

# HUI PŌHAKU 'O HAWAI'I

## Rock & Mineral Society of Hawai'i, Inc.



VOLUME 43, NO. 4

FEBRUARY 2008

### CHINA MINERALS

Historically, there seems to be only one Chinese mineral: JADE. There is no other, as all other minerals simply a very distant afterthought, so much so that China and Jade are synonymous with each other. The distinction between Nephrite and Jadeite is a non-issue as both varieties have found their way to different parts of China. Jade, however, is not the only beautiful mineral found in China.

#### Jade

Nephrite is one of the two minerals called [jade](#). The other Jade mineral is Jadeite. Jade has been used for eons in China and Central America as ornamental and religious stones of deep significance. Although both types were used in the Americas, Nephrite Jade was the favorite in China. Nephrite is more abundant than Jadeite and has fewer color varieties, ranging only from creamy white to green, to black.

Jade (both Nephrite and Jadeite) is found either alluvially in the stream beds or mined in the mountains. Burmese Jadeite has traditionally found its way to the Chinese Jade markets where the rough has been sold alongside Chinese Nephrite rough. Usually small windows are cut out of the stone to give a clue to the quality and color of the Jade locked within the stone. However it is still a gamble because it could just be plain stone color, or it could be imperial green.



Imperial Green Jade, polished.

#### Chrysanthemum Stone

The Chrysanthemum Stone is a classic Chinese ornamental rock. The "Flower" (white part) is the crystals of Andalusite, an aluminian silicate. The matrix is limestone or basalt. Chrysanthemum stone was originally found in Liuyang, Hunan China. A new find in Hubei Province has been producing material where the flowers are larger and more complete, and the matrix is darker.

#### Pyrite

Pyrite (iron Sulfide) is the classic 'Fool's Gold'. The cubic pyrite crystals from the Wuxian, Guangxi area produce very interesting formations. They have a beautiful luster and interesting crystal shape.



Pyrite with Fluorite - Hunan, China

#### MEETING

Wednesday

February 27, 2008

7:00—9:00 pm

Makiki District

Park

“China Minerals”

#### NEXT MONTH

Wednesday

March 26, 2008

“Optic Minerals”

#### LAPIDARY

Classes on Thurs-

day

Evenings

7:00—9:00 pm

#### MEMBERSHIP

COSTS

2008

Single: \$10.00

Family: \$15.00

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## China Minerals, page 2

### Pietersite

Pietersite, a variety of tigers eye, in which the chatoyant red, blue, and gold are mixed together, producing a highly desirable gem material. Pietersite was previously found in a small area in Namibia, but a very similar material has been found near Nanyang, Henan in 1993. It is called 'Eagle's Eye' in China, due to the blue chatoyancy. Unfortunately, the mine is currently closed due to a ground water problem.

### Nantan Iron Meteorites

Nantan Iron Meteorites are composed of 92.4% Iron and 7% Nickel. The Nantan region has a unique distinction of having had a meteorite witnessed and recorded as early as 1516. 'During summertime in May of Jiajing 11th year, stars fell from the north-west direction, five to six fold long, waving like snakes and dragons. They were as bright as lightning and disappeared in seconds.' But it was not until China's "Great Leap Forward" program in 1958, when China needed lots of steel and everyone across China was smelting iron ore into steel that these rocks gained national prominence. The farmers in Nantan tried to smelt the iron rich rocks and found that their backyard steel factories would not melt these rocks, causing the government to start an investigation, which proved the "iron ore" to be iron meteorites. Further detailed mapping showed that the Nantan meteorites were distributed in an area of 27 - 28 Km long and 8 Km wide. Nantan meteorites range from 10 grams to 2,000 kg. An estimated 9,500 kg of meteorites have come from this area.

### Chinese Stibnite

Chinese Stibnite (Antimony Sulfide) can be found with fine crystal clusters and long curved (or straight) single crystals. Some slender, curved metallic blades of stibnite can resemble swords, the carving of the long

bladed crystals is due to twinning where one twin plane bends the crystal one direction and another twin plane bends it in the other direction. Stibnite's crystal clusters are admired for their distinctive look with dozens of bladed crystals jutting out in many divergent directions. The best stibnite specimens are coming from the Lushi and Henan provinces.

### Realgar

Realgar (Arsenic Sulfide) gets its name from the Arabic words for "powder of the mine" (rahj al ghar). Realgar can have a deep red color with amazing clarity and high luster. However Realgar's beauty is sometimes fleeting: it can be an unstable mineral and will alter into a different mineral, (pararealgar) and then eventually to a powder. The process takes time and is accelerated by exposure to light. Therefore specimens should be stored in dark, in enclosed containers, and only exposed to light for periods of time. There are ancient Chinese carvings of realgar, however they are badly affected by the deterioration. The deterioration of realgar was thought to produce the closely related yellow [orpiment](#), but this was recently proven to be false and the deterioration product is in fact yellow-orange pararealgar. The Shimen province in Hunan produces superb Realgar crystals



Realgar - Shimen, Hunan, China

## UPCOMING ROCK AND MINERAL SHOWS

**January 23-27**

**QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA**  
42nd annual show, "QIA Pow Wow"; Quartzsite Improvement Association; 235 E. Ironwood Dr.; Wed. 9-5, Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; more than 400 vendors, rocks, gems, minerals, beads, wire wrap supplies, jewelry, fossils, lapidary, field trips, displays, demonstrations; contact Diane Abbott, P.O. Box 881, Quartzsite, AZ 85346-0881, (928) 927-6325; e-mail: [powwow@qiaaz.org](mailto:powwow@qiaaz.org); Web site: [www.qiaaz.org](http://www.qiaaz.org).

