



STONE CHAT

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Spring 2013

And so we start another club year. A search of our back cover will give you a clue as to the importance of this year.....if you cannot find the item I'll tell you later.

Instead of announcing what's coming this year on this page, the highlights are scattered within these pages, so you will have to read on to find out. You should be looking out for a field trip and workshops.



Something you will not find, in the Show Diary, is mention of the British Lapidary & Mineral Dealers Association events. It appears that the Association has folded. I understand that the Secretary has retired and no one has come forward to take his place. So from being the principal show organiser a few years ago, the BLMDA has gone. Well, that's what happens when people stand back and are not prepared to help organise a group.....and they are the losers.



I am beginning to lose count of the number of times I have told you this over the last thirty-three years, but when I was preparing the last issue of Stone Chat my computer didn't get sick, it died. Fortunately the magazine itself was in the bag, well complete on a memory stick. What I hadn't finished was preparing labels for the mailed copies. Fortunately Richard was able to help me out. With limited information he did a marvellous job, but if we missed anyone it's my fault, and please let me know. Information was backed up so I eventually got going again and I am now struggling with Windows 7 on a laptop.



Did you find it? Founded in 1973 your Society is now 40 year old....what are we, yes you and I, going to do about it?

COVER PICTURE:
Beach, Isle of Sheppey (see article for credits)

Isle of Sheppey a Joint NM&LS/SM&LS Mineral Hunt

Minerals aimed for:

- Septarian Nodules
- Barite Rosettes
- Selenite/Gypsum
- Iron Pyrite
- Fossilised Wood

Time of meet with our Sussex colleagues was to be around 10:00, arranged in order to catch the optimum tide, so a rather early awakening was required, “Yuk”. Convoy of two vehicles, Norwich Townies in Dicks MPV/SUV and the Seasiders in comfort, a 7:30 meet at the five-ways roundabout, near Mildenhall being the order of the day. Rather boring drive down made interesting on accessing the QE11 bridge when a bunch of motor cyclists descended on the Dicks SUV, much braking, leading to hand, and foot gestures, and what looked like swearing on both sides, before driving off to annoy other motorists” Norfolk Mafia versus Hells Angels shuts QE11 bridge”.

Arriving at Warden Point around 10:00, found waiting very refreshed was our own, Ann Allen, with, Sue and Alan Edwards, who had decided, rather than get up at some god awful hour would come down on Saturday and make a weekend out of it, sensible people, John Pearce and his wife were representing SM&LS .

A beautiful hot sunny day meant dressing down rather than up, boots, packs, hats, and plenty of sun-cream, needed as there was not a cloud in the sky and the temp already at 32 degrees, fully sun-creamed and packs loaded, “water, goodies,



bags, hammers, etc, etc” we set off, sort of like “Snow White and the seven dwarfs”, only in this case “Lesley and the pensioners”.

John Pearce who had done a test run a few weeks previous led the way warning all of the areas of sticky mud, “found out to my cost several times”, leading us to where the Septarian Nodules lay untouched, and a good bed of Selinite abounded. Much time was spent exploring this locality hunting and smashing every Septarian Nodule found, looking for Barite Rosettes, Iron Pyrites, and Selenite, team members had by this time started to form their own personal piles?

After lunch Peter and Chris stayed guarding the treasure piles whilst our more intrepid explorers disappeared with John Pearce to the next location, next seen two hours later staggering back under heavily loaded back-packs, and in Ann’s case a back-pack and a rather large plastic flower-pot



full of rocks. Next hour spent recovering, inspecting, then wrapping the minerals in paper, prior to repacking in one’s respective packs, “Back-Pack and Flower-Pot for Ann”, than the long walk back to the cars.

Minerals collected by all.

Richard had been after, and found a rather nice piece of fossilized wood complete with “toredo” worm tubes, filled with calcite and pyrite; a piece he hoped to be able to slice, Selinite and Barite.

Ann’s vast collection consisted of rather nice pieces of Selinite, Barite Roses, fossil wood, and Pyrites

Lesley’s collection, (ably assisted by

Martin) consisted of Selinite, Barite Roses, Fossil Wood and Pyrites
Sue, Selinite, Barite Roses, and Pyrites
Chris, Selinite, Barite Rose, and a rather nice piece of fossil wood complete with
Toredo worm holes and iridescent pyrites
Pete nothing really he came along to enjoy the hunt, very commendable seeing him
slog his way through the mud over the rocks and through the sticky mud with his
gammy hip and walking stick, (I'm coming and nothing's going to stop me)
Martin assisted the ladies with their huge
collections.

Under a hot baking sun we staggered back
to the cars, totally wracked but pleased
with our finds, on arrival, changed to
clean clothes, repacked our specimens,
then drank vast quantities of water, and I
mean vast quantities.

Thanks Richard, for organizing a very
successful day, enjoyed by all.



By Chris Marsh
Photos by Chris and Sue Edwards

**The Origin and History of
the World's Most Costly
Agate**

In 278 BCE Ptolemy II married his sister Arsinoe II (nothing personal - business is business). At or near that date a large cameo of the couple was carved in agate. It was about 5 inches by 5 inches but

only 9 mm thick at its thickest point. Within that 9 mm. there were 17 colour layers. The carving was done with wondrous technique, not only utilising the colours of the layers to colour the subject, but by carving more or less deeply in the translucent areas to allow more or less of the underlying layer's colour to shine through.

The stone remained in Alexandria until 31 BCE when Octavian beat up on Marc Antony and Cleopatra and took the imperial Egyptian jewel box with him back to Italy, the cameo presumably inside.

We know nothing of the cameo until the construction of a solid gold shrine said to house relics of the three wise men. The relics were given by the empress Helen to a priest named Eustorgius. He became bishop of Milan in 343. The relics remained in Milan until 1164 when Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I (Friedrich Barbarossa) plundered much of Milan and presumably carried off the cameo as well as the relics to Cologne.

