**WILLIAMS CAERHAYS MINERAL COLLECTION**

**MUNICH MINERAL SHOW –OCTOBER 2021**

A selection of eleven of the finest Azurite specimens in the Caerhays Mineral Collection were exhibited in the Collectors Cases at the Munich Show. The Show, this year, was a pared back one due to the Covid constraints applied by the Bavarian Government. At relatively short notice the Show organisers agreed to proceed in a reduced format with very few British and American exhibitors participating. Nevertheless, the 3-day show was deemed a success, and considerable interest was shown in the Caerhays cabinet.

The mineral collection at Caerhays Castle, Cornwall contains fifty fine Azurite specimens, exclusively from Chessy.

There are two possible sources for the Chessy Azurites being acquired by John Williams (1753-1841), mining magnate and owner of Scorrier House, Cornwall in the early 1800s.

It is known that two Bourbon Counts from France, who later became Kings of France, fled to England during the French Revolution, namely King Louis XVIII (1815-1824) and King Charles X (1824-1830). They would have seen the fine and extensive mineral collection at Scorrier House when hosted by John Williams (1753-1841).

Another exile from France in the late 1700s was a French soldier and mineralogist, Jacques-Louis, Comte de Bournon (1750-1824). The Antimony mineral, Bournonite, whose type locality is Wheal Boys, St. Endellion, Cornwall is named after him. De Bournon was a prolific writer on mineralogical matters whilst domiciled in England and was regarded as an authority of some status. He also catalogued some important mineral collections in England, including that of Sir John St. Aubyn.

De Bournon remained loyal to Louis XVIII during his exile, and rejected the offer to return to France from Napoleon. When Louis returned to power in 1815 de Bournon accepted an offer from the King to buy his mineral collection for the state and was then appointed Director-General of the Royal Mineral Cabinet. Either Louis or Charles could have sent the selection of Chessy Azurites to John Williams at Scorrier House.