Chips from the Quarry

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GEM OF A MUSEUM: The Maine Mineral & Gem Museum in Bethel, Maine, showcases the state’s “geological history, displays renowned mineral and rock collections, provides educational opportunities for the novice and expert alike, conducts historical and geological research, and is a Maine travel destination for residents and visitors.” So says this world-class museum’s website (https://mainemineralmuseum.org; accessed November 2019). But it’s so much more according to Peter Megaw who praises its many attractions in this issue’s feature article, beginning on page 128.


BRUCE CAIRNCROSS HONORED: Bruce Cairncross, a professor of geology at the University of Johannesburg and also a consulting editor of Rocks & Minerals, was selected as the 2019 recipient of the Draper Memorial Medal by the Geological Society of South Africa. The annual recognition is awarded to a member of the society for career-long exceptional contributions to geological science, with particular reference to the advancement of South African geology; it is the highest scientific award of the society. In particular Cairncross’s selection was based on his contributions to a number of geology disciplines, including his internationally renowned and recognized status for gemstone and mineralogy nomenclature, Karoo coal deposits, and a career-long commitment to student teaching and guidance. The presentation of the award took place at the annual fellows dinner in Johannesburg this past November.

In addition to writing and reviewing feature articles for Rocks & Minerals, Cairncross is a regular author (and reviewer) of articles for the Who’s Who...
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in Mineral Names, the Where of Mineral Names, Media Reviews, and the Connoisseur’s Choice columns. As an example, see “Karibibite, Karibib District, Namibia,” in this issue, beginning on page 174.

DALLAS SYMPOSIUM REVISITED: The Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium, under the auspices of The Arkenstone, annually attracts a worldwide audience of mineral enthusiasts the last weekend in August. Presentations from the 2017 and 2018 symposia are now available online at www.dallas symposium.org/videos and include a considerable variety of gem- and mineral-related topics by renowned speakers.

SEAMAN MUSEUM LOCATED ATOP MINE VEINS: How many mineral museums can boast of sitting on a copper mine? Well, you can count the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum in Houghton, Michigan, as one. After construction of the museum’s present and permanent home was well under-way in 2010, two uncapped mine shafts on the Mabbs Vein were discovered directly under what would become the west wall of the museum. The shafts were capped and are invisible to visitors. The story has been retold countless times, but now the museum sports a new 2 x 3-foot fiber glass information sign adjacent to the museum entrance, describing the rediscovery, capping, and geology of the Mabbs Vein. For those unable to visit in person, the Mabbs Vein is more fully described in a downloadable article, by Ted Bornhorst, executive museum director and interim curator, on the museum’s website (https://www.museu.mtu.edu/museum; accessed November 2019).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (AND 2019 THANKS): This issue acknowledges and thanks those who supported Rocks & Minerals by volunteering their time and by donating to the Color Fund and to the benefit auction held in conjunction with the Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium this past August. Their names are listed on page 117; also given are the shows that provided subscription booth space for the magazine. In this issue, the Houston Gem and Mineral Society, in memory of Arthur E. Smith, and the Cincinnati Mineral Society underwrote color costs in the Connoisseur’s Choice column; Laura Delano, of LLD Productions, did the same for the Museum Notes column, as did Maryanne and John Fender (Fender Minerals) and Myrle Wiggins for the Where in Mineral Names column. Donors to the Color Fund contributed toward color in the remaining columns and articles. All are thanked for partnering with Rocks & Minerals to support color photography in the magazine.

M.E.H.

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