



Ore-Cutts

Volume XXXVII, Issue IX

September, 2002

Annual Show Results

Thanks for all the support

Once again, as we do annually, the membership of the club has risen to the challenge and shown the community what our club has to offer. We grossed almost \$10,000 this year, for a profit nearing \$5,200. Thank you!



Kay Volmer and Dee Dee Magri, "Office" volunteers

Every club function at the show was important, but one deserves a special thank you (from Sylvia Nasholm). I want to thank all of the wonderful helpers I had in the kitchen this year - you came through for me and made the job a whole lot easier. I even had two dear friends who aren't rockhounds helping out. Elaine Gates who has helped several years running now both in the kitchen and on the BBQ line, and Dee Allison, my flying buddy at TWA for 13 years, came out for Friday and Saturday. All of you who donated pies and other goodies for sale take a big bow as well; your contribution added pure profit to the scholarship fund and was delicious to boot!

Huge kudos go to John Mock for donating all the albacore for our tuna salad sandwiches. He caught the fish and had it canned. What a treat! Thank you all again. I look forward to seeing you in the kitchen again next year!

THE HISTORY AND APPRECIATION OF BEADS

By Deborah Hood, Member, Orcutt Mineral Society
From a talk given July 9, 2002
Transcribed by Wayne Mills

In a complex and sometimes frightening world, beads are small sculptures, whole and perfect, that have visual completeness. This completeness is emphasized when many beads are joined together to form a circle. A great range of human creativity has been applied to beads. The manufacture and use of beads is deeply embedded into human history.

Beads have been significant to people from the Neolithic era to the present. Beads tell us much about the social, political, economic, psychological, and religious life of the people who made and wore them. The earliest known beads were made of bone about 40,000 years ago. These occur with some of the first intentional burials of Homo sapiens in Europe, and they have been used by every culture since that time. Usually the animal bone had naturally occurring holes (as vertebrae). These were probably worn as hunting trophies, and to attract luck in future hunts. Few of these bones are worked with stone tools, and even fewer were rocks and shells with naturally formed holes.

Humans made the transition from hunter-gatherers to settled food producers with

semi-permanent settlements during this period. This stability allowed the development of crafts, accumulation of possessions, and trade. Beads of this period are often made of scarce, locally available material to which commercial value could be assigned. At first rough materials were traded, then more advanced societies traded finished beads (at much higher prices) to the less developed societies. The beads were produced in small, standard and easily portable sizes, and quickly became a commodity for trading.

The desire for exotic and rare materials helped establish early trade networks in Asia and the Mediterranean area. The first villages that sprang up in Syria, Iraq, India and Egypt became riverside city-states. Jewelry made of beads was an important art form in all of these cities. Afghani Lapis Lazuli was a great favorite in Mesopotamia that was 1500 miles away. The Mycenaean Greeks were partial to Baltic Amber that came from even further away.

The Phoenicians and Romans traded their glass beads everywhere they went. The extent of their seafaring can be traced today by where their beads are found. In Egypt and Mesopotamia, the rulers had their own full-time jewelers and bead makers. The earliest glass beads come from Mesopotamia, and date from the Sklead Dynasty (2340-2180 BC), and from the Caucasus region of Russia.



Necklace, Egyptian, 1570-1070 B.C., Faience

In Egypt, everyone wore beads. In Egyptian, *sha* means luck, and *sha sha* meant

bead. This is a suggestion that beads had “magic” qualities to the wearers. Faience glass beads were developed about 1400 BC. These were the first mass-produced synthetic beads that imitated precious stones.

During this time, Afghanistan supplied both raw material and finished beads, and was the center of major trade routes between Iran, India, China and Russia.

By 1200 BC, the Phoenicians were the best navigators and traders of their time. Their glass face and eye-beads were a staple of their trade.

With her extensive conquests, Rome was the heir to a cross-cultural mix of bead styles, especially Greek, and the Roman era constituted one of the great eras of glass bead-making in ancient times. Roman beads had a wide range of colors, patterns and complex techniques. Widely coveted, Roman beads have been found as far north as Scandinavia, as far to the east as China, and as far south as Ethiopia.

During the Middle Ages, travel and trade were limited. Many small, unique styles arose. Prayer beads became universal, and they are still used by about 2/3 of the world’s population. The word “bead” comes from the Anglo-Saxon “bidden” meaning “to pray.” The purpose of prayer beads was to assist the prayer in remembering the sequences of prayers required. At first, Hindus in India used knotted cords and later beads for this purpose. Then Buddhists, Christians and Muslims took up the practice.

