



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

Pennsylvania Chapter

NEWSLETTER

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FAREWELL MESSAGE

The Fall Symposium

The Fall Symposium, which certainly rated a 9 on a scale of 10, is now history. Congratulations to Chairman George Buchanan and many thanks to Dr. Seymour Greenberg, Chairman of the Department of Geology at West Chester State University.

The variety of workshops provided at the Friday night session were very well attended. Dr. Arthur Smith demonstrated the electron microscope and microprobe recently donated to the University; Dr. Seymour Greenberg and several students illustrated several means of mineral identification; George Buchanan discussed his display of mineral photography equipment; and Jay Lininger provided information on how to obtain and search for old or lost Pennsylvania mineral localities. Then everyone gathered together for the program on "What's New in Pennsylvania Mineralogy." Bryon Brookmyer and George Buchanan persuaded everyone present to share their collecting experiences of the last year. During the evening, refreshments, organized by Bill Yocom and Juliet Reed, were available, and there was an opportunity to visit with friends, browse through the generous number of giveaways, and look over the Pennsylvania mineral publications for sale.

Members and friends had the opportunity, both Friday night and Saturday, to view several cases of fine mineral specimens selected by Bill Yocom, Curator of the University mineral collections. Featured were specimens from the collection of Hugh McKinstry, West Chester, well-known mineralogist and exploration geologist, as well as from several old collections rich in Pennsylvania minerals.

Once again, members and guests were given a fine program book, assembled and designed by Jay Lininger. Included in this collector's item, the latest in the series on "Locations, Museums, and More," are several articles, dating back to 1895, by Charles H. Pennypacker, from the rare Mineral Collector magazine. Also included is a "Tribute to Hugh Exton McKinstry," the geologist whose minerals were featured in the exhibits arranged by Bill Yocom.

Henry Decker, who did a fine job as registrar, greeted the audience as they arrived for the Saturday program, at which a welcome was extended by Dr. Seymour Greenberg. The Chapter is very grateful to the University for allowing us to use the facilities, and to Dr. Greenberg for his cooperation and hospitality.

Dr. John Way, of the Pennsylvania Geological Survey, led off with an informative talk based on the recently published large-scale chart, of which he is co-author, which shows all the rock units of Pennsylvania. His topic, "Stratigraphic Correlations of Mineral Occurrences in the Valley and Ridge Province of Pennsylvania," drew many questions from the audience.

FAREWELL MESSAGE (cont'd)

Roger Mitchell, recently geology graduate, then provided us with information on a number of obscure mineral localities in Delaware and Chester Counties. He was also our guide for the Sunday field trip that took us to the Poorhouse Quarry, the railroad cut at Embreeville, and the old Baer garnet locality on Green Creek.

Bill Lorah, another locality expert, kicked off the afternoon session with some good advice on what and where to collect at the East-on serpentine localities. The final speaker for the day was Sam Berkeiser, economic geologist for the Pennsylvania Survey. We owe a special "thank you" to Sam, who filled in for Joe Peters, of the American Museum of Natural History, who was unable to be with us due to ill health. Sam's topic, "The Pennsylvania Slate Industry," drew many questions from an audience which had been unaware of how healthy this historical industry is at the present time. We look forward to having both Joe and Sam with us at a future Symposium.

During the annual Chapter meeting, held after the talks, candidates for re-election to the Board of Directors were presented to the membership. Chosen for another term were Directors George Rambo, Del Oswald, Edward Carper, and Bill Lorah, who have all served the Chapter very faithfully.

Marge and Vince Matula, Membership Chairmen, reported that we had at that time 118 members in good standing. The few members who are in arrears for their 1984 dues are asked to bring them up to date. By the way, the Chapter dues are being increased, from \$5.00 to \$7.00, effective January 1, 1985. Remember to pay your dues direct to this Chapter, as the Matulas will forward the proper amount to the Friends of Mineralogy Treasurer, thus saving you a stamp.

