THE PICKING TABLE

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IN THIS ISSUE

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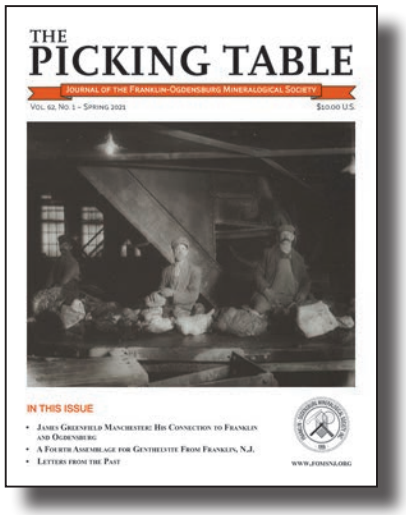
About the Front Cover

The glass slide photograph pictured on the front cover was from the James G. Manchester collection. The image was featured in his book *Minerals of New York City and Its Environs*. These glass lantern slides were produced by the Edward Van Altena studio of Brooklyn, New York at the turn of the twentieth century. Thanks to Richard Hauck for loaning us this historic image.

For more images from Manchester's book, see Bob Batic's article in this issue!



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The Picking Table is the official publication of the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society, Inc. (FOMS), a nonprofit organization, and is sent to all members. *The Picking Table* is published twice each year and features articles of interest to the mineralogical community that pertain to the Franklin-Ogdensburg, New Jersey, area.

Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Articles should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents to James Van Fleet at javanfleet8@gmail.com.

The views and opinions expressed in *The Picking Table* do not necessarily reflect those of FOMS or the editors.

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FRANKLIN-OGDENSBURG MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY
Spring and Summer 2021 Activity Schedule

WWW.FOMSNJ.ORG **COMPILED BY TEMA J. HECHT**

Due To The Covid-19 Pandemic, Check Online Media For Confirmation Of All Events.
Proper Wearing Of Masks And Social Distancing Required For All Activities.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 202

9:00 AM – NOON
FOMS Field Trip
Sterling Hill Mining Museum.
Collecting permitted on the Mine Run Dump and in the Fill Quarry, Passaic Pit, and "saddle" area.
$2.00 for each pound of material taken.

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021

!ONE DAY ONLY!
****Annual North Jersey Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show**
Midland Park High School,
250 Prospect St., Midland Park, N.J.
Admission charged.
https://nojms.webs.com/annual-show

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021

9:00 AM – NOON
FOMS Field Trip
Collecting at the Hamburg Mine/Lang Shaft (private property)
Meet at the Franklin Mineral Museum at 8:30 AM *sharp*, where participants will be escorted to the location.

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
FOMS Meeting
Franklin Mineral Museum.
Lecture: *Mill Site after dark; the rocks you find, the collections you chase, the people you meet and the stories you never tell! (PG version!)*, by Jim Chenard.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2021

9:00 AM – NOON
FOMS Field Trip
Collecting on the Buckwheat Dump. Fee charged.

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
FOMS Meeting
Franklin Mineral Museum.
Lecture: *Hunting the Franklin/Sterling Hill Classics*, by Steven Kuitems.

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, AUGUST 18-22, 2021

****NY/NJ Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show**
New Jersey Convention & Expo Center, Raritan Center
97 Sunfield Ave., Edison, N.J.

Scheduled activities of the FOMS include meetings, field trips, and other events. Regular meetings are held on the third Saturdays of March, April, May, June, September, October, and November, and generally comprise a business session followed by a lecture. FOMS meetings are open to the public, and are held at 1:30 PM, usually in Kraissl Hall at the Franklin Mineral Museum, 30 Evans St., Franklin, N.J. (check listings for exceptions). Most FOMS field trips are open only to FOMS members aged 13 or older. Proper field trip gear required: hard hat, protective eyewear, gloves, sturdy shoes.

**Activities so marked are not FOMS functions but may be of interest to its members. Fees, and membership in other organizations, may be required.

Schedule information, including fees, is subject to change without notice.

President's Message

GARY KERSTANSKI
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My first year as president was a difficult one, and not what I expected. Hopefully 2021 will be much better for all of us.

Our Fall 2020 show did not go according to plan; due to Covid-19 restrictions, we had to forego the indoor portion of the show. However, the outdoor show gave many people a chance to reconnect with some old friends, as well as pick up some great specimens for their collections. A special thanks to Gavin Hannah for going above and beyond, setting up everything at the new venue, and working there for four days. Thanks also to Mary Kerstanski for spending the weekend helping with setup and collecting table fees. Thanks to Stephanie Koles and all of the volunteers, too numerous to mention, that helped the Franklin Mineral Museum set up and collect admission fees. We could not have pulled off a successful show without everyone's help.

Our Fall 2021 show is set for September 25 and 26 at the Franklin Firemen's Memorial Park, again in conjunction with the Franklin Mineral Museum. We're looking forward to seeing you all there.

We had hoped to collaborate with the Sterling Hill Mining Museum to hold our Spring 2021 show at a new venue in Ogdensburg. However, Covid-19 restrictions did not allow that to happen. We are hopeful that the situation will improve for FOMS activities, so please refer to our Facebook page and website for updates.

Stay safe,
Gary Kerstanski

Message From the Managing Editor

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It's interesting how each issue of *The Picking Table* comes together in its own way. The editors have to work with what they've got, hence the unusual format for the fall Franklin Mineral Show report. We are reviving the "Letters From the Past" column, reprinting worthwhile and still relevant documents from Franklin-Ogdensburg history. In this case, we also highlight an historically interesting publication, thus introducing what I hope will become a **new** feature column in *The Picking Table*; a series of articles I will call the "Collector's Bookshelf." I can't help it, I'm a librarian, but I'd like to emphasize how important it is to have an easily available collection of essential and important writings selected from the many, many publications generated over the past three centuries about the Franklin and Sterling Hill mines, minerals, and miners, authored by famous collectors, dealers, and dedicated scientists and researchers.

Through serendipity, our search for content for the "Letters From the Past" column also unearthed the cover photo, which dovetailed with Bob Batic's article on mineral specimens from the Manchester collection. Our readers might be surprised how often the spark of an idea for an article comes from a post first seen on Facebook!

In the near future, we plan on publishing stories from our readers, including collectors, dealers, diggers, and Franklin and Sterling Hill miners. We solicit your contributions now! Tell us about the best thing in your collection, or the one that got away, or the coolest experience you have had as a part of this great community. Stories of your experiences from shows, digs, or from the hard work of hard-rock mining could fill many issues of the *PT*.

Please note that the membership renewal form inserted in this issue also features a form on the reverse side for folks to share a story or express their interest in submitting something a bit longer for publication in the *PT*. Send these back with your membership form, or you can email the editors, or even post a suggestion to the FOMS Facebook group.

Franklin Mineral Museum Report

MARK BOYER
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Well, here we, more than a year into the altered reality of the coronavirus pandemic, trying our best to navigate uncharted waters. In anticipation of a possible 2020 summertime reopening on a limited basis, the museum announced a volunteer workday to spruce up the facilities and grounds. On July 11, 2020, 28 volunteers, many from FOMS, responded to our call for help. Work was accomplished both inside and out, notably along the fence and parking lot, the pavilion and fossil discovery area, and the roadways in the Buckwheat Dump. We thank all the volunteers and especially Steven Phillips, who organized the workday. The museum was not permitted to open its doors for tours and visits, but it was able to host four collecting events on the Buckwheat Dump. These digs, held on the first Saturdays of the months of August through November, attracted scores of collectors from the general public.

The Franklin-Sterling Gem and Mineral Show was dealt several blows this past year. The first was the retirement of Pat and Ed Seger as our show management team. For more than a decade the Segers managed the fall show and kept it a successful fundraiser for the museum. Thankfully, Gary Moldovany stepped up to the plate and took on the challenges of show management for 2020. The Franklin shows also suffered the tragic loss of the Littell Community Center. In 2019, the last year that the show was held there, we saw our largest and most profitable show in years. In addition to hosting mineral shows, the old armory was home to many community events for the towns of Franklin, Hardyston, and Hamburg. But late in 2019 the State of New Jersey decided that the Littell Center was "surplus" property, and sold it at auction.

