

Feb 2009 Platinum Member Offerings

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE PINK HALITE ON THE LAST PAGE!

HEULANDITE, Shendurni, Jalgaon District, Maharashtra, India

While picking out the Heulandite we're featuring in February, we noticed a small lot with a different crystal habit and very pretty color, so of course, we had to get it, too. As you can see from the photos, the heulandite forms as thin lines and clusters of sheafs of thin crystals with a pretty peachy-orange color, on a very pretty bed of minute, reddish crystals, probably a previous growth of heulandite or another zeolite-group mineral.

We got about 15 smaller pieces like the one in Figure 1, on matrix about 2" to 2.5" across, for \$45, and slightly larger matrix for \$55, and a couple of really small pieces on about 1.25" by 1.25" matrix for \$24.

The larger specimens are on matrix about 2" by 3" to 3" by 4", like the piece in Figure 2, for \$110, \$120, \$150, \$220, and the biggest, best (in Figure2) for \$325.

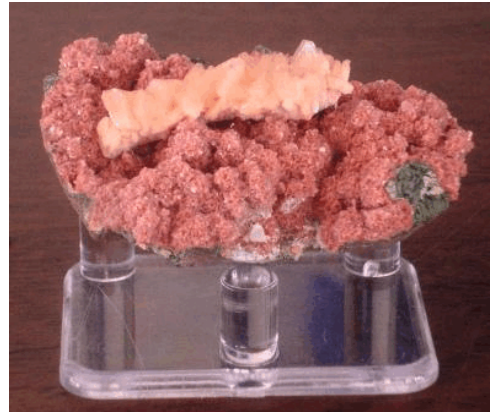


Figure 1. Heulandite from the new find at Shendurni, Jalgaon District, India. Matrix is about 2.25" across, \$45 specimen

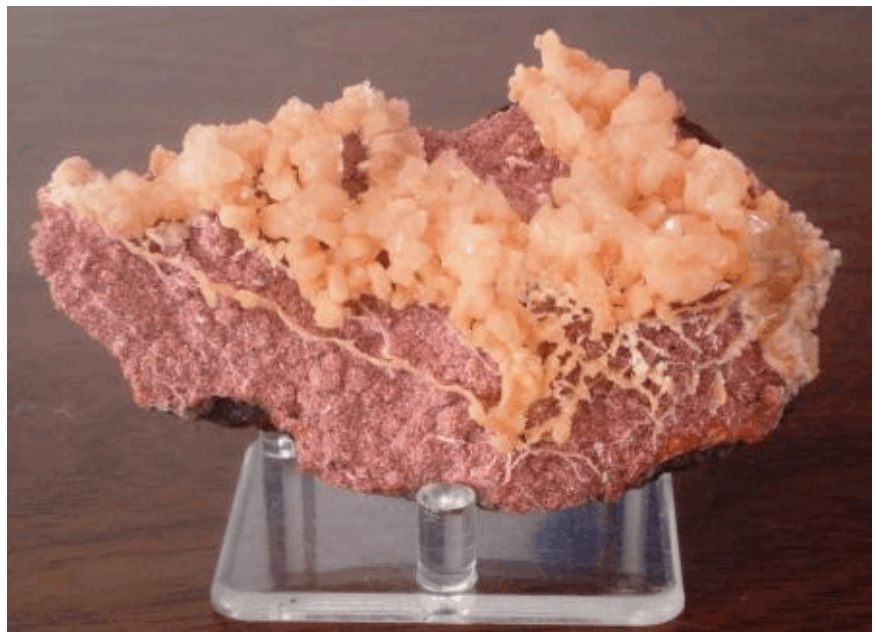


Figure 2. Heulandite from the new find at Shendurni, Jalgaon District, India. Matrix is about 4.5" across, \$325 specimen.

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BROOKITE, Kharan District, Balochistan Province, Pakistan

During Tucson 2007, we got a terrific deal on a large lot of Brookite from the new find in Pakistan. The importer kindly gave us a huge discount so we could feature it in our Club! The lot included some of the best specimens, making it possible for us to offer you at less than one third of their original retail price. The brookite, a rare polytype of TiO_2 , is trimorphous with Anatase and Rutile. (Let me know if you'd like us to send you a copy of our write-up on it.)

The brookite is found as thin, bladed crystals of a reddish-brown color on matrix, sometimes associated with pretty needle quartz, as seen in Figure 2. We have six specimens available:

1.5" by 1" matrix piece, retail \$200, your price \$62.50

1.75" by 1" matrix piece, as seen in Figure 3, retail \$400, your price \$125.

