A.E. SEAMAN MINERAL MUSEUM
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Showcase

The snow is melting and the sun is shining more often than it does in winter. Spring does not usually come quickly here in the Keweenaw Peninsula because it takes time to overcome the effect of the snow reflecting the sun's energy back into space, albedo, and the simple mass of cold that keeps temperatures lower than surrounding areas. But alas spring is on its way in the Keweenaw Peninsula!

"Spring" does happen for the collection too when we are fortunate to be the recipient of the donation of a major collection. Over the 113 years of developing our collection, it is indeed good that it is increasingly difficult to significantly "spring" forward the quality, depth, and breadth of the collection. Regardless of the difficulty, our quest to make it better never ends. And it is the generosity of donors, like some of you, who help us make the collection's stature even greater than it already is.

"Spring" has happened for the collection as I am pleased to announce that Paul and Janet Clifford of Cleveland, Ohio, have generously donated 1,750 specimens of their collection to the museum; a first installment out of the approximately 4000 specimens they pledged in 2003. Many of you likely know Paul and Janet. Their quiet enthusiasm for minerals is infectious. When their gift was announced in 2003, they said that they were afflicted with a disease called "mineral-collecting-itis." Having the pleasure of knowing them I will attest that their disease is contagious! Paul is the former curator of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's gem and mineral collection and was assisted by Janet.

Quartz on Andradite, Blue River skarn, Primorskii Kray, Russia
Donor: Paul and Janet Clifford

The Cliffords each have geology degrees and appreciate minerals on a technical level as well as for their beauty. Since the late 1960's, the Cliffords have traveled throughout North America in pursuit of mineral specimens for their collection by self-collecting. In this first installment there are numerous museum exhibit quality specimens and Chris Stefano, associate curator, is also "struck by the Clifford's eye for the unusual as even in a suite of common minerals, many of the specimens are from rarely seen localities and meet an uncommon standard for quality and beauty." Janet remarked that Paul and she "lacked self-discipline as their collection spans the whole spectrum of sizes and includes anything from just-pretty, to geologically or morphologically interesting, to representative suites from areas we have visited." The Clifford's have a long-standing personal and professional relationship with the museum including former director Stan Dyl, former curator George Robinson as well as current museum staff, adjunct curator John Jaszczak, Chris and myself. The museum is humbled that we have the honor of preserving the Clifford's legacy. I remember well some years ago when Paul and Janet spent hours with George looking at drawers of specimens. They got to know our collection well enough to understand how theirs would fit into ours. The museum's collection is improved by their generous donation.

I have self-limited the length of each issue of **Showcase** to one page, a quick read before you hit the D key. My hope at the outset was that if it is short, and of course a bit interesting, you might actually want to read it when it arrives in your inbox. While pictures may be worth a thousand words, if they are too small perhaps not. As suggested by a reader, I've made the one here bigger, but on this special occasion of acquiring a new major collection, a whole page of just pictures from the Paul and Janet Clifford collection is a more than justifiable celebration. If the pictures are not enough, then you should visit the museum in July when we will have a small fraction of their collection on display in the Mineral Treasures gallery of the museum.

Ted Bornhorst, Director

The Paul and Janet Clifford Collection:

Selections from the first installment

Calcite, 17 cm, Nandan, Guangxi, China

Quartz, 9.5 cm, Dalnegorsk, Russia

Fluorite, 9.5 cm, Huanggang, Inner Mongolia, China

Barite, 10.5 cm, La Maine Mine, Autun, France

Sphalerite, 7 cm, Picos de Europa, Santander, Spain

calcite, 13 cm, Lak-Ketkipada, Bombay, India

Photos by Chris Stefano and Marissa Schorr