Despite our high hopes of having a smaller-scale fall show at the Franklin firehouse, Covid-19 restrictions prevented us from having inside dealers and exhibits. For its entire history, the Franklin show has featured exhibits of Franklin minerals. But regrettably in 2020—for the first time in 64 years—Franklin did not have a display of its home-grown, world-famous minerals. Although our "show" had nothing to show, the FOMS-organized "Pond" swap-and-sell event was held in the Firemen's Memorial Park (formerly Shuster Park). This park is a pleasant venue, complete with a shaded paved walkway, civilized restrooms, and a food concession pavilion with picnic tables. The September weather was perfect, and about 800 people attended for the weekend. Again we thank Gary Moldovany and swap-and-sell coordinator, Gavin Hannah, for making the event a success.

We heartily thank our dedicated museum staff, who have volunteered their time since March 2020 to keep the museum going. Thanks to the dedication and skills of Steve Misiur, we have maintained steady eBay and website offerings of mineral specimens and other items, and our online mineral sales have been brisk all year. The museum also was able to have a fall mineral sale on November 14, which featured discounted items and deaccessioned materials from the museum's collections of worldwide minerals. After the November mineral sale, the museum closed for the season, and with heavy hearts, we learned of the passing of museum benefactor and friend Augusta Baum, who died on Thanksgiving Day at age 102. She was the widow of Jack Baum, retired N.J. Zinc Company geologist and former curator. Augusta was a presence at Miners Day until she moved to Massachusetts several years ago.

Late in 2020 the State of New Jersey reduced the number of persons allowed at outdoor events from 500 to 25. Due to these new limits, the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society was forced to suspend its "Super Diggg" on the museum's Mill Site pile this year. No doubt this comes as a disappointment to our eager rockhounds; however, pending relaxed Covid-19 guidelines, the museum does plan to have collecting on the Buckwheat Dump, which is a larger area where collectors may spread out and distance themselves. Also we are planning to open the museum on a limited schedule. The museum is on track to have a fall show this year at the Franklin firehouse, and hopefully we will be able to resume indoor dealers and exhibits. We look forward to the day when we can once again enjoy indoor club meetings, regular museum operations and events, shows and banquets, field trips, and socialization in general. Please check out our Facebook page for announcements on our museum reopening schedule and special events.

Photos of the Buckwheat Dump, taken in the 1960s, and at a dig in 2020. *2020 photo by James Van Fleet.*

Happenings at Sterling Hill

BILL KROTH
PRESIDENT, STERLING HILL MINING MUSEUM
30 PLANT STREET, OGDENSBURG, NJ 07439

By the time that you read this article, the Sterling Hill Mining Museum will have been shut down for a year. While we attempted to open for a few weeks last summer, the restrictions imposed and the difficulties of getting tour guides prevented us from providing cost-effective and worthwhile tours.

As I mentioned in my previous update, we are on a good financial foundation but now I question if 2021 and even 2022 will be better regarding visitations and cash flow. Looking forward, I see that reopening will be a gradual process, and new guides will have to be hired and trained. This will give us time to restaff and regroup.

Most of our visitors are schoolchildren, which is the case with most museums. Schools will first address their core problems, and field trips will be low on their priority lists.

Fortunately, Covid hit none of our staff or volunteers directly. Sadly, Dion Derkach (a friend, volunteer, and neighbor) lost his wife, Gail, to Covid during December 2020. That forced us to take even stricter precautions and further limit the presence of on-site staff. Carol Dunn and Sue Conklin, normally our full-time gift shop employees, come in two days a week for various projects, but besides Denise and me, no one is here regularly.

The upside to being closed is that we can take more time to concentrate on new displays without worrying about being ready for visitors. Many of you know Ken Daubert, who was a part-time tour guide at Sterling Hill. Ken has retired from his position as a transportation specialist with the School District of Orange County, New York, and is now working several days a week for our museum. Ken is utilizing his degree in geology to help us organize and identify minerals and collections that have piled up over the years, while also using his excellent handyman talents for our many projects and maintenance issues. Ken immediately installed a new rubber tile floor in our pavilion, and this has upgraded this facility as well as cushioning our feet. He also installed the same tile in the hallways of the John Kolic Geotech Building, as well as in the viewing room for the old East Shaft (see photos). This new feature of our museum opens up a previously off-limits area by installing three large panes of tempered glass that allow visitors to view the old East Shaft station, adjacent to the old mill (the basement of which is now our Geotech Building). This shaft station gives us another historical landmark to include in our general tour.

Rejoining us in February was ex-miner and board member Doug Francisco. Doug flew in from his new home in California, and is again helping us on major projects that include replacing the two fiberglass-and-wood roofs over the stairways leading down to the Kolic Geotech Building. Doug and Ken are also working on the important task of preserving the structural steel and reinforced concrete "square sets" that support the

Tour guide and maintenance man Ken Daubert installs a new hi-tech floor in our pavilion. Free-floating to allow expansion and contraction, the interlocking/ dovetailed tiles are gently hammered into place. It is amazing how much difference a new floor makes in improving the overall environment.

The historic East Shaft is visible through three newly installed, tempered glass frames. The viewing room will receive rubber-vinyl flooring and will be easily accessed via the existing stairway leading down into the John Kolic Geotech Building.

Doug Francisco and Ken Daubert utilize a pneumatic needle-gun scaler to quickly remove rust from the structural steel supports in our main adit. Don't worry; when they are actually performing the work, the beams are soaked to keep dust to a minimum and respirators are worn along with eye and ear protection. Once scaled, the steel will be power-washed, blown dry, gently heated, and primed with high-quality industrial paint.

less stable rock 200 feet inside our main adit. This supporting structure, made of H-section columns and horizontal I-beams, would cost a fortune to replace so we are now addressing its most vulnerable aspect, the exposed steel. Corrosion here is light, so we are using pneumatic needle-gun and chisel-gun scalers to prepare the steel surface for a high-quality primer plus two coats of epoxy finish. This should last many decades and only require a regular topcoat of paint to keep it perfect.

We plan on protecting all of our exposed underground steel over the next few years, including the shaft, overhead crane, catwalks, railings, and doors. We will divide these into manageable areas to maintain professional and long-lasting results. Again, our biggest task is rust removal, but once we get a good primer applied, regular topcoats of paint are all that will be needed.

Finally, now that our caboose is 100% complete, we are addressing the railroad signs and signals that are mounted next to it. We have several signal boxes, a three-light block signal, and a flashing highway-crossing signal that were obtained locally. These have been brought into our gift shop where they have been chemically stripped of paint, primed and repainted, rewired, and given new colored lenses. (Many of the old lenses had been used for target practice when they were on the old New York, Susquehanna & Western Railway). This has been a relaxing and rewarding task, since we can simply order what we need online from the original supplier, Union Switch and Signal, using the same part numbers. We plan on having all signals electrified and operating via motion detector!

In closing, we do not know what the future will bring regarding the pandemic. We continue to move forward safely, make improvements, and preserve what we have.

The newly installed Sterling Hill historical marker. I want to thank Bill Truran and Joe Biuso from the County Historical Society for all of their help, and Richard Bostwick and Earl Verbeek for helping with the text for the marker. Fred Rowett assisted in excavating through the rock and placing topsoil. Mayor George Hutnick assisted by having his Public Works Department mark out utilities. Sewah Studios of Ohio did an incredible job with the casting and finishing of the marker. It is almost too nice to leave outside!

The 64th Annual Franklin-Sterling Gem & Mineral Show

September 26 and 27, 2020

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The Franklin fall show, at the Firemen's Memorial Park in Franklin, turned out to be a great event. People were rockin' to get out of their houses because of "The Virus." About 800 tickets were sold over two days. A total of 46 dealers set up outside on Saturday, and 25 participated on Sunday. While most of the dealers were inside the spacious Firemen's Park, there were several set up on the north side of Parker Street.

