

THE PICKING TABLE

JOURNAL OF THE FRANKLIN-OGDENSBURG MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Volumes 48-49, Combined Issue 2007-2008

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Ewald H. Gerstmann 1918-2005



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Articles on geology by Warren Cummings and Rich Volkert, on minerals by Alfredo Petrov, Joe Orosz, Tony Nikischer and Fred E. Davis, and on history by George Elling and Bill Truran, plus updates on the Franklin Mineral Museum and Sterling Hill Mining Museum.

THE PICKING TABLE

Volumes 48-49, Combined Issue, 2007-2008



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Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Articles should have substance and be cohesively written and submitted as a double-spaced Microsoft Word document.

The Picking Table welcomes comments in letters to the editor. Please include your name, title, company address and daytime phone number. Writers should disclose any connection or relationship with the subject of their comments. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity and to use them in all print editions. Prospective authors should address correspondence to:

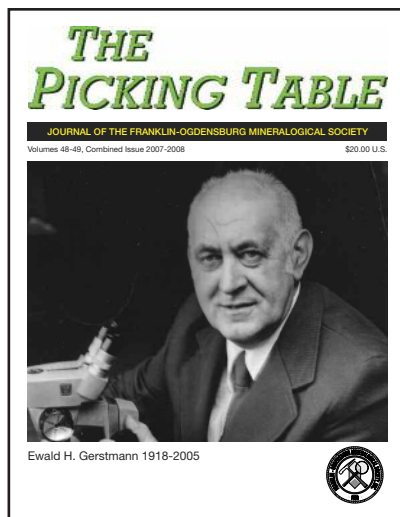
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About this issue:

This issue of *The Picking Table* is dedicated to the memory of Ewald Gerstmann. Included in its pages are twelve articles that reveal glimpses into Ewald as a mineral collector, dealer, friend, mentor, occasional competitor, and full-time Franklin original. Those who knew him will recognize him here; those who didn't will learn what they've missed. One of the most memorable characters on the Franklin scene, Ewald for decades was a prime source of Franklin and Sterling Hill mineral specimens, and his Gerstmann Franklin Mineral Museum on Walsh Road in Franklin was the gathering place of choice for collectors.



Interim Editor's Note

Dr. Earl R. Verbeek

This *Picking Table* combines volumes 48 and 49 in one issue for the years 2007 and 2008, and is the first step in getting FOMS' flagship publication back on schedule. The FOMS board of officers and the editorial staff agreed earlier this fall that *The Picking Table* had gotten too far off track, time-wise, to make any other solution practical. FOMS is now in its 49th year, and it is evident that we have experienced growing pains along the way. *The Picking Table* in particular is a victim of its own success; while it has won several awards and become one of the best mineral club publications in the nation, the workload necessary for an all-volunteer staff to put out a journal of this quality has led to persistent delays under a succession of editors.

In October I agreed to take over as interim editor to bring this issue to press, the results of which you now have before you. Fred Young has volunteered to serve as managing editor for succeeding issues, and has been approved by the FOMS board in this role. He will be in charge starting with the spring 2009 issue. Fred brings to *The Picking Table* 45 years of management experience in the printing and publishing industries and anticipates getting us back on a two-issues-per-year schedule. In the meantime, this unprecedented 2007-2008 issue includes a collection of memorials to Ewald Gerstmann, the updated mineral species list for the district ("The List") with an explanation of why and how this list changes every year, and an insider's account of the Franklin and Sterling Hill displays at the 2008 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, where the theme was "American Mineral Treasures." (We knew we were up there with Bisbee and the Pala district, but it was good to see this acknowledged at the world's largest mineral show.)

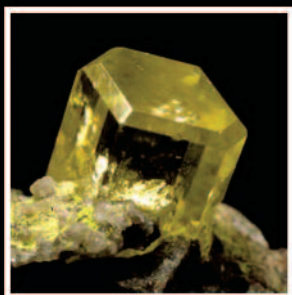
The first files for this issue of *The Picking Table* were transferred to me in early October. That we succeeded in printing and distributing this issue to FOMS members only two months later is due to

the concerted efforts of a management team that gave up nights and weekends and holidays to do the work. So, thank you, Mark Boyer, for assembling such a wealth of material for us to work on, all of it seamlessly organized, and some of it already edited for publication. Thank you, Fred Young, for finding a professional graphic artist to work with us on short notice, and for lining up a printer. Thank you, Debbie Young, for doing the layout work for this issue, and for bearing with us through the many changes that were made as this issue gradually took shape. Thank you, Peter Chin, Richard Bostwick, and Steven Sanford, for writing articles on short notice, each of them turned out in less than two weeks, to supplement the ones we already had; and thank you, Lee Lowell and Tema Hecht, for supplying photographs critical to this issue. And finally, thanks to the FOMS officers and trustees for backing us up in this effort and allocating the funds to bring this issue to press quickly, and to members of the editorial board for their dozens upon dozens of hours spent editing and proofreading. Together, somehow, we made it work.

I can't resist one parting thought. Some of you, I am sure, think that an editor's job consists of little more than collecting manuscripts, changing a word or two, selecting photos and writing captions for them, and then sending a stack of papers off to the printer. However, this one issue, for which much work had already been done when we received the materials in October, required more than 150 hours of effort on the part of a three-person editorial team, and probably a comparable amount of time on the part of the production team for layout and printing. Nearly 200 e-mail messages were sent between us. That's a lot of volunteer work for two months. To anyone who thinks putting together an issue of *The Picking Table* is "no big deal", step right up: we've got a job for you.



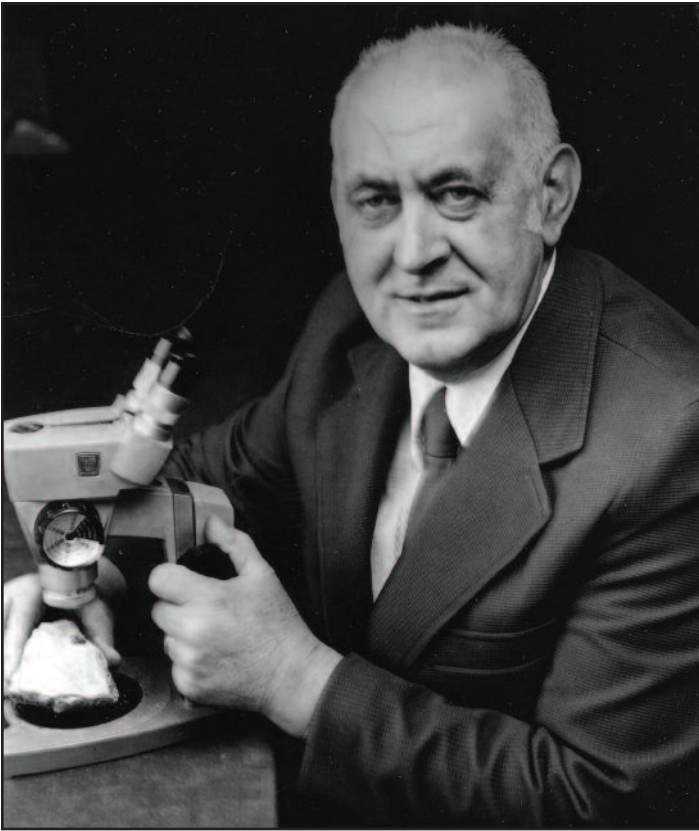
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Tributes to Ewald Gerstmann 1918-2005



Unforgettable Ewald

Lee Lowell
Collections Manager
Franklin Mineral Museum
P.O. Box 54
Franklin, NJ 07416

Ewald Gerstmann was one of the most unforgettable individuals I ever had the pleasure of knowing. He attracted many miners, collectors, and scientists for over 40 years. The photo above shows Ewald studying a mineral specimen under his microscope in his private museum on Walsh Road in Franklin. Incidentally, the specimen on the microscope stage is gerstmannite, and it's the same piece as the one pictured on the back cover of this issue.

I knew Ewald not as the photo portrays him, but rather as a somewhat unpolished individual who spoke the "King's English," expressed opinions that didn't coincide with those in organizations to which he belonged, some briefly, and was very generous with collectors who showed promise from his tutoring in the minerals of Franklin and Sterling Hill. He had little patience with slow learners and had a way of discouraging these collectors from wasting his time.

I first met Ewald in the mid-1970s when I needed help identifying some minerals given to me by my father-in-law, who unfortunately had passed away before being able to help me with their identifications.

While attending the Franklin-Sterling Hill Show in 1978, I joined the

FOMS. At one of the meetings, I was told about Ewald and his private museum. Shortly thereafter, I visited him there. Our relationship became friendly when he told me he had known my father-in-law, who had worked 50 years for the New Jersey Zinc Company as an electrician. Ewald had purchased minerals from him and played cards with him for years.

To start my efforts identifying the minerals, Ewald told me that I had to buy a copy of Kushner's *Guide to Mineral Collecting at Franklin and Sterling Hill, N.J.* This was Ewald's best-selling reference. Then I had to do some reading and make IDs based on what I read. After this, Ewald would check my guesses and make corrections to my responses. He encouraged me to read such mineral references as Kushner, Palache, and Dana. Ewald was a good teacher and became my prime mentor for the years I maintained a collection.

I purchased many mineral specimens from Ewald, as his prices were more reasonable than those of the other Franklin-Sterling Hill mineral dealers. He bought minerals from the Sterling Hill miners as well as from the most sought-after local collections. Some of these minerals were put into his collection. Minerals he didn't need were made available for sale; many were high-quality specimens. Often, Ewald gave me extended credit to pay for my purchases. Without his help, I wouldn't have been able to put together a credible collection of the local minerals.

During my many visits to Ewald's museum, we talked about our life stories. In October 1926, Ewald came to Franklin with his parents from Germany; he was eight years old. He was educated in the Franklin public schools, but after having problems with diagramming sentences in 8th or 9th grade English class, he decided he didn't need to learn this apparently useless type of exercise. So, he dropped out of school to go to work. He had me attempt to describe to him the purpose of diagramming sentences. I'm not sure I was able to convince him of the value of this exercise. He just shook his head as he often did when he didn't understand something.

Ewald enlisted in the Army during World War II, serving in South America, India, and Egypt. He enjoyed telling me about his military experiences during the war and when he was in the New Jersey National Guard after the war. Needless to say, his Army promotions were a function of his opinions of his superior officers, who didn't know how to do things properly, and he had no fear of telling them so.

After the war, Ewald and his brother started the Gerstmann Brothers Bottle Gas and Gas Appliances business. While working on customers' furnaces, he had to move heavy powder boxes filled with rocks. Little did he realize that years later he would be collecting such rocks.

Ewald's interest in rocks and minerals began when one of his daughters asked him to get her some rocks for a junior high school project. Ewald had many plumbing and heating customers who were retired miners. He recalled the many powder boxes he saw in the basements around Franklin when he was servicing these folks. He asked one of these customers for some rocks and was told to help himself. Little did Ewald know that a few days later, the customer would come to Ewald's house and ask for \$60.00 for the rocks he took. Ewald was surprised that there was this kind of money in rocks. He asked some of his friends about this transaction and was told he could get rocks for free off the several mine

dumps in Franklin. And so began his incredible collecting experience.

Ewald purchased copies of the *Franklin Furnace Folio*, Palache's *Professional Paper 180*, and Dana's *System of Mineralogy*, and studied these publications. On his family shopping trips to Paterson, he would stop at the Paterson Museum and study its minerals. He also visited the American Museum of Natural History in New York City to study its minerals on display. With this knowledge, he started collecting in earnest. Eventually, he became a self-taught expert in the local minerals.

Over the next years, Ewald made friends with many notable mineralogists at Harvard, the Smithsonian, and the University of Chicago, as well as with John L. Baum, the New Jersey Zinc Company geologist at Franklin. These folks facilitated Ewald's mineralogical knowledge.

Ewald's museum became a center of knowledge for numerous collectors. Ewald started more collectors of the local minerals than anyone else. He willingly shared his knowledge with collectors he considered worthy of his time. Others were turned away because they failed to learn from the master. Ewald lost his patience with beginning collectors who asked the same questions over and over again.

In 1975, Dr. Paul Moore at the University of Chicago took a sample of an unknown mineral from Ewald's collection for study. It turned out to be a mineral new to science. Dr. Moore named it gerstmannite in honor of Ewald's dedication to the study of the local minerals.

For years, Ewald conducted Monday evening study sessions at his museum. Several of us attended these meetings to study minerals from his collection and purchase minerals he recently acquired from the miners.

Ewald loved to travel. For years, he and his wife Helen would go to the Tucson Show and sell minerals from a motel room, as did many other dealers. He took trips to Europe to visit shows, sell minerals, and visit museums.

Other than Ewald's love of minerals, he enjoyed planting flowers. He was very proud of them and would show and explain the different species to me. Beyond dandelions and violets, I couldn't remember any of the descriptions of his flowers. But I must admit, they were beautiful.

Ewald also enjoyed the various birds that visited his backyard. He put up birdhouses and feeders for them. He attempted to teach me about the visiting bird population, but I didn't have the same enthusiasm for birds as he did. Knowing his persona, though, it truly amazed me that he would embrace such interests as flowers and birds.

In his last several years, some of us enjoyed playing cards with Ewald in his museum and later his condo, his daughter's home, and eventually in an assisted care facility. He passed away in December 2005, a few days after our last card game.

As a friend and mentor, Ewald left an enduring impression on me. There are many other stories I could relate to the reader about Ewald, but let this short article suffice. With my volunteering efforts in the Franklin Mineral Museum, I have the pleasure of seeing and handling many of the rocks and minerals in the Spex/Gerstmann collection. These were donated to the museum by the Mitteldorfs. A painting of Ewald looks down on his collection in the museum's "Local Room."

Ewald's remains lie in repose at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum. His spiritual presence, however, lives on in Franklin, his home for 79 years.

My First Gerstmann Story

Ray Latawicz
16 Horseshoe Drive
Newton, NJ 07860

I have been interested in mineral collecting since childhood, and I have fond memories of the "drive-up" Buckwheat Dump, the Trotter Dump, and Stanley Hocking's "rock house." In 1980 I decided it was time to enter the hallowed ground where Ewald Gerstmann had accumulated the most amazing collection of local material on the planet. So, here I am, finally entering the famed Gerstmann Franklin Mineral Museum for the first time. With eager anticipation, I opened the door and entered a smoke-filled room in the middle of a card game. A little miffed by the informality of the scene, I was immediately drawn to a distinguished-looking, scientific-type individual peering through a binocular microscope and typing mineral labels. Here he is! At last I was in the presence of the "great one" himself. I felt a little uncomfortable, since for the most part I had been ignored. Introducing myself, I learned that the person at the scope was Lee Lowell, not Ewald.

I decided to look around the place, and being a "fly on the wall," I overheard the conversations circulating the card table. Obviously one of these guys was Ewald himself...but which one? They were prickly sorts, cussing, smoking, joking, and otherwise having a good time. I overheard that there was a mineral named after "him," and I assumed that they were talking about the "mineralogist" Lee Lowell. I looked around the many mineral cases to finally discover the beautiful tin-colored crystals labeled "Loellingite."

I mentioned to Lee that "it must be a great honor to have a mineral named after you" and congratulated him. He looked at me with a puzzled expression on his face, and then the real Ewald stood up from the table, repositioned his pants, approached me, and introduced himself. I had finally met the legend! "Glad to meet you, Mr. Gerstmann," I said. "What an honor it must be to have a scientist working for you who has a mineral named for him." He looked at me a little confused. "You know...Lee Lowell," I said. "LOWELLINGITE."

Ewald cracked up! "Listen," he said. "if that's his mineral, they spelt his name wrong. You wanna find a rock named after somebody?" He thumped his chest. "Look for G-E-R-S-T-M-A-N-N-I-T-E, and after that look for K-O-L-I-C-I-T-E," he said, pointing to John Kolic at the card table!

