, I buy specimens that strike me like a bolt of lightning." He had it exactly right. He would only buy specimens that have what Stuart Wilensky calls the "Wow Factor". Wilensky says this is the *most* important criteria, and the least scientific. It's a double whammy: a powerful gut feeling combined with a mighty wallop to the naked eye.



This Brazilian quartz crystal actually was struck by lightning! ;)

Bryan Lees of Collector's Edge Minerals uses a dramatic, theatrical approach when showing a fine mineral specimen to a discerning collector. He leads the buyer into a darkened the room, uncovers the specimen, then turns on specially arranged brilliant lighting set up in advance to create a powerful visceral and visual impact. To test for this phenomenon

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yourself, just note your own reaction when you first see a specimen in person. If you exclaim, "WOW!," then all the other criteria are probably just icing on the cake.

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**The Mineralogical Society of Southern California  
Proudly Presents the 47<sup>th</sup> Pacific Micro-mount Conference  
January 27 to 29, 2012 at the  
San Bernardino County Museum  
2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, CA**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 27**

**3:00-6:00 PM On Site REGISTRATION, greeting friends and microscope time.  
6:00-7:00 Famous POTLUCK BUFFET Dinner.  
7:00-8:00 PM "WHAT'S NEW IN MINERALS" by Sugar White.  
Followed by  
CONTRIBUTED TALKS AND MEMBER SLIDES.**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28**

**8:00-9:00 AM DOORS OPEN, On Site REGISTRATION.  
Setting up scopes, filling "Give-away" and  
"Sales" Tables and greeting friends.  
10:00 AM WELCOME, Introductions and Special Announcements.**

**10:15 AM – Joe Marty  
"Recent Mineral Finds in Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, and Colorado"**

**NOON LUNCH. Subway sandwiches served at Museum. (No cost)  
1:30 PM VERBAL AUCTION, followed by silent auction of member donated materials.**

**3:15 PM – Bob Walstrom  
"Recent Mineral Finds in New Mexico"**

**6:00 PM BUFFET DINNER Served at Museum.**

**7:00 PM**

**CONTRIBUTED TALKS AND MEMBER SLIDES**

**SUNDAY, January 29**

**Field Trip, location to be determined**

**Friday night Potluck –Please bring an hors d'oeuvre, salad, hot dish, dessert, etc.**

**Saturday lunch – Subway sandwiches (No cost to attendees.)**

**Saturday night Buffet dinner is \$5.00. Advance reservations necessary. (See Registration slip.)**

***Registration Fee is \$15.00 before Conference, 20.00 at door.***

### **Conference Guidelines**

**Now is a good time and not too soon to make your advance registration for the 2012 Pacific Micromount Conference.**

**Registration: Please provide the names of all in your party. We like to have a name-tag waiting for everyone. In addition to Conference registration you will need to make a reservation if you plan to attend the delicious Saturday evening buffet dinner.**

**Note: While we encourage swapping of minerals during the Conference, we cannot allow participants to sell minerals inside the museum.**

### **Nearby Motels**

**Redlands Motor Lodge, 1151 Arizona St.,      Good Nite Inn, 1675 Industrial Park Ave.,  
Redlands (Alabama off-ramp)      Redlands (Alabama off-ramp)  
909-798-2432      909-793-3723**

**Starlight Motel, 1371 W. Redlands Blvd.,      Super 8, 1160 Arizona St., Redlands  
Redlands      (Alabama off-ramp)  
(Alabama or Tennessee off-ramp)      909-335-1612  
909-792-3333**

**Also, if you have an RV, a trailer, or van and are self-contained, you may camp at the outer edge of the Museum parking lot. Quite a few do this, and you will not be alone. (Use Registration form to let us know)**

**The San Bernardino County Natural History Museum is located just north of the 10 Freeway, at 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, California. (Take California Street exit and go north to Orange Tree Lane, then turn right to Museum Entrance.)**

### **Calendar of Events**

**December 3 - 4: BARSTOW, CA** Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society, Barstow Community Center, 841 S. Barstow Road, Hours: 10 – 5 daily

**December 10, 2011 Open House Jewel Tunnel 10 am to 3 pm**

**January 21, 2011 Banquet and Officer Installation** (see notice above)

**January 21 - 22: EXETER, CA,** Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia, Exeter Veteran's Memorial Building, Highway 65, 324 N Kaweah Avenue, Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4

Website: [www.tulegem.org](http://www.tulegem.org)

**January 27 - 28: REDLANDS, CA,** Mineralogical Society of Southern California/Micro-Mineralogists, Pacific Micromount Conference, San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Drive, Hours: Fri. 4 - 10; Sat. 8 -10, \*Field Trip on Sunday, January 29

Contact: Dr. Robert Housley, (626) 697-4435



## Society Contacts for 2011

### OFFICERS

President *Annpresident@mineralsocal.org.*  
 Vice President: *Bruce Carterprograms@mineralsocal.org*  
 Secretary: *Bob Griffissecretary@mineralsocal.org*  
 Treasurer *Jim Kusleytreasurer@mineralsocal.org*  
 CFMS Director: *Jo Anna Ritcheybulletin@mineralsocal.org*  
 Past President: *Geoffrey Caplette*

