HUI PŌHAKU 'O HAWAI'I
Rock & Mineral Society of Hawai'i, Inc.

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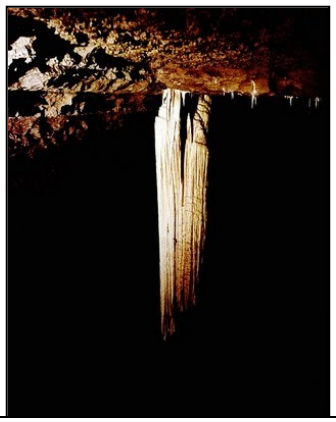
MINERAL ODDITIES

BY DEAN SAKABE

"Mineral Oddities" has been chosen as the last topic for 2010. So to begin, I shall start with lowly carbon. In the form of Graphite it is very soft, costs next to nothing, and is not desired by many people. However, in the form of Diamonds it is extremely hard, costs an arm and a leg, and is sought after by many, many people.

(1)Calcite, Elmwood, Tennessee

Calcite could also be considered as an oddity. Calcite specimens (1) from the Elmwood, Tennessee site are superb: large, honey colored dogtooth crystals. However, cave calcites come in an endless variety of shapes. Starting off, you have Stalactites (2) and Stalagmites, and when they meet, then they always become intriguing columns. There are flowstones, soda straws, cave pearls (3), and many other unusual shaped calcite crystals.



(2) Stalactite from Doolin Cave, Ireland

One odd thing (among the many others) which was discovered in caves is "Snotites." (4)
Snotties are rubbery white deposits which resemble stalactites. They have the texture of mucous, and get this: they drip sulphuric acid.

(3) Cave Pearls, Diamond Caverns, Kentucky

MEETING
Wednesday
November 17
6:15-8:00 pm
Makiki District Park Administration Building

XMAS POTLUCK!
Friday
December 3
6:15

LAPIDARY
Every Thursday
6:30-8:30pm
Second-floor Arts and Crafts Bldg
Makiki District Park

MEMBERSHIP DUE COSTS 2010

Single: $10.00
Family: $15.00

BE SURE TO COME TO OUR POLUCK DECEMBER 3! BRING A TREAT!

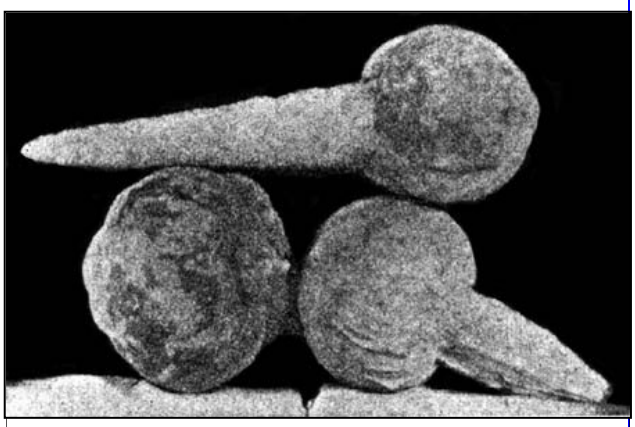
Snotites are actually colonies of diverse microbes that thrive in intense levels of atmospheric hydrogen sulphide within the cave located at Cueva de Villa Luz, in southern Mexico. They use the heat energy released from oxidization in the same way that plants use light for photosynthesis.

(4) Snotite, Cueva De Vila Luiz, Tabasco, Mexico

(5) Chinese Tiger

Another oddity, at least I call it an oddity, is the lucky images one happens to find in rocks. Theses are made up of inclusions within the stone that is uncovered when it is cut into. An example of this is an image of a tiger on Chinese marble(5). At least I think it was marble. The stone was in a shop in Chinatown, so I am assuming that it is Chinese marble. Other types of this odd ball formation are sort of like Keith's Agate Butt cheeks. This is a cut and polished geode which happened to have two botryoidal growths in it, which… well you can imagine what it resembles.

Sand Concretions found near Signal Mountain, Imperial Valley, Californina, are also called Sand Spikes (6).



(6) Sand Concretions, California

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The spikes are made of sandstone. However it is a mystery as to why these crystallized concretions have occurred in such odd shapes. Some are straight with knobby ends, whereas others care twisted into odd shapes.

Concretions are defined as a volume of sedimentary rock in which a mineral fills the spaces between the sedimentary grains. In other words, some kind of mineral acting like cement filing in spaces between sedimentary grains, Which grow into forms, in this case large nodules which weathered out in the beach. This particular sand concretion as the picture shows are large rocks placed onto the beach (7).

(7) Bowling Ball Beach, Mendicino County, California

There are many famous oddities:

Chrysantheum Stone(8) --A black and white rock, made up of Gypsum, Dolomite, and Limestone, with internal crystals of Calcite, Feldspar, Celestite or Andalusite, in patterns which resemble the Chrysanthemum flower (or star bursts or snowflake crystals). These stones have been found in China, Japan, and Washington State.

Staurolite (9) – No matter what anyone says, any rock that is also called "Fairy Cross" is an oddity. This metamorphic mineral is famous for its twinned crystals which form at right angles, into the shape of a cross. It more commonly forms in 60 degree angles to each other, but the 90 degree twins are more sought after.

(8) Chrysanthemum Stone, Hunan, China

((9) Staurolite, Kola Peninsula, Russia

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Moqui Marbles (10) – Interesting mineral, which is found mostly in the Navajo Sandtone formation in Utah. These are smooth, elliptical or round balls of compacted sandstone, which is encased in a shell of iron compounds. The word Moqui means "A dearly departed one" in the Hopi Indian language. The legend that surrounds these concretions is that the ancestors of the Hopi played games with these marbles in the evening, when the
spirits are allowed to visit the Earth. As the sun rises and they go back to the heavens,
they leave the marbles so their relatives know that they are happy and well.

(10) Moqui Marbles, Utah

Boji stones (11) -- some of the most fascinating and oldest stones found. These stones are often referred to as stones of humanity. They are primarily made up of pyrite, which gives them their blackish brown color and found in flat and spherical shapes. Boji Stones can also come in rainbow colors. Boji Stones have a hardness rating of 7. In the marketplace, Boji stones are normally sold as a pair. One a female stone and the other is a male stone. The smooth stones are female, whereas the rough stones are male.

Glendonte (12)– This Calcium pseudomorph after Ikaite, gets it unusual name from Glendon, Australia, where it was originally found. Ikaite, a hydrated form of calcite, forms as early stage calcium carbonate precipitate in cold water environment. There are large crystal formations in the Ikkafjord reef off the southwestern coast of Greenland. Some of these crystals reach 1 meter in length.

(11) Boji Stones

(12) Glendonite, Kola Peninsula, Russia

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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.

WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE! LET'S GO LIKE IT!

HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/ROCK-AND-MINERAL-SOCIETY-OF-HAWAII/103902329673700?V=WALL&REF=SGM

MAHALO TO MARKUS FOR ESTABLISHING OUR *ROCK FACE*!

Quartz Sandstone from Chartres France

PARKING AT MAKIKI PARK

Parking along Keeamoku St. starts at 5:30
After that, good luck because it drops off really fast!

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, some days 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.

Any newsletter comments are appreciated, and can be sent to elise.thomasson@gmail.com

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