Once in Cologne, the relics became important as a political tool. The crusades had not been going well and it was dangerous to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The emperor could now cover this weakness with the plunder from Italy. A large solid gold shrine was built (in the waning years of the 12th century) to house the relics and serve as a pilgrim destination right in Cologne. No need to travel so far! The shrine was adorned with various stones. The centrepiece was our long lost cameo.

In 1229 the famous Dominican friar, Albertus Magnus, saint, teacher of Thomas Aquinas and later bishop of Regensburg, visited Cologne and examined the shrine and the cameo. In 1250 he wrote a book on minerals and included a description of the cameo and his comments on its origin. Al says that the stone was so marvellously made that it could not be the work of man. It must, therefore, be a found object, the work of God. He said that such finds were not uncommon, although he acknowledged that men sometimes attempt similar productions carving stones.

Nevertheless, he attempted a scientific explanation of how God may have caused this wonderful object to be made. He even offered two explanations. The first covers the origin of "onyx", a term he uses for any banded stone. It seems that onyx forms from

the rubbery drippings of the onyx tree, accumulating in layers of differing colours and later petrifying. (Sort of like amber except for the layers of colour.)

Another possibility that AI speculates on is that onyx forms from earth and moisture (remember, everything is made of earth, air, fire and water), both in liquid form. Then, under the influence of the proper alignment of the stars and planets, it hardens into "onyx". (Both of these speculations seem to be about as valid as those of various modern theories for the formation of agate.)

After the hardening of the onyx into stone, a particularly powerful alignment of the stars and planets can turn the stone into representations of people and animals. He says this is especially common with onyx.

The cameo itself managed to survive these speculations until its disappearance in 1574. Someone pried it loose from its gold mounting and it was never seen in Cologne again. Its theft created quite a stir, even to the point of sealing of the city gates for 12 days while a house to house search was made. Two shady characters were arrested but later released for lack of evidence.

It was at this time that a value was placed on the stone. The city said the stone was valued at two tons of gold. (At least, that's what they told the insurance company, I suppose.) In 1586 a collector in Rome was offered the piece by a Flemish dealer for 500 gold coins. The collector described the stone as picturing Alexander the Great and Olympia, his mother.

He tried to buy the stone for less than the asking price but the dealer took it to the Duke of Mantua the following year and sold it there, price unknown.

Evidently the stone didn't like staying in Italy too long after becoming accustomed to life in Germany. In 1630 Albert of Saxony, leading troops of the Holy Roman Emperor, overran Mantua and it fell into German hands again. Upon reaching home, he decided to present it to the Empress Anna Eleonora Gonzaga, second wife of the Emperor Ferdinand II of Vienna.

The cameo has remained in Vienna since that time and can now be seen in the Museum of Art History in that city (unless there has been a recent agate theft there).

Ref. extraLapis No. 19; "The Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages"

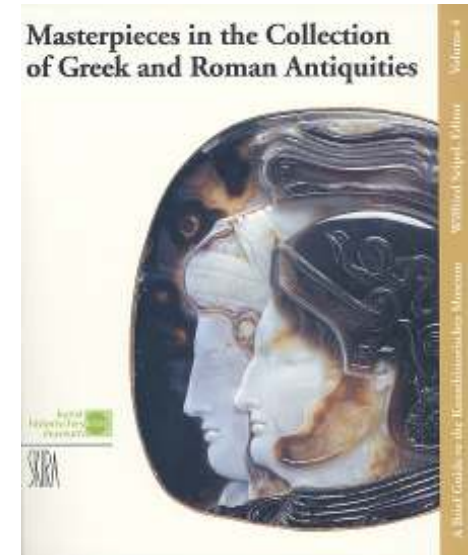
By Herb Luckert from The Rockfinder via Strata Gem



Try as I might, I have been unable to find a photograph of this unique cameo. I'm pretty sure that it is in the cameo collection in the Greek and Roman Antiquities Dept. at the Kunsthistorisches Museum A-1010 Vienna, Maria Theresien-Platz (see below).



I have two pictures of cameos from there in their brochure.



Colin Lansdell

Memoirs of a Mineral Collector Part 5
by Martin Stolworthy

Below is a list of specimens acquired during 1982 either by collecting, swapping or buying.

Number	Specimen	Site	Location
147	Pyromorphite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
149	Galena	Wood End Mine	Threlkeld, Cumbria
150	Calcite	Moor Farm (Quarry Low)	Bonsall Moor, Derbyshire
169	Magnetite	Traversella	Piedmont, Italy
188	Peridot	Lanzarote	Lanzarote, Canary Islands
350	Malachite	Roughtongill Mine	Roughtongill, Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
354	Malachite	Red Gill Mine	Red Gill, Swinburn Gill, Brae Fell, Caldbeck, Cumbria
373	Duftite	Tsumcorp Mine	Tsumeb, Otavi, South West Africa
385	Galena	Force Crag Mine	Long Crag, Grisedale Pike, Coledale Valley, Braithwaite, Cumbria
423	Mimetite	Driggith Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
438	Galena	Fall Hill Quarry	Fallgate, Ashover, Derbyshire
449	Descloizite	Berg Aukas	Grootfontein District, Namibia, South West Africa
490	Sand Rose	Libya	Libya
532	Fluorite	Fall Hill Quarry	Fallgate, Ashover, Derbyshire
546	Hydrocerussite	Merehead Quarry	East Cranmere, Frome, Somerset
608	Pyromorphite	Roughtongill Mine	Roughtongill, Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
623	Pyromorphite	Red Gill Mine	Red Gill, Swinburn Gill, Brae Fell, Caldbeck, Cumbria
703	Baryte	Force Crag Mine	Long Crag, Grisedale Pike, Coledale Valley, Braithwaite, Cumbria
705	Pyromorphite	Red Gill Mine	Red Gill, Swinburn Gill, Brae Fell, Caldbeck, Cumbria
710	Bournonite	Herodsfoot Mine	Herodsfoot, Lanreath, Liskeard, Cornwall
715	Fluorite	Fall Hill Quarry	Fallgate, Ashover, Derbyshire
725	Pyromorphite	Roughtongill Mine	Roughtongill, Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria

