



SPHERICAL MINERALS

BY DEAN SAKABE

This month we are highlighting "Spherical Minerals". So as is my custom, I am stretching this by not limiting the minerals to minerals with a spherical crystal structure, but any mineral which ends up in a spherical specimen. However this is not to include the Chinese Pyrite balls which we obtained at one time, as these were probably "manufactured" by taking loose pyrite crystals and packing them in baseball sized clay.

Okenite (1) is a prime example of what we are looking for. The thin, straight, and radiating crystals frequently forms "cottonball" clusters. These clusters make very attractive specimens and often accompany other minerals such as apophyllite and many other zeolites. Some volcanic bubbles called vesicles can be lined with tufts of okenite, these are sometimes called "Okenite Geodes".



(1) Okenite with Calcite
Poona, Maharashtra State, India

Speaking of Geodes. These can be spherical. However they are not a single mineral. At best there are composed of two minerals. One mineral on the outside, which formed the bubble. Then another mineral which crystallized inside the geode. This can be calcite, quartz, chalcedony, celestite, or any combination of these.

Flourites (2) are normally cubic. However in China and India, there were finds of Fluorite in a spherical form. They came in various colors and associated with other Calcites and Quartz's.



(2) Flourite on Quartz Mahodari, India

Diamonds (3) are not usually thought of a spherical. Again there is always the exception. Ballas Diamonds are naturally spherical, these rare diamonds are found in Bahia, Brazil, the Premier Mine in South Africa, and the Urals, Russia.



(3) Diamond Paraguassu River District, Bahia, Brazil

MEETING

Wednesday

May 26

7:00—9:00 pm

Makiki District

Park

Administration

Building

NEXT MONTH

Wednesday

June 23, 2010

LAPIDARY

Every Thursday

7pm-9pm

Second-floor Arts

and Crafts Bldg

Makiki District

Park

MEMBERSHIP

COSTS

2008

Single: \$10.00

Family: \$15.00

Rock and Mineral Society of Hawai'i INC.

Pretty Poisonous Minerals, page 2



(4) Cavansite on Stilbite, Wagholi, Pune District, Maharashtra, India

Cavansite (4), a hydrated Calcium Vanadium Silicate is a very beautiful and rare mineral. It was discovered in the last 30 years and only in a few localities. The best crystals come from the zeolite quarries in Poona, India. Cavansite's crystal aggregates consist of spherical rosettes with jutting pointed crystals. It is a deep blue color, which stands out when perched onto of zeolites.

Mordenite, (5) a Hydrated Calcium Sodium Potassium Aluminum Silicate, has an odd mineral description. It is a rare member of the zeolite family, however it is found in more localities. Mordenite forms fine sprays of radial acicular crystal clusters that look like pin-cushions or snowballs. On top of other interesting and beautiful associated minerals, mordenite can be extremely striking.



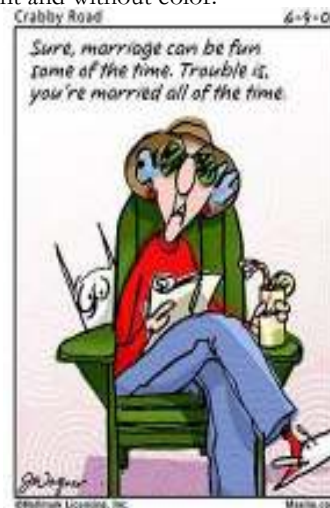
(5) Mordenite
Ahmadnagar District, Maharashtra, India

Prehnite, (6) this Calcium Aluminum Silicate Hydroxide, was named after its discoverer; Colonel Hendrik von Prehn. It is an attractive collection mineral that is occasionally used for ornamental stone purposes. Normally its color is green, although at times quite unique green. Typical prehnite forms rather thick crusts with a rough or crystalline texture. However, crystals can be found in cavities of igneous rocks



(6) Prehnite
Merelani Hills, Arusha Region, Tanzania

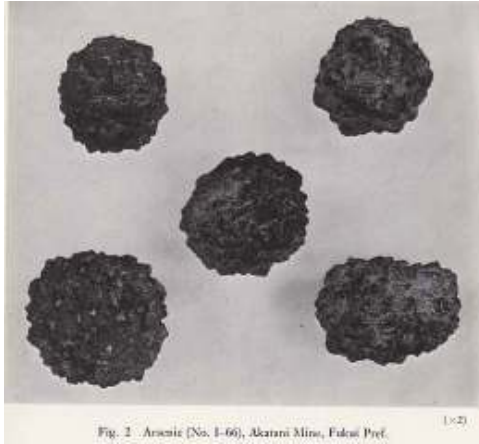
Stellerite, (7) this Hydrated calcium aluminum silicate, is the not so common cousin of Stilbite. The difference is that Stellerite has aluminum and Stilbite has silicon. Stellerite is found in rounded radiating clusters, it is usually more transparent and without color.