This was an outdoor show with many happy faces under the masks; one could tell by the twinkling of their eyes! Those of you who've seen the 2013 version of *The Lone Ranger* movie may remember Tonto's last words to Will, the young boy in the cowboy suit: "Never take off the mask!" And most of us didn't!

This show could not have happened without the cooperation and participation of the Franklin Fire Department and its firemen, who opened the Fireman's Memorial Park and Pavilion for the event, and sold drinks, hamburgers, and hot dogs to show-goers. The show was sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society (FOMS) and the Franklin Mineral Museum. Special thanks go to the many volunteers and workers who made the event possible, including Phil Crabb, Gary and Heather Moldovany, Gavin Hannah, Gary and Mary Kerstanski, Stephanie Koles, Shohei Ogawa, and John Postas. All of you have FOMS's deepest thanks and gratitude!

Gary and Heather Moldovany at their booth, show-runners extraordinary!

The field at the outdoor show.

Gary Weinstein, owner of Gary's Gem Garden in Mt. Laurel, N.J.

Stephanie Koles, FOMS 2nd VP and field trip organizer.

Artie Grimes and Maureen Verbeek at the Firemen's Park.

Professor Steve Okulewicz, geologist and magician.

Part of the show: mineral dealers across Parker St., near the firehouse parking lot.

Ralph Kovach, prominent jokester and creator of cabochons.

Gary Kerstanski, FOMS president.

John Postas, Franklin Borough councilman, Franklin Mineral Museum board member, and third-generation Franklin barber.

Jim Chenard, mineral collector and volunteer fireman, with his "Thin Red Line" face mask.

Phil Crabb, former freeholder and town council member, now Franklin borough historian and First Asst. Fire Chief, with the most patriotic mask seen at the show.

Bill Truran, local author and historian, and (on right) Richard Bostwick.

Pat Bigos from Maine: Among other things, a skillful photographer and an energetic vendor of Way Too Cool ultraviolet lamps.

Alan Benson of Alan's Quality Minerals LLC, with his wife, Elize, and their dog, Pokey.

Terry Szenics, mineral dealer and mineral miner.

Gavin Hannah, swap organizer. Thanks, Gavin!

The brothers Vajdik, Ray on the left and Ron on the right, who come from northern Ohio to every Franklin mineral show.

Claude Poli scrutinizing a hideous specimen of something important.

Alex Kerstanski, mineral and miners' lamp collector, grandson of a Franklin miner, and now a geology student.

Juan Gonzalez, mineral dealer, and his vest of many patches. (Visit his homepage on Mindat.org.)

The paved road at Firemen's Memorial Park.

Gary Moldovany, unmasked.

Heather Moldovany

Shohei Ogawa with cat mask, staffing the entrance ticket booth.

Seth Maranuk of Seth Maranuk Designs.

Ralph and Zack Bonard in an "unguarded" moment.

Richard and Elna Hauck taking in the show

Dr. Charles Merguerian, Professor Emeritus at Hofstra and proprietor of Duke Geological Laboratories.

All photos by Tema J. Hecht.

A Fourth Assemblage for Genthelvite From Franklin, New Jersey

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In late May 2020, genthelvite was found in a retrograde assemblage of actinolite, rhodonite, calcite, and quartz in a specimen from the Franklin Mine. This assemblage is different from those of the first three occurrences described previously from Franklin, but is similar to that of the specimens collected from the "genthelvite trench" at Sterling Hill.

PREVIOUS OCCURRENCES

Genthelvite was unknown from the Franklin-Sterling Hill area until 1987, when it was described as microscopic grains 1 to 10 µm across by Essene and Peacor (1987) in their paper announcing petedunnite as a new mineral species. Attention was first called to the genthelvite by its bright blue cathodoluminescence under the electron beam of a scanning electron microscope. The grains were too small to be seen by the human eye. For reference, even a large genthelvite grain of 10 µm diameter is smaller than the diameter of a human hair, which at its finest is about 20 µm and at its coarsest about 180 µm. Later, however, Boyer and Orosz (2006) described genthelvite grains readily visible to the eye in a specimen from the same petedunnite assemblage studied by Essene and Peacor and mentioned one grain with observed dimensions of 5 × 2 mm, hundreds of times larger than those previously observed. Genthelvite then joined the ranks of fluorescent minerals desired by collectors of Franklin-Sterling Hill species.

A second assemblage for Franklin genthelvite was described by Cianciulli and Verbeek (2006) in the same issue of *The Picking Table* as the Boyer and Orosz paper. In this second assemblage, genthelvite is present in grains about 1 cm on edge in a matrix of nearly white microcline, a dark green amphibole, granular orange-brown nelenite, franklinite, and brown serpentine, with sparse andradite and calcite. The specimen is a breccia, with nelenite cementing broken fragments of other minerals and serving as the matrix for the genthelvite grains.

The third assemblage for Franklin genthelvite was described only recently, by Bonard and Bonard (2020) in the spring issue of *The Picking Table*. The genthelvite in the discovery specimen is enormous by comparison to that in previous finds from Franklin, with dimensions of 4.3 × 3.4 × 2.3 cm (1.7 × 1.3 × 0.9 inches). The only associated minerals are a few small grains of franklinite and mm-sized grains of a pink mineral not yet examined, both embedded in the genthelvite. Since the specimen is essentially a fragment of a single genthelvite grain, the assemblage from which it came remains incompletely defined, pending possible discovery of additional examples of similar material.

A FOURTH ASSEMBLAGE

The specimen containing the newly recognized genthelvite assemblage was purchased by the author from Dru Wilbur in September 2006 and is now specimen FMM-2387 in the collection of the Franklin Mineral Museum. It was sold, correctly, as an uncommon example of Franklin quartz, but it also contains several other minerals from a retrograde mineral assemblage derived from older, peak-metamorphic minerals that had formed at higher temperatures. In addition to the retrograde minerals, part of the peak-metamorphic assemblage is still preserved in part of the specimen, two sides of which are shown in Figures 1A and 1B.

Peak metamorphic assemblage: A dark brown pyroxene (upper left of Fig. 1A) is the main mineral of the peak-metamorphic assemblage and occupies approximately one-fifth of the specimen by volume. This pyroxene exhibits the platy partings common to much Franklin pyroxene and also exhibits poikiloblastic texture, with numerous tiny blebs of red-fluorescent, pale orange calcite embedded within the much larger grains of pyroxene. But for its smaller grain size, this material much resembles willemite-poor but otherwise typical "Christmas tree rock" from Franklin; the colors of the pyroxene (aegirine-augite in the case of "Christmas tree rock") and the calcite are identical.

Retrograde assemblage: The main minerals of the retrograde assemblage are actinolite, quartz, rhodonite, and calcite. The actinolite is in dark green grains, the largest several centimeters long, surrounding the remnant mass of pyroxene and is a replacement product of it. Individual pyroxene grains partly replaced by actinolite are present along the pyroxene-actinolite contact. Smaller grains of actinolite occur in a medium-grained

mix of pink rhodonite, cream-colored calcite, and milky quartz in other parts of the specimen (Fig. 1B), and a mass of quartz measuring 6 × 4.5 × 2.5 cm (2.4 × 1.8 × 1 inches) is present on one end. Tiny grains of moderately magnetic franklinite are irregularly scattered throughout.

The genthelvite in this specimen occurs as a solitary grain about 1.5 mm across, in contact with rhodonite and calcite, and is of almost identical color to the calcite. It was first noticed by its bright green fluorescence under a Convoy longwave UV LED flashlight and its markedly dimmer response under a Superbright II shortwave lamp. Subsequent examination by Raman spectroscopy (Fig. 2) confirmed its identity as genthelvite. The genthelvite grain is present in the lower central portion of Figure 1A but is not discernible in daylight.