"By the way," the great one said, "what do you do for a living?" I mentioned that I worked for the State of New Jersey. "What are you, a cop?" I told him I was a State Trooper. "I'll take care of you. I like cops. And don't be embarrassed about the loellingite. This hobby ain't easy. *Most* guys start out dumb." The great one had spoken. I was humbled, but I became a regular at the place.

I Remember Ewald Gerstmann

Richard Hauck
President
Sterling Hill Mining Museum
30 Plant Street
Ogdensburg, NJ 07439

I knew Ewald for longer than I have been married, more than 42 years. When I first met him, he was living with his wife and four daughters behind the Gerstmann Brothers Plumbing and Propane building on Route 23 in Franklin.

Ewald's interest in minerals developed after a daughter's request for a science project inspired a purchase of a powder box full of minerals. Ewald, being a shrewd and careful man, asked an opinion of a mineral collector if he had been taken. The collector was most impressed and offered to buy the minerals for several times more than the amount that Ewald had risked. This event sparked a burning interest that never saw a lack of serious and growing collector fever.

In the good old days of collecting, the number of serious collectors was much smaller than today. John Hendricks, Ewald, and I were the majority of the chief nonminer collectors. At that time there was more of a gentleman's way of doing things. If I told John or Ewald that I was working on a specific collection, they would not visit the person until I had first chance. Likewise with me. In later years and to the present, if one were to slip up and even mention the town where a collection could be found, there would be those who would call every name in the phone book to try to locate the collection.

Ewald was a tough but fair fellow collector who exhibited more guts than I could ever match. How many collectors would mortgage the house a number of times to build a collection? How many collectors would suggest that if two collections were put together, they would be almost unbeatable and suggest a coin flip for the winner? Ewald offered to flip a coin to see if I would win his collection, or if he would win mine. I could not take such a gamble. Ewald could.

One of Ewald's greatest strengths was his word. He was honest in his dealings. Another strength was that he was a man of high principles. He lost promotions during his military service and lost some big-bucks jobs because he would not take input from people he could not respect. If you received Ewald's friendship and respect, you'd earned it.

Few will ever match Ewald's self-taught skills in mineral identification and collection building. Who can forget his Gerstmann Franklin Mineral Museum? There was always someone there on weekends. The recognition of having a mineral named in his honor by Paul Moore was a tribute so very much deserved.

The last years of Ewald's life were, as for most of us, not his best. While members of his family tried to care for him, eventually professional care was needed, and the final months of his life were spent in a nursing home in Andover, New Jersey. Those who made the effort to visit were rewarded with a chance to enjoy Ewald being one hell of a guy to the very end.

In conclusion, Elna and I express our respect to friends no longer with us by remembering the families of our departed associates. Helen Gerstmann is in the Andover rest home. We visit Helen out of respect to her and Ewald both.

Memories of Ewald Gerstmann

Dr. Warren Miller
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I first met Ewald in 1967 when I was a graduate student in Binghamton, New York. I stopped at a rock shop one day and asked the owner if he had any fluorescent minerals for sale. He immediately directed me to a place that I had never heard of: Franklin, New Jersey. The next weekend, I made the first of many three-hour drives to Sussex County and met with the usual dealers at the time: Stanley Hocking, Nick Zipco, and of course Ewald. I was amazed at his museum and especially his fluorescent mineral display.

We slowly developed a friendship, and eventually I drove down to visit him in Franklin at least twice a month. These obsessive trips included occasions such as the return to Binghamton from my wedding on Long Island, and the weekend of Woodstock, which I thought of only as an annoying traffic detour on Route 17.

After a few years, I amassed what I thought was a great collection of 1" x 2" and 2" x 2" fluorescent minerals from Franklin that I kept in our apartment. I finally convinced him to stop in and visit me on the way back from a mineral show in Syracuse, New York. In his usual diplomatic manner, I got a big "thumbs down" as soon as he saw my display. If you are going to collect fluorescents, he said, go for big specimens. As he held out his hands describing "big" I kept thinking of my "small" \$200-per-month graduate school stipend.

I did not get offended, however, and took his advice. I began to buy less quantity and concentrated instead on fewer but higher-quality specimens, advice that is still valid today.

Ewald and I became good friends, and after I introduced him to the Mitteldorfs, I assisted in the acquisition of his collection by SPEX. Acting as curator and without a formal education, his natural curiosity allowed him to constantly study new finds from the Sterling Hill mine and forward them to mineralogists for identification in an attempt to discover new mineral species.

After the SPEX/Gerstmann collection was donated to the Franklin Mineral Museum, we were invited to go to Långban, Sweden. Ewald, Lee Lowell, my 8-year-old son Erik, and I embarked on a dream trip for two weeks.

We stayed in Filipstad and were able to collect several evenings on the dumps at Långban and Jakobsberg. We found a large number of good fluorescent specimens, including margarosanite, svabite, barytocalcite and multicolored dolomite. Erik found a nice crystallized specimen of margarosanite on the dump at Jakobsberg at midnight. There were several local collectors in the area due to a local mineral show, and to my amazement, many of them either knew Ewald or had heard of his museum. The local restaurant even had a small party for him after closing time. Traveling with Ewald was a great experience, and as a result we were able to enjoy behind-the-scenes opportunities that would not normally be available, such as viewing the mineral collections in the museums in Stockholm and Copenhagen.

On our return to Oslo, we stopped at the famous corundum locality in Arendal which was a steep climb on top of a high rock ledge. Although Ewald came in a distant 4th place in his climb to the summit, the fact that he made it is a testament to his stubborn determination to succeed. This quality served him well, both in building a world-class mineral collection and in his very productive 87-year life span.

A Mineral Specimen From Ewald

Don Newsome

16605 127th Ave. S.E.

Renton, WA 98058

I do not get out to Franklin or Ogdensburg every year, but Ewald's place was always the first stop when I took some vacation days after a business trip to the East Coast. He was happy to let you look around at his specimens and would talk minerals as long as you could stand the cigarette smoke in that small museum.

In October 1989, I was enjoying the museum when I asked if he had any large fluorescent specimens for sale, since I specialize in fluorescent minerals. He said that he had just obtained some specimens but had not yet had time to put them into his museum. Always accommodating, he said I could see them in his garage.

Sitting in the middle of the garage floor, surrounded by about half a dozen smaller specimens, was a large, heavy clinohedrite specimen. It was the largest specimen of the group at 7" x 9" x 12", and it weighed nearly 30 pounds. Under shortwave ultraviolet light, a flat face of about 6¾" x 10" showed about 70% coverage of bright orange clinohedrite. The rest of the face was mostly bright green willemite. The other sides of the specimen showed hardystonite, willemite, and a lot of franklinite and andradite.

Well, I had to have that specimen! I asked him how much he wanted for it, and he said \$150.00. That was not cheap in 1989, but in 2003 one person estimated it to be worth about \$1,500.00 – a ten-fold increase in only 14 years!

Whenever I see that specimen in my collection, I think of Ewald, his museum, and the good times I had visiting with him.

Ewald

Peter Chin

1031 Kuekue Street

Honolulu, HI 96825

My memories of Ewald stem from my close association with him in the 1960s and 1970s. I had a 12-year hiatus from collecting and didn't return to the collecting scene until 1990.

The Venue

14 Walsh Street, just behind and below the school ballfield, a few minutes' walk downhill from the capped Parker Shaft (you could hear the cheers on game day). Blue haze, wisps and curls of *Kents* and *Parliaments*, supplanted in later years by a cool hint of menthol from *Salems*, and in winter, spiked with kerosene vapor. Occasionally, and thankfully so, the air was scrubbed and cleansed by falling droplets of water, rainwater filtered through the overburden of soil and sod on the roof of one of the first "green" buildings on the East Coast, if not the entire country! I can still hear the pit, pit, plop symphony of droplets hitting the pails, pots, bowls and floor. Sometime later, a proud Ewald gave me a guided tour of the new roof to his temple to Franklin minerals. A more standard, tar-paper roof had replaced the soil and sod. At least for a while there would be no drips.

Along the walls, in glass cases, the Pantheon of Franklin Rocks: roebingite, franklinite, willemite, zincite, rhodonite, and mineral species

you needed a microscope or an SEM to see. A thousand genuflections! Thousands over the years made their pilgrimage to adore and, for a privileged few, touch them.

Introduction

Ewald was a maverick, beginning with his escapades in the Army while stationed in India during World War II, and later on his job and while he was amassing his mineral collection. Ewald had no formal training in mineralogy; he was a plumber by trade. Everything he knew about minerals was self-taught, and he was a fast learner. Ewald had an uncanny ability for sight recognition of minerals—no small talent. Many collectors, including me, sought his counsel when it came to mineral identification. He wasn't so proud that he couldn't learn from others. He studied minerals not only from his own collection, but also in museums and other private collections. A man of unlimited energy, he tirelessly promoted Franklin minerals and sought out other collectors and collections. He promoted and exhibited Franklin minerals at numerous shows, including Tucson.

An introduction to Ewald and his collection was usually a lesson in economics, "This piece is \$1000. ..." If you had more interest than the dollar signs and asked semi-intelligent questions about a specimen, after he sized you up he might say "Wanna take a closer look?," whereupon he'd open the glass wall case and take it out for the lucky person to hold and examine close up. That is how I, like many others, first came to know Ewald.

Over the years, Ewald inspired many to join in the pursuit of Franklin (and Sterling Hill too!) minerals, and more importantly, knowledge about the deposits. Many people, from newbies to well-established collectors, brought their specimens to his museum, where he would identify them, hold discussions, or even buy one if he thought it might be a new species or a specimen that belonged in his collection (do any of you remember the huge ugly black augite(?) crystal from the Trotter Dump?). One of the great attractions and services he provided to the collecting community at large was a never-ending supply of low-cost, quality specimens from Franklin and "foreign" localities. "Foreign" was a euphemism for any mineral specimen originating outside Franklin. A specimen from nearby Paterson, for example, would qualify as being "foreign." The museum became an informal and formal gathering place for anyone interested in collecting and learning about Franklin minerals. It was here that you had an opportunity to meet, in flesh and blood, some of the most famous collectors, dealers, and museum curators from the likes of the Smithsonian and the American Museum of Natural History, along with some of the great mineralogists of the latter half of the twentieth century, such as Clifford Frondel, Paul Moore, and Pete Dunn, among others – the Who's Who of celebrities in the mineral world, a mineral collector's Hollywood!

It was here, in his museum on the right bank of the Wallkill, that we gathered with other like-minded collectors to buy minerals, get the local mineral and personal news, and sniff out leads to specimens and collections. But more importantly it was a learning place. Ewald gave us probably the greatest opportunity that any collector could have: to closely examine and study rare mineral species and associations from one of the premier private collections of Franklin minerals, one unparalleled in its content of rare species and examples of finely crystallized, displayable minerals. For many collectors of this period, it was not enough to obtain great crystallized specimens of rhodonite, willemite, franklinite – it was more important, in fact, it was a *duty* to find new species, new to the deposit, new to science.

A few lucky collectors were able to spend hours, sometimes until 3:00 or 4:00 AM, examining specimens from his collection, and from new finds brought in by miners and other collectors. It was an unforgettable gathering place for collectors, and the only one of its kind.

The 1970s

Mineral discoveries and work on Franklin minerals seemed to have reached their zenith in 1969–1970, about 15 years after the Franklin Mine closed. Ewald continued to send a stream of minerals to various contacts in the academic and corporate world for analysis, but often he was thwarted by an apparent lack of time or interest. Paul Moore at the University of Chicago, and Clifford Frondel and David Cook at Harvard in the 1960s, had provided impetus to the collecting community to seek out new minerals, but it now looked that any work on Franklin minerals was put on the back burner. Perhaps it was the Vietnam War, the Apollo Program, the Hippie-Woodstock movement, but Franklin minerals didn't have the same urgency, the same shine as before. Coincidentally, this was also a dry spell for buying collections and minerals. By this time, Ewald, now well-known in the local collector and miner community, felt discriminated against for being an outsider, for being a successful collector and dealer. Ewald bemoaned his lack of ability to land a collection for a reasonable price. To give you an idea of prices from this time period, a fist-sized ganophyllite specimen cost about \$40 or less. Job pressures, home, debts and the seeming lack of interest in the scientific community led Ewald to contemplate calling it quits and selling his collection on a number of occasions between 1970 and 1971. Heck, he even offered to sell me the gemmy willemite crystals that were featured in the *American Mineral Treasures* exhibition at the 2008 Tucson show (photo on p. 21, bottom). I wish I'd had the \$1500! Too bad he wouldn't accept installment payments. Luckily, he did not sell and disperse his collection at that time.

The dawn of 1972 began with the familiar complaint: "There ain't nothin' in da works." But that was before Eugene Clyne, a shift boss working in the nearby Sterling Hill Mine, found Ewald. Thick eye-glasses had not impeded Gene's ability in the underground darkness of the mine to uncover new minerals, and thus begin a new era of discovery that would last well into the 1980s. It would be the mineralogical equivalent of the Cambrian explosion of life forms. Gene had earlier found what turned out to be the first local occurrence of adamite, variety cuproadamite, which had the good graces to be associated with a wire of native silver (alright, it isn't a Kongsberg!). Ewald now found new hope that rekindled his desire, or perhaps more accurately, his obsession. He went after new discoveries with unbridled ferocity. He traded an absolutely fabulous specimen of gageite for Gene's native silver and cuproadamite.

In the spring of 1972, while working on 340' Level, 960 Stope, Gene found a glassy, blue-gray to colorless mineral covering a fracture or slip surface in ore. Ewald and I studied the new find but could not venture a guess as to what this mineral might be. It was our good fortune that John White, who was then assistant curator of the gem and mineral department of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, was sympathetic to our cause and found time to have the mystery mineral analyzed. The mineral was a mixture of köttigite and parasymple-site – and so began the era of arsenate and arsenic-bearing minerals from Sterling Hill, and a short time later, the long and fruitful association of Pete Dunn and the Smithsonian Institution with the mineralogy of Franklin and Sterling Hill. Gene left the mineral scene after a major mine accident left him permanently crippled, but his loss to the mineral

community was more than made up by John Kolic, whose efforts and contributions were recognized by the naming of a new arsenate species, kolicite, in his honor.

First Encounter with Ewald

My first encounter with Ewald was in the company of John E. MacDonald (Ah! another colorful character in FrOgology) sometime before 1962/63. Ewald was a lot skinnier then, but had the same steely gray eyes and crew cut—a teutonic visage until his last days. Ewald had recently acquired the Lang collection, an old-time collection filled with classic Franklin minerals. The large jeffersonite, the rhodonite crystals, "roopperite" and, I believe, the doubly terminated glassy willemite crystals that were part of the Franklin mineral display in this year's (2008) *American Mineral Treasures* exhibition at Tucson, were from the Lang collection and were prominently displayed in Ewald's museum. The Lang collection had been pursued by John Albanese, John Hendricks, and, I believe, Harvard, among others. Gerstmann, a relative newcomer to the hobby, and a plumber at that, beat them all to it! It wasn't easy; he had a wife and two young daughters. Not blessed with a huge inheritance or substantial corporate position and commensurate salary, he sweated bullets to come up with the cash to close the deal. He was worried, or perhaps paranoid is a better word, that others (among which he incorrectly included the young whippersnapper Dick Hauck) would step in and steal the collection while he was gathering the necessary funds. He tried to borrowed money from family and friends who incredulously asked "...for rocks?" and finally took a mortgage on his house to purchase the collection. It was quite a relief when he finally carted the treasure home. There would be other moments like this.

