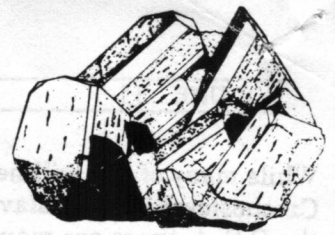


# Friends of mineralogy colorado chapter

FMCC Newsletter No. 7 1/2, Nov. 1993  
Special Sweet Home Lecture Edition



We'd like to welcome everyone to the November 11, 1993 meeting of the Colorado Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy. For our members and guests, below are a few news items that didn't make it into our last regular newsletter.

**Book Sale** - The Colorado Geological Survey is holding a stock-clearance sale of many of its book and map publications at reduced prices, during the entire month of November. Prices of many items are reduced to as little as \$2, \$1, and \$0.50. Some highlights available include the complete set of the *Bibliography and Index of Colorado Geology* (5 volumes, covering 1875 to 1989) for \$24.00 (regular price, \$40.50); Bulletin 40, *Radioactive Mineral Occurrences of Colorado and Bibliography*, 1054 p. (text on microfiche only) + 12 map-size plates, total price \$5.00 (regular \$28.00); and Resource Series 21, *Precambrian Tungsten and Copper-Zinc Skarn Deposits of South-central Colorado* by E.W. Heinrich (1981--descriptions of many mines in Chaffee, Park, and Fremont counties, etc.), for \$1.00 (regular \$8.00). If you want to go check out what they have, the C.G.S. offices are at 1313 Sherman St., Denver (2 blocks south of the State Capitol), room 715, hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Blanchard mine** - By this time, many of you have already heard that the Blanchard mine area, New Mexico, is now (until further notice) closed to access due to a fatal accident which took place last month. Two collectors (part of a group of German tourists) who were digging in one of the underground tunnels (in violation of the liability release which collectors are asked to sign) loosened a large boulder which fell and crushed one collector. The second collector (father of the first) suffered broken bones and was hospitalized. A rescue team from the White Sands Missile Range was brought in to evacuate the injured collector; it took considerable effort to move the many-ton boulder to recover the body. The group had checked in at the Blanchard Rock Shop and signed their release forms, but the accident actually took place at the "Ora mine", which is one of the tunnels in the Mex-Tex group, located a few miles north of the Blanchard mine itself. The Ora tunnel, in fact, is not part of any of the currently held mining claims in the Blanchard-Mex Tex area, so at least it seems that none of the claim holders are likely to be held responsible for the injuries. At any rate, the BLM has closed off access to the entire Blanchard area pending completion of their investigation into the accident; a fence has been put across the road, and only the claim owners are being allowed in. Pending further notice, there will be no access for collectors to this area. Combined with the recent (previous to the accident) offering for sale of the Blanchard Rock Shop property by the Jones family (does anyone want to make an offer on 5 acres of sagebrush-and-cactus land with a rock shop, assorted piles of well-weathered rocks, snake pit and bobcat cages, water wells, but, sorry, no mineral rights?), renewed access for mineral collecting here, if and when it is reopened, will likely be much different than it has been in the past several years. Any visiting groups will surely be required to receive advance permission from the claim holders, and it is likely that a number of the disused adits will be sealed or gated by the State. There appear to be a few lessons to be learned here--not digging in dangerous places or beneath unstable rocks, and taking care to respect all the warnings and cautions when you are granted permission to collect on a property.

**It's not too late to - -** Jump in your car tomorrow (pending any blizzards) and drive to Socorro for the New Mexico Mineral Symposium, at New Mexico Tech; registration fee is \$22.00, with tailgate selling at the Super 8 Motel and a big silent auction on Sunday afternoon.

**- - -** Catch the "Tracking Dinosaurs" Exhibit at the Tivoli Building on the Auraria Campus, C.U. Denver. This international exhibit, prepared by Martin Lockley of UCD, is in Denver until Nov. 30; Tues.-Thur. 11 am - 4 pm, Sat.-Sun. 11 am - 6 pm; admission \$2.50.