3" by 2.5" matrix piece, retail \$220, your price \$70.

2.75" by 2.5" matrix piece, (Figure 4), retail \$300, your price \$93.75.

About 4" across by 5.5" high matrix , retail \$280, your price \$90.

About 4.5" across by 6.5" high matrix, retail \$480, your price \$150.



Figure 3. Brookite crystals with quartz, a \$400 retail specimen for \$125.



Figure 4. Brookite crystals on matrix, \$300 retail for \$93.75.

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FIBROUS MALACHITE, Shaba Province, Zaire

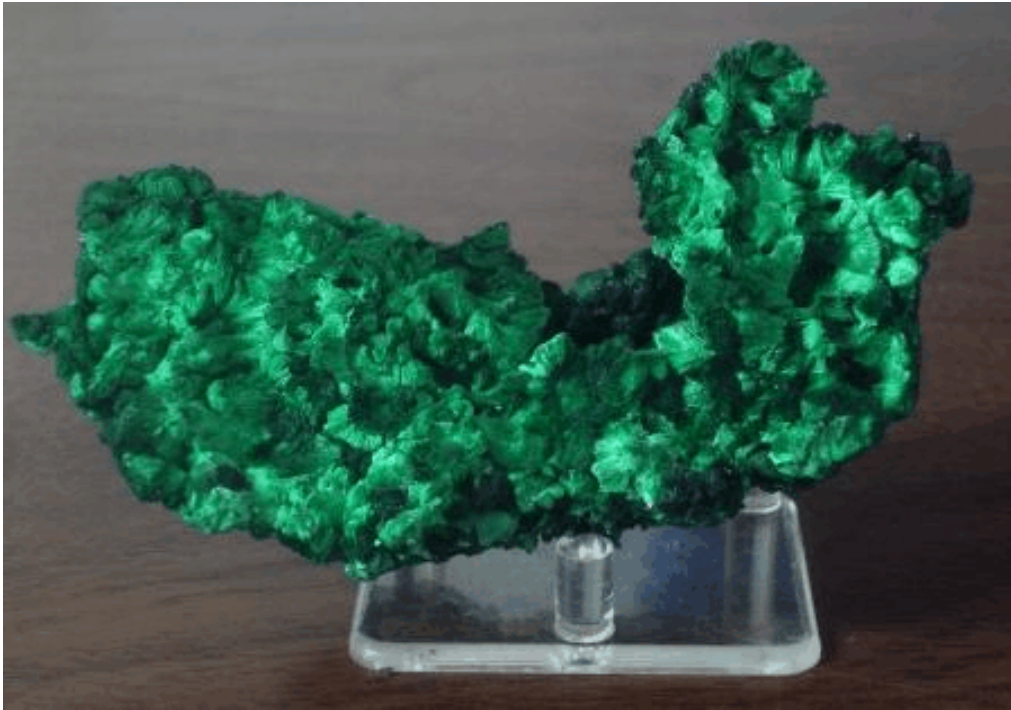


Figure 5. Fibrous Malachite from Zaire, about 5" across and 2" high for \$120.

We got in a few more pieces of this exceptionally beautiful malachite from Zaire, as seen in the nearly-size photo above!

We have 4 specimens of similar size and quality to the photo, for \$100, \$120, \$160, and \$180.

COBALTOAN CALCITE, Bou Azzer District, Morocco. The cobalt substituting for calcium in the crystal structure imparts a lovely pink color, and these are some of the brightest, prettiest we have seen, with visible crystals, too! We have 4 pieces on matrix about 2" by 2" with a dusty rose color for \$24 and \$30. And we have 6 pieces with a hot pink to hot purplish-pink color and visible crystals on matrix about 2" by 2" for \$20, \$24, and \$30, and 3" by 2" to 3.5" by 2.5" for \$50. Specimens have some slight imperfections on a few of the crystals.

SPESSARTINE*, Zhanghou Prefecture, Fujian Province, China. These are matrix pieces with the bright orange garnets from the exciting new find made in China a few years ago. Each matrix piece has many crystals about 1/8" to 3/16" with excellent burnt-orange color. We have matrix pieces about 3" by 1.5" to 3" by 2.5" and slightly larger for \$40, \$50, and \$60.



