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VOLUME 49
ISSUE VII
JULY 2009



Presidential Ponderings

THANK YOU !!!

We have all safely made it through another show, and it was quite wonderful overall. It was great to see all the members that came to the show to help out or just to visit. From the early report given at the close of the show it seems that we did quite well in spite of everything that is going on in the world, or... maybe because of it.

It has become quite apparent that we will need to plan a field trip to Indiana to collect more geodes. I know that Charles is quite excited and can hardly wait to go! I think that we will need to try and plan a trip for July instead of the last weekend in June. Morenci is scheduled to have their Town and Country Days on the last weekend in June and our club has been asked to participate in the events of the weekend. There will be a table set up out in front of the depot for members to promote our club. We will also have a picnic lunch in the afternoon for the members who come to participate. Please bring a dish to pass. Some of us will probably be down in the pit removing brick and excavating the dirt for the basement while other members are out front greeting the public.

We've had a few work days since our last meeting and things are progressing quite nicely. The conveyor works BEAUTIFULLY!!! Thanks to Brian Duncan's leadership in the pit the bricks are running scared. Maybe by the end of summer we will have a full fledged basement and then we will be able to turn our attention to other things that seem soooo important to some of our members. Heh, heh, heh.

The July meeting will also include a picnic. Please bring a dish to pass. We will be discussing all the normal business; however we will also be discussing what made this show better than past shows and how we can improve things even more. Please bring ideas to share and a willingness to participate. We really need our meetings to be more lively and interactive.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Steve



Treasurer's Addition

New Members: Please add the following names to your membership roster.

George H. Stuckey (419) 335-1446
george.stuckey@epa.state.oh.us
112 Washington St.
Wauseon, Oh 43567



Stephen Shimatzki (419) 861-0147
sis132@accesstoledo.com
107 Florentine Dr
Holland OH 43528

Treasurer's Report: Thanks to a very successful show, our bank balance is healthy. We still need to generate funds for future expenses. Many members still have dreams of a functioning bathroom and a better heating plan for the upcoming winter. Now there is a goal to work towards.

Doris Brzezicki, Treasurer.

Show Report: It was a very good year! Of course, you can see by the treasurer's report the show was a great financial success. But the measure of a show is not just in dollars and cents. Our mission is to promote interest and increased knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology and the lapidary arts. And that's exactly what the show did. And we had fun. Sincere thanks to the hard working members who contributed many, many hours before, during and after this event.

Now it is time to plan for next year. It will be our 49th Show. I was thinking of a possible title- "49- the Beginning of the Gold Rush." And while we are making plans, it would be good to look forward to the next year. Our 50th- "Our Golden Years." Bring your ideas to the next meeting.

Doris Brzezicki, Show Chairperson.

Morenci Town and Country Festival: June 26, 27, 28: We didn't discuss this event at our meeting, but our club participated last year, and it's a way for us to be part of the community. Events start Friday evening with a Carnival down at the park from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. We can set up tables in front of the club house and sell items made by members. Also, it would be nice to crack geodes and have some children's activities- maybe games and a fossil dig. Dale Fordyce donated a pipe cutter to the club. We need to get it mounted so we can crack the geodes.

Saturday, there is a parade at 11 a.m. Ed Jarzembki has graciously volunteered to drive his antique truck in the parade. Members should meet at the clubhouse at 9:30 a.m. to decorate the truck. After the parade it would be fun to have a pot luck picnic. The Carnival continues all afternoon and there will be fireworks at 10 p.m. We didn't participate on Sunday last year.

Morenci City Wide Yard Sale: July 18: More Details at the July Meeting.

At the June meeting 4 work dates were set up down at the clubhouse. At the first work date, Richard Brzezicki, Brian Duncan, Nancy Lewis and Bill Sipes all worked breaking up and hauling out bricks and dirt from the garage area. I was on the sidelines admiring the great progress that was made. Still lots to be done, but we can do it!

Doris Brzezicki

**Work Date
photos!**



More photos on the next page!

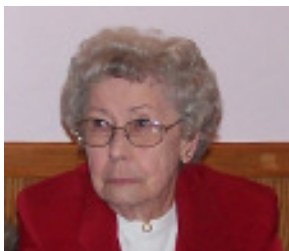
*More Work
Date
photos!*



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The Secretary's Words



Due to the fact that there was only a very short meeting held after the close of the show, and the absence at that time of the Secretary, there is no secretary's report this month.