Tom O'Neil, Chapter Treasurer, reports that we are in a good financial position, with a portion of the Chapter funds held in a checking account for the payment of bills, and the balance earning good interest in a savings account. The Memorial Fund, with \$2100 in its special account, has reached a level where it is almost self-sustaining. Bryon Brookmyer, Chairman of the Fund Committee, reported that information has been sent out to several schools this year, but at this time no responses have been received. Please publicize this project at your local geology departments.

Regarding new business, the subject of a mineral identification program, to be supported by the Chapter, was discussed. A procedure was outlined to the membership whereby a mineral could be submitted to a screening committee for study and identification. If still unidentified, the sample could be sent out to yet another study group. It was decided that the Board of Directors should further evaluate the proposal and present the results to the membership at a later date.

Following the meeting, the annual mineral auction began, with Bryon Brookmyer, auctioneer, doing an excellent job of getting the most value out of a large number of donated specimens, by keeping the crowd awake with his witty comments. The auction proceeds, to be added to the Chapter Treasury, amounted to the very tidy sum of \$489.00.

As in the past, the auction took us right up to the banquet hour, when the group convened at a room in the University dining hall to enjoy the excellent food. After dinner, our guest speaker, Dr. John Green, a professor at the University of Connecticut, presented us with a fascinating talk on "The Science of Minerals in the Age of Jefferson."

FAREWELL MESSAGE cont'd)

Although the Sunday field trip group, led by Roger Mitchell encountered chilly showers, the weather did not appear to dampen the enthusiasm of the members and friends who braved the elements during the Chester County tour.

Board of Directors' Meeting

After the general membership meeting on the Saturday afternoon of the Symposium, the Board of Directors held a short meeting. Priority was given to the election of a new Chapter President, George Buchanan, and a Vice President, Jay Lininger. Our congratulations and thanks go to both new officers. George Buchanan will search for a new secretary to fill the shoes of Kate Myers, who is unable to attend meetings at this time. Many thanks to her and to our Treasurer, whom we are delighted to report will continue on in this responsible position. We are very fortunate to have someone of Tom's talents handling our funds in such an honest and businesslike way.

The subject of a mineral identification program was discussed, and will be studied and tabled until the Spring Conference meeting.

A Final Message

This concludes my tenure as President of the Chapter. I wish to thank everyone, including the officers, the Board of Directors, Chairmen and other members for all their help during my terms in office. I am appreciative and grateful to all those who continue to uphold the goals and traditions of the Friends of Mineralogy.

I ask that the entire membership support George Buchanan, our new President, and his Vice-President, Jay Lininger, by offering suggestions and assistance for the continued progress of the Chapter and the Friends of Mineralogy. Regards to all.

Don Schmerling

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let me begin with a few short notes. Tentative plans, including Don Schmerling's idea about the Dillsburg Iron Mines area, are being discussed for the Spring Conference. I will keep you informed through the Newsletter as plans develop.

After running the Fall Symposium for two years, I feel that it is a little too much for one person to handle efficiently. Therefore, I will be seeking a Co-Chairman among the membership.

Our Chapter has been asked by Dr. Seymour Greenberg to consider providing seed funds to assist West Chester State University in constructing permanent housing for the mineral collections. I'll be contacting Board members for feedback and suggestions.

I would like to wish the membership and our friends all the best for the holidays and a Happy New Year.

George Buchanan

NOTES, NEWS, AND VIEWSLost and Found

According to Chairman George Buchanan, someone left a pair of trifocal glasses (with grey plastic frames and a black Wall and Ochs case) in the lecture hall during the Symposium. Phone George at (215)-723-0727 to claim them.

Pa. Chapter Member Honored

Shippensburg State University recently honored mineral collector George Molnar at an October ceremony. Citing his contributions to local schools and colleges, as well as the University, the administration presented George with a walnut and engraved brass plaque.