A Bit of Collecting Philosophy

Charlotte Avers had acquired Robert Hesse's Franklin collection in 1973, kept about a half dozen specimens, and was now looking for a buyer for the remaining portion. Robert Hesse and Robert Linck had earlier purchased the R.B. Gage collection in 1948 (a Roberts gang!). Many of the Franklin specimens were from this collection. It is important to know that Gage supplied minerals to such luminaries as Washington A. Roebling and was instrumental in the early twentieth century for the discovery and description of many new minerals from Franklin. He also had impeccable taste when it came to minerals, and if ever you have an opportunity to see some of his specimens, you will understand why.

Steve Sanford had alerted Ewald that Charlotte wanted to sell her Franklin specimens. Ewald went to Avers' house, looked at the collection and came away with three specimens. He later remarked, "The minerals weren't any good, she wanted too f*****g much!" When I pressed him as to how much was too much, he replied, "\$3500." Most of the specimens were about 3" x 3", a few larger and a few smaller, but they contained some of the finest examples of crystallized Franklin minerals known. Among them were historic pieces that had been described in Palache's *Professional Paper 180* and in papers published in *The American Mineralogist*. The average cost was less than \$40 per specimen!! As they say in China, "OY VEY!"

Ewald had been influenced by the collecting philosophy of his time, which held that size = quality, or at least that size offsets deficiencies in quality. The bigger the better – hence the huge road apple from the Trotter Dump mentioned earlier. It's better to own a 4-inch franklinite that had tumbled from the top of Mount Everest to the shores of Franklin Pond than to possess a perfect ¼-inch franklinite crystal. I wouldn't say

that he was guided 100% of the time by this philosophy, and there were numerous exceptions, but it still played an important role in determining what went into his collection.

Sometime in the mid-1960s or thereabouts, Ewald acquired from John Hendricks the magnificent native copper with charlesite, xonotlite, ganophyllite and kitchen sink that was one of the featured minerals in the 2008 *American Mineral Treasures* exhibit during the Tucson Show. The circuitous journey of this specimen has been documented in an earlier issue of *The Picking Table*. A short time after its acquisition, I noticed that the specimen, which many consider the finest mineral specimen ever recovered from the Franklin Mine, was missing – gone! Only the clean spot on the shelf where the specimen had once proudly been displayed remained! “What happened to the copper?,” I asked. Ewald replied, “I was bringing back minerals from a show, da copper was on da back seat of da car. G*d***n, I dropped da f*****g thing and it broke. G*d***n nearly s*** in my pants. I glued it back together. It was bad! I sold it to that guy, Hauck. Got 500 bucks, lost a lot of f*****g money.” He was grief-stricken only for a short time, however, as there were bigger fish to catch and fry. The specimen now resides in the Steven Phillips collection.

Mineral Dealer

One of Ewald’s most important and enduring contributions to the collecting community was his service as a dealer. His philosophy was to have a quick turnover, and that meant selling low, which dampened the prices other dealers could charge for similar specimens. He made a small profit and made us smile most of the time. This encouraged others to become interested in Franklin minerals. During much of the period when Ewald was an active collector and dealer, Franklin mineral collecting was for the most part an egalitarian pursuit; even bottom feeders, like me, could afford a Franklin rarity. There were shelves of economically priced Franklin minerals. Many times there was at least one shelf of “?” specimens, unidentified minerals you could take a chance on becoming (your name)-ite! Almost like a gambling parlor.

I remember the time he bought that huge first-find wollastonite (almost the size of Staten Island!) in the late 1960s, the one currently on display in the Franklin Mineral Museum’s fluorescent mineral exhibit. It came with a peach basket full of smaller first-find wollastonites. If you wanted one of them you had to pay the exorbitant price of \$1.50 per pound! Not being a fluorescent mineral collector at the time, I dismissed the idea of paying such a high price for a contact metamorphic mineral! Instead, I purchased a 9.5” x 5” Franklin barite (75% coverage) and a somewhat larger piece of hardystonite at \$1.25 per pound! Aaaagh, I wish I could turn the clock back!

Someone once put a bug in Ewald’s ear that he could be a successful international dealer. No one bothered to tell him that he had the sales ability of a skunk. He could sell Franklin rocks because he had established himself there, but his gruff style of speaking, with sentences and phrases liberally laced with profanities, did not make for a balmy sales pitch to any God-fearing collector!* His sojourns into flogging Bisbee, English, Russian, and Indian minerals, in particular cavansite, were doomed to failure from the outset. Collectors in the end benefited from Ewald’s fire sales of these “foreign” specimens. If not for him, I wouldn’t have *any* Bisbee specimens!

Ewald was single-minded in his pursuit to obtain the best specimens, but he was not averse to making a little money on it – after all, it took money to get what he wanted. I suppose that in later years some thought him a mercenary, without understanding or wanting to understand how

Ewald the Plumber could successfully compete with more financially endowed collectors and still have a roof over his head, a wife, and raise his children at the same time.

Collectors and Dealers

Ewald’s thoughts on other collectors and dealers are too numerous and can’t be addressed in any great detail here, but here are a few: Pat Gross, “What a b****.” John E. MacDonald, “da guy wid da hearing aid...can’t trust him” (that is what he said of most dealers who were in direct competition with him). Hauck, “snoopin’ all da time.” Lee Areson, “. . .he almost cost me a collection!” Jennie Areson – no comment. He didn’t like aggressive collectors or dealers because they were in many ways like him when it came to getting a good rock. He got along with them like Ronald Reagan and Gorbachev, armed with minerals of mass envy.

One of my favorite stories involved a trip to Philadelphia to visit Tony DiDonato, who was selling his Franklin mineral collection. Ewald thought it would be an opportunity to snag some very nice specimens, since DiDonato had benefited from his close association with John Albanese, or at least so Ewald thought. Upon viewing the collection Ewald was underwhelmed, but there was a cahnite that caught his eye, and he’d always wanted a good one. The specimen was a “s****y tiny fly speck” as Ewald fondly recalled. He took the crystal out of its capsule and, well, like all good collectors, he promptly dropped it on the floor. “Jesus, you shooda seen his face, I thought he was goin’ to have a f*****g heart attack! I was on all fours tryin’ to find da tiny f***ing thing!” He came away from the experience with specimens he didn’t need or want.

Ewald was crazy. He drove 1000 miles to Florida in the hopes of buying Casperson’s collection and drove back with scarcely a sun tan on his left arm. “He had nuttin’ and a high price for it!”

God knows what he thought of me!

Class

Ewald once advised me on the matter of “class.” He said to me, in great seriousness and grave tone of voice, that I’d better get rid of my rusting Plymouth Duster with its unplanned flow-through air vents and four bias-ply tires, and get a car like his, a Cadillac. A Cadillac showed you had class. “People like Hauck got no f*****g class... Dey drive around in little s*** cars, like foreign cars!” A cigarette dangled daintily from the corner of his lips, a long ash column defying the effects of gravity. He then unceremoniously zipped up and tucked in the front half of his shirt that hung over his belt.... after he put the convenience bucket down. The convenience bucket was reserved for him and special guests, those who couldn’t or wouldn’t climb the steps to use the bathroom in the house, which seemed to be atop a mountain peak. It was kept at the ready in the broom closet/fluorescent mineral sales area.

Miscellany

I don’t think he kept a rabbit’s foot or any similar bit of idolatry except for a State Trooper Association medallion sitting in the rear window of his Cadillac, which he swore was a talisman to ward off speeding tickets.

* Editor’s note: I live in Franklin, too, and it is not for nothing that one collector likened an outsider visiting these parts to “entering the Klingon Empire.” That’s part of our charm.

Ewald was tempted by and collected stamps, coins and militaria. I guess once the collecting bug bites, it's in your blood – you have to keep it going with something else when one collecting endeavor falls into a dry spell.

More than half of Ewald's life was devoted to collecting and promoting Franklin minerals; there are so many stories and not enough space to tell them all. The next time I tell you an Ewald story, bring a bottle of *Cutty Sark* and a carton of *Salems!*

Memories of Ewald Gerstmann

Bill Kroth
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I remember getting involved with Franklin minerals in the mid-1960s, while I was in junior high school. Back then the only place that I could purchase my specimens was at the Mine Hill Mineral Shoppe near the old movie theater on Main Street in Franklin. My dad would take me there every Saturday morning, where its proprietor, young Chet Lemanski, would help me build my collection of Franklin wonders. This lasted about two years, after which I drifted away from the mineral hobby. But then, in the early 1980s, my interest was renewed when I saw an amazing fluorescent display at one of the local shows. Now I had a job and would be able to buy some significant specimens...but where could I go to buy major Franklin minerals?

My search led down a well-traveled path that many in our hobby have followed. I visited all of the local ex-miners and dealers in the Franklin area. One by one I'd examine their specimens. I listened to such statements as, "You can't buy that specimen until you become one of my good customers," or "No, that one is not for sale at any price," only to find out later that it had been sold to someone else the following week. My dream of building my collection was fading.

By chance, someone mentioned that I should visit Ewald Gerstmann's Franklin Mineral Museum. I showed up one Sunday afternoon in the autumn of 1983 and met Ewald. Now this was more like it. No longer was I led down narrow steps into a dimly lit basement – this guy was a professional. He had a well-illuminated, real museum dedicated to his collection, and his specimens were clean, nicely labeled, and in the correct Dana order. And they were all there! The best part was that there were six Ward's-type cabinets full of specimens that I could buy without any conditions! Just first come, first served.

I was somewhat intimidated by the museum and the collection, but Ewald soon made me feel at home. He offered me coffee and asked me to sit down. He wanted to know of my background. This would become my Saturday morning home for many years. It seemed like I worked all week just to enjoy an early Saturday morning at Ewald's. Naturally, I showed up early, hoping to see his shiny Cadillac parked in front (indicating that the museum was open) so that I could be the first one to get that "killer" specimen that he had obtained during the week. These occasions soon became much more than buying rocks. I can still remember entering the museum with Ewald, him turning up the heat, and asking me to run across Rt. 23 to get coffee.

Ewald became my good friend. And during my Saturday mornings at Ewald's, I made other good friends – George Elling, Lee Lowell, Ray

Latawiec, John Kolic, Dr. Warren Miller, Mark Leger, and many others. We were all attracted to Ewald's, not just for the mineral specimens, but to listen to Ewald's wonderful stories. He often told of how his interest in Franklin minerals was kindled while helping his daughter with a school science project. Or his trek to Florida where he broke his leg while obtaining the large first-find banded wollastonite specimen that is now the centerpiece of the Franklin Mineral Museum's fluorescent display. We felt fortunate to be able to associate with this wonderful and kind man, and to gain some of his incredible knowledge of our hobby.

Ewald was a proud man and very proud of the world-class collection that he had assembled. He loved his family, his museum, and was proud of his shiny new Cadillac. He was a craftsman. I still marvel at his plumbing masterpieces in the main exhibit building at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum. He was an honest and fair man, too. He knew of my wild enthusiasm for Franklin minerals and could easily have doubled his prices, knowing that I would buy his specimens anyway, but he never took advantage of me or any other visitor. I am not the only collector that feels this way...I can honestly say that we all have exactly the same sentiments and fondness for Ewald.

Now, as I look at my 100+ specimens with the Ewald Gerstmann labels, those fond memories return. Now it is my turn to say that *those* specimens "are not for sale at any price."

A Tribute to Ewald

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Ewald Gerstmann would stand out in a group without doing anything special – just the information and attitude he conveyed made him instantly conspicuous. As long as you did not mind the smoking, he would talk at length about minerals and mining. Numerous specimens were always available for purchase in the file cabinets as you entered his museum, and new material was often to be found there. His extensive displays of minerals were impressive and captivating, and on some visits I would begin there, to see if he had made any changes or added some new pieces. Then, of course, I would always spend a few minutes checking out the new additions that were available for purchase. A few times as I was entering, Ewald would alert me to some interesting material in the drawers. Ewald was such a reliable source of good collector specimens that, whenever I planned to be in the Franklin area, I always made time in my schedule for a visit.

Can You Hear This, Ewald?

Steve Misiur
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When I heard of the passing of Ewald Gerstmann, literally and figuratively a giant in the Franklin-Ogdensburg cosmos, the reminiscences crowded in upon me thick and fast. My first exposure to Ewald (always pronounced E-wald, never Ew-wald) was from an article in a *Rocks & Minerals* magazine I had picked up at Jim's Gems in Wayne, N.J. in the early 1980s. Little did I know at the time that the saintly figure pictured on the cover did not begin to capture the character of the earthy, profane, but ultimately good-hearted and generous soul I would come to know.

The *R&M* article was accompanied by a famous photo of Ewald aping Dr. Albert Schweizer, posing with a microscope and wearing a white lab coat. This photo has been reproduced many times and is remembered by those who knew him as making him look much more dignified than he actually was.

This was about the time I was reintroducing myself to the Franklin area after a long absence. As a kid I had prowled the Buckwheat Dump when it was accessible by a dirt road from Franklin Avenue near Franklin Pond, and populated by colorful personalities like Mike Petro and “The Troll.” I had never lost interest in mineral collecting, but as I grew I became fascinated by the finer aspects of architecture, a man-made discipline taking its cues from geometry and nature alike. At any rate, I revisited Franklin on a hot summer day in 1982, made a pilgrimage to the Franklin Mineral Museum, stopped by the Trotter Dump (my gosh, “The Troll” was still there!), and even rode over to the Sterling Hill mine to ask questions about where to collect, and whether I might get a job. “No luck there,” I thought, “too bad I’ll never see what it’s like underground.” Later I passed the Gerstmann Franklin Mineral Museum in Franklin, but nobody was there.

It wasn’t until the following October that I began visiting the area in earnest, going to the “Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineral Exhibit” (as I think of it even to this day). There I saw more of the colorful local characters, though at the time I didn’t know their names or their roles in the local collecting community. However, I returned home dazzled by the richness and wonder of minerals in general, and of Franklin and Sterling minerals in particular. This is when I visited Jim’s Gems on the way home and picked up that fateful copy of *Rocks & Minerals*. Lo and behold, I began to connect the names in the article to people I had seen at the show.

Soon after, I attended my first FOMS meeting, especially memorable as I met Helen Warinsky first. A bubbly ray of sunshine, Helen implored me to sign in as a member, and look through her microscope at a brookite crystal specimen she had found, trimmed, and mounted. (Brookite was her favorite of the Buckwheat Dolomite minerals, and that piece is among 136 of Helen’s micromounts I own today.) The second person I met there was Ron DeBlois, who became my best friend even though I remain mystified why he tolerates me after all these years. After we talked, and went to the FOMS meeting, Ron and I found we took to each other very well, and wondered if there was anything else to do in Franklin. Overhearing what others had in mind, we decided to go to the Gerstmann museum. It was open, and our first visit. Several others from the meeting had already filtered into the tiny, cramped place. Minerals were arrayed along every wall, and most of the visitors were looking and drooling over the specimens, while peppering Ewald with questions about what they were looking at, and what was new. Clearly, however, the centerpiece of the museum was Ewald himself. You could not miss the man. He was not overly tall, so it is misleading to say he was a giant in the literal sense, but he was an individual of broad horizons. In other words, he had a good-sized gut that challenged the ability of his belt to hold up his pants, which he was always tugging on in his perpetual war against gravity. Then there was his signature cigarette, a lifelong addiction; it is almost impossible to remember him without one. His smoking of course lent a certain rough gravelly texture to his voice, best described as a rock crusher working deep in his throat. Ewald had his peculiarities, as does anyone who collects minerals; I mean, come on, what kind of person would fill his basement with rocks and spend his weekend smashing boulders with a sledge hammer? But as Ron and I listened to Ewald, we knew there was more to him than met the eye. Thereafter I often visited his museum and got to know the man and his

many sides, too numerous to describe here.