Onyx: Black Magic

In jewelry design as in fashion, colors look crisper against a background of black, and black and white always looks right. In fine jewelry, the black backdrop is often supplied by onyx, a black chalcedony quartz with a fine texture. Some onyx also displays white bands or ribbons against a black background. If the layers are even, this type of onyx can be carved into cameos.



Onyx was very popular with the ancient Greeks and Romans. The name comes from the Greek word 'onyx', which means nail or claw. The story is that one day the frisky Cupid cut the divine fingernails of Venus with an arrowhead while she was sleeping. He left the clippings scattered on the sand and the fates turned them into stone so that no part of the heavenly body would ever perish. True, black isn't normally the color one associates with fingernails. (Did Venus wear Vamp, perhaps?) But in Greek times, almost all the colors of chalcedony from fingernail white to dark brown and black were called onyx. Later, the Romans narrowed the term to refer to black and dark brown colors only.

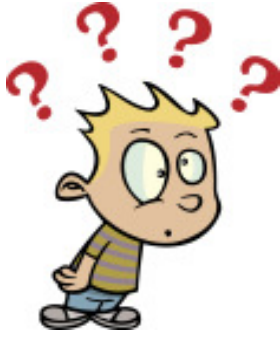
Onyx which is reddish brown and white is known as sardonyx. Sardonyx was highly valued in Rome, especially for seals, because it was said never to stick to the wax. The Roman general Publius Cornelius Scipio was known for wearing it a good deal.

Black onyx shines especially well when used as a backdrop for color play. Its fine texture also makes it ideal for carving, making it a favored material for today's lapidaries. In the pin by designer Susan Helmich (to the left), a carved piece of onyx with threads of white provides a stunning backdrop for a flash of color. Onyx was often used as the perfect foil for carved rock crystal or the 'drop dead red' of rubies in art deco designs. It is also popular in marcasite jewellery. So if you would like to add a little black magic to your jewelry design, why not consider onyx?



<http://www.gemstone.org/gem-by-gem/english/onyx.html>

The 10 Most Puzzling Ancient Artifacts



Facts & Fun

The Bible tells us that God created Adam and Eve just a few thousand years ago, by some fundamentalist interpretations. Science informs us that this is mere fiction and that man is a few million years old, and that civilization is just tens of thousands of years old. Could it be, however, that conventional science is just as mistaken as the Bible stories? There is a great deal of archeological evidence that the history of life on earth might be far different than what current geological and anthropological texts tell us. Consider these astonishing finds:

The Grooved Spheres



Over the last few decades, miners in South Africa have been digging up mysterious metal spheres. Origin unknown, these

spheres measure approximately an inch or so in diameter, and some are etched with three parallel grooves running around the equator. Two types of spheres have been found: one is composed of a solid bluish metal with flecks of white; the other is hollowed out and filled with a spongy white substance. The kicker is that the rock in which they were found is Precambrian - and dated to 2.8 billion years old! Who made them and for what purpose is unknown.

The Dropa Stones



In 1938, an archeological expedition led by Dr. Chi Pu Tei into the Baian-Kara-Ula mountains of China made an astonishing

discovery in some caves that had apparently been occupied by some ancient culture. Buried in the dust of ages on the cave floor were hundreds of stone disks. Measuring about nine inches in diameter, each had a circle cut into the center and was etched with a spiral groove, making it look for all the world like some ancient phonograph record some 10,000 to 12,000 years old. The spiral groove, it turns out, is actually composed of tiny hieroglyphics that tell the incredible story of spaceships from some distant world that crash-landed in the mountains. The ships were piloted by people who called themselves the Dropa, and the remains of whose descendents, possibly, were found in the cave.

The Ica Stones



Beginning in the 1930s, the father of Dr. Javier Cabrera, Cultural Anthropologist for Ica, Peru, discovered many hundreds of ceremonial

burial stones in the tombs of the ancient Incas. Dr. Cabrera, carrying on his father's work, has collected more than 1,100 of these andesite stones, which are estimated to be between 500 and 1,500 years old and have become known collectively as the Ica Stones. The stones bear etchings, many of which are sexually graphic (which was common to the culture), some picture idols and others depict such practices as open-heart surgery and brain transplants. The most astonishing etchings, however, clearly represent dinosaurs - brontosaurus, triceratops (see photo), stegosaurus and pterosaurs. While skeptics consider the Ica Stones a hoax, their authenticity has neither been proved or disproved.