**February 2-16**

**TUCSON, ARIZONA**  
Annual show, "Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; The Inn-Suites Hotel, 475 N. Granada; 10-6 daily, 10-5 last day; free admission; more than 400 dealers from all over the world, artists' gallery; free shuttle to other Zinn shows; contact Regina Aumente, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, (505) 867-0425; e-mail: [mz0955@aol.com](mailto:mz0955@aol.com); Web site: [www.mzexpos.com](http://www.mzexpos.com).

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## China Minerals, page 3

### Orpiment

Orpiment (Arsenic Sulfide) usually forms with Realgar. The masses are sometimes transparent and have a gemmy quality to them. The yellow color is special to Orpiment and can be confused with few other minerals. Orpiment is derived from the latin *auripigmentum*, or 'golden pigment'. Over time, orpiment will deteriorate into a powder. The process takes a long time, but exposure to light will accelerate it, and therefore specimens should be stored in dark, enclosed containers. Orpiment is being mined in Shimen, Hunan, China.



Orpiment - Hunan, China

### Cinnabar

Cinnabar (Mercury Sulfide) possesses a very red and stable color. Well shaped scarlet crystals have been coming from Hunan, China. Twinned crystals are considered classic for Cinnabar and form a penetration twin that is ridged with six ridges surrounding the point of a pyramid.

### Azurite

Azurite (copper carbonate hydroxide) a mineral which gets its name from the blue azure color. Azure is derived from the Arabic word for blue, which is due to the presence

of copper. Azurite has been used as a dye for paints and fabrics for eons. The Chinese variety of Azurite does not have the sparkling transparent formation of those found in Morocco; instead it is massive, forming in connected balls. Azurite can be found in the Shilu, Yangchun, and Guangdong provinces.



Azurite - Shi Lu Copper Mine, Guangdong, China

### Fluorite

Fluorite (Calcium Fluoride) from China has a very distinctive green octahedron and cubic formation. Vast quantities have been coming out of the Xianghualing Mine in Hunan. The Lingwu, Hunan mines have produced Fluorite mixed with Quartz, and Scheelite, whereas the Fluorite from Pingwu, Sichuan has Fluorite with Scheelite on Mica-dominant matrix.



Fluorite - Hunan Province, China

### **The Meta-physical Properties of Jade** By Jade Emory

Various cultures that are far apart from each other still surprisingly concur as to the metaphysical properties of jade. Asian cultures treasure inheriting Great-Auntie's or Uncle's jade jewelry because the love and mana of the wearer are supposed to remain infused in the gemstone. Native Americans concur, claiming that jade retains love in its center, and since we live in a world of contradictory vibrations, it is important to remain a loving person if one is to enjoy living in one's own head. American Indians further state that jade retains its own vibration, even when set in jewelry with other gems. This is a good lesson for people to emulate, instead of conforming to every fad and socially reinforced impulse that is not really one's own truth.

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## News and Notes, page 4

### DOOR PRIZES

Please note that we have instituted door prize drawings at our monthly meetings. Because of Hawaii's gambling laws, these drawings cannot be conducted in the common "raffle" format where tickets are sold. Rather, each *paid* member attending the meeting will receive a drawing ticket upon request. A voluntary donation of \$1.00 is requested and encouraged. Drawings will be conducted at the end of the meeting with available prizes awarded in random order. You must be present to win. Please remember: if you win a prize, please bring one to the next meeting. This helps to keep our drawings going. Thank you.

### MAHALO!

Many mahalos to everyone who came to our Christmas Potluck! The food was second only to the conversations. Special thanks to those who participated in the gift exchange. We certainly 'rocked' around the Christmas tree this year! Here is to a successful and prosperous 2008!

Ed Yamada, who was known for dropping off homemade California rolls, even when he did not stay for the meeting, is now living at the Hale Ho Aloha nursing home., 2670 Pacific Heights Drive, Honolulu, 96813. Phone 524-1955. Although he would probably appreciate any visit, please call ahead of time.

### NEWSLETTER COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS?

I am hoping to 'freshen up' the newsletter a bit., and would love your input! If there is anything that you would like to be added, taken away or changed around, please email me at [elise.thomasson@gmail.com](mailto:elise.thomasson@gmail.com) All comments would be appreciated.

### Rock & Mineral Society of Hawai'i, Inc.

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The Rock & Mineral Society meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except for adjusted dates in November and December) at the Makiki District Park, 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Enter from Keeaumoku Street. Parking is free but limited.

The Newsletter is published monthly, a week prior to the meetings and is distributed in electronic format by email (Adobe Acrobat PDF file attachment). Printed copies are "snail" mailed to those who do not have email. The electronic format usually contains full-color images; the print version may be limited to B&W due to reproduction costs.

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