



“Crystallized Mineral Specimens from the Fissure Vein Type Copper Deposits of Keweenaw County, Michigan”

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Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter

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ABSTRACT

Copper mining has been the economic and cultural lifeblood of Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula for nearly 200 years, as well as source of countless fine mineral specimens which grace museums and private collections around the world. Due to a combination of favorable geology and a rich history of human exploration including the first true mining rush in the history of the United States, the “Copper Country” was incredibly prolific both in paying stock dividends and yielding world-class mineral specimens. The northern tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula, comprising Keweenaw County, is a wild and rugged place and was one of the first areas where large scale copper mining was employed in the early to mid-19th century. Mines such as the Phoenix, Copper Falls, Cliff, and Central not only helped power America’s industrial revolution, but yielded a bounty of crystallized mineral specimens. Some of the world’s finest examples of crystallized copper, silver, and calcite with copper inclusions were produced over a nearly 150-year period of continuous mining activity. Additionally, superb examples of other minerals including analcime, fluorapophyllite, prehnite, and rare copper arsenide minerals were found, along with unique nodules of datolite and pumpellyite which yield beautiful lapidary objects. This talk will provide an overview of the fabulous crystallized mineral specimens from Keweenaw County and the rich human history associated with them.

SPEAKER BIO:

Phil Persson is a geologist, mineral dealer, and collector living on the west side of Denver, Colorado. His passion for geology and mineral collecting began as a child living near the "Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World", Franklin New Jersey, and eventually led to a BA in geology from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2012 and an MSc. in economic geology with a focus on geochemistry and petrology at the Colorado School of Mines in 2017. He has been a co-author and collaborator on numerous scientific papers, abstracts and magazine articles on mineralogy and geology, with a focus on rare earth element minerals and pegmatites of Colorado. He enjoys public speaking and has given dozens of talks for mineral clubs and events, as well as helped organize several scientific symposia in Colorado. He has been involved in the mineral dealing and collecting community for close to 20 years and is currently employed full-time as a mineral dealer in the Denver, Colorado area.

