

DECEMBER 2010 OFFER SHEET

Here are a few more nice specimens for you to consider, some we picked up in Denver, and some we've picked up since. As usual, shipping is free in the United States, and except for the benitoite crystal below and the beads and the fossils, photos are close to life-size.

Benitoite, Gem mine, San Benito County, California. The Collector's Edge group worked this famous deposit a few years ago, and one collector obtained from them several hundred of these small but well-formed crystals! We would love to feature Benitoite in our Club—it's the California state gemstone—but there's just no way we can piece in the Silver-level size we need, plus the Platinum-level pieces, when you can find them, are really expensive. As you can see from the photos, these loose crystals are opaque, not gemmy, but have excellent, but not perfect, crystal form. They contain inclusions of the blue glaucophane schist that the benitoite crystallized in; the glaucophane inclusions make the crystals opaque rather than gemmy and translucent. Benitoite crystals about 3/8" by 3/8" similar to the one in the photo are available for \$26.50. Crystals of similar size but less symmetry are available for \$12, for those who just want to have one in their collection.

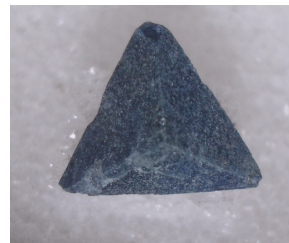


Figure 1. Heavily included Benitoite crystal about 3/8" by 3/8" for \$26.50.

Dinosaur Bone, Utah. These are pieces of dinosaur bone that have been replaced by jasper and agate of a brownish-red color. They have been polished on the top to reveal the striking color and the internal cell structure of the bone, which remains despite the agate/jasper replacement! This material was collected during the 1960's and 1970's (and earlier) when it was still legal to collect it; they are from old-timers collections in Southern Utah. These are of the higher, Jewelry-grade material, and could be cut into cabochons if you wish to—just don't let us find out! We have pieces about 1.5" by 1.5" for \$48, and slightly larger for \$65.



Figure 2. Dinosaur Bone replaced by Jasper about 1.5" across and 1.5" high for \$48.

Cassiterite, Huanuni Mine, Dalence Province, Oruro Department, Bolivia. Cassiterite is tin oxide (SnO_2), one of the minerals we would love to feature in the Club, but can never find enough of! We see random pieces offered by Chinese dealers from time to time, but never more than a few at a time, and the lot of ten pieces we offered in the August 2010 Offer Sheet went quickly, so we were happy to receive this lot of four pieces for any who wanted one then but couldn't get it. The cassiterite has crystallized as small, lustrous, well-formed, black crystals up to about .25"—lots and lots of small crystals on a matrix of massive cassiterite, as seen in the photo. The matrix is about 2" by 2" and the specimens are available for \$70.

MINERAL PREVIOUSLY FEATURED IN OUR MINERAL OF THE MONTH CLUB
We'll send a copy of our in-depth write-up with these minerals we've featured in the past.

Uvarovite, Sarany near Perm, Central Ural Mountains, Russia, our February 2001 featured mineral. These small but intensely green garnets catch collector's eyes everywhere—can't believe it's been almost ten years since we featured them! We have two sizes, as seen in the photos: Larger matrix pieces about 2.5" by 2" with very small green garnets for \$36 and \$45, by coverage/size; and smaller matrix pieces about 1" by 1" to 2" by 1.5" with larger garnets (up to 1/8") for \$40 and \$50, and the best for \$70. Some of these smaller pieces are suitable for use in wire jewelry!



Figure 3. Uvarovite garnets on smaller matrix about 1 1/8" across and 1 3/4" high for \$60



Figure 4. Smaller Uvarovite garnets on larger matrix, about 2.25" across and 2.5" high for \$45.

Vivianite, Conutillos Mine, Colavi, Potsi Department, Bolivia, our November 2004 featured mineral. This was a new and exciting find when we featured it in 2004; we picked up a few more pieces, a little larger than what we sent then, while we were in Denver in September. We've had a lot of trouble getting a decent photo of this vivianite and also of the uvarovite, which is why it's taken so long to offer these to you. The crystals look black, but they are actually a beautiful shade of greenish-blue. The matrix is an earthy-colored argillaceous sandstone, argillaceous meaning "composed of clay minerals." The vivianite is light sensitive, and the matrix somewhat crumbly, so these specimens should be handled as little as possible, and not displayed or stored in bright light. We have matrix pieces about 2.5" by 2" with 1" vivianite crystals for \$26.50 and \$36.50 according to size and quality, and a couple of larger, better quality pieces for \$55 and \$75.



