

NOTICES

Friends of Mineralogy Symposium

The Friends of Mineralogy, Northwest Chapter, will hold its 6th annual symposium, "Native Elements," on September 26-28, 1980, in Bellevue, Washington. Six speakers, including Peter Bancroft, Richard Kosnar, and Jack Murphy, are planned, and 15-20 non-competitive educational displays of native minerals will be exhibited. Three well-known dealers will be represented in addition to the mineral auction, trading sessions, and the microscope workshop. For further information, contact:

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Mineral resources of The American Museum of Natural History

Historically, the mineral collection at the AMNH has been one of the largest and most significant ones in the world, an important source of research specimens, an archive of mineral deposits, and repository of fine display specimens. Recent developments in the rejuvenated Department of Mineral Sciences are worthy of the attention and response of the mineralogical community.

(1) The Columbia University Mineral Collection: The AMNH has recently acquired the vast (approx. 40,000 specimens) Columbia University systematic mineral collection. This resource represents the collecting of James Renwick, Thomas Egleston, Alfred Moses, Paul Kerr, and students and colleagues at Columbia for more than a century. The wide diversity of species and localities present in this collection are now available for serious requests of research samples, even while cataloging is in process. The Columbia collection and the extant AMNH collection comprise almost 100,000 mineral specimens, representing a large and valuable resource.

(2) Described specimens at AMNH: We are in the process of a complete inventory of the mineral collection (including the Columbia collection) in order to adequately understand its scope, improve its level of curation, and capture all of the relevant data for eventual computerization of the catalog. As part of this effort, we

are requesting all of those who have used AMNH (or Columbia) specimens in their published research to send us the pertinent data, including catalog number, mineral species, and locality, or/with a reprint of the relevant paper. Similarly, all outstanding loans of mineral specimens are requested to be returned if the research is completed. With this information, the collection will be a better resource for future study by the scientific community in general.

(3) Type specimen collection: As some researchers are aware, the AMNH is trying to enlarge and improve its type specimen collection by soliciting samples of newly described or redescribed species. While the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution) is the proper repository for type specimens within the United States, there is always the possibility of an accident which would result in the loss or alteration of a type specimen. Therefore, it is advisable to place samples of such type material in at least two, if not more, institutions that are equipped to adequately curate them. As the AMNH is a major institution with a type specimen collection, it is an appropriate supplemental repository for type material. The same can be said for described specimens.

We encourage the scientific community to take advantage of our collection as an important resource and to reciprocate by supplying us with information and material that will increase the collection's significance and value to society. Correspondence and material should be directed to: Dr. George E. Harlow, Department of Mineral Sciences, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY 10024.

Call for Papers

The Mineralogical Society of America, Friends of Mineralogy, and the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society are sponsoring a two-day Symposium on the Mineralogy of Pegmatites, to be held in Tucson, Arizona on February 15-16, 1981. Deadline for abstracts: October 1, 1980. Submit to: Richard A. Bideaux, General Chairman, 1144 W. Miracle Mile, Tucson, AZ 85705.