

# Mineral of the Month Club



## Platinum Letter July 2013 Featured Mineral- Celestine

Dear Platinum-Level Members,

For July, our Mineral of the Month is celestine, or strontium sulfate, from Sakoany in the Mitsinjo District, Boeny Region, on the northwestern coast of Madagascar, a large island 400 miles off Africa's east coast. The Sakoany locality is unusual in several respects. Sakoany's celestine geodes were only discovered in the mid-1960s and commercial digging began in 1967 after which Sakoany quickly gained recognition as a classic locality for celestine and as the world's leading source of fine celestine specimens.

Before the discovery of these celestine geodes, the 150 residents of Sakoany relied only on zebu cattle herding and subsistence agriculture for economic survival. But since 1970, the mining of celestine geodes has provided considerable additional income. Sakoany miners manually sink shafts as deep as 45 feet, then dig lateral workings to find celestine geodes. Mining is restricted to the dry season when flooding is not a problem. About half the residents of Sakoany are involved in some aspect of mining and selling celestine geodes. Sakoany is another example of how the commercial collecting of mineral specimens can have a positive economic impact in regions of developing nations around the world.

We have set aside for our Platinum Level members a number of Sakoany celestine specimens with unusual coloration, degree of crystal development, and size of individual crystals. We have sorted these specimens into three groups. All have the same general specimen size and show geodic structures, but vary considerably in visual appeal.

**Standing order option:** Some of you already use this option for the featured mineral and we would like to ensure that all platinum members are aware of this option. You can set up an *automatic, "standing-order" each month* for the featured mineral. Just let Christine know the size and quality of a particular specimen grade that fits with your collection, and we will set up an automatic, monthly, standing-order to be shipped to you.

Thank you from The Mineral of the Month Club Staff

# Featured Mineral- Celestine



**Group 1:** These specimens have very good crystal development; a delightful and delicate, pale-blue color; and a very slight degree of soft translucency.

**Specimen size:** 1" x 2" to 2" x 2.5"

**Price range:** \$25.00- \$45.00

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**Group2:** This group consists of larger individual crystals with more intense blue color, greater transparency, and larger individual-crystal size. These specimens make very nice display pieces.

**Specimen size:** 2" x 3"

**Price range:** \$50.00-\$75.00

# Featured Mineral- Celestine



**Group3:** This group includes our finest celestine specimens with intense blue colors, nearly perfect transparency, and the largest individual crystal size. Crystals exhibit exceptional development with sharp edges and glass-like faces, represent the best examples of Sakoany celestine, and make eye-catching display pieces.

**Specimen size:** 2" x 2" to 2.5" x 3.5"

**Price range:** \$75.00- \$90.00  
\$100.00- \$200.00

## **Further Information:**

**Discounts available:** If you order 4 or more minerals from the offer sheet you will receive a 10% discount.

**Ordering:** To place an order you can call #800-941-5594  
or email [christlne@celestialearthminerals.com](mailto:christlne@celestialearthminerals.com)

**Shipping:** As always, shipping is free in the United States.

**Specimen size:** All our specimens are approximate in size.

**Method of payment:** We accept, Visa, MasterCard, American Express and checks.

***Please make checks payable to Celestial Earth Stones.***

