

Mineral of the Month Club Newsletter

May 2016



Featured Mineral: Our May Mineral of the Month, the Tessin variety of quartz, is from Peru's Pachapaqui mining district. At an elevation of roughly 13,000 feet, Pachapaqui is one of the world's highest mining districts. The Tessin variety is a rare form of quartz is named for a locality in Tessin (Ticino), Switzerland, where it was first found and studied. Unlike most quartz crystals that have parallel, prismatic faces with simple, line-type, transverse striations, those of Tessin quartz taper from the base toward the termination and exhibit a distinctive, mosaic-like striation pattern.

Over the years we have featured quartz at Mineral of the Month Club, and each time it was in a different color, crystalline structure, or crystal habit. Quartz occurs in an unusually wide variety of colors and forms because it is very abundant and is found in every mineralogical environment and virtually every type of rock; it occurs in two radically different crystalline forms, macrocrystalline and microcrystalline; it develops in many conditions of pressure, temperature, and chemistry, all of which modify its crystal form; and accessory elements, inclusions, and coatings produce a rainbow of colors and various optical effects. Be sure to read the special section of our write-up titled "Quartz: Many Colors, Many Forms," which discusses in detail the origins of the many types of quartz.

A reminder that each month the featured mineral is available to purchase in larger sizes and can be found in the "Featured Mineral Platinum Letter" which has photos, sizing and pricing information. The Featured Mineral Platinum Letter can be found in the monthly email that goes out to all members. If you do not have a computer we can mail it to you, just let Christine know.

Rock Hound Tidbits: On pages 6-8 of this month's write-up is section called **Quartz: Many Colors, Many Forms** that explains the 4 basic reasons that quartz forms in more varieties, subvarieties, habits, forms, and colors than any other mineral.

Behind the Scenes: Our Etsy shop will be celebrating its one year anniversary in June and my oh my, has it grown! www.etsy.com/shop/CelestialEarth7

Memberships: Welcome to Bob Y. California, Karen C. from Georgia, June A. from Ohio, Matthew N. from Canada. A warm thank you to all our other members who renewed for yet another year!

Coming in June: Our Mineral of the Month for June will be fluorapatite, or calcium fluorophosphate, from the Cerro de Mercado iron mine in Durango, Mexico. Cerro de Mercado is a classic locality for fluorapatite and our specimens consist of transparent, yellow crystals in the form of hexagonal, terminated prisms. In July, we will feature almandine from Brazil. Almandine, a garnet-group mineral, forms deep-red, crystallizes in the cubic system as well-developed, dodecahedral and trapezohedral forms. In August, members will receive composite specimens of the aquamarine variety of beryl and the tourmaline-group mineral schorl from Namibia.

With **Mother's Day** coming up in May, and **Father's Day** and **graduation celebrations** right around the corner in June, we would like to remind everyone that our gift-membership program enables Club members who purchase gift memberships for family or friends to receive an additional month free-of-charge on their own memberships. A gift membership in the Mineral of the Month Club is an educational and enjoyable gift that will be remembered throughout the year.

We Are Here For You: We are here for you and all your collecting needs. If you have any questions please contact Christine or Lora at the office, by telephone at #1-800-941-5594 or via e-mail at christine@celestialearthminerals.com or Lora@celestialearthminerals.com

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