



NEWSLETTER  
Volume IX : No. 2      March 1995  
MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC.

Presidents Patter

Sorry I missed such an educational and interesting meeting with Dr. John Medici on the "Fluorites of Ohio", but as you know I was in Oaxaca, Mexico, for a few days.

The only major minerals I saw was the predominance of pure jade or jadeite. Many of the Zapotec Indians around Monte Alban ruins are peddling masks and figures carved from beautiful blue/green jade or jadeite. They were also trying to sell archaeological fragments they say were found in the surrounding fields. Purchasing such items could mean difficulties for the traveller passing through customs. I did buy a beautiful hand-carved jadeite mask from one of the local indians. Many of these natives are wonderful craftspersons-weavers, potters, and stone sculptors.

The city of Oaxaca, at an altitude of 5000 feet, is situated in a valley surrounded by mountains and old volcanoes. Its history extends from 1500 BC to the present. The major interest today is the ruins of Monte Alban and Mitla, developed by the Zapotec Indians from AD 500 to 1000, abandoned to the Mixtec Indians who in turn were conquered by the Spanish in 1529. The Spanish name for the area was Antiquares, but the Zapotec Indian name of Oaxaca was later adopted.

Oaxaca was one of the most godly towns in New Spain. The first convent was established in 1529 only eight years after the conquest. In twenty years the first friars built 160 churches in as many villages.

Monte Alban ruins were discovered and excavated by Dr. Alfonso Casa in 1932. I could present a program to the club if there is interest.

"MINERAL NEWS"

Hal Roepke passed along a copy of the January '95 issue of the "Mineral News". He thought we would be interested in new data on minerals.

The Mineral Collector's Newsletter contains 12 pages (8.5"x11") of up-to-date mineral news, photographs, conference reports, recent discoveries and book reviews.

One interesting article by Art Smith of Houston, Texas, concerns "corrections and new information" on included quartz from Arkansas. At the 1994 Tucson Show, Art Smith noticed some Arkansas Quartz with inclusions of Galena crystals offered for sale. He felt that the location where these crystals were claimed to be found was incorrectly identified.

Several months later, following considerable investigation, he identified the correct location as coming from a mine in Saline County known as the Green Crystal Mine.

These Arkansas crystals are apparently unique -containing inclusions of Cookeite,Arkerite and minute gas bubbles, which are extremely attractive.

The complete article is too long to be detailed here. Hopefully this brief sketch will wet your appetite for further study. I will have my copy of the newsletter at the meeting.

Should you like to subscribe to this newsletter, contact L.R. Ream Publishing Company, P.O. Box 2043, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, 83816-2043. Subscription rates are \$17.00 yearly for 12 issues.

February 12, 1995  
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#### MINUTES-JANUARY 1995

In the absence of president Fred Lewis, who was away in Mexico, Al. Sicree presided over our January 15, 1995 business meeting. Fred will be back before our March meeting.

The November minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. Dues are still \$15 for the first member of a family and \$8 for additional members. The outgoing treasurer reported \$701.30 turned over to the new treasurer.

The Cincinnati club has asked us to display our geode collection at their May show. The collection was set up at the meeting and members were asked to look it over and make suggestions. Hal Roepke offered to make better labels. The display will also appear at the Richmond show in March.

Nelson Shaffer reminded us of the upcoming Tucson show with its symposium on Topaz and the annual meeting of the national Friends of Mineralogy.

Our speaker, John Medici, brought a display of Fluorites to illustrate his talk on the Fluorites of Ohio and Vicinity. We heard about collecting Fluorites at Clay Center, Genoa, Woodville, Gibsonburg, Bellview, Auglaize, Lime City, Maumee, Pugh Quarry, Delphos, Scott, Blufton, Lima, Duff Quarry, East Liberty, Pennfield(NY), Holloway(MI), Amherstburg(ONT.), and Ft. Wayne,IN..

#### MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1995

1:00 PM (EST)

KUHLMAN CENTER, RICHMOND, INDIANA

We are fortunate to have as our speaker at this Gem and Mineral Show , Steve Garza of Leavenworth, Indiana, an avid field collector of minerals and fossils who will tell us of his adventures collecting in the midwest and other places. Steve has promised to bring samples to illustrate his talk. For directions to this meeting please see the attached show "flyer ".