Ewald and I shared something besides our affinity for Franklin rocks: our hearing, or rather our lack of it. I had been hard of hearing since third grade after contracting German measles from my older brother. He is still alive and I love him dearly, but the downside of the disease and the 105° fever that accompanied it was the destruction of 75% of my hearing, and a lifetime of wearing a hearing aid. Hence in addition to the usual challenges of growing up, I had to earn grudging societal acceptance for my handicap. When I first met Ewald I noticed the same habits: his telltale leaning forward while cocking his head to keep his good ear toward the speaker, and the unmistakable look of concentration as he tried to grasp every word that was spoken. I smiled to myself then and felt an odd kinship with him; my admiration and affection for him grew with the years. Some who knew Ewald well have expressed frustration with his poor hearing, but I understood his reluctance to wear hearing aids, especially when he would have started late in life. (Since I grew up with them, they are second nature to me.) I amused Ewald with stories about “tuning out” certain folks when I was younger, and how my mom knew immediately when I turned off my hearing aids because my tolerance for “noise” had been exceeded. (You can never fool your mother.) Ewald and I agreed on one thing about our lack of hearing: considering what often passes for conversation, we weren’t missing much.

I was always curious about the degree of Ewald’s hearing loss. That he had some was indisputable, but the degree of that loss was always a matter of conjecture, and to me, amusement. One memorable warm spring day I stopped by his museum to see what was going on. The museum was empty except for Ewald, and we greeted each other. I immediately gravitated to the display case near the entrance, as that was where he put newly acquired specimens out for sale: it was a veritable shrine. Ewald had bought a small collection a few days earlier, and had placed a few things there and on a nearby table. Like any studious collector I just had to get my “fix,” and I saw some pieces that interested me. One was a crude sphalerite crystal, a cute little thing, and it grew on me. Of course Ewald noticed that, and of course I noticed him watching me closely. Smiling ever so slightly to myself, I turned, then looked up, and asked, “Ewald, how much would this be?” In his low, gravelly voice, he replied, “Fifty.” I turned back to the specimen and softly said to myself, “Hmm, not bad for fifteen.” Ewald abruptly thundered, “NO! FIFTY!” I looked up with raised eyebrows and a smile on my face and said, “Oh, okay.” Ewald’s expression was a mix of annoyance, and amusement for what had happened. From then on, whenever I asked for a price, or whenever we haggled, he was careful in clearly enunciating the final price.

I hope you can hear this, Ewald. Thanks for the specimens, and most of all thanks for the good times. Peace.

An Ewald Miscellany

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One of the advantages to being interim editor for this particular issue of *The Picking Table* is that I got to see what others wrote about Ewald Gerstmann well before this issue went to press. I didn’t know Ewald for

as long as some of the other authors did (just 24 years), and because I resided out West until 1998 I saw him only a few times a year, unlike some of the locals who visited him almost every weekend. Nevertheless Ewald and I became friends, and I have many happy recollections of that man. Below are some reminiscences that “fill in the cracks” of what others have already written about him.

First Visit

My first exposure to Franklin-Sterling Hill minerals was in 1956, when as a young boy I viewed the wonderful exhibit of fluorescent minerals at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. I was instantly hooked and, in typical little boy fashion, immediately wrote a note to the New Jersey Zinc Company, imploring them to send me a box of rocks. I never heard from them, perhaps because the Franklin mine had already closed. It would be 25 years later when, newly divorced, I headed to Franklin for a fateful visit with Ewald Gerstmann.

I had my parents with me at the time, and after we entered the museum and introduced ourselves, I immediately became mesmerized by case after case of fabulous Franklin specimens. I wandered around in mineral heaven while Ewald swapped World War II stories with my dad. I circled back every once in a while to join the conversation, and eventually, with a few dollars in my pocket, I turned my attention to the specimens that were for sale. This was my first introduction to Ewald the Mentor – he knew I was a geologist with a deep interest in minerals and made a special point of showing me a small pile of specimens on a high shelf. They were “four-color” specimens, each containing esperite, hardystonite, willemite, and calcite, and there were perhaps fifteen of them. Ewald brought over a chair for me to stand on, and insisted that I leave with one of those specimens. I purchased a nice one for \$19. Only later, in retrospect, did I fully appreciate the kindness Ewald had shown me that day. It is not often that one gets to choose from more than a dozen four-color pieces, and Ewald made certain I would not miss the chance. I still have that specimen and, like Bill Kroth’s similar specimens, it is in the “not available at any price” category.

Coffee and Doughnuts

Later visits to Ewald were similarly pleasant, and I learned much about the local minerals from him. He, and Steve Sanford, introduced me to the wonderful world of Franklin micros, a world that enchants me to this day. Since I didn’t live in the area and saw Ewald only infrequently, I was usually the one who was sent to Dunkin’ Donuts to fetch coffee and doughnuts for him and whoever else was in attendance at the time. One day, however, he asked someone else to perform that little chore while I sat there, talked to Ewald, and had coffee brought to me. Hah! I’d felt as if I’d “arrived,” been accepted by the locals, was now a real part of some inner circle of Franklin aficionados. This was a small event, unnoticed by everyone else there, but suddenly I felt less like an outsider on the Franklin scene.

Bladder Pressure

Most of my visits to Ewald were on weekdays. Commonly no one else was there, and I could examine the displays at leisure, talking to Ewald the whole time and learning more and more about the local minerals as he sat me at a microscope and explained how to tell sarkinite from allactite. Eventually, of course, we are all susceptible to bladder pressure, and at one point I had to ask Ewald if I could use a bathroom. With that, Ewald handed me a bucket and said “Here. Use this. I’ll throw it out later.” I enjoy common-sense solutions to common problems, and Ewald was a master. No bathroom (his museum lacked plumbing), no problem

– all you need is a suitable container. What a guy....

Blue Air

Others have already written about Ewald’s smoking. He was rarely seen without a cigarette, and I generally viewed him through a wispy curtain of rising smoke. The 1980s were a time of considerable societal pressure for people to kick the cigarette habit, and suddenly there were restaurants, libraries, and offices with clear, clean air. I was not used to this, having been raised by parents who, between them, smoked four packs of cigarettes a day. For years I was actually annoyed by clean air indoors – to me, air should be blue, it should have “substance,” and everything should look a little hazy, as if viewed through a soft-focus lens. A visit to Ewald was like a step back in time, and for me, that smoke-filled museum evoked memories of simpler and happier days. Although I never picked up the smoking habit myself, I’ve always enjoyed people who did, and Ewald was in the champion league of smokers.

Quenching a Thirst

One develops a considerable thirst after hours of looking at minerals. On several occasions Ewald would steal off to his house and return with two glasses and a bottle of Scotch. And, since Ewald did nothing in a small way, the glasses were not shot glasses, not juice glasses, but 12-oz tumblers. Scotch, of course, is a powerful mental lubricant, and on these occasions our conversations flowed smoothly and wonderfully. I just wish I could remember them...

Tucson

I used to visit Ewald in Tucson, too, when he and Helen would drive there and set up shop as a dealer during the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show every February. One year Ewald arrived with a trunkful of willemite specimens for a good customer who expressed an interest in developing an instant collection of that species. The customer never showed—and that is how I acquired some of the best willemite specimens in my collection. Ewald gave me the key to the trunk of his big Cadillac, and Van King and I spent quite some time unwrapping willemite specimens in the parking lot, while I set aside the ones that most interested me, and while Ewald continued to entertain customers in his room. I wish I had the knowledge then that I have now, but still, what an opportunity! In this instance I was the beneficiary of the kindness that Ewald had extended to that unknown collector. I never did learn who it was.

Personalities

The above notes give you some small idea of why I so treasured my friendship with Ewald. To me, he epitomized the prime reason I collect Franklin-Sterling Hill minerals. Sure, one of the reasons is the minerals themselves – it’s not for nothing that Pete Dunn calls Franklin and Sterling Hill “the world’s most magnificent mineral deposits.” The overarching reason for my continued interest in this area, however, is its people. Not one collector of this area’s minerals, *not one of them*, is “normal” – we’re all whacked in some significant way. The Franklin-Sterling Hill scene is replete with oddball characters who collectively make for endless ponderings on human psychology. And here again Ewald looms large – never have I met a more interesting man, a more earthy or genuine character, a man as full of surprises as his museum was full of minerals. I am grateful to Ewald for simply being Ewald, and for putting his indelible stamp on some of my fondest memories.

Ewald der Grosse (German for “Ewald the Great”)

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In a town and collector community full of distinctive, eccentric, and occasionally outlandish personalities, Ewald was the Alpha Male, the Big Dog of Franklin. Such was the density and force of his being that his Gerstmann Franklin Mineral Museum, a dugout in the bank downhill from his house on 14 Walsh Road, was for decades the center of gravity for all collectors of Franklin and Sterling Hill minerals. Academics like Cliff Frondel, Paul Moore, and Pete Dunn regularly made the pilgrimage there and paid their respects. As for the rest of us, the dump-dwelling peons in outer darkness where there was weeping and wailing and smashing with sledges, a day spent in Franklin without visiting Ewald was perhaps an amiable diversion but not a *serious* day for a collector. His museum was where we went to talk, to hang out, to buy, and when all else failed, to admire, learn from, and sometimes handle specimens from the best collection around. If “top gun” collectors came to town, that’s where they went. If there was a species new to the area, Ewald had it. If a collection hit the fan in Franklin, the *dissecta membra* were on sale there. If nothing was happening, Ewald’s was still the place to be, and you might be drafted to go out for cigarettes, or coffee and doughnuts. It was entertainment of the highest order, without any stage management.

Some perspective is in order about the collecting scene in Franklin during the Ewald Era. In the 1960s and 1970s the only dump officially open for collecting was the Buckwheat, but that did not stop enterprising young lads from exploring the remaining scraps of the Parker Dump, the sand pits around the “Wrong Way Tunnel,” the road metal and stone walls bordering Cork Hill Road, the inactive and active marble quarries, and both sides of the fence around the Franklin mine and mill sites. The hunting was sometimes risky and sometimes rewarding, but it became evident even to the most dedicated field-tripper that if you were to assemble a representative collection of local minerals, dump collecting could take you only so far. Once your decision was made to flail about with a silver pick, Ewald’s was your primary destination; he became the dominant rock merchant in a town which then had plenty of competition. While it was still possible to stumble over a “powder box” of Franklin rocks for sale on a miner’s porch, much of the trade in mined minerals had fallen into the hands of ex-New Jersey Zinc Company personnel like Ralph Walters, Ray Rude, Mike Petro, Nick Zipco, Andy Massey, NJZ wives (Marge Palsulich in particular), and “Cousin Jacks” like Stanley Hocking and Joe Kissel. However pleasant it was to talk with any of these remarkable people and troll for specimens in their car trunks and basements, their turnover tended to be slow and their stock was often predictable. Ewald had a lot more turnover. The Sterling Hill Mining Museum, so important now, was an implausible fantasy; that mine might as well have been in another country unless you worked there. The Franklin Mineral Museum today moves tons of good Franklin rock a year, while back then it was a nice place to visit but not one where you could habitually sink your fangs into warm meat. No, however much browsing you did about town, you wound up at Ewald’s. Only when he sold his collection to Art and Harriet Mitteldorf, and John Cianciulli became involved at the Franklin Mineral Museum, did the center of gravity for Franklin collectors begin to shift away from Walsh Road.

Ewald’s prices were generally fair, and he often had excellent material, but dealing with him wasn’t necessarily easy. Sometimes there were

“deals,” but they could be quirky. On one occasion I was allowed to buy a good margarosanite for a few C-notes, but only on the condition that I also bought a hundred-dollar bucket of what John MacDonald would have called “poop.” Ewald’s explanation was that in order to get the margarosanites he had to buy the poop, so his customers got the same deal. Another time I traded one of my few field-collected treasures, the first analyzed scheelite from Franklin, to Ewald for his collection. In return I got two extreme Franklin rarities: a needle of larsenite in an over-size hancockite matrix, and a micromount of appropriately hairy magnesiochlorophoenicite. To sweeten the deal he threw in a handsome Sterling Hill celestine. Wow, I thought. Later I learned that the two rarities had been imaginatively identified by whoever had them before Ewald. He explained this on a different occasion, when I called his attention to a misidentified mineral he had for sale. Thus spake Ewald: “I bought it for (mineral of your choice) and I’m sellin’ it for (same mineral).” He was quite fair and impartial in these matters.

Ewald was never anyone other than his own man; to say he “did it his way” is an understatement. He was a plumber, and proud of his Gold Seal certification, but he was no smarmy, wheedling “Joe the Plumber.” His specialty was hospital heating systems, and for a while he was in charge at Newton Memorial Hospital, a dozen miles from Franklin. My father was on the staff there, and I got a tour of Ewald’s boiler room. When we hear those words we visualize a tangle of rusting and leaky pipes with torn insulation, a floor where unpleasant fluids drip and puddle, dark corners with piles of dirty rags, and schmutz überall: in short, a set for a horror movie. This boiler room was German industrial art: orderly, color-coded, militarily precise, obviously functional and completely under control. Ewald boasted that it was cleaner than the hospital wards, and I believed him; he said “you could eat off the floor” and it was true. His helper had all the earmarks of a flunky in the court of an absolute monarch, waiting on his master’s every whim. The experience was a revelation, and did a lot to illustrate both the force of Ewald’s personality and his determination to be the best in his trade and his avocation. His collection, the best systematic collection of Franklin and Sterling Hill minerals ever assembled by one man, reflected his drive and discipline. Not for Ewald a jewel case of carefully chosen and esthetically exquisite specimens: he collected Franklin and Sterling Hill up to the hilt. His museum included not just the expected crystal classics but also rarities and oddballs, micros and monsters and a hefty fluorescent display, plus the full range from ancient to modern: treasures from the Lang and other old collections mixed with brand-new rarities fresh from the lunchboxes of Sterling Hill miners. In short, the Gerstmann Museum offered not just a personal snapshot of the local treasures, but was Franklin and Sterling Hill in full.

Ewald was a very practical collector, but a restless one with a reckless streak. He would trim apparently flawless specimens for trading material, or abruptly sell his “keepers” when a big bankroll was flashed. He was also a gambler, willing to plunge for something new or strange whether it made money or not. I remember his showing me a batch of what he said was a new fluorescent mineral; he had bought all there was. Under UV the specimens showed stripes of bright blue fluorescence on marble. I bought a piece and Warren Miller tested it: drill oil. More often than not, however, Ewald’s plunging paid off; on one occasion he traded a quantity of appliances and booze for the latest Sterling Hill discovery, “pink nonfluorescent radiating willemite.” When Paul Moore got his hands on this, it became gerstmannite. It was hard at times to tell just how much of a mineral connoisseur Ewald really was, but there was no mistaking his ability to recognize something new, or his drive and

ambition to assemble the most comprehensive and “best possible” collection.

Other authors in this issue have mentioned Ewald’s penchant for colorful expletives and pungent comments. True, his salty utterances were neither intended for nor printable in *Reader’s Digest*, but they were unique twists of language and we remember them fondly. Just as the man never did anything quite the same way as anyone else, he bent the English language to his will. I have a small collection of Ewaldisms, and offer two for your delectation; the Gentle Reader will have to fill in the blanks:

- Ewald did his best to maintain his wife Helen and their daughters in comfortable circumstances, but one sensed it was not always an even ride. He didn’t feel it prudent to share all of his financial dealings with his family, as this remark illustrates: “If my wife knew how much I paid for this, she’d have the hemorrhoid s***s!”
- Donald Quick, a.k.a. Quickie, a raise man at Sterling Hill and Chet Lemanski’s partner at the Mine Hill Mineral Shoppe, was famous even among miners for his foul mouth. Ewald, no slouch in these matters, was heard to declare, “That Quickie sure was one uncouth f***!”

