

Mineral of the Month Club



October 2015

Featured Mineral Tincalconite

Our Mineral of the Month is Tincalconite, a rare, pseudomorphic borate from the huge evaporite-mineral deposit at Searles Lake, California. Located near Death Valley National Park, Searles Lake is a large Pleistocene Epoch sink (an intermittent lake with no outlet) that originated with glacial runoff from the southern Sierra Nevada. Water carries dissolved ions into the lake basin but not out as the water leaves through evaporation and left behind are salt flats or playas, mineral deposits of halite, tincalconite and hanksite.

Tincalconite, or basic hydrous sodium borate, forms either as an alteration product of preexisting borate minerals or as a direct precipitate; it is usually quite pure and snow-white in color. It is a low-temperature, low-pressure mineral that occurs in sedimentary layers that underlie sinks in arid regions. Tincalconite most often forms from the dehydration of borax and usually exists as pseudomorphs after borax.

Our platinum level specimens of tincalconite from Searles Lake are pseudomorphs that perfectly replicate the external shape of the original borax crystals. We have divided the specimens into three groups. While the specimens in each group are snow-white and opaque, they differ in overall specimen size, the complexity of their crystal structures, and their associations with crystals of borax and hanksite. Searles Lake is the place where hanksite was first described and where it is the most common in the entire world.

We hope that you love these specimens as much as we do.

Please email or call Christine to place your orders at christine@celestialearthminerals.com
phone #800-941-5594.

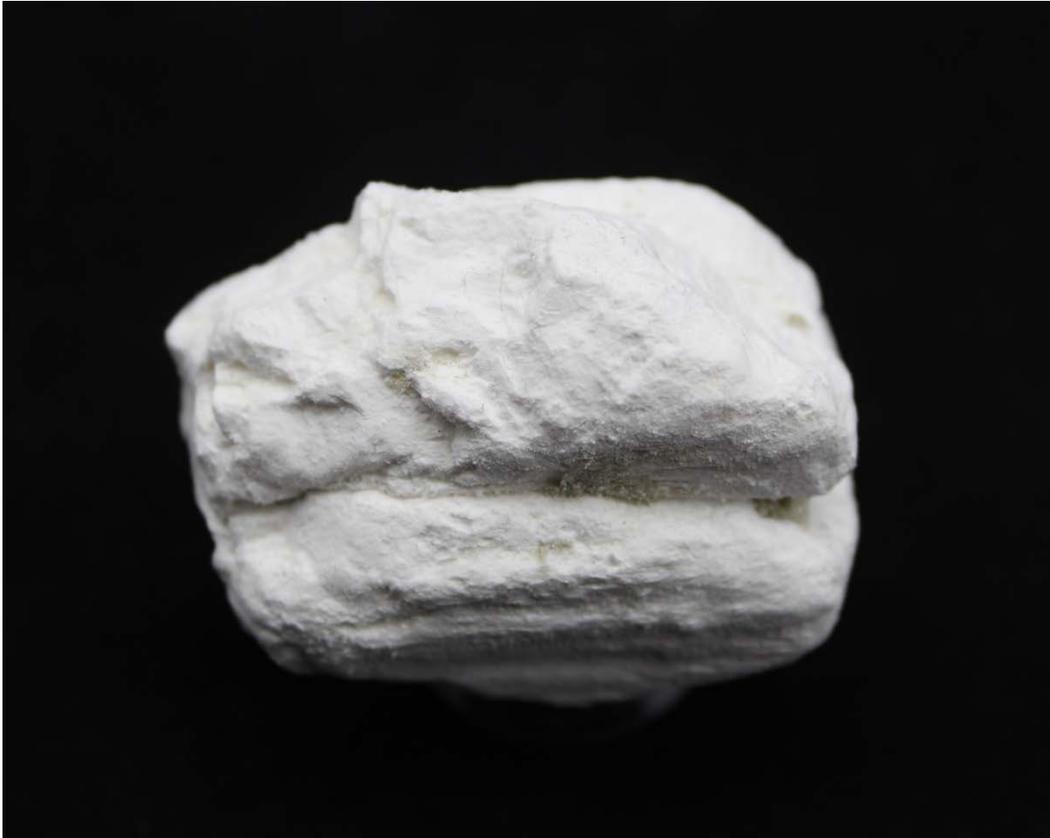
Many Blessings,

Dimitri, Mary, Christine, and Lora

Featured Mineral

Tincalconite

Group 1



Specimen Sizes: 1" x 2" to 2.5" x 3.5" **Price Range:** \$20.00- \$55.00

These are large pseudomorphic specimens of tincalconite in the shape of the original blocky, monoclinic borax crystals. Each specimen exhibits six to eight, smooth crystal faces with occasional or minor association of crystals of borax and hanksite.

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Tincalconite

Group 2



Specimen sizes: 1.5" x 2.5" to 2.5" x 3.5" **Price range:** \$25.00- \$85.00

This group of pseudomorphic tincalconite-after-borax specimens exhibit ten or more crystal faces. All of these specimens are associated with small, colorless crystals of unaltered borax or pale-green hanksite.

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Tincalconite

Group 3



Specimen sizes: 1.5" x 2.25" to 2.5" x 3.5" **Price range:** \$50.00- \$125.00

This group includes the largest and more structurally complex crystals of tincalconite after borax. There are also larger individual colorless crystals of unaltered borax or pale-green hanksite. Because of the exceptional development of the associated hanksite crystals, these specimens are classified as composites.

Further Information

Coming in November



November's featured mineral will be a composite specimen of pale green fluorite with gray calcite from China's Xianghualing Mine.

We love to hear from our members, so please call or email anytime!

Discounts available: If you order 4 or more minerals from the Featured Mineral letter and/or the Offering sheet you will receive a 10% discount on your mineral purchase.

Ordering: To place an order you can call #800-941-5594 or email 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, Discover, PayPal and checks.

Please make checks payable to Celestial Earth Stones.

