

Mineral of the Month Club Newsletter

December 2016



Featured Mineral:

Looking back at the year 2016, our Minerals of the Month have included five silicates, two carbonates, a halide, a sulfate, a sulfide, a vanadate, and a phosphate. Three of these specimens were from Mexico; two each from Peru, Namibia, Brazil, and the United States (California and Colorado); and one from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We are closing out the year with a silicate mineral from Africa—*diopside*, a brilliantly colored, emerald-green hydrous copper silicate. Our specimens were collected at the Omaue Mine on Namibia's Kaokoveld Plateau and consist of bright-green diopside crystals on a matrix of massive, gray quartz. Namibia is one of the world's least populous nations; although nearly as large as the American state of Pennsylvania, its population is only 88,000. The Kaokoveld Plateau, one of southern Africa's wildest and least-developed areas, is a region of low mountains covered with sparse grass and dwarf trees where nomadic tribes tend herds of cattle, sheep, and goats, or engage in subsistence farming. The Omaue Mine is part of Camp Aussicht, a small guest lodge on an unpaved road that serves as a regional highway. German entrepreneurs acquired the property in the early 1980s; today, they still operate the lodge and conduct limited mining operations for mineral specimens.

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 our write-up is entitled, Namibia: Land of Mineral Specimens is on pages 7 and 8 which focus on Namibia as a major source of mineral specimens. Although it has relatively few collecting localities, Namibia has great mineral diversity. Its most famous locality is the legendary Tsumeb Mine, a multimetal deposit first mined by German colonists in 1905. Another notable source of specimens is the Kombat Mine. The Namibian

government is currently restructuring the specimen-mining business sector by aiding miners' marketing efforts and establishing domestic cutting-and-polishing facilities. Our write-up also discusses Namibia's diamond-mining industry.

Sale: Our traditional, end-of-the-year sale will continue until December 31. This is an opportunity to acquire specimens at bargain prices that you may have missed during the year. Club members will receive a 10-percent discount on all our 2016 monthly offers that remain in stock.

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:** celestialearth, **Instagram:** celestialearth **Facebook:** Mineral Crew and Celestial Earth Minerals

Memberships: A warm welcome to our new member Aaron L. from Texas, Anthony G. from CT., Christopher M. from ID from , Hazel S. from WA, Kailea B. form Ohio and all our members who renewed for yet another year!

Upcoming Featured Minerals: our January Mineral of the Month will be a composite of cuprite, or copper oxide, on native copper from the Carissa Pit in Nevada's Battle Mountain district. In February, we will feature a nodular form of calcite, or calcium carbonate, from the Huanggang Mine in Inner Mongolia, China. And in March, our members will receive specimens of rosasite, a basic copper zinc carbonate, from Mexico's Ojuela Mine.

Upcoming Monthly Offerings: Going forward we will have one mineral as a monthly offering that will be posted on our website and in our Etsy shop. You will be able to peruse the photos to pick the exact specimen that you would like to add to your collection. This will streamline shopping for you and also enable you to pick the exact specimen to match your collecting needs.

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@celestialearthminerals.com.

Don't forget to utilize our extensive, on-line, informational resources and library on the Celestial Earth Minerals website (www.celestialearthminerals.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.