Ewald often seemed more like a force of nature than a man: indestructible, indomitable. Thus it was a shock when his gargantuan appetite and smoking habit brought on diabetes and circulatory problems in his eighties. Apparently he was talked into giving up cigarettes “for his health,” but when it became obvious he was not going to live forever, he took up smoking again. Tema and I visited him in the old folks’ repository near the Lime Crest quarry after he and Helen went there to stay. He had trouble talking, but there was nothing wrong with his brain or his no-nonsense attitude. I asked the usual idiotic question, “How are you, Ewald?” He looked at me with his shadowed, sharp eyes and jagged grin, and drew his index finger across his throat. I was told later that when he was approached about having any last requests, he asked for a bottle of scotch and a copy of *Playboy*. When faced with losing his remaining foot to stay alive, he chose to let the clock run out. Even in the valley of the shadow of death, Ewald did it his way.

How Gerstmannite Came to Be

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One day, years ago, after I had the Franklin “bug” bad, I trucked on up to the promised land to look for specimens to buy. It may have been 1971. Up to then, I had purchased pieces mostly from Nick Zipco, and so, on that sunny, bright day, I returned to the Trotter Dump where Nick was in charge of admissions. We talked for a bit, and then he asked me if I would buy an unknown mineral. I said I was interested and he produced a 2 ½” x 1 ½” x ½” piece that was capped with pale pink crystal rods, arranged in graceful curves away from a common center. It was beautiful, and I quickly forked over the \$4 Nick was asking. I was so taken with it that I returned the following weekend and bought another similarly priced specimen of the unidentified mineral. They were the only two specimens that passed through my hands. I sat on them for a year or so, and then, upon hearing of Ewald Gerstmann’s ability to obtain professional identification services, I showed the pink unknowns to Herr Gerstmann. He opined that they were radiating willemite. I took them home again to brood. After a suitable wait, I returned to Gerstmann’s

Franklin Mineral Museum with the pieces. Ewald was in session and had, as a guest, George Pigeon. I pointed out that the unknowns were nonfluorescent, but didn’t otherwise indicate that this was a second attempt. This time Ewald and George decided the pink mineral was Sterling Hill pectolite. So back home my specimens went, still unknowns.

Since Gerstmann had shot me down twice, I took my second piece to Jack Baum, curator of the Franklin Mineral Museum. Not much later, Mr. Baum met John Kolic and me as we came from the change house after a day at work in the mine. Jack told us that Dave Cook at Harvard had examined half of the specimen I’d turned over to him, and pronounced that it was a new mineral that could not be characterized then and there. I believe this was due to the death of Jun Ito (a fine chemical analyst), crippling Harvard’s ability to define the mineral.

Some months later John Kolic stopped at Ewald’s just as he was putting out Judge Kushner’s collection for sale. John, after perusing this offering, asked Gerstmann if Kushner’s piece of nonfluorescent radiating willemite really cost \$15. As soon as Ewald pocketed the greenbacks, John explained to him what Jack Baum had said about the unknown.

Ewald Gerstmann was a mineral magnet, and he soon learned one of his cronies had several pieces of the new mineral. So Ewald made a trade with Matty Dubinski, the gent who possessed multiple pieces of the pink species. E.G. traded Matty two air conditioners and \$700 in liquor for two of his pieces. Now Ewald had two fine specimens of the new pink radiating mineral, and he promptly made up a label proclaiming the unknown to be such.

Before long, the material attracted the attention of Dr. Paul Moore, who told Ewald he’d like to work on it. Gerstmann asked John Kolic if he was willing to trade Judge Kushner’s unknown for use by Dr. Moore, in return for one of Ewald’s two good pieces. John was. That summer I relocated to Laramie, Wyoming to attend the university. While I was there, John Kolic wrote to me that Paul Moore had characterized the species and named it gerstmannite to honor Ewald’s unstinting efforts to make known, through decades of effort, the minerals of Franklin and Sterling Hill.

The examination of John’s former gerstmannite was hard on the piece and now, after its return, the formerly abundant pink mineral was virtually absent. Dr. Earl Verbeek tells me this depleted piece is the cotype, which is now side-by-side with Ewald’s second piece (the paratype) on display in the Franklin Mineral Museum. It might be noted that the better of these two has radically changed appearance through the years, as it has yielded many micromounts for Ewald’s many friends.

As a final note, years later when I was in the latter part of my tenure as manager at the Franklin Mineral Museum, a visitor introduced himself and turned out to be Matty Dubinski’s son. He had a large Franklin collection his dad had assembled, and it had gerstmannite in it, but he couldn’t identify it, and was asking help to do so. I gave his phone number to John Cianciulli to follow up, but I never heard any more on the subject. Such is the saga of a beautiful pink unknown and a renowned collector of Franklin minerals.



Why Are Our Mineral Names Changing?

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FOMS members are always eager to see new species added to the list of minerals found in the Franklin-Sterling Hill district, and they are generally tolerant when an existing species is discredited. Most of them, however, express consternation when an existing species has its name changed, or somehow disappears from the list with no explanation. In the current list, reprinted elsewhere in this issue, the total species count has decreased from 360 to 357, and several name changes are evident. Why do these things happen? Some of the reasons for changes to the list are discussed briefly here.

Readers should be aware that the primary authority on mineral nomenclature is the *Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature, and Classification* of the International Mineralogical Association. The current IMA-approved list of all known mineral species is available on the Internet at <http://pubsites.uws.edu.au/ima-cnmc/imalist.htm>. The list is updated frequently.

Discreditation

Despite the best efforts of skilled mineralogists, occasionally a substance that was once accepted as a valid mineral species turns out, upon further examination with improved techniques, to be a mixture of two or more minerals, or to be identical to another species previously described. Such was the fate of baumite, once one of our local prizes. Described in 1975 as a zinc- and manganese-rich member of the serpentine group, it was later shown to be a mixture of several serpentine and chlorite minerals. Baumite was thus removed from the official list of local minerals.

The 50:50 rule

Most collectors are familiar with the concept of a solid-solution series, a local example being the scheelite-powellite series. Pure scheelite is calcium tungstate, CaWO_4 , and pure powellite is calcium molybdate, CaMoO_4 . Examples abound in nature of scheelite and powellite that depart significantly from the pure end-member compositions, and indeed any intermediate composition is possible. Rather than have a proliferation of mineral names to describe these intermediate members, the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) opted for simplicity: if the atomic ratio of W:Mo is greater than one – that is, if the mineral contains more tungsten ions than molybdenum ions – the mineral is termed scheelite. If instead there are more molybdenum than tungsten ions it is called powellite. This is a simple and logical scheme and is employed for other solid solution series as well, notably the olivines (forsterite-fayalite series) and the scapolites (meionite-marialite series). Members of both series occur locally.

Recently the IMA opted to apply the 50:50 rule to the plagioclase series as well. Most of us grew up thinking of this series as six species, starting with

albite as the sodium end-member and proceeding through oligoclase, andesine, labradorite, and bytownite to anorthite for the calcium end member. Now that the 50:50 rule is in effect for the plagioclase series, we are left only with albite for sodium-dominant plagioclases and anorthite for calcium-dominant ones. Oligoclase has thus been deleted from the list of local species. We lost hyalophane through a similar process with a redefinition of the orthoclase-celsian series.

Incidentally, several mineralogists have remarked that the 50:50 rule might better be termed the “dominant component rule,” for in some cases there are more than two components involved. A local example is the arsenate apatites, where the distinction between turneaureite, johnbaumite, and svabite depends respectively on whether chlorine, hydroxyl, or fluorine dominates the halogen site in the crystal structure.

Simpler alphabetical listings

The names of many minerals commonly give no hint of their relation to other species in the same group. Consider three local members of the apatite group: fluorapatite, johnbaumite, turneaureite, all widely separated from one another in any alphabetized list of species. As the number of mineral species continues to grow, so does the burden of memorizing which species are related to which other ones. The IMA is starting to address this problem by renaming selected species to more clearly indicate their affinity to others. This is how we lost hancockite – it’s a member of the epidote group and is now known as epidote-(Pb). Similarly, the species we used to call manganaxinite and ferroaxinite are now axinite-(Mn) and axinite-(Fe). The advantage of related species having related names is evident, though some disadvantages are evident as well. Anyone doing a literature search on these species will now have to search under two names instead of one. Also the new renaming scheme leads to a decided lack of euphony: though fluorapatite is fairly easy to pronounce, apatite-(CaF) is harder. And finally, many of us mourn the passing of names we’ve long known and loved – it’s as if our history is being taken from us. The first and third problems will lessen as the years pass by, but the second will remain.

Correction of implied but nonexistent relationships

The mineral we now call esperite formerly was known as *calcium larsenite* for its supposed relation to larsenite. Larsenite is PbZnSiO_4 and calcium larsenite is $\text{PbCa}_3\text{Zn}_4(\text{SiO}_4)_4$. If we rewrite the larsenite formula as $\text{Pb}_4\text{Zn}_4(\text{SiO}_4)_4$ it is easy to see how their compositions are related, the Pb_4 of larsenite being analogous to the PbCa_3 of calcium larsenite. However, it later became clear that the two minerals are quite different structurally, and the supposed relation between them was disproven. This prompted a renaming of calcium larsenite to esperite, a logical and welcome change, and one which retained the historical linkage to Esper Larsen.

Reexamination of complex mineral groups

Some mineral groups have such complex compositions and exhibit such a wide range of substitutional impurities that it is hard to know how to classify them. The nomenclature of species within the amphibole group has been particularly troublesome and is still being revised. The mineral that we once called manganocummingtonite, and then tirodite, has now been reclassified as parvowinchite. The micas, too, are being re-examined, with the result that biotite is no longer a species name, but the name of a compositional series of micas, including the species phlogopite, annite, siderophyllite, and eastonite. This strikes biotite from the local species list, and we must now refer to analyzed micas from the area to determine which species exist here under the new nomenclature.

Insertion of diacritical marks

Diacritical marks in mineral names were often eliminated in the English-language literature because most typewriters, early computers, and printers lacked the means to reproduce them. That is no longer the case, so the IMA has required that they be reinserted, not only out of respect for the languages from which the species names were derived, but also as an aid to correct pronunciation. Romeite, for example, was not named for the city of Rome but for the French crystallographer Jean Baptiste Louis Romé de l'Isle (1736-1790). The correct species name is roméite and is pronounced ro-may-ite. In some cases the reinsertion of diacritical marks changed the spelling of species names, as in löllingite replacing loellingite. The “oe” was used to retain something of the original pronunciation but is no longer needed. Similarly, koettigite, huebnerite, and manganohörnesite now appear in the list as köttigite, hübnerite, and manganohörnesite.

The names of eight of our local species have been affected by insertion of diacritical marks. This results in no change to the number of species on the list, but requires changes to display labels and, where *oe* and *ue* have changed to *ö* and *ü*, can reorder the sequence of species in alphabetical lists.

Decisions on precedence

The earliest name applied to a given mineral species has historical precedence and is generally the one preferred by the IMA. This is the reasoning behind the recent change of barite to baryte, the earlier British spelling; an earlier example is the change of celestite to celestine. Nevertheless, the American spelling of barite is retained for the local list on the advice of one of our committee members, who objected to baryte as needlessly Eurocentric.

Mistaken or uncertain identity

An oft-repeated question is “So-and-so identified mineral X. Why isn't mineral X on the list?” The reason: we require proof, and many supposed mineral identifications fall short of that and are later proved wrong. This places us, the “keepers of the list,” in the unhappy position of appearing to rain on the parade of many a hopeful collector.

As a general illustration, suppose you arranged to have an unknown mineral chemically analyzed, or X-rayed, and the ID came back “lubbersite.” Is it lubbersite? Perhaps. What has actually happened is that a machine (the proverbial “black box”) has measured some property of the mineral – its chemistry, X-ray diffraction pattern, infrared spectrum – and then compared the data to its internal library to come up with a species name that best matches the data recorded. “Best match” may or may not be sufficient to establish an accurate species identification. For example, two years ago Joe Orosz X-rayed an unknown mineral from Sterling Hill, and the search-match software of the X-ray unit returned an ID of *tomichite*, $V_4Ti_3AsO_{13}(OH)$. We both recognized this as improbable because vana-

dium is not a prominent component of Sterling Hill mineralogy. Later, upon obtaining chemical data for the mineral, Tony Nikischer established the identity as graeserite, a mineral structurally related to tomichite (thus possessing a closely similar X-ray diffraction pattern) but with composition $Fe_4Ti_3AsO_{13}(OH)$. And why didn't the X-ray unit suggest graeserite? Because graeserite was not yet part of its internal library! Had we accepted the “black box” identity at face value, a mineral species not present in the Franklin-Sterling Hill area would have been added to the list.

Still more generally, for many minerals it takes a combination of different types of data to establish their identities to the species level. Members of the amphibole and apatite groups, for example, cannot be identified on the basis of an X-ray diffraction pattern alone; you'll need a good quantitative chemical analysis for that (so much for the X-rayed “edenite” in my collection!). Sometimes even the chemical data can prove troublesome, as in the apatites, where the difference between turneaureite, johnbaumite, and svabite, as mentioned previously, lies in minor differences in their chlorine, hydroxyl, and fluorine contents. The hydroxyl content cannot be measured directly, and some analytical methods will establish the fluorine and chlorine contents to a high degree of accuracy, but others will not. It is critical in such instances to adopt a conservative approach and not overinterpret the data.

Correction of local mistakes

We have gradually been weeding out some of our own mistakes in rendering mineral names. We've corrected hellandite-Y to hellandite-(Y) to conform to IMA notation, and Mg-chlorophoenicite (an improper abbreviation) to magnesiochlorophoenicite. These are small changes, perhaps regarded as trivial by some, but they also spell the difference between right and wrong. A more substantive change, in that it affects the species count, involves polytypes, as in gageite-1A and gageite-2M of previous lists. Polytypes, to oversimplify a bit, are not separate species, but structural variants within a species. Thus, gageite-1A and gageite-2M are one species, not two, and now appear simply as *gageite* on the list.

Conclusion

The terminology of mineral species is ever-changing as science advances, and has been doing so for more than two centuries. Such changes often prove frustrating from the perspective of a mineral collector attempting to catalogue his or her collection, but over the long term, most such changes have proven beneficial to the dedicated student of mineralogy. The benefits include (a) better classification schemes, (b) correction of past mistakes, (c) removal of implied relations not actually present, (d) reducing the number of superfluous species names, and (e) facilitating comprehension by having similar species have similar names. Though the members of our local “keepers of the list” do not always agree with the decisions of the IMA, we respect their overall goal of bringing order to a complex subject, and through this article we hope that other members of the FOMS might better understand the process.

That said, bear in mind that the IMA has been uncommonly vigorous of late in changing species names, and some of their decisions have sparked considerable disagreement and even rancor within the mineralogical community. The epidote group is at the center of one such debate, with one of our own – Tony Nikischer – weighing in with a spirited rebuttal, published in the September 2007 issue of *Mineral News*, to the renaming of hancockite to epidote-(Pb). Some recent IMA decisions are under review, and it is not inconceivable that a few of them might be retracted. This adds yet another potential mechanism for the changing of mineral species names: reversals of previous decisions. We will try to keep track of the changes and adjust the local species list accordingly.