Figure 5. Vivianite, entire piece about 2.75" high and 1.5" across for \$36.50

“Rainbow” Pyrite, Volga River, near Ulyanovsk, Ulyanovsk Oblast’, Russia, our July 2007 featured mineral. What make these pieces so amazing is the bright color seen in some of the minute pyrite crystals! And of course, our write-up will give you all the hows and whys of the occurrence. Club members have commented on the amazing colors of these pieces!

We ran out of Gold-level and Silver-level specimens soon after we featured it in 2007, and this year in Tucson we were checking all the Russian dealers looking for more, but with no success!

Evidently, the Jewelry-makers have discovered the material, and the rough was all being cut into freeform cabochons for use in designer pendants and such. So we eagerly scooped up the small lot we saw in Denver, and want to offer the most colorful pieces to members who missed out on it. We have colorful pieces about 2.5" by 2.5" for \$35 and \$40, and about 3.5" by 2.5" for \$50 and \$60.

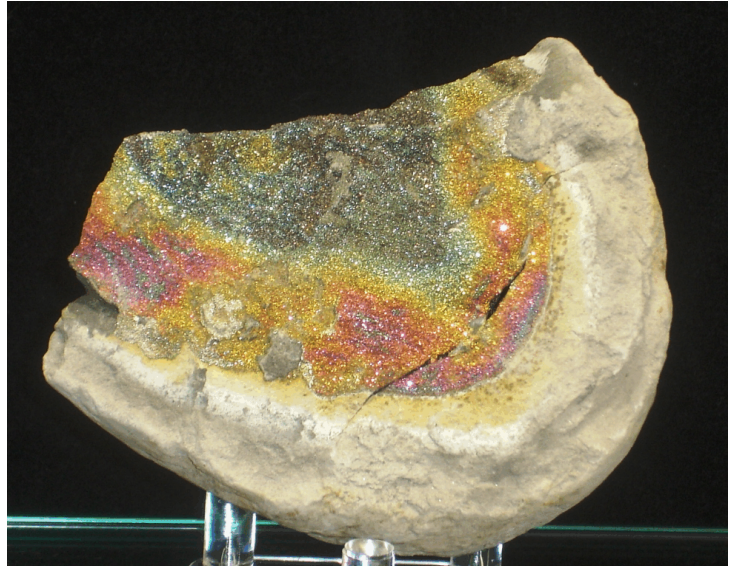


Figure 7. “Rainbow” Pyrite, about 3.5" across and 2.5" high for \$50.

Melikaria, Julimes County, Chihuahua, Mexico. NOT A MINERAL WE HAVE FEATURED. We first saw these strange-looking specimens (also spelled "melicaria") at a show more than a few years ago, a new find at that time from Mexico. From what little information that was available, it seems they are "a quartz cast after the crack-filling of a septarian nodule or possibly after a similar crack-filling spherulite," according to former Smithsonian curator John S. White. We were thinking of featuring them in our Club, and actually set up a page on our web site to get opinions from Club members! But it turned out to be a moot point, as we were not able to get enough specimens to be able to feature it.



Figure 6. Melikaria, about 3.5" across and 2" high for \$40.