(7) Stellerite
Sarbaiskoe Deposit, Oostaney Oblvsy, Kazakhstan

Rock and Mineral Society of Hawai'i INC.

Pretty Poisonous Minerals, page 3



(8) Arsenic
Akatani Mine, Fukui Prefecture, Japan

Arsenic (8) from the Fukui Prefecture occurs in altered rhyolite and form globular masses of concentric and radial aggregates of rhombohedral crystals. They are dark grey in color, with metallic luster.

Orpiment, (9) this Arsenic Sulfide from Aomori occurs around volcanic fissures as sublimate minerals. These specimens form in grey to yellowish grey radial aggregates



(9) Orpiment
Osore Mountain, Aomori Prefecture, Japan

Siliceous Oolite (10) is a sedimentary rock formed from spherical grains composed of concentric layers. The name derives from the Hellenic word "ooion" for egg. It is written that oolites consist of ooids or diameters of 0.25 to 2 mm. If they become larger than 2 mm they are called

pisolites. Oolites are used in the home aquariums, where the small grain size is ideal for shallow static beds and bottom covering. It is also known as "oolitic" sand, where the fine round grains pass easily through the gills of fish. More importantly the smooth sand promotes the growth of bacteria, which is important biofilters in home aquariums. The oolites from Tateyana are predominately Siliceous and occur in oolitic aggregates of transparent spherulites in the hot springs.



Realgar (6)
Jiepaiyu Mine, Shimen Co, Hunan Province, China

Rock and Mineral Society of Hawai'i INC.

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.

WE HAVE A WEBSITE!

http://pohakugalore.net/Hui_pohaku/Hiu_pohaku_1.html

MAHALO TO MARKUS FOR HELPING US GET OUT OF THE ELECTRONIC STONE AGE!

THE METAPHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF ROUND MINERALS BY JADE EMORY

Recently, I was on Ocean View Drive in Kaimuki photographing a 100-year-old home made out of rocks with a round Victorian turret. A construction worker came over to see what I was doing and I explained how I loved turrets, and I wished my new home would have one for the bedroom because it is like sleeping in a tipi but without the walls coming in on you from the sides. He said he understood completely because he is Native American and he was raised with cultural teachings about the sacredness of the circle.

One of the most powerful experiences I ever had years ago was when a friend in New Mexico from Cochiti Pueblo outside of Santa Fe took me to a sacred "Kiva", a place of worship like an American Indian church, situated completely underground. When we arrived, my mind was blown. The Kiva was totally round, with long wood "vegas" comprising the roof and a painting of a sacred serpent along the entire circle of the walls. Having been initiated into an East Indian meditation path that refers to the "coiled serpent" of the kundalini at the base of the spine, I marveled at how different cultures so far apart had the exact same understanding of spiritual symbolism.

A round rock is a sacred circle externalized in all directions. Where a quartz crystal has yang energy pointing outward, a sacred circle has yin energy pointing inward. All over the world, the sanctity of the sacred geometry of the circle is recognized. Even when we shape other stones into spheres, into round beads, we are bringing the mana of those stones inward to our bodies. In Asian cultures many people wear a jade "Pi", a circle, like a donut with a hole in the center, representing eternal life. Jade Pi discs were used by Chinese Emperors to communicate with Heaven. They are considered a symbol of moral integrity.

Rock & Mineral Society of Hawai'i, Inc.

2008 Officers

President

Faye Chambers
621-6710
cateyes@hawaii.rr.com

Vice President/Admin.

Ed Sawada

Vice President/Lapidary

Dean Sakabe
535-5012 (day)
625-2671 (eve.)
dsakabe@verizonngni.com

Treasurer

Debbie Iijima
539-4552 (day)

Newsletter Editor

Elise Thomasson
elise.thomasson@gmail.com

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

© Rock & Mineral Society of
Hawai'i, Inc.
P.O. Box 23020
Honolulu, HI 96823-3020

HUI PŌHAKU 'Ō HAWAII 
Rock & Mineral Society of Hawaii, Inc.

P.O. Box 23020
Honolulu, HI 96823-3020