

I hope that you have enjoyed this inaugural year of **Showcase**, now in its 7th issue. A printed Newsletter is scheduled for December delivery and it will help us keep in touch with those for whom we do not have a current email address.

This issue of **Showcase** is a follow-up on the agreement between the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum and the University of Michigan to preserve the legacy of the University of Michigan mineral collection now called the *Michigan Mineral Alliance*. Because of the uniqueness and significance of the agreement, I wanted to share some of the details with you.

On October 31, I gave a presentation titled “A Model for Preservation of University Mineral Collections: The Michigan Mineral Alliance” at the national meeting of the Geological Society of America held in Baltimore, Maryland. The University of Michigan mineral collection is a large significant collection that was in storage and in slow decay with an uncertain future. It had been inaccessible to the public for decades, and there was no dedicated curator for more than 60 years. Yet the University of Michigan has had and continues to have a long and distinguished mineralogical history including many mineralogical publications, mineralogical honors, and 9 minerals are named after University of Michigan faculty and alumni.

The presentation in Baltimore was a special session honoring this year’s Roebing medal winner (highest honor bestowed by the Mineralogical Society of America), Dr. Rod Ewing, currently a distinguished professor at Stanford University as well as professor emeritus at the University of Michigan. In 2011, while at the University of Michigan, Rod initiated an inventory of the collection and from among the options he chose what he termed a “transfer of responsibility” rather than liquidation. Defining the “transfer of responsibility” grew out of discussions between me, current chair of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Michigan, Dr. Chris Poulsen (and past chair Dr. Becky Lange), and lawyers. The fruit of these discussions is the *Michigan Mineral Alliance*. We are grateful to Dr. Ewing for his insight and encouragement.

The legacy of this important collection is now preserved in the public trust through shared responsibility within the *Alliance*. Each specimen is assigned a control category, and those specimens in the most significant categories are jointly controlled with all decisions requiring mutual consent. The most significant specimens include those of high “summary” value, not just monetary value, considering also their historic, scientific, locality, and collector significance. Those in the least significant categories are managed by the museum and, e.g., lower quality duplicates, can be sold with proceeds split between institutions. The agreement provides for a gradual transfer of ownership to equal 50-50% co-ownership. There are also clearly defined equitable options for the return of the collection to the University of Michigan, should that be necessary.

The museum provides for the storage, conservation, and curation of the collection, and makes all decisions regarding the exhibition of specimens. The collection is once again available to the public through exhibits at the museum, mineral shows, and satellite exhibits. As part of the *Alliance*, the museum will maintain a satellite exhibit on the campus of the University of Michigan. The collection’s scientific value is also retained as it is available for research.

What were the key components to reaching this unique mutually beneficial agreement designed to last in perpetuity? At the outset, there was the recognition that the responsibility of preservation, on behalf of the public and donors, is more important than ownership. However, shared ownership is an important part of vesting and commitment. Both institutions must seek creative and innovative ways to reach agreements that are mutually beneficial. A last key component is that there needs to be defined responsibilities and expectations at all levels from the whole agreement to individual specimens.

Now you know much more about the *Michigan Mineral Alliance*.

There is insufficient space here to fully describe the University of Michigan mineral collection but there is a recent description by Stefano, Erwin, and Ewing in *Rocks & Minerals*, v. 88, no. 4 (2013). There are several hundred high quality specimens and some of them are world-class. We are looking forward to the many years it will take to step-by-step integrate specimens of the University of Michigan mineral collection into our exhibits. The second page of this issue features a few specimens from the collection and most of them heretofore unpublished.

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season, Ted Bornhorst, Executive Director

A glimpse of
**The University of
Michigan Mineral
Collection**

Photos Chris Stefano
and Marissa Schorr



1603 324
Pyromorphite
Clausthal, Hartz Mts. Germany
Lederer Collection
PAC/PB12

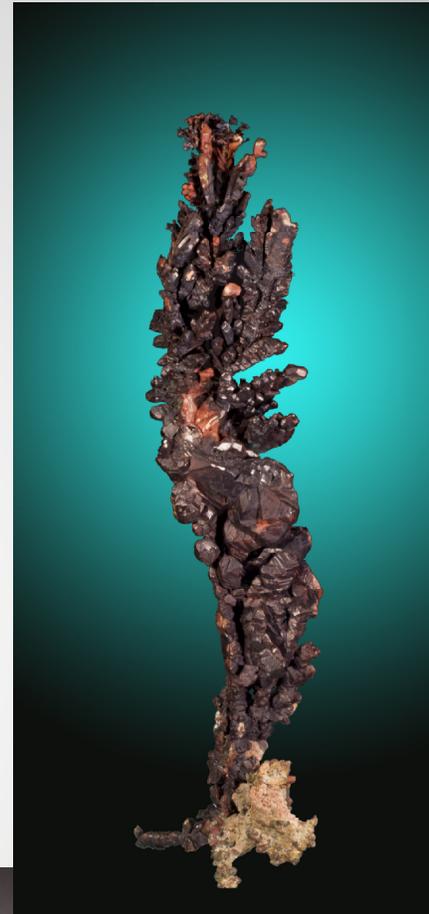
**Pyromorphite
Clausthal, Hartz Mts.,
Germany, 8.5 cm**

Baron Lederer's collection is the cornerstone of the University of Michigan collection. It was purchased by the university in 1838, the year after Michigan became a state.



**Copper, probably Phoenix Mine,
Keweenaw County, Michigan
23 cm tall**

A particularly dramatic specimen with cuprite and tenorite coatings. One of many Hubbard gifts. One of the finest specimens in University of Michigan collection

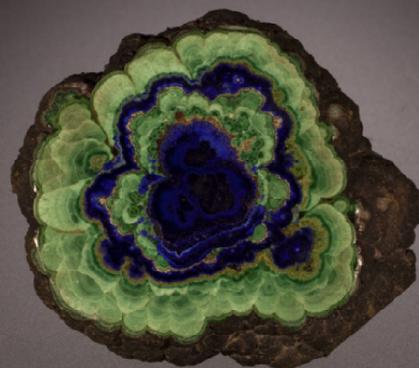


Copper, Ahmeek, Keweenaw County., Michigan, 8 cm

A superb group of stacked cubes and other forms.

**Azurite, Malachite,
Morenci, Arizona, 6 cm**

Polished face, gift by Detroit industrialist Frederick Stearns.



Chalcedony stalactites, Emery County, Utah, 18 cm

A rare and beautiful formation of a type produced by weathering of pyrite-rich ores.



**Copper w/ cuprite and tenorite coatings, probably
Phoenix Mine, Keweenaw County, Michigan, 6 cm**

A gift of L. L. Hubbard. The Hubbard collection is now reunited under one roof.