During the Renaissance, Europeans used few beads, for the Church discouraged them. But, large quantities of beads were made for trade. Renaissance beads were traded for American furs, and African ivory, gold and slaves. Bead merchants reaped large profits of up to 1000% profit from minimal labor and resource expenditure. Major bead factories existed in Venice, Holland, Bohemia and Czechoslovakia.

In Asia, beads were not as widely used, but because of this some of the ones that were made are today considered rare and collectible. A prime example of this are the "Warring States" beads made during the period of 475-225 BC. Today one of these beads sells for \$85 or more.

In America, the native peoples have made and used beads since about 7500 BC. These beads were used primarily for adornment, socio-political symbols, and talismans, but they were also used as a medium of exchange ("wampum"). Jade and turquoise were the most prized of American beads, but other materials used include soapstone, fluorite, bone, fossils (crinoids), and shell. That beads were highly prized by Native Americans is attested to by the famed incident of Manhattan Island being sold to the Dutch for \$24.00 worth of beads.

While this is a brief overview of the history of beading, it indicates the importance of these to man. It may perhaps give new meaning to the saying "beauty is in the eye of the beholder".

FIELD ACTIVITIES

September: September holds some interesting activities. On the weekend of the 20th, the Paso Robles Club (Santa Lucia Rockhounds) has their always-fun gem and mineral show. This is an indoor-outdoor show that has activities for all ages. We are invited to display. Contact Barbara Bilyeu of that club at 805-434-2708.

On the weekend of September 27-29, OMS is planning a field trip to Afton Canyon, a favorite collecting place in the Mojave Desert. Volcanic ash beds nearby have helped the development of moss, lace, plume, sagenite, and banded agates, jasper-agate, opalite, chalcedony and weathered rhombs of calcite. If no one contacts me at my home phone number (805-481-3495) that they are planning to go, I will stay home. If anyone wants to ride with

Todd and I, great. I need a list of attendees in case any last minute changes are required.

October: On the 12th of October, Todd and I are going to the Jade Festival in Pacific Valley. Pacific Valley is on Highway 1 about 90 miles north of Arroyo Grande. There are some beautiful pieces displayed, and opportunities to get some nice material at a reasonable price. If the interest is there, we might even try to find some ourselves, as jade is a hop, skip and a jump away, and I plan to stop at Willow Creek for some more soapstone. If anyone wants to ride with Todd and I, great.

The 26th of October, is the date of the Paige Museum Field Trip sponsored by Santa Lucia Rockhounds. About 16 members of OMS said they were interested in the trip, and the deadline for signups is September 15. The trip will depart from the Mussell Senior Center in Santa Maria about 8:00 AM, and will return about 9:00 PM. The cost is \$25.00 for the bus, and \$6.00 to get into the museum. I hope our club participates in this activity, as it is a great chance to socialize with other local club members who share our interest in rocks, and it may help encourage more joint field trips. Send your \$25.00 check to: Santa Lucia Rockhounds, P.O. Box 1672, Paso Robles, CA 93474

If you have any questions about these activities, you are welcome to call me at 805-481-3495.

Wayne Mills, Field Trips Chairman

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE

If you are interested in running for an OMS Board position for 2003, and have been a member for more than a year, please contact Bill Hood at 481-6860 before the next General Meeting.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Join us on Tuesday, September 10th for "How to Start a Jewelry Shop in Your Home for \$50.00", and cake for dessert!

Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
August 6, 2002

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Dick Shields at 7:05 p.m. Board Members present were Bill and Deborah Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills, Don and Sylvia Nasholm, Marshall Reeves, Dick and Bess Shields.

Minutes of the July 2nd Board Meeting, and the July 9th General Meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report: Wes Lingerfelt presented the Treasurer's Report. It was accepted as read.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship: Wayne Mills met the OMS Scholarship winner from Cuesta College at the College Scholarship Dinner. Wayne and the Hancock winners were photographed, and it was published in a community report by the college.

Show: Wes Lingerfelt needs a good accounting of all area funds from the various OMS booths by Monday, August 12 so that he can prepare his Show Finance Report to present at the OMS General Meeting on August 13.

Sylvia Nasholm has 45 cases, plus Ralph Bishop's larger specimens lined up for the Show.

