

# NOVEMBER 2022



Mr and Mrs Elbaite

## DIARY

<b>November</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10:00–14:00</b>	<b>Open to the Public Day – Rocks, gems, jewellery, mineral specimens to look at, chat about, swap, sell or buy.</b>
	<b>12</b>	<b>14.00–16.00</b>	<b>MEETING/ACTIVITY DAY – Make a jewel tree. You must book - see NEWS below and separate workshop newsletter.</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10:00–14:00</b>	<b>Open to the Public Day – Rocks, gems, jewellery, mineral specimens to look at, chat about, swap, sell or buy.</b>
	<b>10</b>	<b>13.30 prompt</b>	<b>CLUB'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY SPITBRAAI</b>
			<b>Club closed until late January</b>

## Agatized Coral Geodes



Agatized coral geodes are found in ancient coral reefs off the western coast of central and south Florida, particularly in Tampa Bay.

The photo and précis below are from this link of July 2022:  
<https://www.rockngem.com/floridas-agatized-coral-101/>

*“The Florida agatized corals are the skeletal remains of colonial animals, known as anthozoans, that died 25 to 38 million years ago. The actual skeletal structures are very easy to see in some specimens and can be used to identify the coral species.*

*The skeletons consist of limestone (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) and the coral becomes agatized when the coral voids are filled with silica-rich water and the limestone is replaced by chalcedony quartz (SiO<sub>2</sub>) and common opal.*

*The replacement process takes millions of years and results in what geologists refer to as a pseudomorph –a crystal consisting of one mineral, but having the form of another which it has replaced. Occasionally, very small clear visible quartz crystals will form after the chalcedony layer; but, it is the richly colorful agate layer that we find so attractive.”*

## The Crystal Singles Club



by Peter Rosewarne

### Introduction

Ever wondered what it is like to be a beautiful/handsome crystal and still be single at a ripe old age? No twinning, pseudomorphing, grouping or attachment to matrix for these Crystal Singles Club members, despite their vibrant colours, vitreous lustre, flawless face development and often impressive lineage. Perhaps some are too hard while others are not transparent enough, have poorly formed faces or are too small. Unless you are into micro-mounts, size does count in the mineral world! Let's take a look at some of the Crystal Singles Club members who have agreed to have their pictures featured here, in no particular order, in the hope of attracting some suitors. Send offers (US\$\$\$\$) to Rosey, Crystal Singles Club, c/o Lonely Hearts Pegmatite, Kaapvaal Craton, Gondwana. No technical stuff here, just lots of lustre.

### Crystal Singles Club Members



First up is *Rubellite* from Brazil, a member of the famous *Tourmaline* family who have been responsible for producing countless eligible crystal beauties around the World over the years. The legendary Cranberry and Blue Cap offspring come to mind, sadly mostly paired off with rich Americans. This one looks to be the runt of the litter but has its positives!

Figure 1: Rubellite

Next, we have *Diopside* from the Merelani Hills in Tanzania, a very well-turned-out crystal, compared to the drab dark green opaque crystals that are common constituents of basic igneous rocks and exotic examples such as *Foskorite* (*diopside*, *phlogopite* and *apatite*) from Palabora. They deserve to be singles but surprisingly are mostly paired-off. As a bonus, this one is separated from its normal *graphite* chaperone.

Figure 2: Diopside



Below is another member of the Tourmaline family; this one an *Elbaite* from Brazil, beautifully turned out in a lustrous green number and with an attractive matrix scarf of *lepidolite*. And this one has a happy ending as shown by the couple in **Figure 4**. 😊



Figure 3: Elbaite



Figure 4: Mr and Mrs Elbaite (*née* Tourmaline)

Imperial *Topaz* from Zambia is very hard and a bit haughty for some tastes perhaps, but is well turned-out in a pinstripe prism and nicely developed pinacoid face. This club member has a double found in Brazil that might be more outgoing.



Figure 5: Imperial Topaz

The member below is from Madagascar and is a very attractive *Heliodor*, part of the colourful *Beryl* family. She seems to have an inner glow that promises a warm and loving relationship. Colourful, resilient, translucent and a pedigreed family lineage; what more could you ask for? Well, as you can see in **Figure 7** below, a Ukrainian heliodor popped the question and she said “yes”! He’s a bit short and etched and she seems to be a bit off-colour but as they say, love is blind.



Figure 6: Heliodor



Figure 7: Mr and Mrs Heliodor (*née* Beryl)

Last but not least, below we have *Wulfenite*. This one an orange beauty from Arizona with some nice faces developed but perhaps a bit thin for some tastes?



Figure 8: Wulfenite

### Concluding Remarks

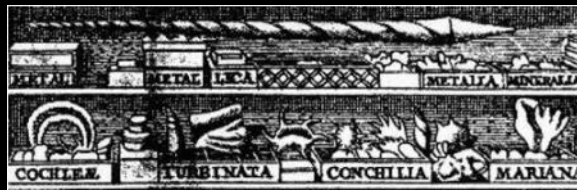
So, there you have it, a nice line-up of crystal singles from around the World looking for a partner, with two already paired-off. Personally, I find the heliodor irresistible and what a pedigree the *beryl* family has, and I briefly had a beautiful Finnish girlfriend called “Heli” when I was single so I could be biased. But, it’s your choice, as beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Lustre away!



### References

Rosewarne, P. (2022) *The Crystal Singles Collection*. Weinrich Publications.

## From the Cabinet of Curiosities



This month's curiosity is a *Heliodor* crystal from Volodarsk-Volynskiy, Zhytomyr Oblast, Ukraine. It was sold via Heritage Auctions on 4th October, 2022 for US\$43 750.

It seemed topical in the light of the heliodor article previously featured in the MinChat and the only **curiosity aspect** is the selling price, which is about R743 750 in our Monopoly money. It measures 11.8 x 4.8 x 3.7 cm. **PR**

(Peter assures me that price is the going rate! Ed.)

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Chairman: Malcolm Jackson (e-mail: [jacksonhome@telkomsa.net](mailto:jacksonhome@telkomsa.net)) Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Jo Wicht (e-mail: [joanna.wicht@kingsley.co.za](mailto:joanna.wicht@kingsley.co.za))

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