749	Pyromorphite	Burgam Mine	Tankerville, Shelve, Shropshire
751	Quartz	Fall Hill Quarry	Fallgate, Ashover, Derbyshire
776	Asphaltum	Ecton Mine	Ecton Hill, Warslow, Staffordshire
778	Mimetite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
780	Galena	Greenside Mine	Glenridding, Cumbria
781	Galena	Greenside Mine	Glenridding, Cumbria
784	Pyromorphite	Roughtongill Mine	Roughtongill, Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
797	Quartz	Fall Hill Quarry	Fallgate, Ashover, Derbyshire
806	Pyromorphite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
810	Slag	Ecton Mine	Ecton Hill, Warslow, Staffordshire
876	Linarite	Red Gill Mine	Red Gill, Swinburn Gill, Brae Fell, Caldbeck, Cumbria
890	Semseyite	Massiac	Massiac, France
891	Mendipite	Merehead Quarry	East Cranmere, Frome, Somerset
892	Massicot	Bunker Hill Mine	Shoshone Co., Idaho, USA
913	Fluorite	Fall Hill Quarry	Fallgate, Ashover, Derbyshire
978	Fluorite	Speedwell Mine	Castleton, Derbyshire
1027	Gypsum	Greenhithe Quarry	Greenhithe, Kent
1028	Amethyst	Rostowrack Pit	
1029	Fossil Wood	Isle of Sheppey	Warden Point, Isle of Sheppey, Kent
1030	Mica	Canigou	Canigou, France
1031	Tourmaline	Botallock Mine	Botallock, St. Just, Cornwall
1032	Native Copper	Botallock Mine	Botallock, St. Just, Cornwall
1033	Calcite	Canigou	Canigou, France
1034	Tourmaline	Isle of Elba	Isle of Elba, France
1035	Mica	Rostowrack Pit	
1036	Gypsum	Isle of Sheppey	Warden Point, Isle of Sheppey, Kent
1039	Calcite	Moor Farm (Quarry Low)	Bonsall Moor, Derbyshire
1040	Garnet	Fauste	Fauste, Norway
1041	Dioptase	Tsumeb Mine	Otjikoto Region, Namibia, South West Africa
1309	Pyromorphite	Trevinnick Mine	St. Endellion, Cornwall
1310	Baryte	Settlingstones Mine	Settlingstones, Northumberland
1311	Vanadinite	Midelt	Mibladen, Morocco
1362	Cerussite	Brandy Bottle Mine	Melbecks Moor, Gunnerside, North Yorkshire
1363	Azurite	Tynagh Mine	Co. Galway, Ireland
1364	Linarite	Cwmystwyth Mine	Devils Bridge, Dyfed
1365	Pyromorphite	Bwlch Glas Mine	Alltgochymynydd, Bontgoch, Ceulanymaesmawr, Dyfed, Wales

