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eBay Mine Finds - or - Adventures in On-line Rockhounding

Presentation Notes:

1. Lapis - eBay - 3# \$35 - Afghanistan

Lapis is a semiprecious blue gemstone composed of grains of several minerals. The stone's matrix is calcite and the speckles are pyrite. The more valuable lapis is an intense blue displaying only the pyrite speckles and no matrix while the lesser lapis may be dyed and will appear somewhat cloudy. Take care of lapis as it will scratch and chip easily.

Lapis is found in Afghanistan, Canada, Chile and Egypt.

2. Polychrome Jasper - eBay - Madagascar

A new, but very small deposit of Polychrome Jasper (Misty Mountain Jasper, Desert Jasper, Royal Savannah Jasper) has recently been found in the deserts of Madagascar. Specimens from this deposit were first sold at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show last September (2008).

Polychrome jasper is a type of opaque, multi-colored chalcedony which develops in massive formations. Unfortunately, the formations found in Madagascar are few in number. It is believed to be one of the rarest jaspers in the world. In addition to the new pockets found in Madagascar, some deposits are also located in Australia.

3. Mohawk Jasper - eBay - western Oregon

Old material that is very colorful. It kind of looks like Blue Mountain or at least a mixture of Blue Mountain and Gary Green. Mohawk Jasper was dug in the 60's or 70's, and sat at the miner's residence, until we purchased. The rock can have some blues, greens, whites, browns, and/or reds.

4. Morrisonite Jasper - eBay - Oregon

(type of chert?)

<http://www.rarerocksandgems.com/webfolders/RocksFossilsMeteo/morrisonite/morrisonitestorymaster.htm>

5. Bloodstone - eBay - India?

The mineral heliotrope, also known as bloodstone, is a form of chalcedony (which is a cryptocrystalline mixture of quartz and its monoclinic polymorph moganite). The "classic" bloodstone is green chalcedony with red inclusions of iron oxide or red jasper. Sometimes the inclusions are yellow, in which case the mineral is given the name plasma. The red inclusions are supposed to resemble spots of blood; hence the name "bloodstone". The name "heliotrope" (from Greek ἥλιος helios, Sun, τρέπτειν trepein, to turn) derives from various ancient notions about the manner in which the mineral reflects light. These are described, e.g., by Pliny the Elder

The primary source of the stone is India. It is also found in Brazil, China, Australia and the United States. There is also an outcrop of bloodstone on the Isle of Rum, in Scotland.

6. Fancy Jasper - eBay - India?

Fancy Jasper is a name used for a jasper that has very colorful markings but has not been given another formal name. The name Bloodstone is used when a jasper with a green base color is splashed with tiny droplets of red "blood".

7. Astraeus Jasper - eBay - Arizona

The jasper has an interesting mix of colors and some is flecked with pyrite. I have not cabbled any of it yet, but I noticed that this "jasper" seems to be pretty soft. I really think that this might not be a jasper. My first impression after slabbing it, is that it could be a marble of some type. Could it also be a serpentine? Its a very strange mix. Does anyone have any experience with this stuff? I also, found that the green slabs, (on the right) have a lot more pyrite. The green slabs are fairly solid even though you have to work around some fractures

8. Ocean Wave Agate - eBay - Madagascar

Ocean Wave Agate discovered in Madagascar along the northwest coast in Marovato. It was found about 400 yards from an "Ocean Jasper" deposit. Ocean Wave Agate has a gentle wavy patterns with a wide variety of colors: green, blue, red, pink, white, lavender and more. First brought to the United States in 2003.

9. Amethyst Sage Dendritic Agate - RTH - Nevada

The term dendrite comes from the Greek word "dendron", which means a tree. This description is appropriate because we often describe the form and structure of a metallic dendrite as that of a tree with a main branch or trunk, from which grow side branches, from which grow smaller side branches, and so on,

The terms moss agate and dendritic agate have often been used interchangeably in the past. This is probably not a correct practice. The mineralogy of moss (chlorite, celadonite, etc.) is different than that of dendrites (Manganese oxides and iron oxides).

