

February / March 2007

Editor: Rose Kapp (roszay@shaw.ca)



website:

www.portmoodyrockclub.com

President: Andrew Danneffel

Vice President: Warren Edwards

Past President: Drew Rekunyk

Secretary: Shirley Edwards

Treasurer: Al Strome

Membership: Sonja Stubbings

Workshop: Cecil Smith,

Andrew Danneffel,

Bill McCracken, Ken Ayres,

Geoff Cameron, Warren Edwards

Newsletter: Rose Kapp

Society Delegates:

Gary Richards (Sr.)

Drew/Diane Rekunyk (Int.)

Ken Ayres (Jr.)

General Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month
(except June, July, Aug. Dec)

7:30 PM, Arts Centre,
St. Johns St., Port Moody

Next Meetings:

February 22, March 29, April 26

Port Moody Rock Club Website:

www.portmoodyrockclub.com

BC Society Website:

www.lapidary.bc.ca

There isn't a problem
on this earth
that a doughnut
cannot make better.

- Roseanne Barr

Rock of the Month

Amethyst



photo: Adrian Pingstone

Amethyst is the purple variety of quartz. This makes it sound so mundane, yet for many thousands of years it has been a jewel the rich and powerful have coveted. Moses described it as a symbol of the Spirit of God and the Russian Empress Catherine the Great sent thousands of miners into the Urals to look for it. Today, amethyst is a lovely and affordable gemstone that is available in a wide variety of stones that anyone can possess and admire.

Folklore

The name "amethyst" comes from the Greek and means "not drunken." This was maybe due to a belief that amethyst would ward off the effects of alcohol, but most likely the Greeks were referring to the wine-like color. A large number of miraculous powers are attributed to the amethyst in all sorts of cultures. It was said to protect crops against tempests and locusts, bring good fortune in war and in the hunt, drive out evil spirits and inspire the intellect. Pliny reveals that if worn round the neck on a cord made from dog's hair, amethyst affords protection against snakebite. Hieronymus reported that eagles placed an amethyst in their nest in order to protect their young from the same danger. Gemstone therapists say that the amethyst has a sobering and cleansing effect. It has been said to quell excessive stomach acid and, according to Hildegard von Bingen, served to combat insect bites and beautify the skin. It was also esteemed as a stone of friendship. Since it was thought to put the wearer in a chaste frame of mind and symbolize trust and piety, the amethyst came to occupy a very prominent position in the ornaments of the Catholic clergy. In Tibet there were amethyst rosaries, for there the gemstone was dedicated to Buddha and was said to promote clarity of mind.

Locations

Amethyst is not the same everywhere. Different localities can produce a unique amethyst to that particular region or even to a particular mine.

The deposits with the greatest economic significance are in various states in southern Brazil and in neighboring Uruguay. The third major export country is Madagascar. However, this gemstone is spread all over the world. In Canada there is a place named Amethyst Harbor. The violet quartz is found there in ample quantities, though rarely in gemstone quality. The fame of Idar-Oberstein, the German gemstone centre, is based on domestic amethyst finds. In July 1993, a three-metre druse was found in Maine, which contained well over

1000 kilogrammes of cuttable amethyst, some of it in crystals 19 cm in length.

The South American deposits in particular, which were not discovered until the 19th century, brought down the price of the amethyst. The 18th century bracelet of Queen Charlotte of England, was valued at 2000 pounds sterling at that time, was apparently worth only 100 pounds 200 years later. However, the price has a close relationship with the quality, and the quality varies immensely. Most of the material from Brazil is light-colored. In Madagascar, it is generally red or violet hues which are found. Uruguay supplies the most beautiful and the deepest color, but it is mostly blemished. Thus immaculate stones of the finest violet still fetch carat prices of well over a hundred euros. No wonder people find it worth going to the trouble of producing imitations and synthetics.

Alternate Terminology

Due to its popularity as a gemstone, several descriptive terms have been coined in the gem trade to describe the varying colors of amethyst. "*Rose de France*": pale pinkish lavender or lilac shade (usually the least-sought color). "*Siberian*": the most prized color of an intense violet with red flashes, although gems of this color may occur from several locations other than Siberia, notably Uruguay and Zambia. "*Ametrine*": stones usually of Bolivian origin that have alternate bands of amethyst purple with citrine orange. "*Oriental amethyst*": certain purple corundum or sapphire, but professional gemological associations, such as the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) or the American Gemological Society (AGS), discourage this use, as it may be misleading.

Changing Color

One thing that has been known for a long time is the fact that the amethyst changes its color on being heated. Smoky stones are transformed at temperatures of as little as 250 degrees to a shining yellow to brownish-red, whilst those with a high degree of transparency, become yellow or colorless at 400 degrees. Now and then Nature gives us a surprise by having created bicoloured stones, like the ones recently found in Bolivia in the form of causticised crystal nuggets. This variety is known as ametrine, for in its formation certain energy states of iron introduce violet areas to the yellow citrine.