1366 Pyromorphite Bwlch Glas Mine Alltgochymymnydd, Bontgoch,
Ceulanymaesmawr, Dyfed, Wales

1367 Fluorite Hilton Mine Hilton Fell, Appleby, Cumbria

1368 Caledonite Red Gill Mine Red Gill, Swinburn Gill, Brae Fell,
Caldbeck, Cumbria

1369 Galena Cwmystwyth Mine Devils Bridge, Dyfed

1370 Bayldonite Brandy Gill Mine Carrock Fell, Mungrisdale, Cumbria

1373 Cerussite Roughtongill Mine Roughtongill, Caldbeck Fells,
Cumbria

1385 Gypsum Aust Cliff Severn Bridge, Aust, Avon

1389 Pyromorphite Dry Gill Mine Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria

1391 Azurite Ecton Mine Ecton Hill, Warslow, Staffordshire

1392 Fluorite Fall Hill Quarry Fallgate, Ashover, Derbyshire

1393 Fluorite Fall Hill Quarry Fallgate, Ashover, Derbyshire

1394 Rosasite Roughtongill Mine Roughtongill, Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria

1395 Unknown Greenhithe Quarry Greenhithe, Kent

1396 Cosalite Carrock Mine Carrock Fell, Mungrisdale, Cumbria

1397 Malachite Roughtongill Mine Roughtongill, Caldbeck Fells,
Cumbria

1398 Mimetite Roughtongill Mine Roughtongill, Caldbeck Fells,
Cumbria

1399 Galena Force Crag Mine Long Crag, Grisedale Pike, Coledale
Valley, Braithwaite, Cumbria

1400 Quartz Fall Hill Quarry Fallgate, Ashover, Derbyshire

1401 Quartz Fall Hill Quarry Fallgate, Ashover, Derbyshire

1402 Pyromorphite Dry Gill Mine Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria

1403 Mimetite Dry Gill Mine Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria

1404 Mimetite Dry Gill Mine Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria

1405 Pyrite Force Crag Mine Long Crag, Grisedale Pike, Coledale
Valley, Braithwaite, Cumbria

1406 Linarite Red Gill Mine Red Gill, Swinburn Gill, Brae Fell, Caldbeck,
Cumbria

1407 Linarite Red Gill Mine Red Gill, Swinburn Gill, Brae Fell, Caldbeck,
Cumbria

1408 Linarite Red Gill Mine Red Gill, Swinburn Gill, Brae Fell, Caldbeck,
Cumbria

1409 Cerussite Red Gill Mine Red Gill, Swinburn Gill, Brae Fell,
Caldbeck, Cumbria

1410 Cerussite Red Gill Mine Red Gill, Swinburn Gill, Brae Fell,
Caldbeck, Cumbria

1411 Pyromorphite Dry Gill Mine Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria

1412	Malachite	Roughtongill Mine	Roughtongill, Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
1413	Unknown	Roughtongill Mine	Roughtongill, Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
1414	Unknown	Roughtongill Mine	Roughtongill, Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
1415	Cerussite	Roughtongill Mine	Roughtongill, Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
1416	Carbonate-fluorapatite	Cligga Head Mine	Cligga Head, Nr. Perranporth, Perranzabuloe, Cornwall
1419	Gypsum	Canigou	Canigou, France
1420	Sphalerite	Force Crag Mine	Long Crag, Grisedale Pike, Coledale Valley, Braithwaite, Cumbria
1422	Tourmaline	Rostowrack Pit	
1423	Gypsum	Greenhithe Quarry	Greenhithe, Kent
1424	Millerite	Fall Hill Quarry	Fallgate, Ashover, Derbyshire
1425	Quartz	Florence Mine	Egremont, Cumbria
1426	Polished Half Agate	Brazil	Brazil
1427	Cassiterite	Condurrow Mine	
1428	Mottramite	Tsumcorp Mine	Tsumeb, Otavi, South West Africa
1429	Chenivixite	Wheal Gorland	St. Day, Cornwall
1430	Loellingite	Megiliggar Rocks	Porthleven, Cornwall
1431	Chalcosiderite	Stowes Shaft	Cheesewring Hill, Minions, Cornwall
1432	Witherite	Fallowfields Mine	Acomb, Northumberland
1433	Fuloppite	Wet Swine Gill	Coomb Height, Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
1434	Jamesonite	Wheal Boys	St. Endellion, Cornwall
1435	Bindhemite	Tresungers Mine	St. Endellion, Cornwall
1436	Bournonite	Newporth Beach	Newporth Beach, Falmouth, Cornwall
1437	Annabergite	Kamareza Nickel Mine	Laurium, Attica, Greece
1439	Mimetite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
1440	Mimetite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
1441	Mimetite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
1442	Mimetite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
1443	Chalcopyrite	Ecton Mine	Ecton Hill, Warslow, Staffordshire
1444	Calcite	Moor Farm (Quarry Low)	Bonsall Moor, Derbyshire
1445	Calcite	Moor Farm (Quarry Low)	Bonsall Moor, Derbyshire
1446	Sphalerite	Force Crag Mine	Long Crag, Grisedale Pike, Coledale Valley, Braithwaite, Cumbria
1447	Siderite	Force Crag Mine	Long Crag, Grisedale Pike, Coledale Valley, Braithwaite, Cumbria

