



Figure 39. Courtney Smale's case of Cornish minerals from the Caerhays Castle collection. Christi Cramer photo.

from Eden Mills, Vermont: a matrix of gemmy green, intergrown diopside crystals is largely blanketed by gemmy, brilliant orange-red grossular crystals. And *Third*: Paul Stahl's case of rare minerals included top-of-the-line examples of Swedish pyrosmalite and glaucodot, hopeite from Zambia, chalcophyllite from Cornwall, anhydrite from the NEAT tunnel workings in Switzerland, cafarsite from Mt. Cherbadung, Switzerland, and zincite from Franklin, New Jersey.

In Hall A5, as already mentioned, the Collecting/Collections theme continued, but in an Alpine context. The gauntlet of cases here showed us wonderful Alpine pink fluorites, quartz gwindels, hematite roses, and more. Specimens from the collection of David Friedrich Wisser (1802–1878) were on hand from Zürich Technical University, but otherwise the displays and accompanying texts told contemporary and near-contemporary collecting stories of *Strahlers* including Paul Membrini, Luis Curschella and his son Damian, Paul Känel and his son Lukas, and Patrick Reith.

Another theme which the 2019 Munich Show addressed with sumptuous displays was “The Jewels of Fallen Dynasties of Europe.” For it seems that members of the old royal houses—having, after all, plenty of means—also indulged in Collecting, although what they collected were mostly cut gemstones, jeweled crowns and weapons, works of lapidary art, and ornate furniture. The “collectors” contributing to the displays in Hall B6 were the Hapsburgs (of Austria, Spain, and elsewhere), the Wittelsbachs (of Bavaria), the Wettins (of Saxony, Thuringia and other eastern German states), and the Romanovs (of Russia). Among their treasures which came to Munich were many gem-studded crowns and scepters and orbs, facsimiles of giant cut gemstones (among them the magnificent 41-carat “Dresden green” diamond), a golden salt cellar crafted by Benvenuto Cellini, Fabergé eggs, an 18th-century French “gem

cabinet” of pull-out drawers (which, it occurred to me, would be good for storing thumbnails), and, from the Green Vaults of Dresden, the famous statue of a smiling “Moor” holding a tray of emerald crystals crudely stuck in matrix. Made in 1724, this statue was pictured in the *Columbian Emeralds* special issue of the *Mineralogical Record* (January–February 2016). To see it again, along with photos of hundreds and hundreds of other beautiful objects (I mean, of course, mostly mineral specimens), you could always go online and purchase the book called *The Munich Show*, but be cautioned: only a German-language version of this book is now available in the Bookstore of the *Münchner Mineralientage* website.

“Sammlervitrinen”—Collectors’ Cases

In this recurring, familiar feature of the Munich Show, a gathering of small cases surrounding the “Alpen” enclosure in Hall A5 harbors displays by small museums and private (mostly German) collectors. It’s fun to see things from the “local” collecting sites they feature; oh, but then there are also cases on Tsumeb, China, Mexico and other foreign parts. Some of the entries of special note in 2019 included . . . Minerals of the Bavarian Forest (Michael Haimerl and Julia Schreiner), Minerals of the Seifersdorf quarry at Freiberg (Thomas Grütze), Pictures in Agate from the Saar-Nahe Region (Wolfgang Napp), Minerals of the Upper Harz (Joachim Dietrichs), Acanthite and Other Silver Ores (Walter A. Weber), Gem Minerals (Ronald Böck of Idar-Oberstein), Tyrolean Minerals (Georg Unterreiner), Worldwide Minerals (Rudolf Berrenrath), Tsumeb Minerals (Antonie and Paul Weghorn), Fluorites “from the Old Days” (Bernhard Mattern), Minerals of the Rabenstein mine in the South Tyrol (Klaus-Peter Martinek), and Historic Specimens of Minerals Named for Famous People (Karlheinz Gerl and Bernhard Sick).

It may seem odd to conclude a Munich report with a note about a Cornwall collection, but hey, I spent more than half an hour admiring this case in the *Sammlervitrinen* area, and it’s imperative that



Figure 40. Torbernite crystals, from the Gunnislake mine, Cornwall, England. Included in Courtney Smale's case of Cornish minerals from the Caerhays Castle collection; Christi Cramer photo.