Some amethysts pale almost to colorlessness in daylight. The reason for this has not yet been discovered, but it is possible to re-color them by means of radium radiation. The fact that these stones can lose their color makes it obvious that amethyst jewellery should not be worn while sunbathing, in a solarium or in a discotheque with black light. Sudden changes of temperature can also be harmful to the stone.

researched by: Rose Kapp
references: www.galleries.com,
en.wikipedia.org,
www.gemstone.org
(International Colored
Gemstone Association)

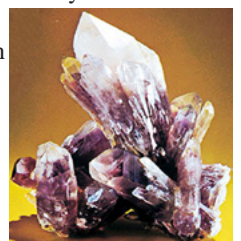


photo: Lee Boltin,
concise.britannica.com

Meeting Highlights

General Meeting, January 25, 2007

- Port Moody Library is holding an Art Show, Sale & Talk, Feb. 10, 2-4 PM. Those who had articles in the library display are invited to participate. Contact Andrew.
- The Pot Luck was well attended even with the windstorm.
- Calendars from the Society are \$4, directories, \$2 and Rockhounder Magazines, 4 issues for \$10. See Sonja.
- During the big windstorm, a large tree fell on the McCracken house. Photos were passed around.
- A couple of diamond wheels are damaged. Substitute wheels have been put in, so there is no shortage. Please use the entire surface – not just the center! Let the supervisor know if there is any problem with the equipment. Keep the diamond wheels wet and don't run the pumps dry.
- We need a clever theme name for our next show. Something about the color of rocks like rainbow or spectrum. If you know of any, contact Ken, Andrew, or Rose.
- For the Society show, the club will rent 3 showcases.
- The Arts Council Studio Tours are running Apr. 21 & 22. Our club is participating, with demonstrating, answering questions, a small display and some sales. If you would like to help, contact Andrew.
- The club agreed to purchase equipment from Dogwood Lapidary.

submitted by Rose, acting secretary

"Rocky" Canadian Rockhound, Feb. 1968
Sunshine



Hey! Ed! Isn't that Beryllium?

Schedule for General Meeting Goodies

After every general meeting there is a round of treats and coffee. Here's a reminder who's next on the list of supplying goodies.

February: Rose K.	April: Bill M.
March: Lynne J.	May: Sonja

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

MON.	Lapidary	8:30 AM - 12 noon
TUES.	Lapidary	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
WED.	Faceting	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
THURS.	Lapidary	8:30 AM - 12 noon

For faceting, contact Bill McCracken at 604-469-1726

Rock News

Silver Smithing

Please note the silver smithing sessions that were being held on Monday evenings have been cancelled until further notice. Our workshop leaders for silver smithing are unable to attend regularly for the next little while. We are still interested in providing sessions but need feedback. If you are interested in silver smithing (beginner or intermediate) or have ideas on what might entice you to attend, please contact me.

New Treasurer

I'd like to welcome Al Strome to the executive as our club's new Treasurer. Al was elected during our November meeting and officially took office January 1st. I'd also like to thank Chandra Collett for her term as Treasurer over the past few years.

Rock Tumbler for sale

A club member is looking to sell a used rock tumbler. This is a large tumbler with two paint-can sized drums. Asking \$50.00. Contact Judy Pederson at 604-521-0772 or email: mugajwl@telus.net.

Andrew

Hans Golz Obituary

Hans Golz passed away January 24th 2007 at 6:00 am. Please share this occasion with the membership of the Rock & Gem Club. Hans was a proud member and his participation with the Club was a highlight of pleasure during his time with all of you. I ask your membership to consider his 100th Birthday party as his celebration of life, which it was. Sincerely, Harry & Marge Golz

GOLZ - Hans, born Nov. 26, 1906 in Dessau, North Germany, passed away on Jan. 24, 2007. Predeceased by his wife Millie and his wife Peggie. Hans will be lovingly remembered by the children he had with his ex-wife Elsa, his son Harry Golz (Marge); his daughter Jeanette Gregg (Bryce); 7 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren. Han's extended family stepdaughter Tanis Penny; stepdaughter Joyce Cole (Neil) and their respective children and grandchildren will also fondly remember him. Hans held a lifetime membership in The Port Moody Rock & Gem Club, his presence in this organization will be sadly missed. At time of his passing, Hans lived at the Lakeshore Care Centre in Coquitlam, where he received excellent care and support. Hans requested cremation with no service.

*Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us everyday,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved and missed and very dear.*

Bill, Hans & Les (standing) at Hans's 100 birthday celebration



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAPLE RIDGE LAPIDARY CLUB Show & Sale - Gemstones & Art of the Zodiac

Sat. Feb. 17, Noon - 5pm
Sun. Feb. 18, 11am - 4pm
St. Andrews United Church Hall
22165 Dewdney Trunk Rd.
Maple Ridge
Admission by Donation
For more information, phone Ken Rimmer, 604-463-9593

Alexandra Bar Field Trip Sun. Mar. 4

Meet: 9:00AM, Bridal Falls Coffee Shop - Another Fraser river bar, this time with larger stones from farther upstream. Involves a hike down to the river, not recommended for people unable to withstand the strenuous hike back. Leader: Bill Needoba, 604-451-7701

HASTINGS CENTRE ROCKHOUNDS Rock, Gem & Jewellery Show

Sat. Mar. 17th & Sun. Mar. 18 10am-5pm, Hastings Community Centre, across the road from the PNE, Hastings Street, Vancouver
Admission by donation.
For more information contact Diane Bowman, 604-421-1068

TOTEMS TO TURQUOISE

Now until March 25, 2007
500 dazzling pieces of Native North American jewellery.
For more info, see the exhibit website at:
www.totemstoturquoise.com
Vancouver Museum
1100 Chestnut St, Vancouver
ph. 604-736-4431
www.vanmuseum.bc.ca

• For more information, check the society web site:
www.lapidary.bc.ca/gemshow
• US wagon master trips are listed at:
www.mineralcouncil.org