

Mineral of the Month Club Newsletter

November 2016



Featured Mineral: Our November Mineral of the Month is pyrite, or iron disulfide, from Peru's Huanzala Mine. While pyrite is most familiar in the form of cubic crystals, it actually occurs in many different habits. Our previous forms of pyrite have included octahedral and cubic crystals, along with iridescent, "rainbow" pyrite. This month's specimens consist of clusters of lustrous, striated pyritohedrons.

The Huanzala Mine is 155 miles north-northeast of the Peruvian national capital of Lima. The mine and its tiny company town of Huanzala are seven miles west of the town of Huallanca at an elevation of 12,000 feet. Huanzala, a classic locality for pyrite, has yielded more mineral specimens, based on tonnage, than any other mine in the world. Most of these specimens are of pyrite. In the late 1960s and 1970s, the huge, steady supply of Huanzala pyrite was vital to the development of Peru's mineral-specimen industry. Three of the four major habits of pyrite—cubic, octahedral, and dodecahedral (pentagonal-pyritohedral)—occur at Huanzala.

A reminder: You can also purchase the featured mineral that is available in larger sizes that can be found in the "Featured Mineral Platinum Letter" which has all the 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 Tid Bits: The special section of this month's write-up discusses pyrite's different crystal forms. On the bottom of page 7 you will see the heading, PYRITE: FROM CUBES TO PYRITOHEDRONS and it continues through page 8. If pyrite had only a single-sulfur anion, it would only have formed cubic crystals. But pyrite's double-sulfur anion modifies its basic cubic symmetry, enabling it to also occur in tetrahedral, octahedral, and dodecahedral habits. The special section of our write-up defines and describes each of pyrite's four major crystal habits as well as some of pyrite's concretionary and nodular forms.

Sale: We are starting our traditional end-of-the-year sale early so that our members can make full use of it for the holidays. From now through December 31, Club members will receive a 10-percent discount on all of the previous monthly offerings for 2016. Just email Christine or Lora with your requests. This is a wonderful opportunity to acquire specimens that you may have missed during the year.

Social Media: Visit our Pinterest, Instagram, and Facebook accounts. In the Pinterest account we have folders that show previous and upcoming featured mineral as well as mineral and nature folders. On Instagram and Facebook we post fun information on mineral collecting as well as posts on minerals and upcoming featured minerals. **Pinterest:** celestiaearth, **Instagram:** celestiaearth **Facebook:** Mineral Crew and Celestial Earth Minerals

Memberships: A warm welcome to our new member Joan G. from sunny California and thank you to all our members who renewed for yet another year!

Gift Giving: As the holiday season approaches, keep in mind that a membership in the Mineral of the Month Club is a unique educational gift that is perfectly suited for anyone with mineral-related or Earth-science interests, from students and beginning mineral collectors to advanced collectors seeking fine specimens. And with two levels to choose from, a gift membership will suit all budgets. A Mineral of the Month Club gift membership will be remembered throughout the year with the delivery of each monthly mineral specimen. And as a bonus, all Club members who purchase gift memberships will receive an additional month free of charge on their own memberships.

Coming in December: You will be receiving, diopase, a brilliantly colored, emerald-green hydrous copper silicate from Namibia's Kaoveld Plateau.

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 info@celestiaearthminerals.com.

Don't forget to utilize our extensive, on-line, informational resources and library on the Celestial Earth Minerals website (www.celestiaearthminerals.com), which is also home to the Mineral of the Month Club. There are membership-renewal services, listings of monthly offerings, a reading library as well as member only access to all of the write-ups we have from 1996 to present. To set up access to the write-ups on line contact us and we will set up your account.