Wes reported that every vendor spot is sold. Wednesday morning will be vendor booth location marking day, Thursday morning will be display case table set up and skirting day. Vendors will begin set up at noon on Thursday.

After much discussion, it was decided by the Board that Marshall Reeves will sell used equipment at his booth instead of in the OMS Country Store booth.

Wayne Mills is setting up a Club Case, and wants each Board member to display one piece of work.

Sylvia Nasholm says to "pass the word" that each club member should bring a pie to the Show for donation.

Dick and Bess Shields will hand out Welcome Packets on Thursday to all of the vendors and exhibitors. Dick will also make signs for various events and activities.

Field Trips: Wayne Mills apologized for the error he made on recent dates for field trips. The correct dates are October 26th for the Paige Museum trip, September 27-29 for the Afton Canyon trip, and October 11-13 for the Jade Festival. Marshall Reeves suggested that Wayne schedule more local field trips. The Paso Robles Show will be on September 20-22, and an application is available for OMS members who may want to exhibit.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Ione Griggs is going into a care home, and that her phone number will remain the same.

CFMS: Wes Lingerfelt says that CFMS will hold a Memorial Day field trip to Texas Springs, Nevada for pink limb casts. Wes discussed the insurance coverage through CFMS, and answered many of our questions about coverage on field trips. Dick Shields asked if it would be feasible to consider hosting a CFMS state show here in Santa Maria. After much discussion, it was decided that our membership is currently too small to make an offer.

Elections: Bill Hood polled the Board to see who among the OMS membership is eligible to run for Board posi-

tions for the 2003 Board. He will contact the individuals to see if they desire to run.

Education: Marshall Reeves wants the club to donate one book to each library (Lompoc, Arroyo Grande, Santa Maria, and Nipomo) who recently allowed us to exhibit OMS member items in their display cases.

Correspondence:

- Sun Valley Indian School newsletter, and thank you note.
- Mineral Messenger newsletter from San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club.
- Gallery of Minerals advertisement.
- Earthsong Gallery yard sale ad.
- Moab Points & Pebbles Club announcement.
- GFI Bead Faire advertisement.
- Public Lands Advisory Committee Report.
- Rocky Review newsletter from Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.
- Rockhound Notes newsletter.
- Sacramento Mineral Society Rock Swap and BBQ announcement.
- Santa Lucia Rockhounds exhibit application.

Old / unfinished business:

Dick Shields reported that he has already reserved Pioneer Park for the Annual Picnic next year.

Dick Shields announced that the coupons are being run in newspapers, and local media have received press releases about the show.

Dick Shields said that the Parks Department still has not responded to our request for setting up a Lapidary Lab.

New business: none.

The Program for next week's meeting will be two slide presentations: "Lazzardo Lapidary Museum", and "How to Make Cabs by Hand".

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. by President Shields.

Respectfully submitted,

Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

Addendum: at a separate Board Meeting held on Friday, August 8th, the Board unanimously agreed to accept Dee Dee Magri, Aldo Magri, John VonAchen, Hal Connerley, and Cathy Connerley as members of Orcutt Mineral Society.

Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
August 13, 2002

Call to Order at 7:05 p.m. by President Dick Shields. Invocation was given by Bess Shields on "The Senility Prayer". Flag Salute was led by Marshall Reeves.

Lynda Virgin reported that 26 members, and 7 guests were present.

Minutes of the August 6 Board Meeting were approved as amended. Minutes from Board and General Meetings for the month of July were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report was read by Wes Lingerfelt, and accepted as read.

Committee Reports:

Gem Show: Wes Lingerfelt reported on the monies raised by the various OMS areas at the Gem Show, and asked that each chairman give a short report on his/her area.