Geology of the Philadelphia Area

The Franklin Institute, 20th & Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103, announces a course on local geology, to meet Mondays, February 25 to March 18, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., with a field trip on Saturday, March 18. Students will learn from Dr. Steve Lonker about the rocks and minerals, geologic structures, and events and processes that shaped the geology of the Philadelphia area. The course will cover the topics of principles of geology, geologic history, and mineral deposits of the area, as well as geologic hazards in the Philadelphia area, such as landslides, sinkholes, and earthquakes. No previous scientific training is required. Total cost for the course is \$35, based on a 30-member group (parking at the Franklin Institute is free to participants). The last day for registration is February 18. For information, and to register, call (215)-448-1286.

A Mineral Identification Tool

Dr. Arnold Fainberg, a retired chemist and Chapter member, has installed an infra-red spectroscopy unit in his home. He is offering mineral identifications to the mineralogical community at a nominal fee (\$6.00 per identified species). The technique may be applied to the 95% plus mineral species which possess co-valent atomic bonding. The minimum sample size is only 1 milligram, about the size of a grain of sand. Dr. Fainberg will be glad to supply details of a service he hopes will prove very useful to collectors and professionals alike. He may be reached at his home (598 N. Prince Frederick St., King of Prussia, PA 19406) by mail, or by phone at (215)-265-5318.

Pennsylvania Mineralogy Books Sent to China

Joseph Harrison, President, and Dr. Arnold Fainberg, Secretary, of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society, recently sent a set of Pennsylvania mineralogical books, including several published by the Pa. Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy, to the Tianjin Scientific Delegation, which visited Philadelphia this fall. The gift was made in the hope of establishing contact with a Chinese group of similar mineralogical interests.

NOTES, NEWS, AND VIEWSNew Pennsylvania Mineralogy Book

The Mineralogical Society of Pennsylvania has announced publication of a new book, Highlights on the Life of Charles M. Wheatley, by F. Harold Evans, Doylestown mineral collector and historian. This 48-page volume on the "famous Chester County, Pennsylvania, mine operator, mineralogist, palaeontologist, naturalist, conchologist, and copper metallurgist," with Foreword and Appendix by geologist Dr. Allen V. Heyl, was sponsored by Jay and Paula Lininger, who are responsible for the book design and type-setting. In addition to the biographical story, there are portraits of Wheatley, sketches of old mines as well as maps and cross-sections, extensive references (both historical and geological), and data on several mines, including up-to-date mineral lists. The cover of the 8½ x 11" paper-back is the blue-green associated with many copper minerals.

The co-sponsoring Mineralogical Society is distributing the book. Write the Society c/o Dr. Arnold Fainberg, 598 N. Prince Frederick St., King of Prussia, PA 19406 (\$2.00 ppd. for members and \$4.00 ppd. for others).

Editor's Note

The collaboration of three mineral collectors, one an internationally known geologist) is an example of how amateur-professional cooperation can benefit everyone interested in Pennsylvania mineralogy. The author of Highlights on the Life of Charles M. Wheatley, Harold Evans, is a serious student of local history as a background for his interest in minerals; Dr. Heyl, a collector since boyhood, is particularly known for his work in economic geology; and Jay Lininger has found that his talents as a bookdesigner compliment his interest in Pennsylvania minerals, historical localities, and mineralogical publications both old and new.

As in any properly prepared historical or scientific work, the reader should expect: (1) carefully researched facts, attributed to the sources in useful reference lists; (2) straightforward, readable prose; (3) a consistent style; and (4) a well-illustrated and designed book, neatly type-set and carefully proofread. All of this was made possible for this new book by the hard work of the major contributors and their family members, as well as by the time contributed by M.S.P. and F.M., Pa. Chapter, members for the tasks involved in editing and proof-reading.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Dues: Send \$7.00 (\$4.00 for members over 62) for 1985 dues to F.M. Pa. Chapter, c/o Marge and Vince Matula, 2110 Weaversville Rd. Allentown, PA 18103

New Member: George Makovetz, 481 Rittenhouse Blvd, Norristown, PA 19403

New Address: Louis and Geraldine Privoznik, 152 Gateshead Dr., McMurray, PA 15317

Officers: George Buchanan, 80 Beltz Rd., Telford, PA 18969, President
Jay Lininger, R.D. #3, Ridge Rd., Dillsburg, PA 17019, Vice-President

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