COMPARISON TO SPECIMENS FROM THE "GENTHELVITE TRENCH" AT STERLING HILL

The retrograde mineral assemblage in the specimen discussed here bears striking similarities to that from the "genthelvite trench" at Sterling Hill, described in detail by Leavens et al. (2009). The "genthelvite trench," adjacent to the passage from the Fill Quarry to the Passaic Pit at Sterling Hill, was excavated in 2002 and soon became a favorite target of mineral collectors. A key feature of this locality was the existence in one place of both a primary, peak-metamorphic mineral assemblage and a retrograde mineral assemblage (including genthelvite) derived from it. The primary assemblage included dark brownish-green pyroxene (augite) and bluish gray calcite, plus minor amounts of gahnite, garnet, tiny grains of sphalerite showing blue

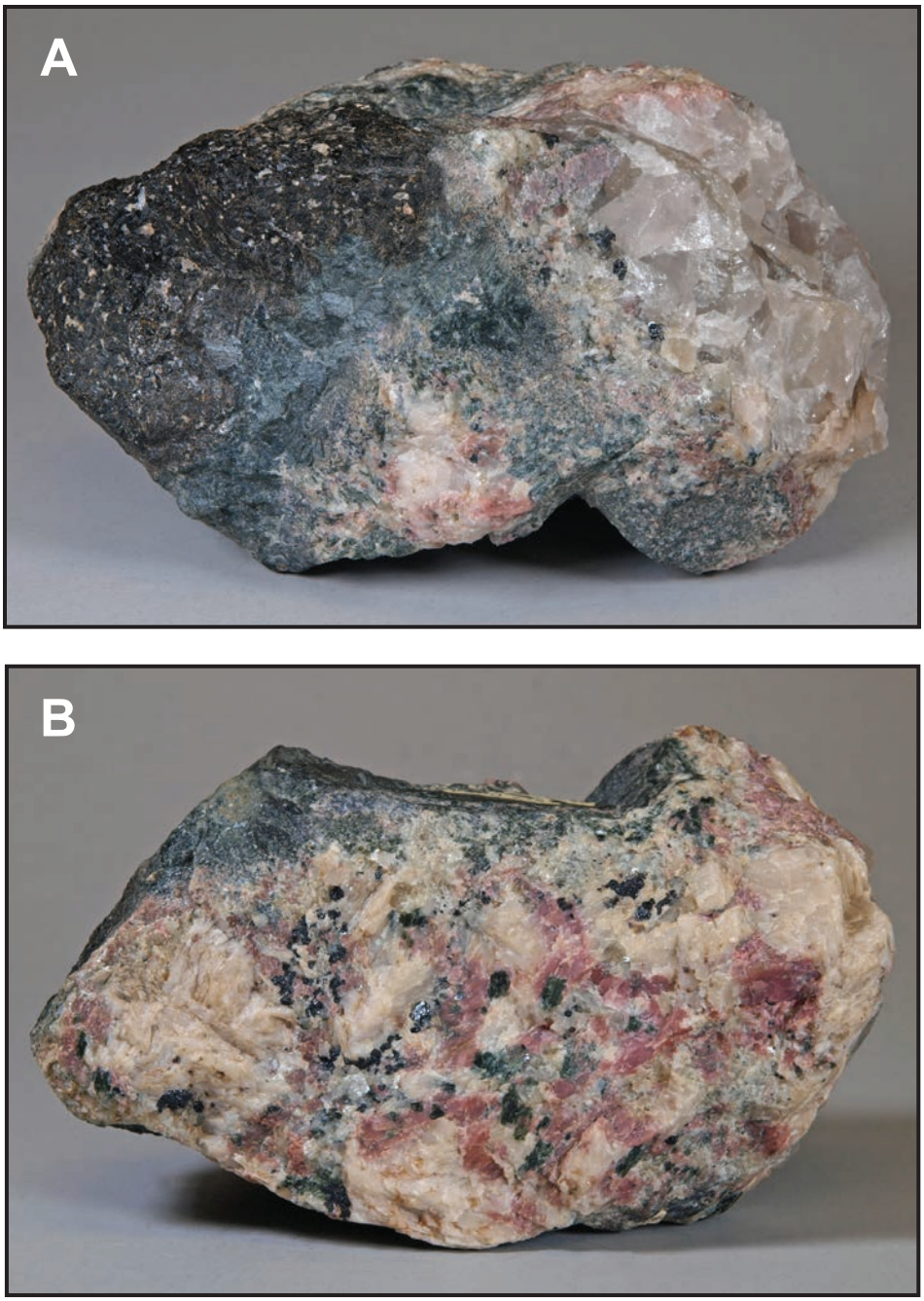

Figure 1. Two views of the genthelvite-bearing specimen. The dark brown mineral (upper left in Figure 1A) is a pyroxene, probably aegirine-augite, of the peak-metamorphic assemblage. The tiny, light-colored "spots" within it are calcite. Bordering this pyroxene is abundant, dark bluish green actinolite of the retrograde assemblage. Other retrograde minerals, shown in both Figures 1A and 1B, include massive milky quartz, pink rhodonite, cream-colored calcite, and scattered grains of franklinite. The genthelvite grain is in the lower-central portion of Figure 1A, along the contact between rhodonite and calcite, but it is the same color as the calcite and is apparent only under LW UV.

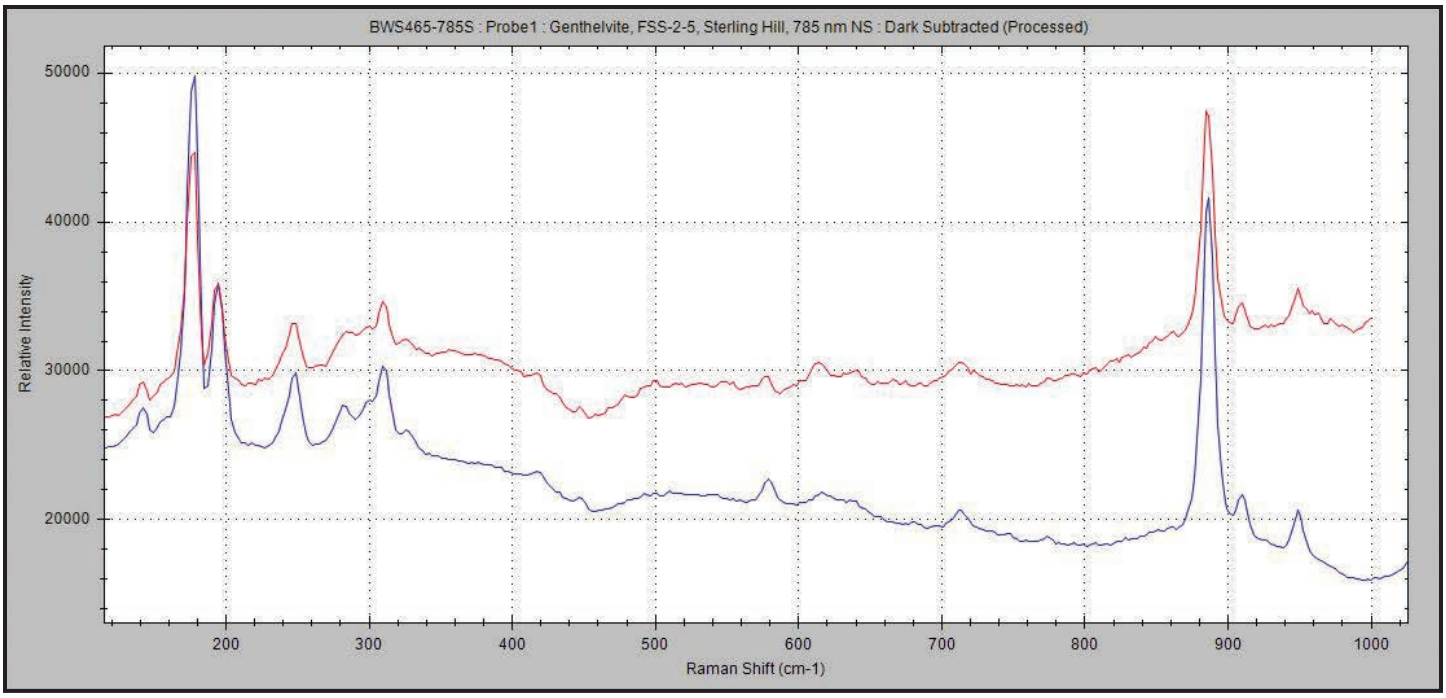

Figure 2. Raman spectrum of the genthelvite in specimen FMM-2387 (in red) compared to that of a known genthelvite specimen measured previously (in blue). More than a dozen Raman peaks can be matched between the two spectra, establishing the identity of the LW green-fluorescing mineral in specimen FMM-2387 as genthelvite.

fluorescence LW, and remnant tan bustamite. The retrograde assemblage included much dark green actinolite, brownish pink rhodonite, white calcite, and milky quartz, along with minor to trace amounts of maroon-colored willemite, albite, apatite, scheelite, and pale yellow sphalerite showing orange fluorescence LW.