MINERAL SPECIES FOUND AT FRANKLIN and STERLING HILL, NEW JERSEY

This list is current as of September 2008 and is revised annually by the Mineral List Committee of the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society. Species unique to the Franklin-Sterling Hill area are in **bold type**

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Acanthite | Calcite | Ferrimolybdite | Illite** |
| Actinolite | Canavesite | Ferro-actinolite | Ilmenite |
| Adamite | Carrollite | Flinkite | Jacobsite |
| Adelite | Caryopilite | Fluckite | Jarosewichite |
| Aegirine | Celestine | Fluoborite | Jerrygibbsite |
| Akrochordite | Celsian | Fluorite | Johannsenite |
| Albite | Cerussite | Fluoro-edenite | Johnbaumite |
| Allactite | Chabazite-Ca | Forsterite | Junitoite |
| Allanite-(Ce) | Chalcocite | Fraipontite | Kaolinite |
| Alleghanyite | Chalcophanite | Franklinfurnaceite | Kentrolite |
| Almandine | Chalcopyrite | Franklinite | Kittatinnyite |
| Analcime | Chamosite | Franklinphilite | Kolicite |
| Anandite | Charlesite | Friedelite | Köttigite |
| Anatase | Chloritoid | Gageite | Kraisslite |
| Andradite | Chlorophoenicite | Gahnite | Kutnohorite |
| Anglesite | Chondrodite | Galena | Larsenite |
| Anhydrite | Chrysocolla | Ganomalite | Laumontite |
| Annabergite | Chrysotile | Ganophyllite | Lawsonbauerite |
| Anorthite | Cianciulliite | Genthelvite | Lead |
| Anorthoclase | Clinocllore | Gersdorffite-P2 ₁ 3 | Legrandite |
| Antlerite | Clinoclase | Gerstmannite | Lennilenaepite |
| Apatite-(CaF) | Clinohedrite | Glaucocroite | Leucophoenicite |
| Apophyllite-(KF) | Clinohumite | Glaucodot | Linarite |
| Apophyllite-(KOH) | Clinozoisite | Goethite | Liroconite |
| Aragonite | Clintonite | Gold | Lizardite |
| Arsenic | Conichalcite | Goldmanite | Löllingite |
| Arseniosiderite | Connellite | Graeserite | Loseyite |
| Arsenopyrite | Copper | Graphite | Magnesiohornblende |
| Atacamite | Corundum | Greenockite | Magnesioriebeckite |
| Augite | Covellite | Grossular | Magnesiochlorophoenicite |
| Aurichalcite | Cryptomelane | Groutite | Magnetite |
| Aurorite | Cummingtonite | Grunerite | Magnussonite |
| Austinite | Cuprite | Guérinite | Malachite |
| Axinite-(Fe) | Cuprostibite | Gypsum | Manganberzeliite |
| Axinite-(Mn) | Cuspidine | Haidingerite | Manganhumite |
| Azurite | Cyanotrichite | Halotrichite | Manganite |
| Bakerite | Datolite | Hardystonite | Manganocummingtonite |
| Bannisterite | Desclozite | Hastingsite | Manganohörnseite |
| Bariopharmacosiderite | Devilline | Hauckite | Manganosite |
| Barite (baryte) | Digenite | Hausmannite | Marcasite |
| Barylite | Diopside | Hawleyite | Margarite |
| Barysilite | Djurleite | Hedenbergite | Margarosanite |
| Bassanite | Dolomite | Hedyphane | Marialite |
| Baumhauerite | Domeykite | Hellandite-(Y) | Marsturite |
| Bementite | Dravite | Hematite | Mcallisterite |
| Berthierite | Duftite | Hemimorphite | Mcgovernite |
| Bianchite | Dundasite | Hendricksite | Meionite |
| Biotite* | Dypingite | Hercynite | Meta-ankoleite |
| Birnessite | Edenite | Hetaerolite | Metalodèveite |
| Bornite | Epidote | Heulandite-Na | Metazeunerite |
| Bostwickite | Epidote-(Pb) | Hexahydrite | Microcline |
| Brandtite | Epsomite | Hodgkinsonite | Mimetite |
| Breithauptite | Erythrite | Holdenite | Minehillite |
| Brochantite | Esperite | Hübnerite | Molybdenite |
| Brookite | Euchroite | Humite | Monazite-(Ce) |
| Brucite | Eveite | Hydrohetaerolite | Monohydrocalcite |
| Bultfonteinite | Fayalite | Hydrotalcite | Mooreite |
| Bustamite | Feitknechtite | Hydroxyapophyllite | Muscovite |
| Cahnite | | Hydrozincite | |

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Nasonite | Pyrobelonite | Serpierite | Torreyite |
| Natrolite | Pyrochroite | Siderite | Tremolite |
| Nelenite | Pyrophanite | Sillimanite | Turneaureite |
| Neotocite | Pyrosmalite-(Mn) | Silver | Uraninite |
| Newberyite | Pyroxmangite | Sjögrenite | Uranophane-alpha |
| Niahite | Pyroxferroite | Skutterudite | Uranospinite |
| Nickeline | Pyrrhotite | Smithsonite | Uvite |
| Nontronite | Quartz | Sonolite | Vesuvianite |
| Norbergite | Rammelsbergite | Spangolite | Villyaellenite |
| Ogdensburgite | Realgar | Spessartine | Wallkilldellite |
| Ojuelaite | Retzian-(La) | Sphalerite | Wawayandaite |
| Orthoclase | Retzian-(Nd) | Spinel | Wendwilsonite |
| Orthoserpierite | Rhodochrosite | Starkeyite | Willemite |
| Otavite | Rhodonite | Sterlinghillite | Wollastonite |
| Parabrandtite | Richterite | Stibnite | Woodruffite |
| Paragonite | Rieblingite | Stilbite-Ca | Wulfenite |
| Pararammelsbergite | Roméite | Stilbite-Na | Wurtzite |
| Pararealgar | Rosasite | Stilpnomelane | Xonotlite |
| Parasymplesite | Rouaite | Strontianite | Yeatmanite |
| Pargasite | Roweite | Sulfur | Yukonite |
| Pectolite | Rutile | Sussexite | Zincite |
| Pennantite | Safflorite | Synadelphite | Zinkenite |
| Petedunnite | Samfowlerite | Synchysite-(Ce) | Zircon |
| Pharmacolite | Sarkinite | Talc | Znucalite |
| Pharmacosiderite | Sauconite | Tennantite | Total |
| Phlogopite | Schallerite | Tephroite | Mineral Species = 357 |
| Picropharmacolite | Scheelite | Tetrahedrite | Total |
| Piemontite | Schorl | Thomsonite-Ca | Unique to Area = 28 |
| Powellite | Sclarite | Thorite | (bold type) |
| Prehnite | Scorodite | Thortveitite | |
| Pumpellyite-(Mg) | Seligmannite | Thorutite | |
| Pyrite | Sepiolite | Tilasite | |
| Pyroaurite | | Titanite | |
| | | Todorokite | |

*Biotite is the name for a mineral series, not a species, but which member(s) of the biotite series occur(s) at Franklin & Sterling Hill is not yet known.

**Illite is an accepted name for a series of minerals with a known range of compositions, but no end-member species within this series have yet been formally named or described.

Franklin and Sterling Hill, New Jersey: The World's Most Magnificent Mineral Deposits

By Dr. Pete J. Dunn

Department of Mineral Sciences, Smithsonian Institution

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Letters From the Past

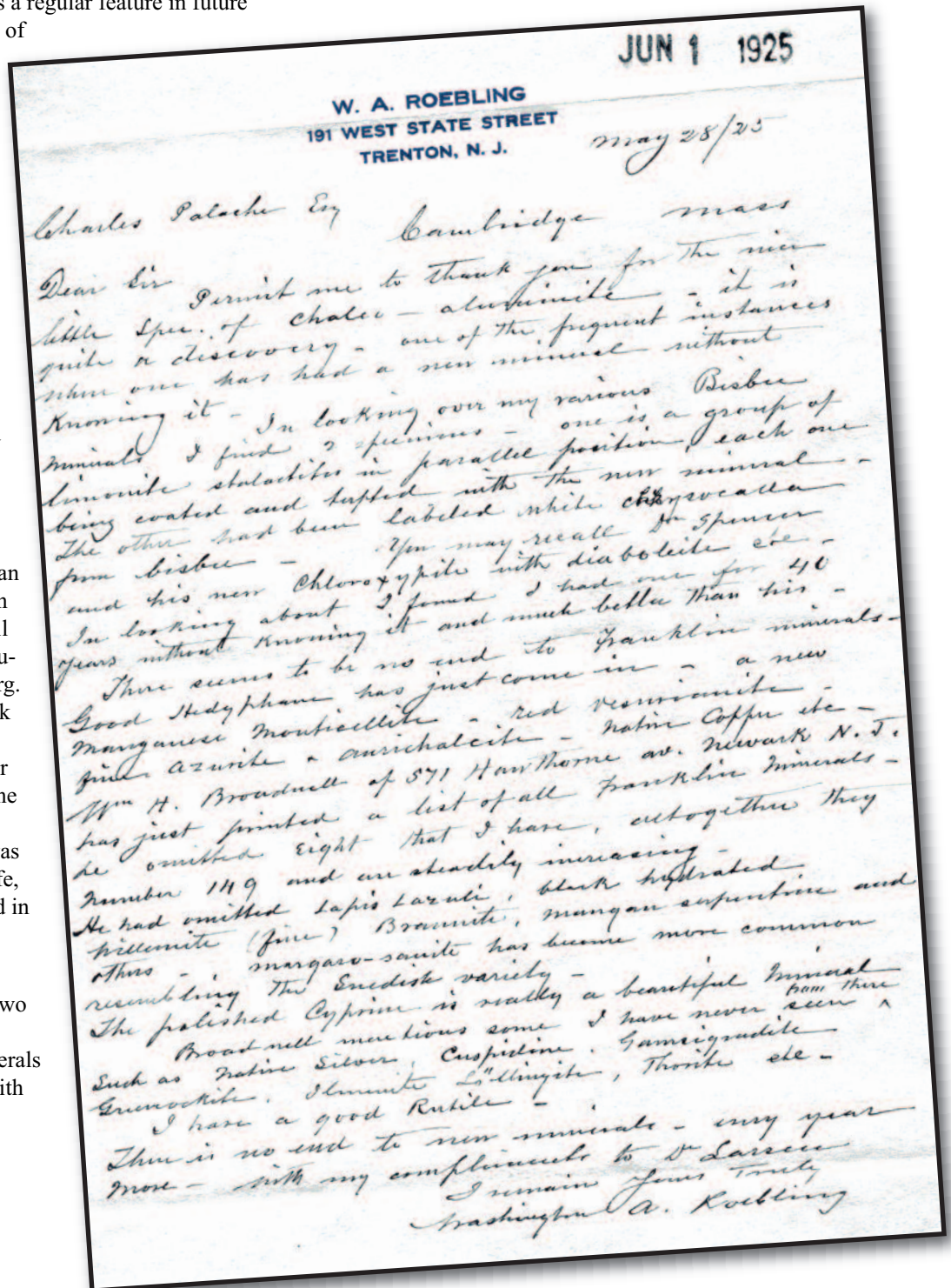
George Elling

758 Charnwood Drive
Wyckoff, NJ 07481

This is our third installment of "Letters From the Past." We plan to publish other historic letters as a regular feature in future issues of *The Picking Table*. Part of the Franklin-Sterling Hill mystique over the years has emanated from the people associated with its mining heritage and its minerals. We hope to bring to life personalities that up until now have been relegated to footnotes or to bibliographies.

For many Franklin-Sterling Hill mineral collectors, roebingite is the quintessential "Parker Shaft mineral." It was named after Washington Roebing, the famed builder of the Brooklyn Bridge. Few people outside the mineral fraternity are aware of his keen interest in minerals and his large collection, now in the Smithsonian Institution. Roebing was born on May 26, 1837, served in the Civil War as a colonel, and earned plaudits for his gallantry at Gettysburg. He gained lasting fame as he took over, after the tragic death of his father, John, as the chief engineer supervising the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge. Although he developed caisson disease and was in great pain for the rest of his life, he lived to the age of 89 and died in Trenton, N.J., on July 21, 1926.

The following letter to Charles Palache at Harvard was written two days after his 88th birthday and shows his overall interest in minerals as well as his keen fascination with Franklin.



Field Trip Notes

Steven M. Kuitems, D.M.D.

14 Fox Hollow Trail
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Saturday, September 15, 2007: Collecting at Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Ogdensburg, N.J.

The promise of “fresh material exposed for this trip” was the billing, and the fruits of the collecting day revealed that the promise was true. A significant addition of mine run material had been added to the dump site just prior to our arrival, courtesy of the SHMM.

Several collectors spotted pieces of wollastonite-containing calcite from the 340' level, with much stronger yellow-orange fluorescence than that of the surface-collected rock. The next thing that most collectors were able to sample was realgar and zinkenite from the 800' level, in masses up to one meter in size, with a diverse mixture of other species, including arsenopyrite crystals and small molybdenite plates up to a few millimeters in diameter in a quartz and calcite matrix. Two notables from this find were zinkenite as masses of felted needles in a tight vein, and an arsenopyrite crystal 2.5 cm long. A significant meter-sized boulder of tephroite with exsolution willemite was promptly dismantled and disseminated. This material produced very fine lines of willemite that in shortwave ultraviolet light fluoresced in bright green geometric patterns. Many pounds of material containing malachite and azurite in microcrystals were seen as well; anyone with an interest in microcrystals was sure to find an ample supply.

Saturday, October 20, 2007: Collecting at Taylor Road Dump, Franklin, N.J.

Having just read the article on pyroxferroite by Tony Nikischer and Joe Orosz in the August 2007 *Mineral News*, many people were interested in finding a specimen for themselves. The type locality for this mineral is the Sea of Tranquility on the Moon.

Pyroxferroite was found in several dark boulders on this mine dump site. The rock was extremely tough, and 10-pound hammers bounced off it; therefore, a little softening up with a 20-pound hammer occurred. Several boulders were split, and a few were found to have the desired brown veins. After grueling work, a handful of pyroxferroite specimens ended up in collectors' buckets to be weighed and paid for.

Several fine specimens of sphalerite were discovered that fluoresce bright orange and blue in shortwave and longwave ultraviolet light. A notable specimen of about 15 by 20 centimeters had a two-centimeter vein of sphalerite in and on massive quartz.

Sunday, October 21, 2007: Collecting at Lime Crest Quarry, Sparta, N.J.

A lighter turnout of collectors occurred than in years past, when the quarry was pumped dry and we had access to the lower levels. But several intrepid collectors were able to find scattered marble

boulders in the upper levels of the property and collect some of the regular classic specimens. These included sharp spinel crystals up to one centimeter on edge, and abundant norbergite in grains and thin layers that fluoresce yellow in shortwave ultraviolet light. Also found were a few specimens of phlogopite up to two centimeters across, and purple scapolite in small masses of interlocked grains. To my knowledge, this scapolite has not been reported to fluoresce. Along the upper roadway, microcline and almandine were observed in the gneissic rock typical of the upper workings.

Saturday, November 17, 2007: Collecting at Franklin Quarry, Cork Hill Road, Franklin, N.J.

Much new work had taken place in this quarry, and a recent rain made it easier to survey the white Franklin Marble and pink dolomite for collectable specimens. Much norbergite in light yellow grains and layers was collected this day. Some ambitious collectors decided to bring home half-meter pieces containing rich layers of this material, which fluoresces yellow in shortwave ultraviolet light. There was also a three-meter boulder of pale green diopside crystals up to three centimeters long, very light yellow norbergite, and small inclusions of phlogopite in grains as much as 1 cm across. This boulder produced pleasing two- and three-color fluorescent specimens. One specimen with tiny pink corundum crystals as much as 4 millimeters in diameter was seen, and one small olive-colored uvite crystal was recovered right on the path that everyone was taking back to their cars. Several collectors found sharp cubic pyrite crystals up to two centimeters across and numerous dark gray tremolite prisms up to 10 centimeters long. It was truly a delight to see such a large amount of fresh rock to explore!



— Sight Recognition —

A Slavic miner goes to the optician, who shows him an eye chart with the letters:

Z Y C E W J N X S T A C Z

*“Can you read this?” the optician asks.
“Read it?” the miner replies,
“Hell, I even know the guy!”*

The American Mineral Treasures Display of Franklin-Sterling Hill Minerals at the 2008 Tucson Show

Lee Lowell

Collections Manager
Franklin Mineral Museum
P.O. Box 54
Franklin, NJ 07416

In December 2005, the Franklin Mineral Museum (FMM) received an e-mail message from Gene Meieran, coordinator for the 2008 Tucson Show's mineral displays, who advised us that the display theme for this year would be *American Mineral Treasures*, and asked for our participation. The idea was to bring together, for four days and under one roof, the finest minerals this nation has ever produced, and display them at a mineral show attended by some 100,000 people. The Franklin-Sterling Hill area was one of 50 or so localities to be featured.