1448 Siderite Force Crag Mine Long Crag, Grisedale Pike, Coledale Valley,
Braithwaite, Cumbria

1449 Quartz Calton Hill Quarry Buxton, Derbyshire

1450 Quartz Calton Hill Quarry Buxton, Derbyshire

1451 Quartz Fall Hill Quarry Fallgate, Ashover, Derbyshire

1452 Ilmenite Labrador Labrador

1453 Ilmenite Labrador Labrador

1455 Pyromorphite Roughtongill Mine Roughtongill, Caldbeck Fells,
Cumbria

1456 Fluorite Ladywash Mine Highcliffe, Eyam, Derbyshire

1463 Vanadinite Midelt Mibladen, Morocco

1468 Calcite Moor Farm (Quarry Low) Bonsall Moor, Derbyshire

1619 Psilomelane Force Crag Mine Long Crag, Grisedale Pike, Coledale
Valley, Braithwaite, Cumbria

1620 Vanadinite Midelt Mibladen, Morocco

1660 Mimetite Dry Gill Mine Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria

1661 Mimetite Dry Gill Mine Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria

1662 Mimetite Dry Gill Mine Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria

1663 Mimetite Dry Gill Mine Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria

1664 Mimetite Dry Gill Mine Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria

3566 Smithsonite Ball Eye Mine Scarthin Nick, Cromford, Derbyshire

3567 Smithsonite Ball Eye Mine Scarthin Nick, Cromford, Derbyshire

3568 Smithsonite Ball Eye Mine Scarthin Nick, Cromford, Derbyshire

3569 Baryte Ball Eye Mine Scarthin Nick, Cromford, Derbyshire

3570 Baryte Ball Eye Mine Scarthin Nick, Cromford, Derbyshire

3571 Baryte Ball Eye Mine Scarthin Nick, Cromford, Derbyshire

4135 Chalcosiderite Stowes Shaft Cheesewring Hill, Minions, Cornwall

6839 Heulandite Val Fassa Val Fassa, Italy

6840 Atacamite La Farola Mine Copiapo, Atacama District, Chile

6841 Libethenite Vila Vicosa Vila Vicosa, Portugal

6842 Fluorite Las Chipas Mine Arispe, Sonora, Mexico

6843 Fluorite Las Chipas Mine Arispe, Sonora, Mexico

6844 Chalcotrichite St. Marie St. Marie, Germany

6845 Vanadinite Midelt Mibladen, Morocco

6846 Vanadinite Midelt Mibladen, Morocco

8715 Phosgenite Dry Gill Mine Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria

9392 Wollastonite Meldon Aplite Quarry Meldon, Okehampton, Devon

11716 Cerussite Roughtongill Mine Roughtongill, Caldbeck Fells,
Cumbria

11724 Smithsonite Driggith Mine Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria

11725 Smithsonite Driggith Mine Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria

11726	Pyromorphite	Driggith Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11730	Smithsonite	Driggith Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11743	Pyromorphite	Driggith Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11744	Pyromorphite	Driggith Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11734	Pyromorphite	Brae Fell Mine	Brae Fell, Caldbeck Fells, Caldbeck, Cumbria
11735	Pyromorphite	Trevinnick Mine	St. Endellion, Cornwall
11746	Fluorite	Burtree Pasture Mine	Middlehope Moor, Cowshill, Weardale, Durham
11747	Langite	Sharptor	Cornwall
11748	Connellite	Botallock Mine	Botallock, St. Just, Cornwall
11749	Sphalerite	Burtree Pasture Mine	Middlehope Moor, Cowshill, Weardale, Durham
11751	Aurichalcite	St. Marie	St. Marie, Germany
11752	Baryte	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11753	Baryte	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11756	Torbernite	Wheal Edward	Wheal Edward Zawn, Botallack, St. Just, Cornwall
11757	Mimetite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11761	Unknown	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11763	Pyromorphite	Burgam Mine	Tankerville, Shelve, Shropshire
11772	Mimetite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11773	Baryte	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11776	Calcite	Hendre Quarry	Glyn Ceiriog, Clwyd, Wales
11777	Aragonite	Hendre Quarry	Glyn Ceiriog, Clwyd, Wales
11834	Pyromorphite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11835	Pyromorphite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11836	Mimetite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11837	Mimetite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11838	Mimetite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11839	Mimetite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11840	Mimetite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11841	Unknown	Greenhithe Quarry	Greenhithe, Kent
11854	Goethite	Botallock Mine	Botallock, St. Just, Cornwall
11855	Mimetite	Dry Gill Mine	Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria
11864	Goethite	Wheal Edward	Wheal Edward Zawn, Botallack, St. Just, Cornwall
11865	Mimetite	Rookhope Mine	Weardale, Durham

1983 My collection grew by 316 specimens during the year.

NEXT TIME the first British Micromount Society Field Trip to Cumbria and more

Torre del Greco

Torre del Greco (English: "Tower of the Greek") is a town and comune in the Province of Naples in the Italian region of Campania, with a population of some 88,000 as of 2007. People are sometimes called *Corallini* because of the plentiful coral in the nearby sea, and because the city has been a major producer of coral jewellery and cameo brooches since the seventeenth century.

The town has suffered over the centuries, partly due to eruptions from Mt. Vesuvius but during the late 19th and early 20th centuries was the holiday destination for many of Italy's rich and famous. However, during World War II, the city was used as an ammunition depot by the German Army, and consequently suffered heavy bombing by Allied forces.

After World War II

After the war, tourism swiftly declined, and with the increase automobile use the funicular railway fell into disuse, thus effectively removing one of the main reasons for visiting the town. In addition, from the 1950s onwards, massive development, urbanization and population increase stripped the city of its "rural" atmosphere, contributing to the move of tourists on to Sorrento and the Amalfi Coast. Few now recall the Golden Age of Torre Del Greco as a tourist destination. Nonetheless, coral art and jewellery remains a mainstay of the city's economy.



Panorama of Torre del Greco

Cameos and Coral Jewellery

Diving for coral has taken place in the Mediterranean Sea ever since Roman times, and in the 15th century Torre del Greco became known for its coral diving and harvesting of red coral. However, It was not until the 17th century that the first cameos were produced, and not until 1815 that a unique manufacturing contract was granted to Paulo Bartolomeo Martin of Marseille, France by the King Ferdinando IV of Naples for a period of 10 years. His monopoly on the manufacture of coral in the town enabled Torre del Greco to take off.

A training school was opened in 1878 to ensure sufficient workers were available to meet demand. Hand tools were devised and conch shells used with hardened lava to produce cameos of womens faces, mythological scenes, landscapes animals and flowers usually round or oval in shape. Many of the same tools, methods and designs are used to this day.

At present there are approximately 350 companies, mainly family-run, and 2,600 people directly employed in the manufacture of coral and shell cameos. Most of the companies are small, employing only two to three workers but in the 1970s some organised themselves into the Associazione Produttori Coralli Cammei e Materie Affini (Assocoral) Coral is now mainly imported from Asia, since increasingly areas in the Mediterranean are becoming protected. The total industry is estimated to have a turnover of around US \$ 225 million. It's main markets are in Japan, the USA and Europe.

References Wikipedia, www.farlang.co and others

Colin Lansdell

Precious coral

Precious coral or red coral is the common name given to *Corallium rubrum* and several related species of marine coral. The distinguishing characteristic of precious corals is their durable and intensely coloured red or pink skeleton, which is used for making jewellery.

Habitat

Red corals grow on rocky sea bottom with low sedimentation, typically in dark environments--either in the depths or in dark caverns or crevices. The original species, *C. rubrum*, is found mainly in the Mediterranean Sea. It grows at depths from -10 to -300 mt, although the shallower of these habitats have been largely depleted by harvesting.^[1] In the underwater caves of Alghero, Sardinia (the "Coral Riviera") it grows at depth from -4 mt to -35 mt. The same species is also found at Atlantic sites

near the Strait of Gibraltar and at the Cape Verde Islands.^[1] Other Corallium species are native to the western Pacific, notably around Japan (*Corallium japonicum*) and Taiwan.^[2] these occur at depths of 350 to 1500 m in areas with strong currents.^[1]

Anatomy

In common with other Gorgonacea, red corals have the shape of small leafless bushes and grow up to a meter in height. Their valuable skeleton is composed of intermeshed spicules of hard calcium carbonate, coloured in shades of red by carotenoid pigments.^[1] In living specimens, the skeletal branches are overlaid with soft bright red integument, from which numerous retractable white polyps protrude.^[3] The polyps exhibit octameric radial symmetry.



Coral as a gemstone

The hard skeleton of red coral branches is naturally matte, but can be polished to a glassy shine.^[2] It exhibits a range of warm reddish pink colours from pale pink to deep red; the word coral is also used to name such colours. Owing to its intense and permanent coloration and glossiness, precious coral skeletons have been harvested since antiquity for decorative use. Coral jewellery has been found in ancient Egyptian and prehistoric European burials,^[3] and continues to be made to the present day.



Non precious red dyed sponge coral earrings

Precious coral has relative density of 3.86 and hardness 3.5 on the Mohs scale.^[4] Due to its softness and opacity, coral is usually cut en cabochon, or used

to make beads.

