



From the Executive Director by Ted Bornhorst

The holiday season is nearing, we already have a lot of snow on the ground, and it is time for our annual **Newsletter**. The museum's collection had an exceptional year with two significant donations as reported to you below. Donations of minerals are essential to improving the depth, breadth, and quality of the collection and I thank you if you have donated minerals to the museum. As I've said last year "we would not exist without the mineral collection, but we would also not exist if it were not for the financial assistance of Michigan Tech and private donors." Endowments are a particularly important source of revenue for the museum. You can have a lasting legacy by creating an endowment for the museum either now or in your estate. Please do let me or the Michigan Tech Fund know if we can be of assistance. In addition to endowments, periodic or annual monetary donations of any size helps us do things that would otherwise not be possible to do. I thank all of you who have financially donated to support the museum. The support we have received by you renewing or becoming a member of the museum is most appreciated. If you have not already done so this year, I hope you will consider financially supporting the museum. You can use the enclosed simple mail-back form, or you can donate via credit card online at the museum's website: <http://www.museum.mtu.edu/support-us/giving>. Thank you all for your support of the museum in 2018!

Robbins Donates Smoky Quartz and Jade to Museum

The A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum is pleased to announce the generous donation of a collection of minerals from Richard and Bonnie Robbins. Richard graduated with a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan Tech in 1956. He assumed leadership of the Robbins Company, specializing in tunnel-boring technology including boring of the "chunnel" beneath the English Channel. Michigan Tech has recognized Richard for his professional achievements and university engagement including the Board of Control Silver Medal in 1990, Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1994, Honorary Doctorate of Engineering in 1996, National Campaign Chair for the 1999-2002 Leaders in Innovation Campaign which raised \$135 million, and the 2001 Melvin Calvin Medal of Distinction. He and his wife, Bonnie, have established the James S. Robbins Endowed Scholarship in honor of Richard's father and three endowed faculty chairs, the Robbins Chairs of Sustainability.



Hoppered smoky/amethyst quartz, Diamantina, Minas Gerais, Brazil, 17 cm wide. Photo by C. Stefano

Richard had a passion for collecting smoky quartz crystals. His collection includes outstanding specimens from classic smoky quartz localities in the Swiss Alps including a high quality clear smoky quartz crystal rising off of milky quartz from Uri, Switzerland (right). Another particularly notable specimen is a dark smoky quartz crystal with a white cap and fibrous tourmaline from Senora, Mexico. His collection also includes multiple smoky crystals from Brazil, with one large crystal showing hopper growth (left), as well as crystals from California, Montana, Pakistan, Tunisia, Arkansas, and New York. A large cluster of smoky quartz crystals on microcline from Colorado was still on display in the

lobby of Robbins Company before the collection was shipped to Michigan Tech this past summer. This specimen is now on exhibit at the museum.

In his youth Richard spent lots of time prospecting for his father in Alaska. He recounts collecting jade from "Jade Mountain" in the Baird Mountains of the Brooks Range just north of the Kobuk River drainage in Alaska. In addition to the smoky quartz collection, Richard and Bonnie donated 275 lbs of Alaskan jade to the museum. The smoky quartz and jade represent significant additions to the museum's collection. I'm particularly pleased that the museum can preserve the legacy of Richard's passion for minerals.



Smoky quartz on milky quartz, Furkahorn, Uri, Switzerland, 19.5 cm tall. Photo by C. Stefano.

Hampel Donates Significant Collection of Minerals to Museum



Mineral Treasures exhibit case featuring Hampel's specimens
Case 1 meter wide

Nearly all of the world's major mineral museums have one or more donated private collections that provide the foundation upon which they build a collection that is greater than the sum of its parts. With a recent and most generous donation of approximately 1,000 specimens, Lance T. Hampel, President of Hampel Corporation, a Germantown, Wisconsin-based plastics manufacturing company, has provided the museum with such a foundational collection and continues to be one of its principal benefactors. Lance has previously donated over 1,600 superb specimens in 2006 and 2007, and also supported construction of the main museum building at 1404 E. Sharon Avenue.

The following descriptions highlight some of the more significant worldwide specimens in his recent donation which are already on exhibit. Perhaps the most significant individual specimen is a 50 cm-wide by 30 cm-tall group of calcite crystals from the Shullsburg, Wisconsin lead-zinc mines, which is among the finest large calcite specimens ever recovered from the Shullsburg district. Another calcite of similar proportions from the Elmwood mine, Carthage, Tennessee, is particularly noteworthy for its size (43 cm tall) and golden color, making it a world-class specimen with considerable visual impact! The Ojuela Mine, Mapimi, Durango, Mexico is a famous locality from which Hampel has donated a spectacular plate of yellow-green adamite crystals, 22 cm wide. Trepca, Kosovo is another well-known mining district from which Hampel's recent donation included an excellent suite of hydrothermal vein specimens of calcite, quartz and a variety of sulfide species. Tsumeb, Namibia has been called the finest mineral locality in the world, and is underrepresented in the museum's collection. Since the closure of the mine, large museum-quality specimens are virtually unobtainable. This is especially true for an outstanding 23 cm specimen of bright green crystals of diopside on white calcite in the donation, of which together with a 17 cm plate of duftite, results in a significant improvement for the museum's Tsumeb holdings.



Diopside, Tsumeb, Namibia, 23 cm wide.
Photo by C. Stefano.

The quality, depth, and breadth of the museum's collection of crystallized native copper from the world's premier locality, the Keweenaw Peninsula, is unmatched in the world. The Hampel donation contains a significant number of attractive native copper and silver specimens from the White Pine mine, Ontonagon County, and several of them are better than the many high-quality specimens already in the museum's collection.

Lance Hampel has a long-standing personal and professional relationship with previous curator Stanley Dyl, and also with George Robinson, professor emeritus and recently, past curator of the museum. Even long past their retirements, Stan and George continue to enhance the quality of the museum because of the relationships they developed with many of the museum's friends such as Lance Hampel. Thank you Lance, and thank you Stan and George.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE A. E. SEAMAN MINERAL MUSEUM
www.museum.mtu.edu