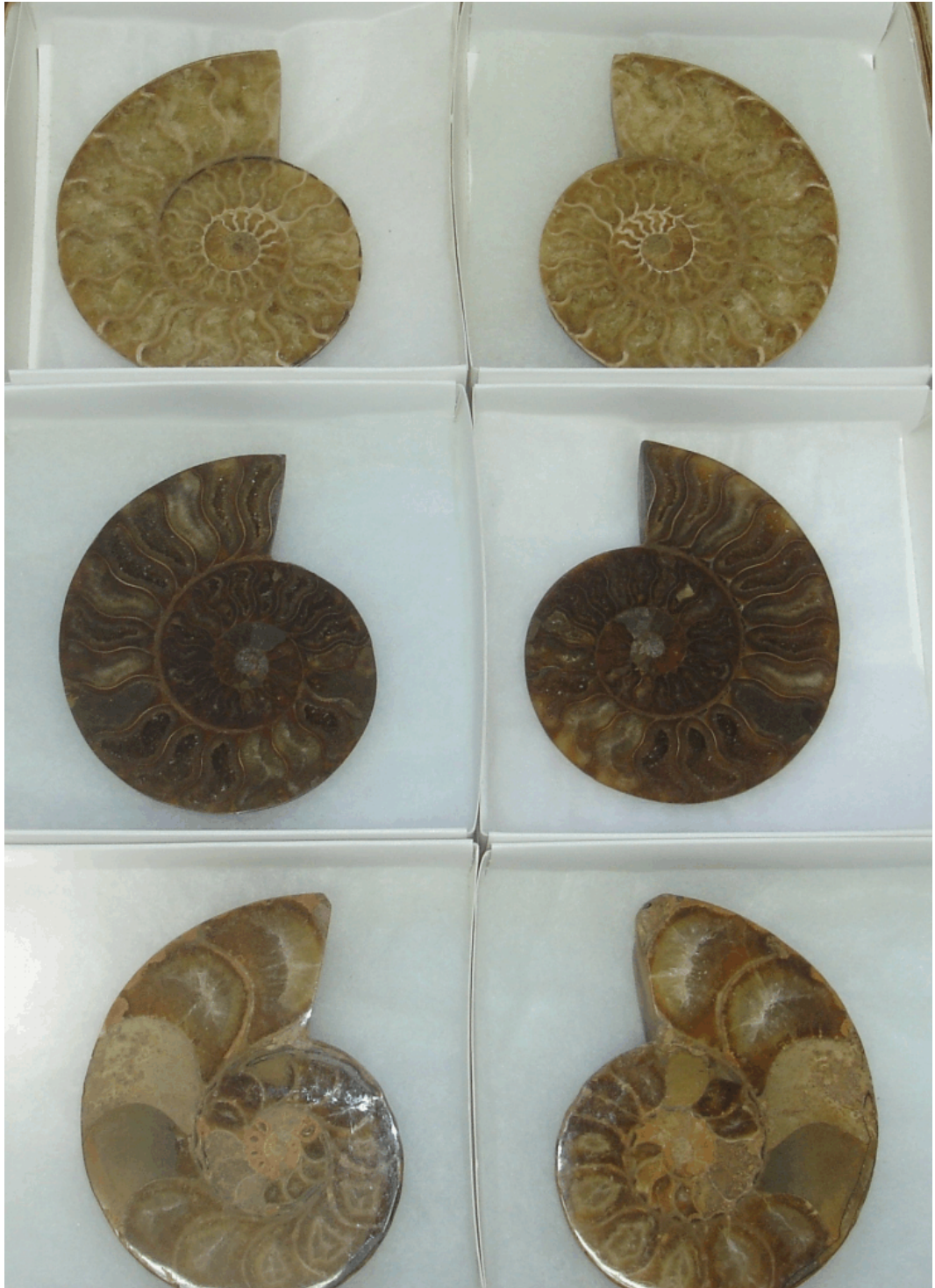
We had a special request for a specimen, so we picked out a few more in Denver in case anyone else would like one. We have four pieces left for \$32 and \$36.



Fossils, various localities, Morocco. To make our new showroom at our home complete, we picked out some nice fossil pieces from Morocco while at the show in Denver. (You are invited to see our new showroom if you're ever in Cambria, CA!) We took the above photo above to send to local rockhounds and it came out so well, we wanted to show it to you too in case you're looking for a nice fossil specimen for yourself or as a gift! We are offering them at discount prices to Club members, so we would need to add shipping costs if you decide to order any. We can send you photos of any of the larger pieces if you would like. We numbered them as follows:

1. Fossil Crocodile skull with teeth, about 15" from front to back for \$350.
2. Orthoceras fossils on matrix, carved and polished into a freeform sculpture, about 12" high by 4" wide and slightly larger for \$36 and \$40, according to quality.
3. Ammonite fossils on matrix, carved and polished into a freeform sculpture about 9" to 10" high and 4" to 6" across for \$27 and \$30.
4. Large trilobite fossils on matrix. Largest fossil is on bottom right and measures about 9.5" across; entire piece is about 19" across and 20" high for \$300.
5. Large trilobite fossil on matrix—matrix is about 12" across and 15" high for \$275.
6. Ammonite fossils about 5.5" to 6" across for \$27; larger, 8" across for \$40.
7. Ammonite fossils, carved and polished into freeform sculpture, over 22" tall and 16" across for \$150

Ammonite Pairs, Madagascar. We featured small pairs of these polished pairs of fossil ammonite shells in October 2002, so we have an informative write-up to go with these. (Our write-up focused on how calcite replaced the original ammonite shells.) We'll also send you a pair of our LG stands at no charge so you can stand these upright for display. Each individual ammonite half is about 4" tall and 3" across. You can specify a lighter pair or darker pair, as seen in the photo. (The darker pairs have some minor red iridescence on the back of the fossil.) The cost for the pair is \$65.