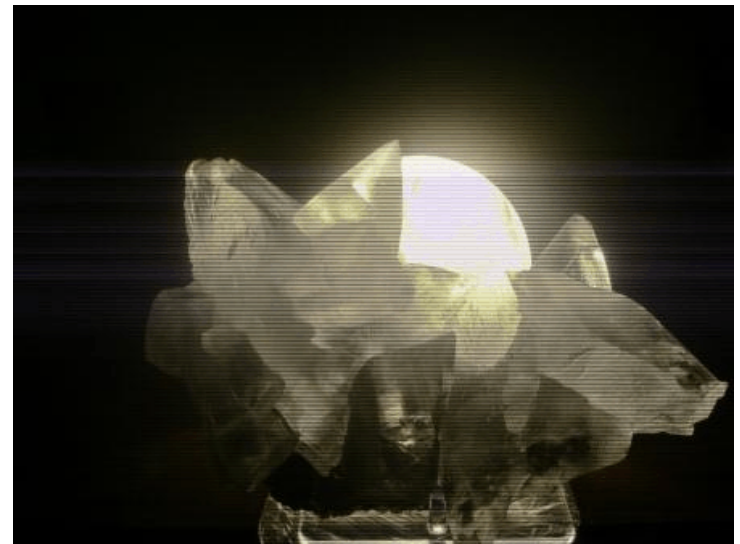
Spessartine, \$60 specimen, about 3.5" across and 2" high.

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SELENITE, Naica, Chihuahua, Mexico



We saw some exceptional Selenite pieces at the West Coast Gem & Mineral Show in November, meaning there must have been a new find lately. We picked out this large cluster, as seen in these 3 photos—including the “Art Photo” on the right, which was created when I put a lamp behind the cluster to try to capture some of the translucence of the large crystals. This cluster is about 12" across, which will give you an idea of the size of the individual crystals. This piece had a \$1400 retail price tag on it, but we can offer it for \$900.



This Pig made in China from Lapis Lazuli is about 8" across and the head is almost 5" high. We got him (or her) last year in Tucson, and no one has seen fit to give him (or her) a good home as yet. He's available for \$600. The color of the Lapis Lazuli is actually darker than it looks in this photo.



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PINK HALITE, Searles Lake, near Trona, San Bernardino County, California.

Once a year in connection with the Trona Gem & Mineral Show, collectors are allowed to enter the salty brine of Searles Lake and do some collecting. The show falls on the same weekend as our local Jade Festival, so we haven't been able to attend. We first featured this halite in January 1997, and have handled a lot of it over the years, but these are the nicest pieces we have ever seen! Evidently, the crystals grew more slowly than usual, so that some of them are almost transparent, as you can see from the photos.



Pink Halite, \$125 piece, about 7" across and 4" high.



Pink Halite, \$175 piece, about 7" across and 5" high.



Pink Halite, \$300 piece, about 8" across and 7" high.



Pink Halite, \$250 piece, about 10" across and 5" high.

The dark-colored matrix is comprised of the rare mineral Nahcolite, making a nice contrast. In addition to the specimens in the photos, we have clusters of bright pink hopper crystals about 2.5" by 4" to 4" by 4" for \$36, \$40, and \$45. Also, with fewer but clearer crystals on a matrix of the rare mineral nahcolite, about 4" by 4" for \$50 and \$80, with larger specimens for \$130, \$175, and \$200. Large clusters like the photo at bottom left are \$150, \$200, and \$280.

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FOSSILS SAND DOLLARS ON MATRIX, Helvetia, Tours, France. We're not big on fossils, but these are really attractive on the light colored matrix, and very nice quality, too. Single fossil on matrix is \$45, and two fossils on matrix for \$75.

AMERICAN MINERAL TREASURES We have 1 copy left of this amazing book, produced in conjunction with 2008's Tucson Gem & Mineral Show that celebrated the greatest American mineral localities of the last 50 years. The coffee-table size book sells for \$85 plus \$10 for shipping in the U.S.

2008 GLOSSARY OF MINERAL SPECIES We have 5 copies left, newly updated with all the new species approved since 2004, and all the changes to mineral groups, for \$26 plus \$3 shipping.

MINERALOGICAL RECORD SPECIAL ISSUE ON SWEET HOME MINE, July-August 1998 issue, 190 pages, entirely devoted to this amazing mine with lots of photographs of its gorgeous rhodochrosite. We have 2 unopened copies at a special price of \$27 plus \$4.80 shipping.

Let me know if you want us to look for something special for you in Tucson this year!

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