The major minerals of both the primary and retrograde mineral assemblages in the Franklin specimen described here and those from Sterling Hill are thus nearly identical. The dominant minerals at both localities are major pyroxene and calcite for the peak-metamorphic (primary) assemblage, and actinolite, rhodonite, calcite, and quartz for the retrograde assemblage. The pyroxene in the Franklin specimen, however, is dark brown rather than brownish green, and the calcite grains included within it are pale orange rather than the distinct pale bluish gray of the Sterling Hill material. Moreover, the Franklin specimen lacks the tiny grains of blue-fluorescent sphalerite common to the augite from the "genthelvite trench" at Sterling Hill, and the rhodonite is pink rather than brownish pink. For these reasons it appears nearly certain that the specimen described here is not from the Sterling Hill genthelvite locality. Though definitive proof cannot yet be offered, its textural similarity to that of "Christmas tree rock," plus the nearly identical color of its pyroxene (dark brown) and calcite (pale orange) to that material, instead favor Franklin as the origin of this specimen. Collectors are thus urged to inspect their holdings for additional specimens of similar material, from which additional data might be gathered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author thanks Mark Boyer for his review of this paper and suggestions that improved the manuscript.

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James Greenfield Manchester: His Connection to Franklin and Ogdensburg

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James G. Manchester was born in Fall River, Massachusetts, on September 20, 1871. He was not a person who came from great wealth, but through strong effort was highly successful in life. This afforded him the ability to assemble a fine mineral collection, including several noteworthy specimens from Franklin and Ogdensburg. As a young man, he studied typing and stenography and became so proficient that his patterns and designs (from typewritten characters) earned him the award as best in the U.S. at the Columbian Exposition in 1893. His primary vocation was working for the New York Mutual Life Insurance Company, first as Assistant Treasurer and later as Assistant Manager of their Real Estate Division. This career meant a move to New York City, where he spent most of his adult life.

He became president of the New York Mineralogical Club (NYMC), succeeding George F. Kunz (co-founder of the club in 1886) and was noteworthy for bringing many notable speakers to club meetings, doing so partly at his own expense. He was a generous person by nature and would often gift minerals to friends and associates. To encourage young people in the hobby, he would often gift them entire suites of minerals, again at his own expense. To this day, several museums and clubs owe a great deal to James Manchester. The NYMC for example, has a number of specimens from him among their best pieces.

Manchester is probably best remembered for several publications that he authored, most notably the 1931 classic *The Minerals of New York City and Its Environs*. Indeed, this book is often simply referred to as "Manchester." He had previously authored several important regional pamphlets including *The Minerals of Broadway* (1914) and *The Minerals of the Bergen Archways* (1919). These form an invaluable resource to anyone who has an interest in the regional geology and mineralogy of the New York City metropolitan area in the early 1900s.

As perhaps the grandest example of his philanthropy, in 1921 he donated an extensive mineral collection (3,000 specimens) to the Fall River, Massachusetts, library in memory of his first wife, Florence Pilkington Manchester. He also apparently donated enough money so that a new wing of the library was built to hold the collection. This new wing memorialized his wife with a sign placed over the entrance doorway. As happens to most collections that are not actively curated, the collection suffered from decades of neglect. In the late 1960s, Rock Currier, a well-known mineral collector, visited the collection after hearing about it from Ernest Weidhaas, also a well-known mineral collector and friend of Manchester. In Rock's words:

> When I went up there to see it, her name had been removed and there were some display cases full of minerals on display in one of the rooms. Other identical cases that had apparently held specimens at one time had seashells in them. When I asked about the history of the collection, the librarian went into a file cabinet and brought out a copy of Frederick Canfield's (yes, THE Canfield) little publication, *The Final Disposition of Some American Collections of Minerals* from 1923. In this pamphlet, it states about the Manchester collection that 'This is a general collection of about 3,000 specimens, the result of 30 years' labor. It is of high grade and included many of the finest specimens of the minerals found in the Erie Cut (1909) through Bergen Hill. About 1920 he presented it to the Public Library of Fall River, Massachusetts, as a memorial to his wife.'

In 1987, Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. McKenna, as volunteers, took on the herculean task of trying to catalogue what remained and preserve what they could for future generations. The collection at this time numbered barely 700 specimens, with many specimens missing, as well as higher-quality pieces replaced with lower-quality versions from the same or similar localities. The remaining collection stayed at the library until eventually being deaccessioned to local collectors in 2003.

James Manchester was not known to specialize in the minerals of Franklin (Franklin Furnace) and Ogdensburg as he was building his collection, but nonetheless several excellent minerals were preserved in the Fall River Library collection. Here are pieces that are in my private collection and were documented by the McKennas as originally being part of the Fall River Library collection.