Denio Nevada is in Humboldt County near the Bilk Creek Mountains, a narrow range of peaks just south of the Oregon border and immediately southeast of Denio in the Northern Great Basin.

Many years ago, the agate that came from this area, was pretty much black and white. It was simply called Denio Dendritic Agate. Now the mine is yielding an amethystine like agate that has been called Amethyst Sage. It is a very beautiful agate with purples, whites, grays and of course the black bushes.

10. Rhodochrosite – TOTES, Roanoke – Colorado?

Rhodochrosite occurs as a hydrothermal vein mineral along with other manganese minerals in low temperature ore deposits as in the silver mines of Romania where it was first found. Banded rhodochrosite is mined in Capillitas, Argentina. Catamarca, Argentina has an old Incan silver mine that has produced fine stalactitic examples of rhodochrosite that are unique and very attractive. Cut cross-sections reveal concentric bands of light and dark rose colored layers.

11. Jelly Bean Jasper – RTH – Oregon

Haystack Butte Jasper also referred to as Jellybean Jasper, from Eastern Oregon, is a hard jasper which takes a great polish. You can find Haystack Butte Jasper to the West of the Owyhee Reservoir, in Malheur County, Oregon on a hillside adjacent to the butte itself. The road to Haystack Butte is pure hell and can high center even the best 4x4 vehicle. Proceed with caution if you go after this elusive gem!

12. Apatite – The Rock Shed – Madagascar?

Apatite is usually green, but it can also be blue, yellow, reddish-brown, violet, yellow-green, colorless or multicolored. Although classified as a single mineral, it is actually three different minerals.

Apatite, found in the teeth of all vertebrate animals, is also be found in bones of humans, fish, birds, and cows.

It is most widely used in the production of fertilizer.

This mineral is found in Africa, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Myanmar, Russia, Spain, and the U.S.A.

13. Llanite Slab = eBay, rough = RTH – Texas

Llanite is a hypabyssally intruded rhyolite with phenocrysts of microcline and euhedral quartz. The quartz crystals are blue hexagonal bipyramids. The unusual blue coloration of the quartz is thought to be due to ilmenite inclusions.^[1] It is named after Llano County, Texas, the only place where it is found (according to locals; however, geologists have identified other locations where this rock may be found).

14. Orange River Voorsite – eBay – South Africa

a multi-hued chalcedony with a lot of pink and orange. This chalcedony tends to have a few cracks in it, but when you cut around the cracks you get beautiful cabs that take a great polish. This price is per pound of material.

From: In the area around Posmasburg and the Tsantsabane Rural region of the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.

15. Tswalu Rainbow Jasper - eBay - South Africa

a multi-hued banded jasper containing some hematite. As you can see, there is a great deal of color variation in this material, so a box may contain a wide variety of cabbing material.

From the general area of the Tswalu Game Reserve, in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.

Most South African jaspers are mined from a deposit that runs roughly north and south through the Northern Cape Province, between Kimberley on the east and the Namibian border on the west. Although some of the deposits are large, many of them are quite small and are confined to a single farm. That makes some of these jaspers very limited in availability.

16. Griquastad Silvermist Jasper - eBay - South Africa

Griquastad Silvermist Jasper, a heather green banded jasper. This jasper is a little softer than some others, but cabs and polishes well. This really is a lovely jasper that many people overlook because it's not brightly colored.

From: The area around Griquatown, a small town in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.

17. Chrysocolla - RTH - Buckskin Mountain, Arizona

It appears to be mostly Chrysocolla, Tenorite, Chalcocite and Malachite with some degree of silification (Quartz replacement).

This new Arizona copper based stone and it has less "texture" (pits, vugs, lines and druzy) than the copper based stone from Vulture Mountain and Harquahalla Mountain but the colors are more toward being in a black background. There is a bigger variance in the hardness of the different minerals in the mix and it will not polish as well.

18. Stabilizing softer material