Facts & Fun: Puzzling Artifacts

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The Antikythera Mechanism



A perplexing artifact was recovered by sponge-divers from a shipwreck in 1900 off the coast of Antikythera, a small island that lies northwest of Crete.

The divers brought up from the wreck a great many marble and bronze statues that had apparently been the ship's cargo. Among the findings was a hunk of corroded bronze that contained some kind of mechanism composed of many gears and wheels. Writing on the case indicated that it was made in 80 B.C., and many experts at first thought it was an astrolabe, an astronomer's tool. An x-ray of the mechanism, however, revealed it to be far more complex, containing a sophisticated system of differential gears. Gearing of this complexity was not known to exist until 1575! It is still unknown who constructed this amazing instrument 2,000 years ago or how the technology was lost.

The Baghdad Battery



Today batteries can be found in any grocery, drug, convenience and department store you come across. Well, here's a battery that's 2,000 years old! Known as the Baghdad Battery, this curiosity was found in the ruins of a Parthian village believed to date back to between 248 B.C. and 226 A.D. The device consists of a 5-1/2-inch high clay vessel inside of which was a copper cylinder held in place by asphalt, and inside of that was

an oxidized iron rod. Experts who examined it concluded that the device needed only to be filled with an acid or alkaline liquid to produce an electric charge. It is believed that this ancient battery might have been used for electroplating objects with gold. If so, how was this technology lost... and the battery not rediscovered for another 1,800 years?

The Coso Artifact



While mineral hunting in the mountains of California near Olancho during the winter of 1961, Wallace Lane, Virginia Maxey and Mike Mikesell found a rock, among many others, that they thought was a geode - a good addition for their gem shop. Upon cutting it open, however, Mikesell found an object inside that seemed to be made of white porcelain. In the center was a shaft of shiny metal. Experts estimated that it should have taken about 500,000 years for this fossil-encrusted nodule to form, yet the object inside was obviously of sophisticated human manufacture. Further investigation revealed that the porcelain was surround by a hexagonal casing, and an x-ray revealed a tiny spring at one end. Some who have examined the evidence say it looks very much like a modern-day spark plug. How did it get inside a 500,000-year-old rock?

Ancient Model Aircraft



There are artifacts belonging to ancient Egyptian and Central American cultures that look amazingly like modern-day aircraft. The Egyptian artifact,

Facts & Fun: Puzzling Artifacts

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found in a tomb at Saqqara, Egypt in 1898, is a six-inch wooden object that strongly resembles a model airplane, with fuselage, wings and tail. Experts believe the object is so aerodynamic that it is actually able to glide. The small object discovered in Central America, and estimated to be 1,000 years old, is made of gold and could easily be mistaken for a model of a delta-wing aircraft - or even the Space Shuttle. It even features what looks like a pilot's seat.

Giant Stone Balls of Costa Rica



Workmen hacking and burning their way through the dense jungle of Costa Rica to clear an area for banana plantations in

the 1930s stumbled upon some incredible objects: dozens of stone balls, many of which were perfectly spherical. They varied in size from as small as a tennis ball to an astonishing 8 feet in diameter and weighing 16 tons! Although the great stone balls are clearly man-made, it is unknown who made them, for what purpose and, most puzzling, how they achieved such spherical precision.

Impossible Fossils



Fossils, as we learned in grade school, appear in rocks that were formed many thousands of years ago. Yet there are a number of fossils that just don't make geological or historical sense. A fossil of a human handprint, for

example, was found in limestone estimated to be 110 million years old. What appears to be a fossilized human finger found in the Canadian Arctic also dates back 100 to 110 million years ago. And what appears to be the fossil of a human footprint, possibly wearing a sandal, was found near Delta, Utah in a shale deposit estimated to be 300 million to 600 million years old.

Out-of-Place Metal Objects



Humans were not even around 65 million years ago, never mind people who could work metal.

So then how does science explain semi-

ovoid metallic tubes dug out of 65-million-year-old Cretaceous chalk in France? In 1885, a block of coal was broken open to find a metal cube obviously worked by intelligent hands. In 1912, employees at an electric plant broke apart a large chunk of coal out of which fell an iron pot! A nail was found embedded in a sandstone block from the Mesozoic Era. And there are many, many more such anomalies.