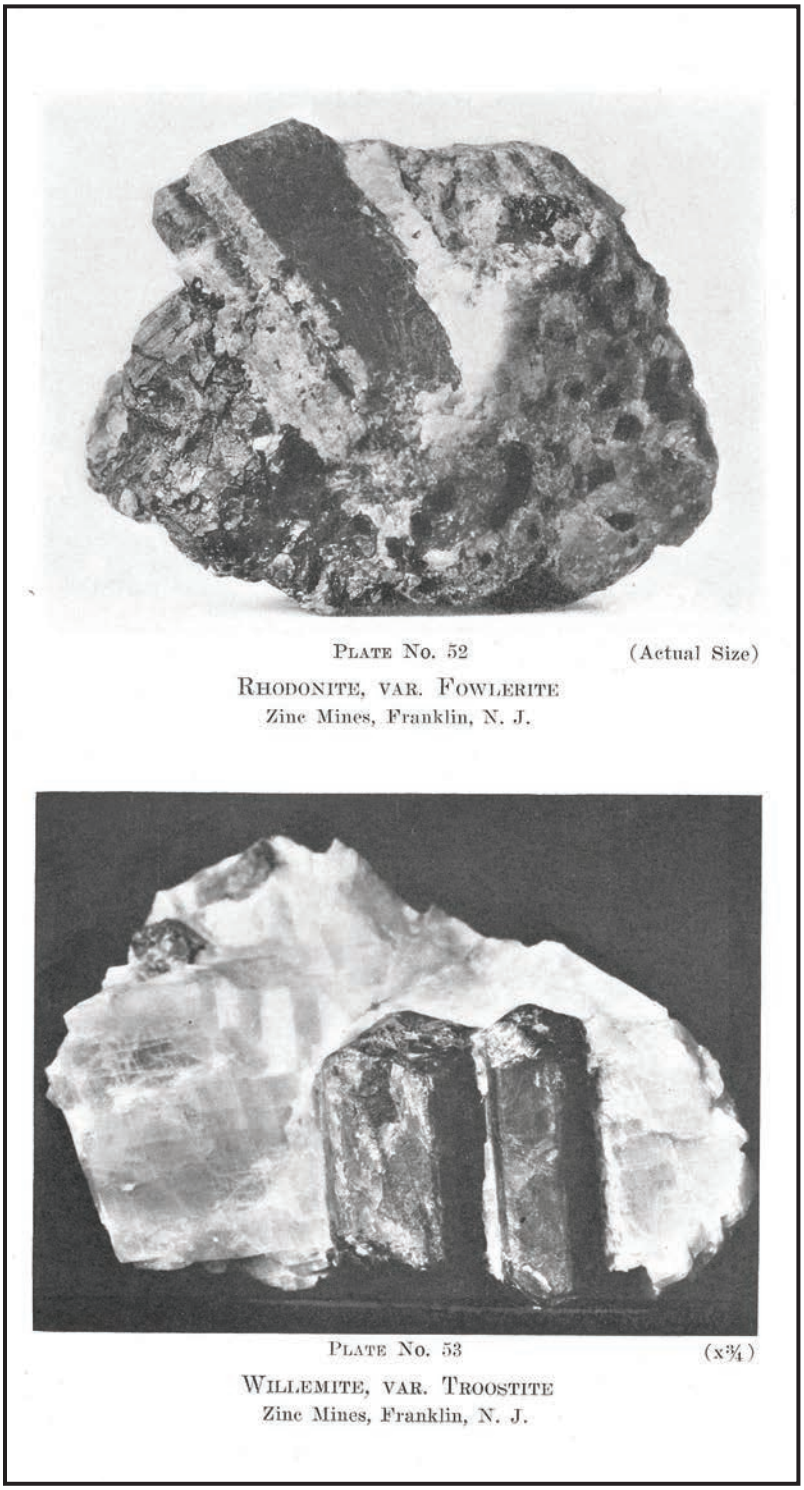


PLATE No. 52 (Actual Size)

RHODONITE, VAR. FOWLERITE

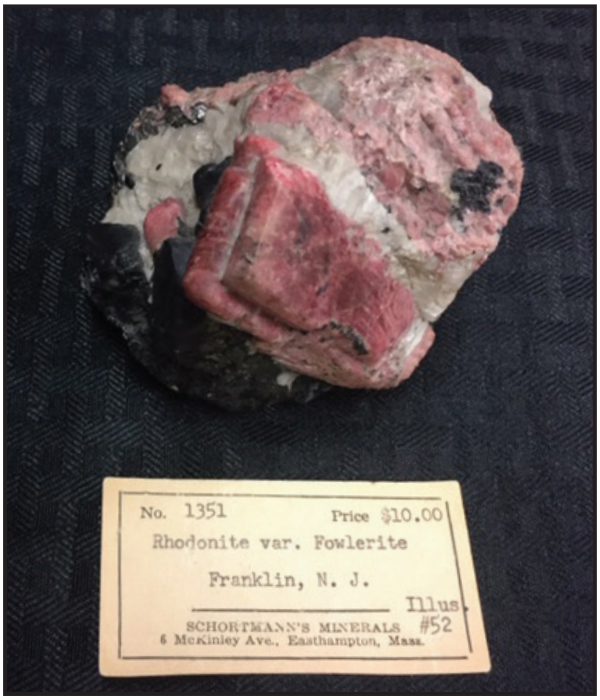
Zinc Mines, Franklin, N. J.

PLATE No. 53 (x¾)

WILLEMITE, VAR. TROOSTITE

Zinc Mines, Franklin, N. J.

Plates 52—53 from *The Minerals of New York City and Its Environs* (Manchester, 1931).



The original specimen pictured in Plate 52 from Manchester, identified as "Rhodonite var. Fowlerite, Zinc Mines, Franklin, N.J."

The willemite crystal specimen shown in Plate 53 from *Manchester* (1931), "Willemite, var. Troostite, Zinc Mines, Franklin, N.J." Note the original Manchester label shown here, which locates this specimen as being from Ogdensburg. *Specimens from the collection of, and photographed by, Robert Batic.*

Letters From the Past: *Notes on the Minerals of Franklin and Sterling Hill, New Jersey*

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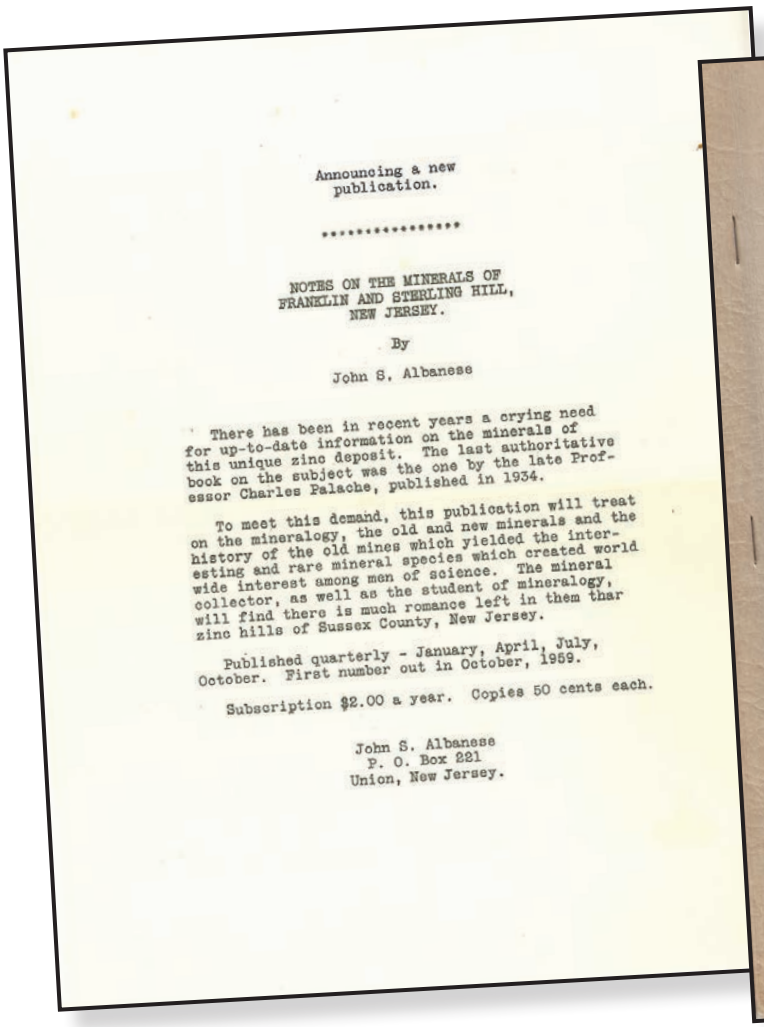
The letters reprinted here really have some historical resonance. John S. Albanese was a very well-known and respected mineral dealer, specializing in Franklin and Sterling Hill minerals. He was willing and eager to share his knowledge, through presentations to the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society (FOMS), and through his own publishing project, the *Notes on the Minerals of Franklin and Sterling Hill, New Jersey*.

The publication announced in his letter was actually produced. Volume 1 No. 1 came out as planned in October of 1959. At that time the FOMS club was only a notion, soon to evolve from the Franklin Mineralogical Association. John advertised that the *Notes* would come out in January, April, July, and October, and he kept to that quarterly schedule through July of 1961. He produced eight issues, with continuous pagination, for a total of 149 pages of information, education, and speculation!



Announcing a new publication.

****

NOTES ON THE MINERALS OF FRANKLIN AND STERLING HILL, NEW JERSEY.

By

John S. Albanese

There has been in recent years a crying need for up-to-date information on the minerals of this unique zinc deposit. The last authoritative book on the subject was the one by the late Professor Charles Palache, published in 1934.