Over the next two years, voluminous e-mail messages flowed from Meieran to the FMM, the Sterling Hill Mining Museum (SHMM), and other prospective participants. Ultimately the project expanded into three components: a daylight display case of Franklin-Sterling Hill minerals, a fluorescent display, and a book chapter.

The Daylight Case

The show organizers for the *American Mineral Treasures* (AMT) theme cases made clear from the outset that specimen aesthetics, as opposed to rarity, or scientific or historical importance, should rule the day. That put us at an instant disadvantage. Of all the fabulous specimens illustrated in Palache, or the Dunn volumes, how many are actually *pretty*? Historic, yes: we have more than 275 years of mining history to put on display. Scientifically important, yes: one of this nation's first publications on mineralogy concerned a local mineral (zincite, 1810), and the flow of literature on this area's minerals has continued unabated ever since. As for rare minerals, well, 28 of ours have been found nowhere else on Earth, and even our three ore minerals, present here in millions of tons, are found only in small amounts elsewhere. However, we are decidedly lacking in the large, transparent gem crystals found in the pegmatite deposits of California and Maine, nor do we have an abundance of large, open vugs lined with crystals of brilliant red rhodochrosite (Colorado), multicolored fluorite (Illinois), orange calcite (Tennessee) or azurite, malachite, or wulfenite (Arizona). What to do?

What we did, in practice, was to gather together more than 70 specimens that, for one reason or another, we regarded as especially significant, and from those select enough specimens to fill a 4-ft display case. The principals involved in this selection process included Steven Phillips, Lee Lowell, and Ray Latawiec from the FMM, and Earl Verbeek and Richard Hauck from the SHMM. Ultimately we selected 18 specimens that gave us a nice mix of color, and that included some of the finest crystal groups that our

local deposits have produced. In the list below, "xls" indicates crystals:

Barysilite – FMM
Bustamite xls – Steven Phillips
Clinohedrite – George Elling
Copper – Steven Phillips
Franklinite xl – FMM
Gahnite xls – George Elling
Hemimorphite – FMM
Hodgkinsonite - Steven Phillips
Johannsenite xls – FMM
Microcline xl - FMM
Rhodonite xls – FMM
Sussexite – Earl Verbeek
Uvite xl – Harvard
Vesuvianite (cyprine) - Steven Phillips
Willemite xls – FMM
Willemite xls – George Elling
Willemite – Earl Verbeek
Zincite xls – George Elling

Adepts of Franklin and Sterling Hill will recognize that this selection provided us with an abundance of local color, from the red of zincite and rhodonite to the deep blue of cyprine, and everything in between. Though at first we feared that the Franklin-Sterling Hill case might prove drab in relation to most others at Tucson, we needn't have worried.

During the summer of 2006, Jeff Scovil, the prominent mineral photographer, visited the FMM to photograph the suite of minerals from which these final display specimens would ultimately be chosen. Some of Jeff's photographs were destined for the AMT book, discussed below. As the show approached we turned our attention to a myriad of other concerns: providing a list of specimens and their owners to the organizers of the Tucson Gem

& Mineral Show (TGMS), selecting an appropriate liner color for the display case, submitting all relevant label data for printing in Tucson, etc. And then finally, after more than two years, it was *show time*.

Steven Phillips volunteered to transport the mineral display to the show. Along with his wife Judy, he drove his motor home to Tucson and arrived there on February 9, 2008. They set up the display in the Tucson Convention Center on February 13th. Our fear of being placed next to a case of cranberry-red rhodochrosites or vivid blue amazonites was not realized, for we were placed at the end of one row, nobody to our left and a case of Alaskan epidote specimens to our right. The epidote specimens (Green Monster mine) were spectacular, easily among the world's finest for the species, with large and lustrous crystals. However, these were deep green, almost black in the thickest crystals, and thereby made our case look like a riot of color in comparison. It went well, and judging from remarks overheard at the show, many attendees were surprised that the Franklin-Sterling Hill area, widely known as the source of the world's finest fluorescent minerals, had produced so many minerals that look so good in *daylight*.

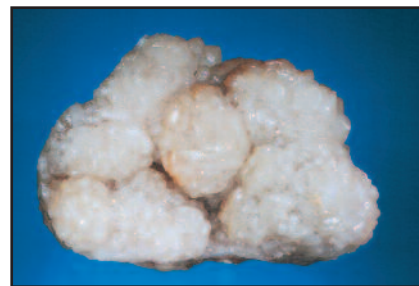
When the show ended on February 17, Steven and Judy removed the display and eventually brought it back to the FMM, where it was recreated in the local room. The show minerals were seen together one last time in a display during the September 2008 Franklin-Sterling Gem & Mineral Show and subsequently returned to their respective owners.

The Fluorescent Exhibit

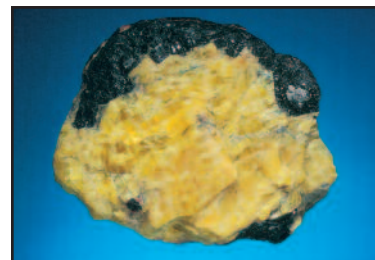
While Gene Meieran had the whip hand for the AMT cases, there were other displays at the show. Peter Megaw was in charge of Special Exhibits, and saw to it that a tall, shallow TGMS case was adapted for fluorescent minerals. The TGMS Show Committee bought four (!) UV Systems' TripleBright lamps for this case, and Richard Flagg modified the case to hold them. Arizona Ciné, which sets up the show for the TGMS, designed and installed a tunnel-like shroud in front of the case, to block as much as possible of the convention hall lighting. The background story is that Peter Megaw and other members of the TGMS (e.g. Bob Jones) had been sympathetic to displaying fluorescent minerals, particularly since the Fluorescent Mineral Society's 25th Anniversary, 76-case exhibit in the "Bat Cave" in 1996. However, for reasons of safety, any such exhibits now have to be on the show floor, and it took 12 years to bring this project to fruition.

Mindful of Franklin's status as "The Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World," and acknowledging the Sterling Hill Mining Museum's prior efforts as an invited exhibitor, Peter placed the modified TGMS case near the daylight Franklin-Sterling Hill case, so the full splendor of our local fluorescent minerals could also be seen nearby. Richard Bostwick, Tema Hecht, and Earl Verbeek worked through the early winter of 2007-2008 to select the fluorescent "best of the best" from their collections and that of Elna Hauck, and those specimens were also hauled out to Tucson and back by Steven and Judy Phillips. One of the specimens in the fluorescent case, a "First-Find" Franklin wollastonite, is pictured in the *American Mineral Treasures* book – the only fluorescing specimen to be so featured.

Hemimorphite- a splendid example, about 6 inches across, of "maggot ore" from Sterling Hill. The tips of slightly divergent, bladed crystals of hemimorphite in aggregate resemble maggots – hence the name. Franklin Mineral Museum specimen; Jeff Scovil photo.



Willemite- a unusually colorful mass of greenish-yellow willemite, in part translucent to transparent, 5.5 inches across. Franklin. Earl Verbeek specimen; Jeff Scovil photo.



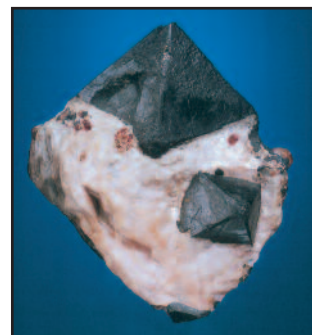
Uvite- a large, deep green, uncommonly well-formed crystal of uvite in marble matrix, from one of the local quarries in the Franklin Marble. The specimen is about 4 inches across. Harvard University specimen; Jeff Scovil photo.



Microcline- a sharply-formed crystal, 1.5 inches in diameter, of pale greenish blue microcline from Franklin. Crystals this good are great rarities, especially in a contrasting matrix as in this specimen. Franklin Mineral Museum specimen; Jeff Scovil photo.



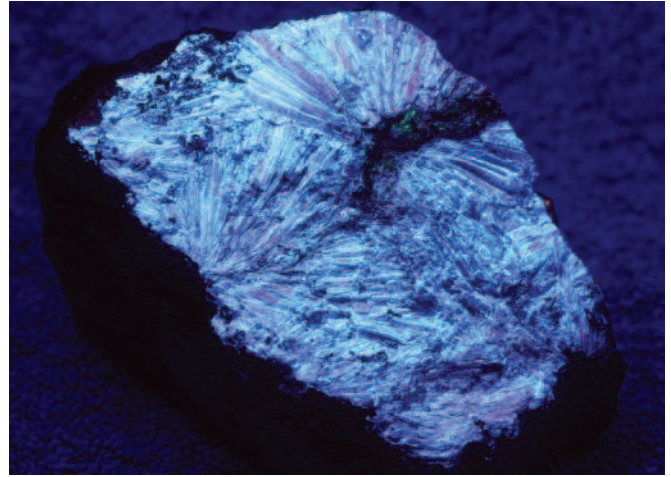
Willemite- detail view of stout prismatic, nearly transparent willemite crystals from Franklin. This is one of the finest "gem" willemite specimens known from the area. The central crystal is one inch long. Franklin Mineral Museum specimen; Jeff Scovil photo.



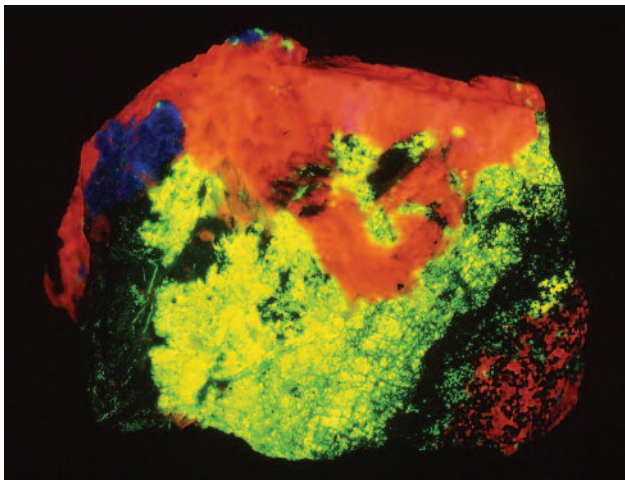
Franklinite- large, sharply formed, octahedral franklinite crystals in ore. The largest crystal measures about 2.4 inches on edge. Franklin Mineral Museum specimen; Jeff Scovil photo.



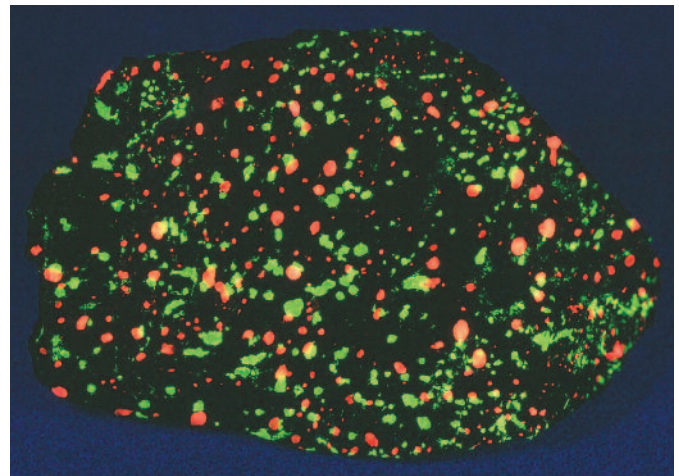
Gahnite- detail view of a sharply formed, octahedral gahnite crystal more than one inch on edge. George Elling specimen; Jeff Scovil photo.



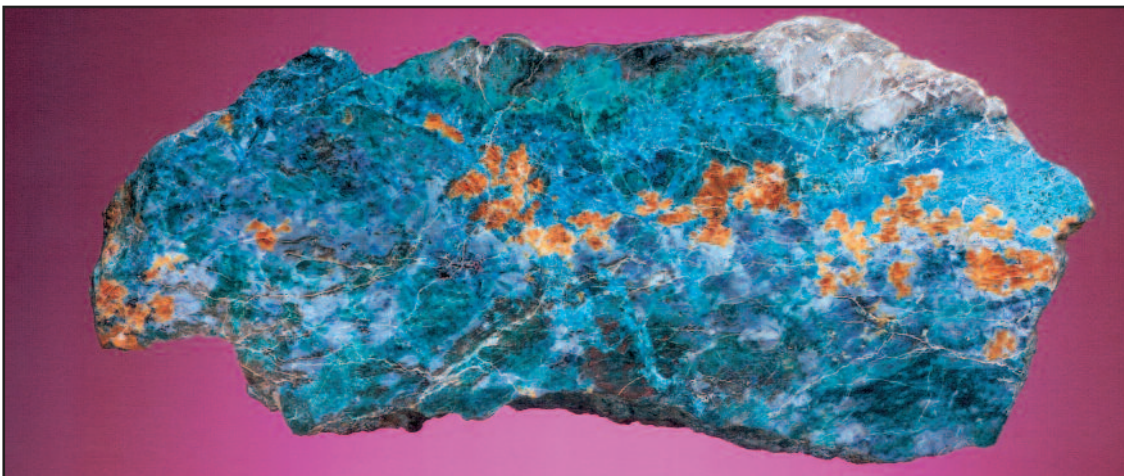
Margarosanite- radiating, blue-fluorescing margarosanite lining a fracture surface 3.5 inches across, as photographed under shortwave ultraviolet light. Richard Bostwick specimen; Tema Hecht photo.



Esperite- a fine specimen of esperite (yellow), calcite (red), and hardystonite (blue to violet) from Franklin, as seen under shortwave ultraviolet light. The specimen is about 4.5 inches across. Richard Bostwick specimen; Tema Hecht photo.



“Christmas tree ore”- rounded blebs of calcite (red) and willemite (green) embedded in a single grain of dark brown, nonfluorescent diopside from Franklin. The technical term for this texture is “poikiloblastic” (just so you know...). Richard Bostwick specimen; Tema Hecht photo. The specimen measures 6.6 x 4.3 inches.



Vesuvianite- an uncommonly large (7 inches) and colorful mass of the cyprine variety of vesuvianite from Franklin. The front face is sawn and polished. Steven Phillips specimen; Jeff Scovil photo.

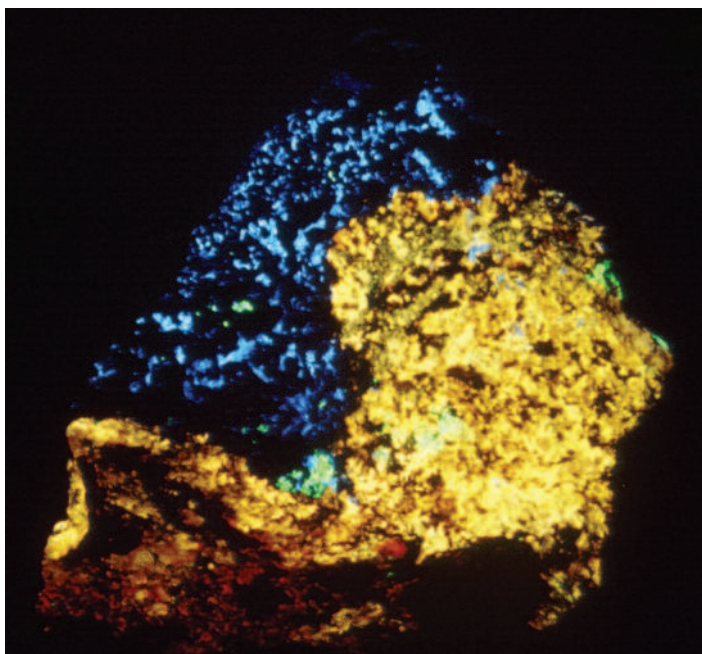
The selection of specimens for this exhibit was largely dictated by the ambient light conditions, which necessitated that only the most brightly fluorescing species be displayed. Accordingly, the case was restricted to specimens of willemite, calcite, esperite, wollastonite, clinohedrite, barite, turneaureite, manganaxinite, and margarosanite, with a little hardystonite thrown in. More than 30 specimens were shown in a wide variety of mineral combinations and textures. Like the Franklin-Sterling Hill daylight case, the fluorescent display was quite well received, so much so that the TGMS hopes to have a fluorescent exhibit at every Tucson show from now on.