Finished Necklaces. We got our first batch of these beautiful bead necklaces in Tucson this year, and they went quickly. The photo gives you an idea of their true beauty. Made in Thailand with sterling silver clasps and are about 17" long and ready to wear. From left to right we have:

Kyanite, faceted rondells graduated about 3mm to 6mm \$67.50

Labradorite, faceted rondells about 6mm \$45.00

Peridot, faceted rondells about 5mm \$67.50

Multi-Color Spinel, faceted rondells about 4mm \$78.75

Labradorite, rondells about 6mm \$33.75

Sugilite, rondells graduated about 3mm to 6mm \$375

We also have some **Moldavite** beads in rondells and faceted rondells—inquire for prices/photos.

We can ship gift items directly to your recipient with a complimentary gift containing your special message if you wish!

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to place an order. Call or Email to order—thanks! (Not responsible for any typos.)

Richard & Cheryl 1-800-941-5594 Richard@Mineralofthemonthclub.org

CONTINUE ON TO SEE OUR NEW “MINI-COLLECTIONS” SETS!

NEW! Mini-Collection Gift Sets

Whether you're looking for beautiful colors, interesting textures, or even your own piece of history, this is a perfect way to get a rock and mineral set for a friend or a loved one! As usual, there is no charge for shipping in the U.S., and we can send it directly to your gift recipient with a gift card in your name if you prefer. If you order 3 or more sets total and have them shipped together, we'll give you an additional 10% off. The *average* sizes of the pieces are highlighted in **RED**. Let us know if you can use any of these sets!



“PREHISTORIC” COLLECTION

Fossilized Shark Tooth **2.5" x 1.5"**

Mammoth Hair (*Not Pictured*)

Fossilized Mosasaur Tooth **1.5" x 1"**

Fossilized Ammonite **1.25" x 1"**

Fossilized Bivalve **2" x 2.5"**

Coprolite - Fossilized Turtle Feces **2" x .75"**

Includes: Informational cards, and labels with name and locality.

\$35.00 Free delivery in the U.S.



“RAINBOW” MINERAL COLLECTION

Malachite - Republic of Congo **1.25" x .5"**

Vesuvianite - Quebec, Canada **1.25" x .5"**

Orpiment - Russia **1" x .75"**

Lazurite - Afghanistan **.75" x .5"**

Chrysoprase - Australia **.75" x .5"**

Cactus Quartz - South Africa **1" x 1.75"**

Rhodochrosite - China **.5" x .5"**

Includes: Display boxes, labels, and our highly-detailed write-ups from when these were featured in our Club.

\$56.00 Free delivery in the U.S.



“METALLIC” COLLECTION

Native Copper - Michigan, USA 1" x .5"

Galena - Missouri, USA .75" x .5"

Pyrite - Spain .5" x .5"

Stibnite - Jiangxi Province, China 1" x .5"

Includes: Display boxes, labels, and informative write-ups.

\$20.00 Free delivery in the U.S. (\$32.00 Value!)



“FANCY” POLISHED STONES

Hematite 1" x .5"

Tiger Eye 1.5" x 1"

Ruby in Fuchsite 1.5" x 1"

Charoite .75" x .75"

Turquoise (Stabilized) 1" x .75"

Seraphinite 1" x .5"

Includes: Mineral identifier card.

\$24.00 Free delivery in the U.S. (\$42.00 Value!)



POLISHED STONES

Aquamarine .5" x .5"

Blue Chalcedony .75" x .5"

Fluorite 1" x .5"

Red Jasper 1" x .5"

Scapolite .75" x .5"

Rose Quartz .75" x .5"

Includes: Mineral identifier card.

\$8.00 Free delivery in the U.S. (\$18.00 Value!)



WORRY STONES

Amethyst 1" x 1.25"

Rose Quartz 1.25" x 1.5"

Orange Calcite 1.25" x 1.5"

Quartz Crystal 1.25" x 1.5"

Magnesite 1.25" x 1.5"

Includes: Mineral identifier card.

\$20.00 Free delivery in the U.S.



"JUNIOR" COLLECTION

Pyrite 1.75" x .75"

Snowflake Obsidian 1.25" x .75"

Apophyllite 1" x .75"

Malachite 1" x .5"

Mahogany Obsidian 1" x .5"

Includes: Mineral identifier card.

\$20.00 Free delivery in the U.S.

Call or Email and order by the Collection name, and tell us to send it to you, or to the gift recipient.
If the latter, we'll need their name and address. Thanks in advance!