Rare Minerals List - March 24, 2020 (Revised March 28)

The minerals listed here are from a collection rich in uncommon species and/or uncommon localities. The descriptions in quotes are taken from the collection catalog (where available). The specimens vary from pretty and photogenic to truly ugly (as is common with rare species). Some are just streaks, specks, and stains. Previous dealer labels are included where available.

Key to the size given at the end of each listing: Small cabinet = larger than a miniature; fits in a 9 x 8 cm box. Miniature = fits in a 6 x 6 cm box, but larger than a thumbnail. Thumbnail = fits in a standard Perky thumbnail box. Very small = fits in a box which fits inside a standard thumbnail box; sometimes a true micromount. FragBag = a set of two or more chunks in a small plastic bag.

Price is $8 per specimen.

12.453.1: Woodhouseite (TL). Champion Mine, White Mountain Peak, White Mountains, Mono County, California. "Pseudocubic water clear crystals thickly covering matrix with fairly abundant micro crystals and groups of rutile." Supplier not specified. Thumbnail.

12.461.1: Chalcophyllite. St Day, Cornwall, England. "Bluish-green crystalline masses impregnating rock." From David New. Very small.

14.111.1: Sulfohalite. Searles Lake, San Bernardino County, California. "Fine translucent colorless to pale yellow crystal with smaller crystal embedded in [its] side." From Minerals Unlimited. Very small.

20.215.1A: Scolecite. Pune District, Maharashtra, India. "Water clear tabular monoclinic crystals on elongated flat prisms of water clear [apophyllite]. Superb specimen." From Dave Shannon. Thumbnail.

21.664: Halloysite. Silver Hill Mine group, Silver Hill, Waterman Mining District, Pima County, Arizona. "Pale green to white soft chalky mass." From Dave Shannon. Miniature.

22.432.2: Actinolite, Apophyllite, and Thaumasite. Fairfax Quarry, Centreville, Fairfax County, Virginia. "Variety 'amianth' or 'byssolite' (both varietal names refer to asbestiform or acicular actinolite). Gray-green fibrous crystalline aggregate on fine crystallized quartz. Some quartz crystals very sharp, others penetrated by thin needles of byssolite (?). In vugs of quartz are sparse crystalline aggregates of prehnite (?), pale greenish-gray (may not be prehnite). All of above are growing on snow white crystalline aggregates of thaumasite. At junction between the thausmasite and quartz are relatively large apophyllite crystals with some smaller crystals in vugs above. The larger crystals and majority of apophyllite are embedded in the thaumasite. Some of vuggy areas above this junction have elongated prisms with flat terminations, possibly thaumasite crystals. Very interesting specimen. Broken into numerous pieces." From Minerals Unlimited. FragBag.

22.466.1: Riebeckite. Eureka Tunnel, St Peters Dome, Cheyenne Mining District, El Paso County, Colorado. "Crude segment on pegmatite rock." From Dave Shannon. Miniature.

22.661.1: Deerite. Longvale, Coastal Range, Mendocino County, California. "Aggregate of black, shiny fibrous crystals." From Allens Mineral. Miniature.

23.832.6: Dravite. Feldbach Valley, Binn, Goms, Valais, Switzerland. "Small terminated yellow-brown crystal with smaller crystals in parallel growth embedded in termination. Nice small sample from famous locality." From Dave Shannon. Very small.

24.871.1: Tilleyite (TL). Crestmore Quarries, Crestmore, Riverside County, California. "Gray white crystalline mass with minor green vesuvianite at one end. Appears to be a cleavage with parallel fiber structure." From Minerals Unlimited. Thumbnail.

25.823.1A: Murmanite (TL). Lovozero Massif, Murmansk Oblast, Russia. "Pink laminar mass in nepheline syenite with large arfvedsonite crystal prisms." From Wards Scientific. FragBag (many pieces miniature to smaller).

31566: Loparite-(Ce). Kola Peninsula, Murmansk Oblast, Russia. Dark grains in gelatin capsule. From Veronica Matthews Minerals. Thumbnail.

3731.4: Jamesonite. Durango, Mexico. Jamesonite needles with very decayed pyrite. From Bourget Brothers. FragBag.

40023: Gillardite (TL). 132 North Ni Mine, Widgiemooltha, Coolgardie Shire, Western Australia, Australia. Green to yellow-green crusty material on matrix. From Excalibur Mineral. Thumbnail.

4443.2: Tellurite. Moctezuma Mine, Moctezuma, Moctezuma Municipality, Sonora, Mexico. "Small sample of vuggy quartz. An elongated, narrow vug extends across the top for the full length of the specimen. At the center the quartz crystals lining the vug extend over the top closing the vug for a short distance. In this area is a cluster of micro crystalline to crystalline tellurium. To the right, the vug opens the widest showing dark orange yellow crystals largely filling vug but with some terminated crystals visible. Thin powdery coatings of tellurite also coat some quartz crystals and where the vug makes a bend and the remainder of the vug to the end of the sample has only very minor tellurite as thin dustings. At the end of the tellurite crystals at the bend in the vug is a large cluster of micro, dark brown prismatic crystals, probably zemanite. In the opposite direction (left of center) the vug opens slightly and beautiful, transparent, yellow tellurite crystals are visible inside (view still poor). On the near side of the specimen near the bottom is a small area of white waxy paratellurite associated with very micro crystals of zemanite. On the far side is more paratellurite and crystalline coating of tellurite a.so associated with sparse very micro crystals of zemanite." From Green Mountain Minerals. Thumbnail.

8721.1B: Inderite. U. S. Borax Open Pit, Boron, Kramer Borate District, Kern County, California. "Very fragile intergrowth of elongated prisms." From Callahans. Miniature.

8742.3: Hydroboracite. Inder, Atyrau Region, Kazakhstan. "Silky acicular, colorless. crystals on colorless mass of evaporate minerals. Crystals are intergrown, radiating clusters [and] some are free standing." From Mineralogical Research. Thumbnail.