The Book

The design plan for the AMT extravaganza included publication of a large-format “coffee table” book with a chapter devoted to each of the mineral localities featured at the show. The chapter on the Franklin-Sterling Hill area was written by Richard Bostwick, one of our foremost local authorities on the area’s minerals. In the spring of 2007, Richard met with the book’s editors, and then started to set words to paper. His first draft was informative, well organized, a pleasure to read – and three times too long. Richard

lamented that a locality with nearly 360 mineral species and almost three centuries of mining history was allowed no more pages than localities that furnished few species and had histories spanning a few decades at most, but page limits for this book were rigid. A difficult period of manuscript contraction ensued, but the end result was a chapter that one of the book editors regarded as a personal favorite. In only eight pages Richard managed to provide synopses of the formation of the Franklin and Sterling Hill deposits, a history of their exploitation, development of the mines, their mineralogy, and why our local area has fostered such an enduring collector mystique. The rest of the book, by the way, is quite well done also, and because its production was heavily subsidized it is more than worth the price.

The display of Franklin-Sterling Hill minerals to many thousands of worldwide visitors at the largest mineral show on the planet was an excellent opportunity for showing off our local mineral heritage. The show is over, but the book remains on collectors’ shelves as a permanent reminder of the glory that was, and is, Franklin and Sterling Hill. We hope and expect that the AMT project has reinvigorated interest in these localities, and that more collectors will feel inspired to collect and study its minerals.



Fibrous wollastonite (yellow-orange) paired with margarosanite (blue), plus willemite (green) and calcite (red): an exceptionally graceful example, 6 x 4.5 inches, from Franklin’s minehillite assemblage, photographed under shortwave ultraviolet light. Richard Bostwick specimen; Tema Hecht photo.

Dr. Pete J. Dunn’s Historical Treatise

Now Available- the complete seven-volume set of Dr. Dunn’s definitive history of the mining of the world’s greatest zinc deposits, *Mine Hill in Franklin and Sterling Hill in Ogdensburg, Sussex County, New Jersey: Mining History, 1765-1900, Final Report: Part One*

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Denise Kroth, Treasurer, FOMS
240 Union Avenue
Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075

The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia Collection

Franklin-Sterling Hill Minerals Come Home

Lee Lowell

Collections Manager
Franklin Mineral Museum
P.O. Box 54
Franklin, NJ 07416

During 2004, the Board of Trustees of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP) voted to dispose of its mineral collection. Apparently, the ANSP board lost interest in the earth sciences and decided to change the direction the museum founders had established in the early 1800s. Following some legal actions and public opposition, the mineral sales occurred in 2006.

The Franklin Mineral Museum (FMM) and the Sterling Hill Mining Museum (SHMM) were notified that the Franklin-Sterling Hill mineral suites were available for purchase. Steven Phillips, president of the FMM, and Richard Hauck, president of the SHMM, were invited to ANSP during 2005 to examine the Franklin-Sterling Hill minerals, assess their value, and provide an offer. This offer, as well as several others, was not accepted by the selling agents.

Over the following months, Steven Phillips, with advice from Richard Hauck, whom I consider the “Godfather of the Franklin-Sterling Hill mining district,” continued communications with the selling agents to track the progress of this transaction.

Late in 2005, we learned that the Franklin-Sterling Hill minerals had been moved to a warehouse owned by Bryan Lees of *Collector’s Edge Minerals* in Golden, Colorado. Lees was one of three dealers who had purchased the ANSP collection in its entirety. Following discussions between Steven Phillips and Bryan Lees, Steven was invited to Lees’ establishment to examine the Franklin-Sterling Hill portion of this collection and provide an offer.

After an exhausting week of skiing at Breckenridge, Colorado, Steven persuaded his skiing partner (me) to participate in this venture. We visited Lees’ facility and spent about 12 hours going through approximately 82 flats of minerals in a dimly lit warehouse. This included not only Franklin-Sterling Hill minerals, but the entire New Jersey mineral suite, which Lees told us was part of the deal. We hadn’t expected to be bidding on this part of the collection since our knowledge of these minerals was limited. We discussed our offer with Bryan Lees and departed to await further deliberations. However, we got an explicit opinion from Lees that our offer was not acceptable.

Back at Breckenridge, Steven had further telephone discussions with Richard Hauck about our experience with Lees, and our so-

far unsuccessful outcome. Hauck has been negotiating all his life—he is a master at it—and he told Steven to up the ante a bit.

After I returned to New Jersey, Steven worked and worked and worked on a revised offer with Lees. Finally, an agreement to purchase the minerals occurred in March 2006, after the FMM officers and trustees reluctantly agreed to make the purchase. Thanks to Bryan Lees, the payments were made in increments over time to relieve the financial pain.

Many of the minerals had labels dating to the early 1800s. Quite a few of the labels are those of famous individuals of that period. The mineralogist Samuel Gordon and collectors William S. Vaux, R.B. Gage, W.T. Roepper, S. Ashmead, and T. Nuttall, who was on the ANSP staff from 1836 to 1841, are among these.

This collection provided many quality upgrades for the FMM’s collection. At present, there are 95 additions with their historic labels on display. Another 30 or so require identification to verify the accuracy of their labels. Others will be sold to recoup some of the purchase expense. The museum sold the non-Franklin portion of the New Jersey suite to a mineral dealer.

Without the considerable efforts of Steven Phillips, with the assistance of Richard Hauck, Bryan Lees, and the FMM officers and trustees, this significant event would not have occurred. We certainly owe a great appreciation to all these individuals for bringing these fantastic minerals back to their birthplace, where they belong.

The minerals now will see the light of day as opposed to being stored in a locked vault, as is the fate of many significant collections housed in museums. We needed to rescue these lonely historic rocks taken away from the “world’s most magnificent mineral deposits.” They now have a renewed life for everyone to see in the Franklin Mineral Museum.



Q. How do you confuse a miner?
A. Give him two shovels and tell him to take his pick.

Sterling Hill Mining Museum Foundation

30 Plant Street
Ogdensburg, NJ 07439-1126
Phone: 973-209-7212
Fax: 973-209-8505
Web: www.sterlinghill.org

Memberships include:

- Wallet-size membership card
- The *Sterling Hill Newsletter*, 2 issues per year
- 10% discount on gift shop purchases (excludes consignment items)
- Special days to collect at the Mine Run Dump and special night collecting events (all to be announced)

Calcite Membership, Individual (one year):

\$15.00, includes 1 admission to the mining museum.

Calcite Membership, Family (one year):

\$25.00, includes 2 admissions to the mining museum.

Willemite Membership (one year):

\$50.00, includes 4 admissions to the mining museum.

Zincite Membership (one year):

\$100.00, includes 6 admissions to the mining museum.

Lifetime Membership:

\$500.00, includes unlimited personal museum admissions, and 20 guest admissions per year.

Club Membership:

\$500.00. This 10-year membership program enables a club to have a special day each year at the Mine Run Dump and mine tours to any member who comes that day.

PLEASE NOTE: For foreign memberships other than Canada, add \$5.00 to each category to cover extra mailing costs.

FOMS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Since 1959, the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society (FOMS) has been devoted to fostering interest in the minerals, mines, and history of the Franklin-Ogdensburg, New Jersey area. Membership in FOMS includes scheduled meetings, lectures, and field trips, as well as a subscription to *The Picking Table* and seasonal bulletins.

MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR ONE YEAR:

\$20 Individual \$25 Family

To become a member or renew your FOMS membership, photocopy this form, fill it out, include a check or money order payable to FOMS, and send to:

DENISE KROTH, TREASURER, FOMS
240 Union Avenue, Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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E-MAIL (OPTIONAL) _____



The Franklin Mineral Museum

32 Evans Road/P.O. Box 54, Franklin, N.J. 07416

(Between Main Street and Buckwheat Road)

Phone: (973) 827-3481

www.franklinmineralmuseum.com



Exhibited by means of guided tours: Franklin-Sterling Hill mineral specimens, educational exhibits in mining methods and history, including a life-size replica of underground workings, artifacts, gemstones, zinc uses, and a 32-foot-long fluorescent mineral display.

Included in the tours is the Jensen-Welsh Memorial Hall, built especially to contain the Wilfred Welsh collections of fossils, Native American relics, and worldwide minerals and rock specimens assembled for teaching purposes.

Mineral collecting on the Buckwheat Dump. Ample parking. Picnic grounds. Gift shop offering for sale: local and worldwide minerals, fluorescent specimens, agate slabs, onyx carvings, UV lamps, hammers, mineral books, T-shirts, postcards, and much more.

Separate admission fees to the Museum and the Buckwheat Dump. Admission to the Museum includes guided tour.

OPERATING SCHEDULE:

Open to the public

March: Weekends Only

April 1 - December 1:

Monday through Friday: 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 11 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Closed Easter, July 4th, and Thanksgiving

Groups by reservation, please

Franklin, New Jersey

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And much more!

On the last Sunday of each month (or other times for groups by prior arrangement), a collecting site will be open for a nominal additional fee. Contact the museum office for details.



Schedule of operation:

March: Open seven days a week, weather permitting, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Group tours daily by appointment; public tours weekends only at 1:00 PM.

April 1 through November 30: Open seven days a week, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Group tours daily by appointment; public tours daily at 1:00 PM.

December: Open seven days a week, weather permitting, 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Group tours daily by appointment; public tours weekends only at 1:00 PM.

The temperature in the mine is 55°F.



The Fluorescent Mineral Society is devoted to increasing the knowledge of its members in the luminescence of minerals, with an emphasis on fluorescence and phosphorescence. It promotes increased knowledge with emphasis on collecting, displaying, studying, and understanding. It publishes a bimonthly newsletter, the UV Waves, and an annual or biennial periodical, The Journal of the Fluorescent Mineral Society.

Membership information may be obtained by contacting:

Jan Wittenberg
president@uvminerals.org

Additional information is available on our web site:
<http://www.uvminerals.org/>

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Franklin Mineral Museum Memberships

32 Evans Street
 Franklin, NJ 07416

Phone: 973-827-3481 • Fax: 973-827-0149

Web: www.franklinmineralmuseum.com

E-mail: fmm1954@earthlink.net

Yearly memberships, renewed every March, include:

- Personalized membership card
- Museum newsletter, 2 issues per year
- 10% discount in the gift shop (excludes monographs and consignment items)
- Special week of members-only holiday discount shopping, last week of November
- Discounts on children's birthday parties

Individual: \$15.00, includes 1 guest pass for museum exhibits

Family: \$25.00, includes 2 guest passes for museum exhibits

Patron: \$50.00, includes 4 guest passes for museum exhibits

Supporting: \$100.00, includes 6 guest passes for museum exhibits

"FMM Society" one-time payment memberships include:

- Personalized membership card
- Museum newsletter, 2 issues per year
- 10% discount in the gift shop (excludes monographs and consignment items)
- Invitations to special or planned events
- Option to display your collection of minerals or mining items in the museum lobby for one season
- Special week of members-only holiday discount shopping last week of November
- Discounts on children's birthday parties

Life

\$500.00, includes:

- Unlimited personal museum exhibit visits
- 25 guest passes for museum exhibits
- 10 collecting passes that include entrance into the Buckwheat dump and a maximum of 3 pounds each. All passes will be issued once only, with your membership
- Name engraved on membership plaque

Benefactor

\$1000.00, includes:

- Unlimited personal museum exhibit visits
- 50 guest passes for museum exhibits
- 20 collecting passes that include entrance into the Buckwheat dump and a maximum of 3 pounds each. All passes will be issued once only, with your membership
- Name engraved on membership plaque

Sustaining

\$5000.00, paid in U.S. currency or materials, includes:

- All entitlements of Benefactor membership
- Copy of Dr. Pete Dunn's *The Story of Franklin and Sterling Hill*

Collecting passes are not valid for special collecting events. Membership cards or benefits will not be reissued if lost or misplaced. Benefits and events subject to change.

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KOSTYLEVITE- Koashva Mine, Khibiny, Kola Peninsula, Russia

Strongly fluorescent micro xls on matrix 2.5cm to 5cm @ 60.00 to 150.00

NAMANSILITE- Woods Mine, nr. Tamworth, NSW, Australia

Thin, dark red veinlets cutting through matrix in slabs 2.5cm to 15cm @ 25.00 to 125.00 each.

NEVADAITE- Gold Quarry Mine, Eureka Co., Nevada

Micro, turquoise blue balls lightly scattered on matrix, 2cm to 8cm @ 20.00 to 150.00 each.

NIVEOLANITE- Poudrette Quarry, Mont St-Hilaire, Quebec, Canada

The first naturally occurring beryllium carbonate in small, fluffy to fibrous aggregates, 1.2cm to 3cm @ 125.00 to 175.00 each.

PODLESNOITE- Kirovskii Mine, Khibiny, Kola Peninsula, Russia

Water-clear, micro prismatic crystals nicely fluorescent from 2cm to 4cm across @ 125.00 to 175.00 each

TSCHERNICHITE- Neer Road Pit, Goble, Columbia Co., Oregon

A rare zeolite in small, water-clear prismatic crystals in vugs 1.2cm to 2cm @ 50.00 to 75.00

TSEPINITe-Ca- Hackman Valley, Khibiny, Kola Peninsula, Russia

Micro prismatic xls in matrix, 1.5cm to 3.5cm @ 100.00 to 150.00.

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Clockwise from upper left: (a) Classic Ewald, with that knowing smile and steady gaze; (b) Ron Koppel, Ewald, and Warren Miller in Ewald's museum on Walsh Road, and yes, we really used to dress like that (Henry Van Lenten photo); (c) Russ Bogardus and Ewald facing off: one of the few extant photos of Ewald in someone else's shadow (Henry Van Lenten photo); (d) Ewald ruminating with Earl Verbeek at the Franklin show's outdoor swap (Tema Hecht photo); (e) Ewald standing in front of his museum and behind his prized Cadillac; (f) Ewald making a point to the ever-stylish Bernie Kozykowski (Henry Van Lenten photo); (g) Ewald ornamenting a Rolls-Royce at the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium; and in center (h) Ewald sharing a light moment with local photographer Harry Senchuk (Henry Van Lenten photo).

A Rare Sterling Hill Classic



The pale pink mineral in the photograph above, in radiating sprays of tightly bunched prismatic crystals, is **gerstmannite**. Few specimens are known. This is a particularly rich example and is part of a layered vein assemblage cutting franklinite-willemite ore from Sterling Hill. The location within the mine is given as 1120 stope, 1100 level, in the west limb of the orebody, just north of its junction with the cross member. All known specimens originate from a single find in the early 1970s, but few were saved because the unusual nature of the mineral was not then recognized.

Gerstmannite, $(\text{Mg,Mn})_2\text{ZnSiO}_4(\text{OH})_2$, was described as a new mineral species in 1977 in a paper by Paul B. Moore and Takaharu Araki, and remains a species unique to Sterling Hill. This example is no. 1146 in the collection of the Franklin Mineral Museum and is one of two gerstmannite specimens once owned by Ewald Gerstmann himself. It is the paratype specimen. Ewald's other, smaller piece, from which most of the gerstmannite had been removed for the original analyses, is the cotype. The field of view in the photograph is 5.5 cm on edge and shows about half of the paratype specimen, which measures about 10 x 7 x 4 cm.