What are we to make of these finds? There are several possibilities:

- * Intelligent humans date back much, much further than we realize.
- * Other intelligent beings and civilizations existed on earth far beyond our recorded history.
- * Our dating methods are completely inaccurate, and that stone, coal and fossils form much more rapidly than we now estimate.

In any case, these examples - and there are many more - should prompt any curious and open-minded scientist to reexamine and rethink the true history of life on earth.

Patriotic Quotes



1. "America is a tune. It must be sung together." - Gerald Stanley Lee
2. "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."
3. "Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." - Adlai Stevenson
4. "I shall know but one country. The ends I aim at shall be my country's, my God's and Truth's. I was born an American; I live an American; I shall die an American." - Daniel Webster
5. "We can't all be Washingtons, but we can all be patriots." - Charles F. Browne
6. "When an American says that he loves his country, he means not only that he loves the New England hills, the prairies glistening in the sun, the wide and rising plains, the great mountains, and the sea. He means that he loves an inner air, an inner light in which freedom lives and in which a man can draw the breath of self-respect." - Adlai Stevenson
7. "National honor is national property of the highest value." - James Monroe
8. "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."
- Nathan Hale
9. "If our country is worth dying for in time of war let us resolve that it is truly worth living for in time of peace." - Hamilton Fish
10. "If you are ashamed to stand by your colors, you had better seek another flag."
- Author Unknown
11. "Sometimes people call me an idealist. Well, that is the way I know I am an American. America is the only idealistic nation in the world."
- Woodrow Wilson
12. "Sure I wave the American flag. Do you know a better flag to wave? Sure I love my country with all her faults. I'm not ashamed of that, never have been, never will be." - John Wayne
13. "There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America." - William J. Clinton
14. "We need an America with the wisdom of experience. But we must not let America grow old in spirit." - Hubert H. Humphrey
15. "I think there is one higher office than president and I would call that patriot." - Gary Hart
16. "Patriotism is easy to understand in America - it means looking out for yourself by looking out for your country." - Calvin Coolidge



Upcoming Events

July 5, 2009

State Line Gem & Mineral Society
monthly meeting
2:00 p.m.
Morenci Train Depot
325 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256.

July 10-12, 2009

SHARONVILLE, OH:
Show; GemStreet USA;
Sharonville Convention Center,
11355 Chester Rd.
Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5
adults \$7, seniors (60+) and students
(12-17) \$5, under 12 free, ticket
good all weekend; discount coupon
on Web site;
contact Jane Strieter Smith,
(216) 521-GEMS (4367);
e-mail: spi@stratos.net;
Web site: www.gemstreetusa.com

July 17-19, 2009

INDIANAPOLIS, IN:
Show; GemStreet USA
Indiana State Fairgrounds
Pioneer, Our Land Bldg.
1202 E. 38 St.
Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5
adults \$7, seniors (60+) and students
(12-17) \$5, under 12 free, ticket
good all weekend
fine gems, jewelry, mineral
specimens, fossils, beads, findings,
display items, Scout badges,
discount coupon on Web site;
contact Jane Strieter Smith,
(216) 521-GEMS (4367)
e-mail: spi@stratos.net
Web site: www.gemstreetusa.com

August 1, 2009

34th Annual Upper Peninsula Gem &
Mineral Show
Ishpeming Elks Club Hall,
Ishpeming, MI
(906) 228-9422

August 2-8, 2009

The Annual Copper Country Mineral
Retreat
Hosted by the A.E. Seaman Mineral
Museum
offers a week long mineral collecting
extravaganza in Michigan's Historic
Lake Superior Native Copper District.
For more details visit the museum
website: [www.museum.mtu.edu/
copper_country_mineral/index.html](http://www.museum.mtu.edu/copper_country_mineral/index.html) or
contact the museum by phone
(906) 487-2437 or email
dmcomfor@mtu.edu for more
information.



This newsletter is the official publication of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society. It is published and mailed about the 20th of each month. Submissions *must* be in by the 15th. The State Line Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit group. Its purpose is to promote interest and increase knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology and the lapidary arts. Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM at the Morenci Train Depot, 325 W. Main St., Morenci, MI 49256. The June meeting takes place during the annual show/sale. If the first Sunday is a holiday, the meeting will be held one week later.

OFFICERS

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Rock Trails

Sandy Gerhart, Editor
210 Chestnut St.
Adrian, MI 49221



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