I describe it here. In the May–June 2011 issue of the *Mineralogical Record* you'll find an article by Courtney Smale called "The Williams Mineral Collection at Caerhays Castle, Cornwall," and perhaps, for general background, you'll be moved also to check out my article in July–August 2013 about a May 2012 trip to Cornwall that I enjoyed. During that trip, Courtney Smale very generously allowed me to glimpse a bit of the Caerhays Castle collection, which at that time was in an ancient cabinet with pull-out drawers in a room of the castle; the collection was still disorganized and showing its age, but it was about to profit mightily from Courtney's work as its modern-day curator. In the late 19th century, when the collection was known as the Scorrier House collection, it consisted largely of copper minerals from mines in Gwennap Parish in Cornwall. In the early 1860s the collection was moved to Caerhays Castle, occupied by John Michael Williams (1813–1880). Williams—clearly a Collector—added hundreds of new specimens from Cornwall and elsewhere which he purchased from major European dealers of the mid-19th century. Chief among his suppliers was the English dealer Bryce McMurdo Wright Sr. (1814–1874), who, around 1871–1874, sold Williams a commissioned "cabinet" of some 1300 small specimens (Wright called them "miniatures" but today we would call them thumbnails and *small* miniatures). When Courtney Smale in 2008 discovered the fine mahogany cabinet which housed these specimens, each with a little pink label, he set about his curatorial work, and in 2011 he was happily aided by the discovery of an untitled *faux* leather book which turned out to be the collection catalog. With it were found still *more* specimens wrapped in fragments of a newspaper from the 1860s.

Some results of Courtney's hard work with the collection were shown in the *Sammlervitrine* case at Munich in 2019, with a genial Courtney standing by to explicate things to interested parties. The case held 51 little old-timers, mostly from England, of outstanding quality, all arranged neatly in rows, accompanied by labels which preserved the old obsolete species names ("erubescite" for bornite, "chessylite" for azurite, "copper mica" for chalcophyllite, etc.). At once I recognized that vividly green chalcophyllite thumbnail and that terrific Joachimstal, Bohemia acanthite ("argentite") that I'd admired and lusted after in Cornwall in 2012 . . . but another viewer might well have preferred the wonderful Cornwall chalcocite from St. Ives Consols; the Gunnislake mine, Cornwall metatorbernite; the Matlock, Derbyshire matlockite; the *cluster* of pseudocrystals

of cassiterite after orthoclase from Wheal Coates, Cornwall; the Michigan native copper; the cluster of sharp cubic silver crystals from Kongsberg, Norway—and so on. This was one of the best small displays of antique minerals from antique mining regions I've ever seen anywhere, and heartiest congratulations to Courtney for having done so very much to rescue and preserve it. That it appeared at a show whose theme was "whoever collects writes history" is splendidly fitting.

And so that's a wrap, or a *schluss*, from Munich 2019.



New Mexico Symposium 2019 by Chris Stefano

[November 9–10, 2019]

As much as I love to attend the major mineral shows (Tucson, Denver, etc.), my favorite events in my mineralogical calendar every year are the various small symposia which are organized by mineralogical groups around the country every year. One of the better known events of this kind is the New Mexico Mineral Symposium, organized in Socorro, New Mexico every November by the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. Being a new resident of the Southwest, I had not previously had the opportunity to attend the New Mexico Symposium, but the event's reputation preceded it. I was not disappointed!

Like its sister events in New York, Washington, Maine and elsewhere, the New Mexico Mineral Symposium is focused primarily on sharing knowledge about and love of minerals. The symposium consists of one and a half days filled with lectures covering a wide variety of mineralogical topics. Attendance this year set a record with 297 registered participants. This year being the 40th year of the symposium, the first lecture was a retrospective by Pete Modreski looking back at the history of the New Mexico Mineral Symposium. Fifteen lectures were presented over the course of the weekend, including a biography of Arthur Montgomery by Ray Grant, an excellent review of pseudomorphs from New Mexico localities by Phil Simmons and Erin Delventhal, a history of the New Cornelia mine in Ajo, Arizona by Les Presmyk, an entertaining look at mineral collecting in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula by Tom Rosemeyer, a wonderful discussion of the connection between oil exploration and emeralds in Colombia by David Stoudt, and an enjoyable review of Mexican agates by Brad Cross.

As at other such events I've attended, a small number of mineral dealers were set up in conjunction with the symposium. Several of them had considerable numbers of old Mexican minerals at surprisingly reasonable prices. Jack and Marty Crawford (jamsrocks42@yahoo.com) had an outstanding **wulfenite** specimen over 10 cm long from Tiger, Arizona which sold quickly. The large plate was covered with orange wulfenite crystals to about 1 cm in association with minor mimetite.

Arizona field collector Malcolm Alter (malter@msn.com) had quite a few specimens of the new zinc oxalate mineral that was named after him in 2018: **alterite** from the Vermillion Cliffs district, Coconino County, Arizona. Alterite is one of only a few known