1. GEM & MINERAL COUNCIL EVENTS

November 5-19, 2014: Burma trip

What a trip! Thirteen of us set out on an unforgettable journey to Myanmar (Burma). We all met in Yangon on November 5 to begin our Burmese adventure. Our fantastic local guide was Kyaw Thu, a former geology professor at Yangon University, and now a gemologist with his own laboratory in Yangon (Macle Gem Trade Laboratory). Our first stop was the ancient city of Bagan, with more than 3,000 temples. From there we traveled to Mogok, where we spent 5 days visiting 12 gem mines (for ruby, sapphire, spinel, peridot and a variety of rarer gems) and touring gem & mineral markets and shops. Tourists typically rave about their visits to Myanmar, but very few actually get to see Mogok, which from our perspective is certainly the most wonderful place in Myanmar, if not all of southeast Asia. After Mogok, we headed to Mandalay where we visited the jade market, more mineral shops, and of course, the local cultural sites. We ended our journey in Yangon with visits to more temples, and, of course, more jewelry, gem & mineral shops! Several blog posts will soon be added here: http://nhminscl.blogspot.com/. In the meantime, check out the picture already posted on our Facebook page: http://www.facebook.com/GemMineralCouncil.

We would like to thank all of the members who joined us on this trip. The tour was fantastic and so were our travelers! We had a blast during those 15 days. Of course, the credit goes to Kyaw Thu on site, and Alyssa Morgan, who did all the behind-the-scene work to prepare for this trip, assisted by Kathy and Tony Kampf, Caroline Im, and Eloïse Gaillou.
2. Mineral Sciences Staff

October 19-22, 2014: GSA conference in Vancouver

Eloïse Gaillou traveled to Vancouver, Canada, to present her work on pink diamonds at the Geological Society of America. Eloïse gave a lecture at the session organized by the Gemological Institution of America on “Gemological Research in the 21st Century: Exploration, Geology, and Characterization of Diamonds and Other Gem Minerals”.

October 25, 2014: the Haunted Museum

Advertising for our display.

Deadly minerals: Arsenic and mercury containing minerals were part of the display.
Eloïse Gaillou, Caroline Im, volunteer Weiwei Hua and USC student Yasmin Davis represented the Mineral Sciences Department at the annual Haunted Museum. This year’s museum theme was Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead), and our team chose to put a display of “Deadly Minerals”, which was a big success. We liked to hear people saying that we were “spooky”!

**November 25, 2014: Goodbye from Eloïse Gaillou**

This is my last newsletter. I have already sent all of you an email telling you that I will be leaving the museum in mid-December. I am going back to France, where I will be taking the position of Associate Curator at the Paris School of Mines. I spent 3 years at the museum, which has a collection of minerals and gems that competes with the best in the world. It was a real pleasure to be part of the team for those 3 years. I will miss Alyssa, Tony, Kathy, Caroline, and all the volunteers and work study students. And, of course, I will miss you, the members of the Gem & Mineral Council. I hope that you enjoy this new format, and that you will continue to support the Mineral Sciences Department, showing to the museum that the Council is an essential component for the support of the collection and the exhibit. Fiscal years 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 have been good, actually better than projected, already showing that this new Gem & Mineral Council works.

I hope to see you all soon again. Obviously, your passion for gems & minerals will lead us to meet up again at shows or conferences. Also, please don’t hesitate to come and visit me in Paris! You can contact me by email at: eloise.gaillou@gmail.com

**4. Gem & Mineral Shows**

**February 3 – 15, 2015: the Tucson Show.**

As most of you know, the Tucson show lasts more than just those two weeks. We report here the dates for the two shows happening at the Tucson Convention Center: February 3-8 for the AGTA GemFair show, and 12-15 for the 61st Annual Tucson Gem & Mineral Show (better known as the Main Show). Other venues open before those days, such as the Tucson City Center (Innsuites, January 31 - February 14) or the Pueblo shows (January 30 – February 11). And of course, don’t miss the Westward Look show February 7 to 10.

As usual, NHM will have an exhibit at the Main Show, look for it in the central aisle of the show! We will keep you posted on what we will exhibit. We are also happy to announce that the Tucson Show Poster this year will feature our own Austrian epidote specimen – an image taken recently by GIA’s Robert Weldon.
Epidote from the Knappenwand area, in the Untersulzbachtal valley, in Salzburg, Austria. The specimen measures 12 x 6 x 4 cm. © GIA, Courtesy of NHMLAC. Photo by R. Weldon.

May 29 – June 1, 2015: The Vegas JCK Show.

The yearly gems and jewelry show is held in Las Vegas at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino.


This is the European mineral show not to be missed, both for its spectacular minerals and for its beautifully seductive setting in the Vosges Valley of France! Most people agree that this show is the most convivial of all the world’s major mineral shows (Tucson, Munich, Sainte-Marie, Denver).

6. Future Events

January 17, 2015: Lecture at the Kampfs by Tony Kampf

Our first meeting of 2015 will be at our emeritus curator’s home in the Mar Vista area of Los Angeles. Tony Kampf will be giving a talk on “CSI Mineralogy: Fakes, Frauds and Fantasies”. Many mineral specimens (and indeed most gemstones) have been “doctored” in some way to improve their appearance and their salability. Unfortunately, the practice of “enhancement” is a slippery slope, sometimes leading to outright fakery and fraud. Tony will be exposing the “creative” and sometimes humorous techniques used for enhancing and faking mineral specimens (and some gems) and the clues to look for in detecting them. Please join us for this wonderful event. Please Rsvp to Kathy’s email at: gmc@nhm.org or call her at 213-763-3326 (Kathy comes into work on Thursdays, but you can leave her a voicemail any other day).
A wonderful fake: Tourmaline glued on a matrix.

7. PUBLICATIONS


CONTACT US

You can contact the Gem & Mineral Council at: 213-763-3326 or gmc@nhm.org.

Remember that we update our Facebook page daily with pictures of gems, minerals, news, etc. You will also find updated information about our coming events and photo albums of our past events. You do not need to be a Facebook member to visit our page! http://www.facebook.com/GemMineralCouncil

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