History of trade in coral

At the beginning of the Christian era, there was a great trade carried on in coral between the Mediterranean and India, where it was highly esteemed as a substance endowed with mysterious sacred properties. It is remarked by Pliny that, previous to the existence of the Indian demand, the Gauls were in the habit of using it for the ornamentation of their weapons of war and helmets; but in his day, so great was the

Eastern demand, that it was very rarely seen even in the regions which produced it. Among the Romans branches of coral were hung around children's necks to preserve them from danger, and the substance had many medicinal virtues attributed to it. A belief in its potency as a charm continued to be entertained throughout medieval times; and even early in the 20th century in Italy was worn as a preservative from the evil eye, and by females as a cure for sterility.

From the Middle Ages upwards the securing of the right to the coral fisheries on the African coasts was an object of considerable rivalry among the Mediterranean communities of Europe. Previous to the 16th century they were controlled by the Italian republics. For a short period the Tunisian fisheries were secured by Charles V to Spain; but the monopoly soon fell into the hands of the French, who held the right till the Revolutionary government in 1793 threw the trade open. For a short period (about 1806) the British government controlled the fisheries, but later returned to the hands of the French authorities. Previous to the French Revolution much of the coral trade centred in Marseilles; but since that period, both the procuring of the raw material and the working of it up into the various forms in which it is used became peculiarly Italian industries, centring largely in Naples, Rome and Genoa.^[5]


Coral in mythology

The origin of coral is explained in Greek mythology by the story of Perseus. Having petrified Cetus, the sea monster threatening Andromeda, Perseus placed Medusa's head on the riverbank while he washed his hands. When he recovered her head, he saw that her blood had turned the seaweed (in some variants the reeds) into red coral. Thus, the Greek word for coral is 'Gorgeia', as Medusa was one of the three Gorgons.^[6] Poseidon resided in a palace made of coral and gems, and Hephaestus first crafted his work from coral.

The Romans believed coral could protect children from harm, as well as cure wounds made by snakes and scorpions and diagnose diseases by changing colour.

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From Wikipedia



Red Coral Necklace

From Ebay

For a really stunning Mediteranean coral carving, this from Sardinia, go to:
<http://www.rubylane.com/item/173699-C-1625/Victorian-15K-Carved-Sardinian-Coral>

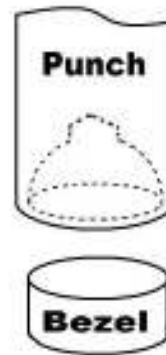
BENCH TIPS FOR SILVERSMITHS

BEZEL CLOSER

A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of pushing the metal down over a round stone and burnishing it. The working end is a concave cavity that fits over your bezel or prong setting and is pushed and twisted to capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are expensive and contain many sizes you will probably never use. If all you need is one or two sizes, here's how you can make them yourself.

Find a good quality, round steel rod a little larger in diameter than your bezel cup or prong setting. Cut a 5 inch length. File both ends flat. Locate the centre of one end, centre punch a divot, and drill a small pilot hole about 5 mm deep.

Remember to use a little oil as lubricant when cutting steel.



Select a ball bur a bit smaller than the steel rod but slightly larger than the bezel. Enlarge the pilot hole to a full hemispherical cavity. Test for proper fit with your bezel.

Bezel should first contact the cavity about a third of the way in. When the size is correct, polish the cavity using Zam on a length of chopstick in your flexshaft. If the tool is not polished, it will leave scratches on your bezel or prongs.



When using the tool, the first step is to capture the stone correctly. I usually work by hand and push the punch straight down over the bezel or prongs. This causes the metal to start bending over the stone. Now inspect with a lens to be sure the stone is staying level. This is repeated until the stone is seated on its bearing and can't move anymore.

Next, you want to force the metal down onto the stone uniformly all the way around. While this can be done by hand, I often gently tap the punch with a hammer. Finally, I burnish the bezel by twisting the punch around.

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

Workshops

Two cabbage workshops have been arranged for members, as follows:

Tues 23 April at Martin's workshop at Lyng

Tues 6 August at Chris's workshop at Gorleston

Both are from 10am. Names to Martin and/or Chris please

Pompeii and Herculaneum

In spring 2013, these two cities and their unique story will be explored in a major exhibition at the British Museum, that will – in the words of Museum Director, Neil MacGregor – be a chance *'to visit the cities and to visit the houses in the cities; to be inside a Roman household, inside a Roman street; to know what it felt like, to know what was going on.'*

Through objects from British Museum collection and an immensely generous loan of 250 objects from Pompeii and Herculaneum – many have never been seen in Italy – the exhibition focus on the daily lives of ordinary people who lived there.



the
loan of
Naples,
of which
outside
will
of the

[Life and death in Pompeii and Herculaneum](#) is open from 28 March 2013.

Ice Age Art

This is another current exhibition at the British Museum. It features sculptures, drawings and portraits executed between 40,000 and 10,000 years ago when the Earth was cooling and includes some of the oldest known art so far discovered.

Members enjoyed following Alan & Sue on their travels to Egypt when they discovered much prehistoric art, way out in the desert. You have until May 26 to get to this exhibition.

British Mines and Mining - Update

MILLDAM MINE & CAVENDISH MILL TO REOPEN

Italian fluorochemicals producer Fluorsid SpA has acquired the facilities and assets of UK fluorspar company Glebe Mines Ltd, to form a new subsidiary called British Fluorspar.

Minmet UK Ltd (renamed British Fluorspar on 29 May 2012) bought Glebe, which was put on care and maintenance in November 2010, by competitive tender on 18 May 2012 after the operation was put into receivership. Minmet UK is a subsidiary of Swiss-based Minmet Financing Co., which owns a 60% stake in Fluorsid.

The Italian group told *Industrial Minerals* that the principal activities of British Fluorspar would be an underground operation at Milldam Mine, open pit extraction at Tearsall Quarry, and processing operations at Cavendish Mill, all located in the UK's Peak District area.

Taken from link: <http://indmin.com/Article/3053986/Fluorsid-to-restart-fluorspar-production-at-Glebe-Mines.html>

Parys Mountain, Anglesey

Anglesey Mining PLC has completed the drilling programme that it started in January 2012. Results indicate that mineralisation extends upwards from the Engine Zone. but not as far as the surface. Two holes on the edge of the Great Open Cast indicate the area has potential. The first results available for drilling in the New Pearl Engine House area were "very encouraging".