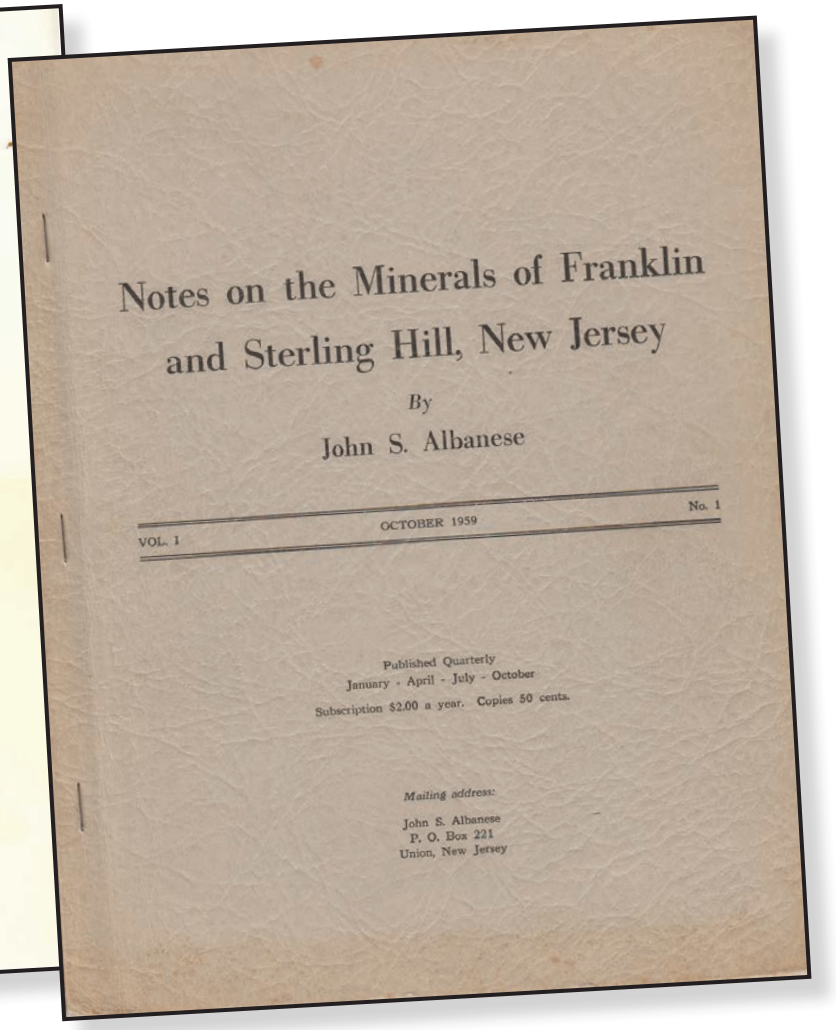
To meet this demand, this publication will treat on the mineralogy, the old and new minerals and the history of the old mines which yielded the interesting and rare mineral species which created world wide interest among men of science. The mineral collector, as well as the student of mineralogy, will find there is much romance left in them thar zinc hills of Sussex County, New Jersey.

Published quarterly - January, April, July, October. First number out in October, 1959.

Subscription $2.00 a year. Copies 50 cents each.

John S. Albanese
P. O. Box 221
Union, New Jersey.

John S. Albanese announces the publication of his *Notes*.



Notes on the Minerals of Franklin and Sterling Hill, New Jersey

By

John S. Albanese

VOL. I — OCTOBER 1959 — No. 1

Published Quarterly
January - April - July - October
Subscription $2.00 a year. Copies 50 cents.

Mailing address:

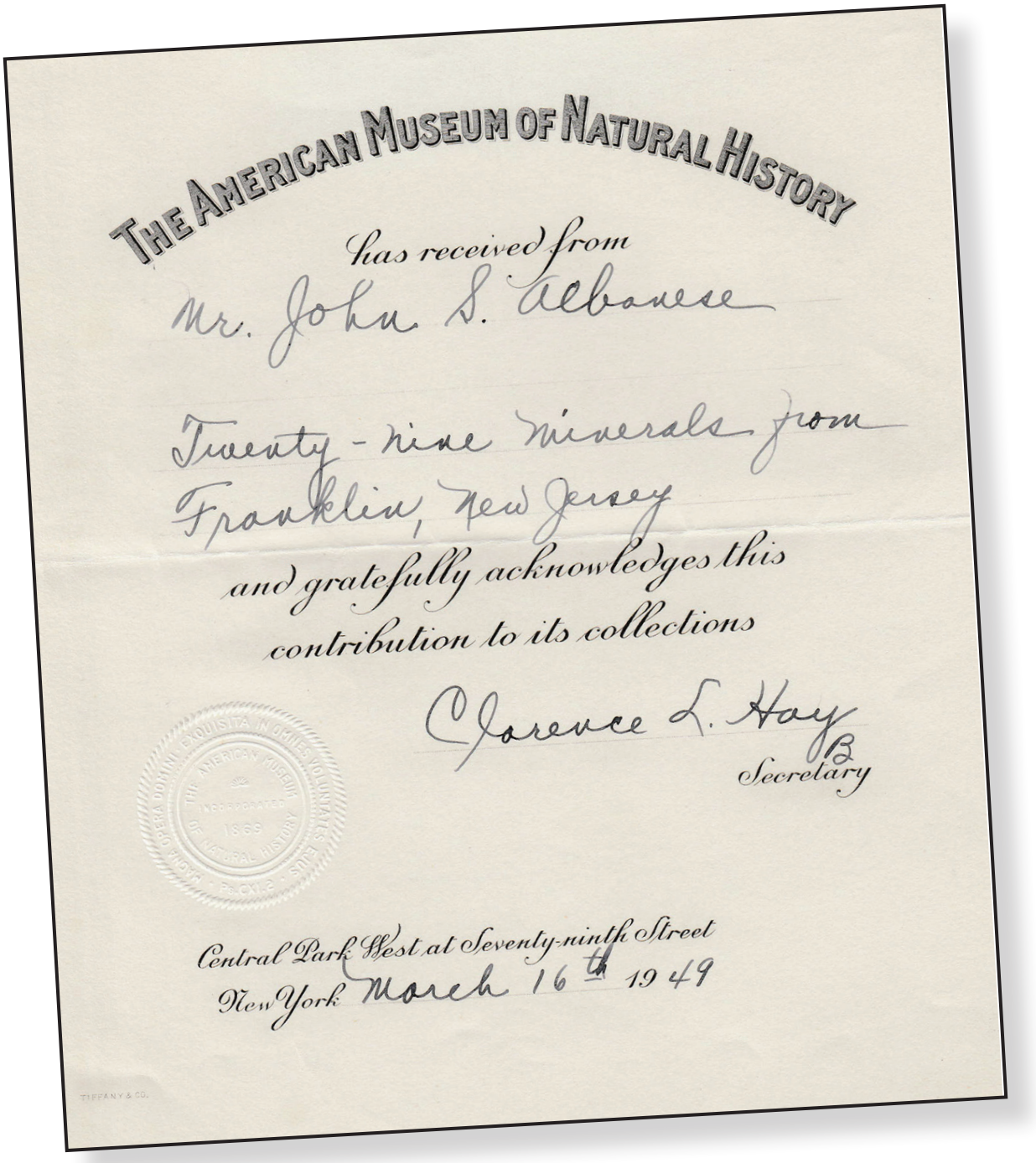
John S. Albanese
P. O. Box 221
Union, New Jersey

Volume 1, issue 1 of the *Notes*.

John's own introduction is worth quoting:

> In this series of "Notes," no attempt will be made to use highly technical language. The notes will be presented in the form of discussions. It is my hope that the geology, the mineralogy and the minerals of this fabulous zinc deposit may be clearly understood… As our discussions proceed, we shall include some historical notes of the area and its mines as well as the mineral species – old and new.

In an August 1965 *Picking Table* article written by Albanese it was noted: "John Albanese has been a collector and dealer in Franklin minerals for over 50 years." It was also stated: "The ideas expressed by John in this article are controversial but they are the result of observations and study of actual specimens. His interpretation of the processes by which these minerals were deposited and altered can be substantiated by specific material." (Albanese, 1965).


THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

has received from

Mr. John S. Albanese

Twenty-nine minerals from

Franklin, New Jersey

and gratefully acknowledges this

contribution to its collections

Clarence L. Hay

Secretary

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY INCORPORATED 1869

Central Park West at Seventy-ninth Street

New York March 16th 1949

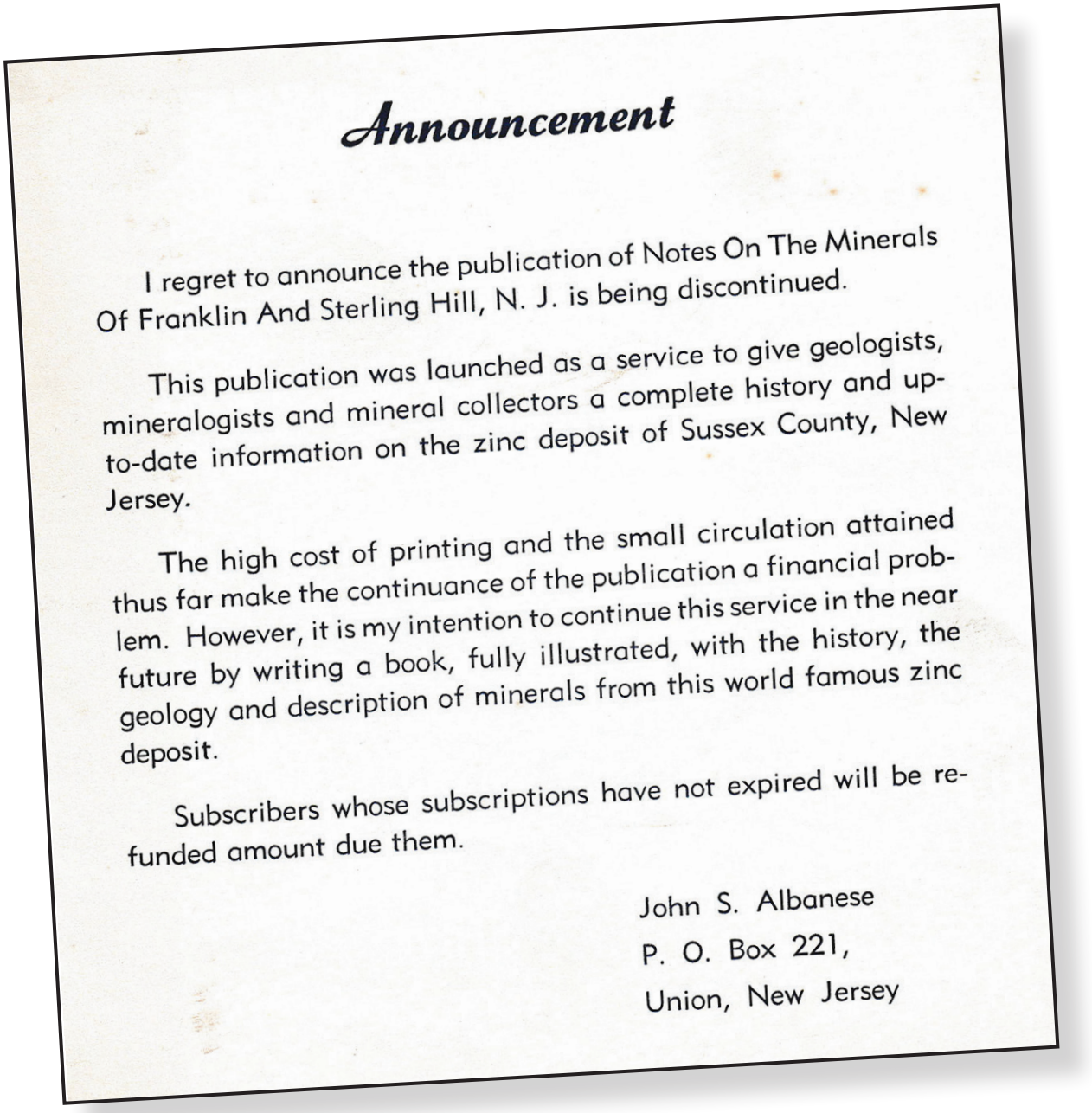
TIFFANY & CO.

Letter acknowledging a donation from John Albanese to the American Museum of Natural History.

John's contributions to mineral collecting and the mineralogy of Franklin and Sterling Hill were recognized again in 1987, when Richard Hauck wrote a short reminiscence, attached to another "Letters From the Past" column. As Hauck noted: "Franklin specimens have been sold to collectors and museums for over 100 years. In the 1950-60s the most active and productive dealer was John S. Albanese of Union, New Jersey." (Hauck, 1987). Albanese was also known for donating Franklin and Sterling Hill mineral specimens to museums, including the American Museum of Natural History.

It must be remembered that the names of species and the comments on mineral specimens shared by John were made in 1959 and not in the 1980s (Hauck, 1987). And indeed, as we enter the third decade of the 21st century, some of the ideas expressed and the mineral names referred to seem "quaint." It was a noble effort for its time! Volume 1, No. 8 of the *Notes* closed with an index to the entire Volume 1 series, but no indication of the future of the publication, and sadly no more *Notes* were forthcoming.

John Albanese informed his subscribers of the end of the run of his *Notes* in a short announcement:



Announcement

I regret to announce the publication of Notes On The Minerals Of Franklin And Sterling Hill, N. J. is being discontinued.

This publication was launched as a service to give geologists, mineralogists and mineral collectors a complete history and up-to-date information on the zinc deposit of Sussex County, New Jersey.

The high cost of printing and the small circulation attained thus far make the continuance of the publication a financial problem. However, it is my intention to continue this service in the near future by writing a book, fully illustrated, with the history, the geology and description of minerals from this world famous zinc deposit.

Subscribers whose subscriptions have not expired will be refunded amount due them.

John S. Albanese
P. O. Box 221,
Union, New Jersey

Letter announcing the end of the *Notes on the Minerals of Franklin and Sterling Hill, New Jersey*.

Richard Hauck provided additional insight into these developments in yet another feature in *The Picking Table*, this time in the Fall of 2001:

> After 8 issues, financial practicality took precedence over his enthusiasm and as he stated in a letter to a customer in September of 1961, he "could not get enough subscriptions. In fact they fell off to 180. Most collectors want to read junk with nice pictures. Instead I will now write a real book – about 400 pages – on Franklin minerals with plenty of 'pitchers' for the gratification of those who like to see pictures but too lazy to read." (Hauck, 2001).

Do we see here the germ of the project that has become the long-awaited "Color Book" of Franklin mineral photographs?

John Albanese's *Notes* make a useful and entertaining addition to the library of any Franklin-Sterling Hill mineral collector. We can infer from the above comments that this was a modestly successful publishing venture, and that as many as 180 complete sets may exist. They do turn up for sale occasionally at local mineral shows, or as part of older collections or private libraries. A recent post on Facebook highlighted a complete set, beautifully leather-bound, "one of only six leather bound copies of the classic… *Notes*." (P. Persson, personal communication, May 24, 2020).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to Richard Hauck for providing the original documents highlighted in this article, both the letters and photograph.

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A rare photograph of John S. Albanese, receiving an award. Left to right: Mrs. E. Packard "Sunny" Cook, Alice Kraissl, John S. Albanese, Frederick Kraissl, Jr., and William Wurst.

A Sterling Hill Mud Zone Calcite

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Our back cover features a specimen of calcite crystals from the Mud Zone of the Sterling Mine.

The Picking Table, Vol. 3, No. 2, July 1962, page 7 features an article on "The Sterling Hill Mud Zone." The full article, briefly summarized here, is available on the FOMSNJ.org website.

The Mud Zone is an area where new minerals were formed due to weathering of minerals originally present; variously altering, replacing, or dissolving them and resulting in the precipitation of new, low-temperature minerals. It extended down to just below the 700 foot level of the Sterling Mine. It was the main source of zinc ore (hemimorphite) mined at Sterling Hill in the 1870's. It was also the source of many specimens of chalcophanite, hydrohetaerolite, todorokite, woodruffite, and goethite. Many large crystals of pyroxene (including "jeffersonite"), feldspar, garnet, apatite, and hornblende were weathered out of their original matrix, and redeposited in Mud Zone mud.

This specimen was purchased from the Franklin Mineral Museum in May of 2009, which received it as a donation from Gene Bearss of Sanford, Maine. Gene was an avid collector of minerals, including Franklin and Sterling species. In his later years, Gene donated specimens to the museum during his visits to Franklin for the mineral shows.

Calcite (“nailhead” crystals) lining a vug in altered franklinite-willemite ore. Sterling Mine, Ogdensburg, N.J. Ex Gene Bearss. 8.4 × 5.2 × 4.0 cm (3.3 × 1.5 × 0.9 inches). *Photo by Paul Shizume.*