*New members are always welcome to join the Friends of Mineralogy--it is for all persons interested in the study and advancement of mineralogy in Colorado. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on 2nd Thursdays, Jan-Mar-Apr-May-Sep-Oct-Nov, Denver Museum of Natural History. Annual dues are \$13.00; membership applications are available on request. Our mailing address: P.O. Box 150401, Lakewood, CO 80215-0401. Our next meeting is Jan. 13, 1993.*

While many of you will never have to search for some of the truly obscure localities, the recent breakup of Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, the U.S.S. R., and the reunification of Germany might affect your locality listings. In the U.S. A. there are many old locality references, such as Red Cloud Mine in Schulz, now Tiger, Pinal County, Arizona. It is not uncommon to find many Franklin and Sterling Hill specimens listed as "Franklin Furnace" While I often use the Mineralogical Record's index for suggestions regarding specific mineral localities, there are other resources that can also help the exasperated locality tracker.

A good reference in the (London) Times Atlas. It has a huge index (over 200,000 place-names), and it has a section on common foreign terms that one might encounter. (Example, Ozero = lake in Russian, Vidda = plateau in Norwegian). For the most part, our Museum standardizes its locality spelling based on this atlas. Now I know that you probably think I'm a bit crazy for suggesting this huge, expensive book. However, with the ninth edition just coming into print, the eighth edition is available from many places at a deep discount. (I was able to mail order the atlas for \$60, a considerable savings off of a book that lists for \$189!) It may not have the proper boundaries for the former Soviet Union or Germany, but this book can be easily supplemented by very inexpensive maps (\$3-\$4) showing the correct boundaries. The advantage of the Times Atlas is the number of references (giving latitude and longitude) for cities and other political subdivisions (counties, provinces, regions, prefectures, departments, etc.) in which the mineral deposits are situated.

Another good way to find references is to acquire used copies of gazetteers. We have a number of them in the office, dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to more recent volumes. These books are invaluable because they often list the more modern names for places as Cumberland = Cumbria, England, or Zinnwald, now Cinvald (Zapadocesky, Czech Republic) or translations of names from one language to another such as Giftberg, which is the German name for Dedova Hora. In addition, nearby major cities are listed as well as the major industries of the reference, including mining. This information has allowed me to pinpoint small localities not listed anywhere else by calculating distances to nearest cities, for example, Rosia-Montana, a small village in the Apuseni Mountains, in Romania, from which several of our gold specimens come. More recently-published gazetteers include the Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World from Columbia University Press, or Webster's Geographical Dictionary from Merriam. If, unlike me, you do not haunt used book sales, you should check out your library system. They probably have gazetteers in their reference section (and the large atlases as well).

Try and build a map collection. This may seem expensive, but Garry Glenn's idea of trading is very good. Many of the maps of our area are often free from State Chambers of Commerce and Interstate roadside information stops. Get some of these, making sure that counties are clearly indicated, and trade them to correspondents from other countries for their maps. If they can indicate mineral sites on their maps, great, but if not, they can send general maps that are helpful too. One suggestion, though, please request maps with indexes and subdivisions. Many European maps I have encountered are strictly road maps, listing major highways, without counties or departments, and often without an index. These maps are almost useless for locality hunters. If you lack friends in other countries, or spending some money is not a problem, try specialty book stores that feature maps and travel books. The Globe Corner Bookstore in Boston and Cambridge is one of these travel book shops.

It is probably good for you to learn a foreign language, but for people with limited time, I recommend another book, The International Mineral Handbook: A Multilingual Reference Directory for Mineral Collectors by Sande H. Zirlin (Garnet Books Unlimited, NY, 1981). This inexpensive paperback (I paid \$7.95) covers the major mineral species in twelve languages (English, German, Chinese, Italian, Portugese, Swedish, Spanish, Russian, Norwegian, Dutch, Japanese, and French). It also includes geological and mineralogical terms in the twelve language breakdown and a primary and secondary bibliography.

And finally, if you have your collection listed on a computer, print out an alphabetized listing of your localities and keep it in a ring binder near your cataloguing set-up. You will save yourself lots of time by having your references handy so you don't have to try and remember every listing or turn the computer on to refresh your memory. As your collection grows and the list expands and gets more finely tuned, you should generate newer print-outs. If you don't have a computer listing, try a card index of localities. There's little point in repeating all the effort you've done in previously pinpointing a locality every time you catalog a specimen with a less than complete locality listing.

These are just a few suggestions that came to mind as I read Mr. Glenn's article. Don't get discouraged working on your own mineral version of "Where in the World...". It has sometimes taken me up to ten references (books, maps, gazetteers, atlases, Dana's seventh edition, state and country mineral guides, etc.) to find an obscure place, and some have still eluded my search. Good luck!