[http:// angleseymining.co.uk/news/?p=306](http://angleseymining.co.uk/news/?p=306)

From NMRS Newsletter Nov 2012

Sir Francis Level, Gunnerside

Badly split timbers have been found under lift, keep your distance.

U.K. POTASH

Boulby Mine is a 200-hectare (490-acre) site run by Cleveland Potash, located just southeast of the village of Boulby, on the northeast coast of the North Yorkshire Moors in Redcar and Cleveland. It is Europe's second deepest mine at 1,400 metres (4,600 ft)—Pyhäsalmi Mine in Finland is even deeper, being 1,448 metres deep—producing half of the UK's output of potash, an agricultural fertilizer. As a by-product the mine produces rock salt, used across the region as a de-icing agent on roads in winter onditions.



Much of the output from the mine is transported by rail, as the site is located south of Loftus along the route of the former WRMU (Whitby Redcar and Middlesbrough Union Railway), closed on 5 May 1958. Today the line is open from Saltburn to Boulby for goods traffic only.

Construction on the mine began in 1969, and the mine began producing potash in 1973. The mine was of all of the UK's home-produced potash—around 55 percent of UK market. It occurs between 1.2 kilometres (0.75 mi) and 1.5 kilometres (0.93 mi) below ground and average seam thickness of 7 metres (23 ft).



Ruins of Fan House, Huntcliff Ironstone Mine. The mine entrance went under the Cleveland Railway which still runs alongside to carry potash trains from the Boulby Mine.

began in producing the source produced the total 1.2 kilometres has an metres

Because of its depth, Boulby Mine is used to house the ZEPLIN-III dark matter detector 1,100 meters below the surface in the Boulby Underground Laboratory. It also housed the [UK Dark Matter Collaboration](#).

The mine also houses the [Directional Recoil Identification From Tracks \(DRIFT\)](#) detector, a low pressure negative ion time projection chamber (NITPC) designed to detect [weakly interacting massive particles \(WIMPs\)](#) - a prime dark matter candidate. There are currently two DRIFT detectors in operation. DRIFT-IIb, which is located 1100 m underground in the Boulby Underground Laboratory at the Boulby Mine in and DRIFT-IIc, which is located on the surface at [Occidental College](#), Los Angeles, California, USA.

From Wikipedia

Having seen this plant from afar and read of visits to the mine by a number of geology groups, I wondered if there are any collectable minerals from the mine. I discovered that there is, Mindat lists 14 including

Gemmy, sharp green-blue [boracite](#) crystals from the Boulby Mine. Size: 4.0 x 2.4 x 2.0 cm.

Boulby Mine
[Saltburn by the Sea](#)
[TS13 4UZ](#)



(G.R. NZ761183)

are any mine. I Mindat

Boracite

Cleveland Potash Ltd
Loftus
[Cleveland](#)

The York Potash Project is Sirius Minerals' main development asset. Based in North Yorkshire, within the United Kingdom, the Project targets both Polyhalite as a source of Sulphate of Potash (SOP), and Potassium Chloride (KCI) as a source of Muriate of Potash (MOP). Historical data from this established potash region, including over 97,000 metres of historical drilling logs, suggests the Project area to potentially host the world's largest and richest deposit of Polyhalite, as well as world-class

Potassium Chloride. The Project footprint includes over 620km² of mineral rights agreements and growing, and the Company is currently drilling to confirm the Project's mineral potential. Sirius believes that the York Potash Project could be developed as one of the world's largest low-cost SOP producers, fulfilling our mission to become the world's New Potash Powerhouse.

The Sirius website (nearly) says some very interesting things about local/regional transport infrastructures.

http://www.siriusminerals.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=255&Itemid=40



Close up to the drill at the PBK site

More news on the BBC.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-15535869>

.....

FIELD TRIP

Richard and Martin have invited some German friends to a Field Trip to Cumbria as a “thank you” for arranging the collecting trip to their country last year.

It will be from 4 – 11 May inc. and will be based at Hesket Newmarket, handy for the Caldbecks.

Society members are invited to join the party, but Richard is unable to arrange accommodation as the usual venue will be full. He will however advise on a possible suitable alternative.

Interested? My advice is to get in quick

WHITBY LITERARY & PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
home of WHITBY MUSEUM, LIBRARY & ARCHIVE



All their major collections are listed below and there is something to see under each topic on their web site <http://www.whitbymuseum.org.uk/>
It is not possible to give more than a 'taster' of what is in each collection but it is hoped that the illustrations and text will tempt you to visit the museum.

- Archaeology inc. Flints & finds from Whitby Abbey
- Bygones & Social History
- Ceramics & Glass
- Coins, Tokens, Medals & Seals
- Captain James Cook and his travels
- Costumes
- Ethnography (other cultures)
- **Fossils & Geology**
- Herbaria (pressed flowers)
- Horology (clocks & watches)
- **Jet & Jet Jewellery over 500 specimens**
- Maps (mainly local to Whitby & N.Yorkshire)



Intriguing, worth further investigation?

A small item appeared in the *Welsh Mines Society* Newsletter way back in 1992:

‘ROMAN MINE

Dave Smith of Colwyn Bay says that a feature called “Ditch of Wolves” crosses the limestone at Coed y Gopa, Abergele, and has all the hallmarks of an ancient, possibly Roman, lead mine. Underground it suggests a high antiquity. Early Mines Research Group, where are you?’

.....and as far as I can make out, nothing has happened since – perhaps someone will tell me if I’m wrong.

My computer-based investigation hasn’t got me too far, only that the excavations could be pre-Roman as it is right next to, and possibly protected by, a hill fort.