### DIRECTORS

2010-2011

Leslie Ogg *webmaster@mineralsocal.org*  
 Geoffrey Caplette  
 Linda Elsnau (acting)  
 Fred Elsnau:

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Facilities**

**Vacant**

**Field Trip**

**Vacant**

**Marketing/On Line Advertising**

Linda Elsnau *publicity@mineralsocal.org*

**Membership**

Jim Kusley (See Treasurer)

**Program and Education**

Bruce Carter See VP

**Show**

**Vacant**

**Webmaster**

Leslie Ogg *webmaster@mineralsocal.org*

**Bulletin Editor**

Jo Anna Ritchey *bulletin@mineralsocal.org*

### 2012 PACIFIC MICROMOUNT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Bob Housley  
 Speakers: Bob Housley  
 Pre-registration: Bob Housley  
 Electrical: Alan Wilkins  
 Sales Table: Garth Bricker  
 Give-away Table: Gene Reynolds  
 Food: Ann Meister, Sugar White

**Picture Contributed by Richard Horstmeyer**

*This reminds me of The Slump,  
 Nevada Editor*



## **About the Mineralogical Society of Southern California**

Organized in 1931, the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc. is the oldest mineralogical society in the western United States. The MSSC is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and is dedicated to the dissemination of general knowledge of the mineralogical and related earth sciences through the study and collecting of mineral specimens. The MSSC is a scientific non-profit organization that actively supports the geology department at Pasadena City College, Pasadena, California. Support is also given to the Los Angeles and San Bernardino County Museums of Natural History. The Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California is the official publication of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc.

The MSSC meetings are usually held the second Friday of each month, January, February and August excepted, at 7:30 p.m. in Building E, Room 220, Pasadena City College, 1570 E Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, California. The annual Installation Banquet is held in January, and the annual Picnic and Swap Meeting is held in August. Due to PCC holidays meetings may vary. Check the Society web for details. The Society also sponsors the annual Pacific Micro mount Symposium held at the San Bernardino County Natural History Museum during the last weekend of January.

Annual Membership dues for the MSSC are \$20.00 for an individual membership, \$30.00 for a family membership.

The Society's contact information:

### **Mineralogical Society of Southern California**

**1855 Idlewood Rd.,**

**Glendale, CA 91202-1053**

**E-mail: [bgbrdpen@earthlink.net](mailto:bgbrdpen@earthlink.net)**

**Web: <http://www.mineralsocal.org>**

### **The Mineralogical Society of California, Inc.**

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### **DISCLAIMER:**

**The Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc. is not responsible, cannot be held responsible or liable for any person's injuries, damages or loss of property at or traveling to or from any general meeting, board meeting, open house, field trip, annual show or any other MSSC event.**

Advance Registration Form

**PACIFIC MICROMOUNT CONFERENCE**  
**January 28-29, 2012 (Field Trip on Sunday, Jan. 30)**

**Registration \$15.00 per person by mail, \$20.00 at the door**

No. of people _____	Amount \$ _____	Names _____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Friday Night Potluck Dinner**

Bring your appetizer, salad, main dish, or dessert for an old-fashioned Potluck dinner. Your contribution will assure the success of the Potluck! (We will have the use of the kitchen facilities.)

**Saturday Lunch (No cost to participants)**

Subway sandwiches will be ordered based on your advance selection

Turkey ( ) Beef ( ) Ham ( ) Veggie ( )

**Saturday Night Buffet Dinner**

\$5.00 per person – number of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Trip on Sunday**

Are you interested in attending the field trip? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Number of participants \_\_\_\_\_

Parking – Do you plan to park your self-contained

RV, trailer or van overnight at the Museum? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Send Payment to:**  
**PMC Committee Chair**  
**Robert Housley**  
**210 S Catalina Ave. #3**  
**Pasadena CA 91106**

**Make check payable to MSSC**

\*\*\*\*\*

**I plan on presenting a short contributed talk ( )**

The topic will be: \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate length of time  
\_\_\_\_\_



## 2012 MSSC Membership Dues

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Include  
in  
Roster  
?

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Yes

☐

No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Apt

City State Zip

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Cell

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Note: **BULLETINS ARE NOW SENT BY EMAIL**

Optional Paper  
Version?

Additional name(s) and relationship(s) if this is a family membership:

Our annual paper Roster will include only the information checked above, and only for the personal use of our members.

### Membership Dues for One Year:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$5 Student (under 21)

### Donations

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Platinum Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **MSSC** and mail with this form to:

**MSSC**  
**1855 Idlewood Rd.**  
**Glendale, CA 91202-1053**

**Questions?**

Contact Jim Kusely (MSSC Treasurer) at [bjbrdpen@earthlink.net](mailto:bjbrdpen@earthlink.net) or (818) 240-7022