WINNING CASE

Taking first-place honors at the 2019 Denver Gem and Mineral Show was the Royal Ontario Museum, winner of the Donna Chirnside Memorial Award for best educational display by a museum with its Minerals of Canada exhibit.

AGATES ON PARADE

A special exhibition of recent agate finds from northern Mexico’s famed Chihuahua agate beds opened in late September at the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals, in Hillsboro, Oregon. Forty-five spectacular agates comprise the display, which will continue at the museum through September 2020. The loan was spearheaded by Alberto Ray, head of the Galchi International Gems and Mineral Society and also president of Del Rey Agates, Gems & Minerals.

Especially notable in the collection are two pieces: La Guadalupe, known as the Monarch Queen of Mexico, it weighs more than 60 pounds; and the famed Heart of Chihuahua, a 20-pound specimen roughly shaped like a heart. The latter has recently been on display at gem shows in Munich, Tucson, Santa Ana (California), and Denver.

SYMPOSIA PLANNED

Two museum-related symposia are planned for this spring. On Saturday, 14 March, the Midwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy will host its Eighth Annual Mineralogical Symposium at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, home of the Karl E. Limper Geology Museum. Keynote speaker is Dr. John Jaszcak, of Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan; his topic is “Criminal Minerals.”

COLOR SPONSOR for the Museum Notes column for 2020 is Laura Delano of LLD Productions, Inc.
The Tellus Science Museum, in Cartersville, Georgia, will host its Annual Mineral Symposium on Saturday, 21 March, with a theme of Fine Mineral Collecting. Subjects covered will be building a personal collection, appraisals, and field collecting. Registration is offered at tellusmuseum.org.

SPANN EXHIBITION
Opening on 8 March and continuing through 27 September at the Tellus Science Museum, in Cartersville, Georgia, is Spanning the World of Minerals: The Gail and Jim Spann Collection. For some fifteen years, the Spanns, of Dallas, Texas, have been building their mineral collection from thumbnail-sized specimens to high-end collector pieces. At last count, the collection contained some fourteen thousand worldwide specimens, from the most common to the rarest; 150 of them make up the Tellus exhibition.

Rocks & Minerals welcomes museum news items and photographs for this column. Correspondence should be sent to Marie Huizing, rocksandminerals@fuse.net.

M.E.H.

Two specimens, among the 150 from the Gail and Jim Spann collection of worldwide minerals, on exhibit through 27 September at the Tellus Museum in Cartersville, Georgia. Above left: Plancheite, 7.8 cm high, from the Congo. Above right: Arsentumebite and azurite, 7.5 cm high, from Tsumeb.