Coed y Gopa

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/our-woods/Pages/wood-map.aspx?wood=4370#.T0piAnmQ8ai>

Size: 46.95 ha (116.02 acres)

Near: Abergele, Conwy

Grid ref: SH937767

OS map sheets: OS Landranger 116
Explorer 264



A mineral vein crosses the northern part of the site, with past lead mining activities here resulting in the formation of a deep narrow gorge, the Ffos y Bleiddiaid. Mine adits and natural caves provide potential roosts for bats and the second largest lesser horseshoe bat hibernaculum in North East Wales is present at the site, a feature for which Coed y Gopa is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The following from a local newspaper:

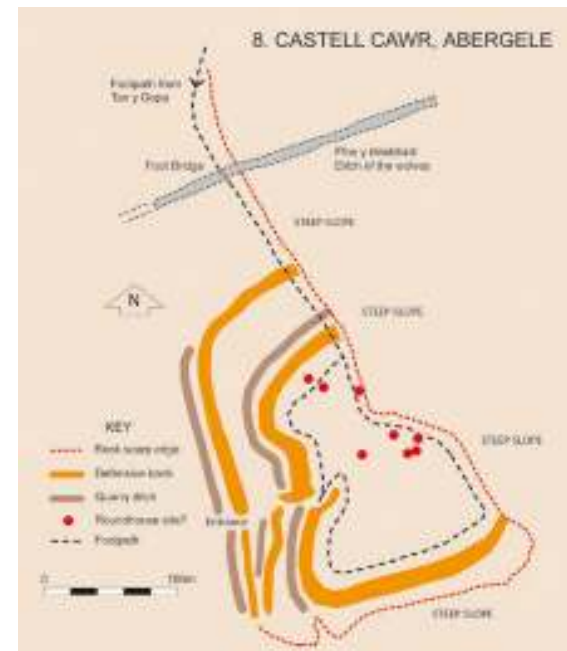
‘The Romans are said to have mined lead from the hill. There’s one really long and deep fault called Ceg y Blaidd (wolf’s mouth) – I hope I’ve remembered that name properly.’

I'd gone to Tan y Gopa looking for a cave I remembered playing in when I was a child. I usually walked up Tan y Gopa with William Jones (Broadway) and Huw Watkins (Eldon Drive) through Mr Matthews's farm fields. These fields have now been developed into housing estates.

The cave has two entrances: the first is 20 feet up a sheer rock face, the second drops down from the grass above. I did have to ask directions. The squeeze through the second entrance was tighter than I remember but sitting inside, I imagined I was back again with my childhood friends, Huw and William.

Aaah, thanks Huw. Ffos y Blaidd = wolf's trench.'

www.abergelepost.com/diving-deep-back-in-time.html



Map from Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

When in doubt, call it Roman? That's as much as I have been able to find out, has anyone anything to add?

Colin Lansdell

SHOW, EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE DIARY 2013

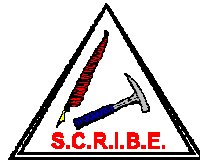
Feb 23	Fossil Road Show	Beaney Museum, High St. Canterbury
Mar 2-3	Rock Gem n Bead Fair	Copthorne Hotel, Dudley
Mar 3	Oxford Mineral Fossil Show	Exeter Hall, Kidlington, north Oxford, OX5 1AB
Mar 9-10	Rock n Gem n Fair	Kempton Park Racecourse
Mar 23-24	Rock Gem n Bead Fair	Brighton Racecourse
Apr 13-14	Rock n Gem Fair	Newton Abbot Racecourse
Apr 20-21	Rock Gem n Bead Fair	Newark Showground
May 11-12	Rock Gem n Bead Fair	Newmarket Racecourse
May 12	Oxford Mineral Fossil Show	Exeter Hall, Kidlington, north Oxford, OX5 1AB
May 18	NAMHO Conference	Caphouse Colliery, nr Wakefield
May 18-19	Rock Gem n Bead Fair	Cheltenham Racecourse
Jun 8-9	Rock n Gem Fair	Kempton Park Racecourse
Jun 22-23	Rock n Gem Fair	Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet
Jun 28-Jul 1	NAMHO Annual Conf 2013	Aberystwyth University
Jul 6-7	Rock Gem n Bead Fair	Newcastle Racecourse
July 7	Oxford Mineral Fossil Show	Exeter Hall, Kidlington, north Oxford, OX5 1AB
Jul 13-14	Gem n Bead Fair	Farnham Maltings
Aug 3-4	Rock n Gem Fair	Kempton Park Racecourse
Aug 10-11	Rock n Gem Fair	Royal Welsh Showground, Bluieth Wells
Aug 31-Sep 1	Rock Gem n Bead Fair	The Hawth, Crawley
Sep 7	Hampshire Mineral & Fossil Show	Lyndhurst Community Centre
Sep 7-8	Rock n Gem Fair	Newton Abbot Racecourse
Sep 15	Oxford Mineral Fossil Show	Exeter Hall, Kidlington, north Oxford, OX5 1AB
Sep 21-22	Rock Gem n Bead Fair	Newark Showground
Oct 5-6	Rock Gem n Bead Fair	York Racecourse
Oct 12-13	Rock Exchange	Lady Manners School, Bakewell
Oct 19-20	Gem n Bead Fair	Newton Abbot Racecourse
Oct 26-27	Rock n Gem Fair	Kempton Park Racecourse
Nov 2	Festival of Geology	University College London
Nov 2-3	Rock Gem n Bead Fair	Cheltenham Racecourse
Nov 16	Sussex Show	Clair Hall, Haywards Heath
Nov 16-17	Rock Gem n Bead Fair	Brighton Racecourse
Nov 23-24	Gem n Bead Fair	Farnham Maltings
Dec 1	Oxford Mineral Fossil Show	Exeter Hall, Kidlington, north Oxford, OX5 1AB

NORFOLK MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY

SPRING 2013



Founded 1973



Affiliated to G.A.

www.norfolkminandlapsoc.homestead.com/

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MEETINGS: 1st Tuesday of most months at the Catholic Church Hall,
Churchfield Green, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich from 7.30pm.

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STONE CHAT



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