- Kitchen: Sylvia Nasholm thanked everyone for bringing cakes, pies, and brownies, and for helping her run the kitchen efficiently throughout the show.
- BBQ: Don Nasholm presented an expertly prepared barbecue again, and thanked the volunteers who assisted.
- Country Store: Debbie Hood said that the biggest complaint she heard from shoppers was that standing in the sun while shopping kept them from staying longer. Many people said that they had trouble finding the Country Store in that location.
- Treasure Chest/Office: Bess Shields thanked DeeDee Magri for taking over this area. DeeDee said that she enjoyed meeting vendors, selling tickets, and obtaining more Treasure Chest items. This gave her an opportunity to become familiar with many people.
- Gold Panning: Wayne Mills said that he enjoyed watching the kids explore for treasures in his area. Next year he hopes we post a large map, layout of the facilities, or hand out welcome brochures so that people will know what else is being offered at the show.
- Demonstrators: Sylvia Nasholm reported that the demonstrators said it was too hot on the stage, and that the demonstrator signs weren't visible, so people didn't know where to find the presentations.
- Outside dealers: Wes Lingerfelt thanked club members for helping him with the little details necessary to provide a smooth running show. Attendance was down this year, but vendors are already trying to make reservations for next year's show. A larger maintenance crew will be needed next year to avoid some of the problems we encountered this year. The club will need to do some leveling of the outdoor vendor area before next year. Wes also thanked everyone for their nomination and induction into the Rockhound Hall of Fame, and for the award he was given at the end of our Gem Show.
- Dick Shields conveyed thanks from Rick Kennedy for the support he received, and attendance at the three Benitoite talks he gave during the show. Rick hopes to be invited back next year.
- From the floor: Salty Tapper suggests better signs and surface street advertising next year. Debbie Hood suggested that members each donate an item to the Treasure Chest next year, and that it's not too early to start working on them.

Refreshments were extra pies from the Gem Show, and whipped cream.

Field Trips: Wayne Mills announced the Afton Canyon trip on September 27-29, Jade Festival on October 11-13, and the Paige Museum trip on October 26. Contact Wayne for further information.

CFMS: no report.

Correspondence:

(Show fliers and notices announced under correspondence are at the hostess table following the business portion of the meeting, and during refreshment time, for members to view.)

- Sun Valley Indian School newsletter.
- Mineral Messenger newsletter from San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club.
- Gallery of Minerals advertisement.
- Earthsong Gallery yard sale ad.
- Moab Points & Pebbles Club announcement.
- GFI Bead Faire advertisement.
- Public Lands Advisory Committee Report.
- Rocky Review newsletter from Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.
- Rockhound Notes newsletter.
- Sacramento Mineral Society Rock Swap and BBQ announcement.
- Santa Lucia Rockhounds exhibit application.

Old / unfinished business: Dick Shields reported that the Lapidary Room proposal has not yet been approved.

New business: none.

Following the break for refreshments, Wayne Mills gave two slide shows distributed by CFMS entitled, "Lazzardo Lapidary Museum", and "How to Make Cabs by Hand".

The raffle was held after the program. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. by President Shields.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

To contribute news, articles, opinions or information the rest of the club needs to know, send a letter to the OMS P.O. Box, send e-mail to oms@ix.netcom.com, or call Dick and Bess at 937-0357.

The Wanderer

The Enchanted Hill

Dick and I recently joined 24 fellow collectors for a "Rockhound's Tour of Hearst Castle", sponsored by the Santa Lucia Rockhounds. Our professional guide, Christine Brazzil, provided a few touchable samples from the Castle before our tour began. Christine is a member of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds.

Our group was allowed to ask questions and inspect mineral items that were not normally displayed on tours. Christine gave us a brief geologic overview of the area, and even described the logistics of directing water from three springs on Pine Mountain to supply the Enchanted Hill.



Burnett Peak from pool side

The Castle houses a vast collection of lamps made from precious and semiprecious stone. One delicate lamp in the guest quarters is made of clear green soapstone, similar in appearance to apple green jade. In the main house, a pair of tall lamps contained pounds of lapis, and a pair of delicate bird lamps featured clear, mint-green fluorite. Other lamps contained carnelian, Chinese jade, amethyst, turquoise, and numerous gemstones.

Columns, arches floors, and fireplaces constructed of marble, alabaster, limestone, porphyry, serpentine, basalt, and sandstone were visible in every room, and in the numerous patios. The oldest artifact at the Castle is a 3500 year old statue made of diorite with a prominent feldspar vein.



Egyptian diorite statue with pink feldspar vein in upper figure

Christine described overnight accommodations which had been constructed 35 miles north of Hearst Castle in the Jolon area. Castle guests were invited to “camp out” at the outpost after a long day of horseback riding or caravanning. The site is now the headquarters building at Hunter Liggett Military Reservation.

Tiles made of 23 karat gold were used in the surfaces of the Roman, underground grotto. It’s an optical illusion in the 10’ deep pool, but where ever you stand, the pool seems deepest at that point.

There appeared to be a lack of local stone utilized in the Castle. On our next trip, we’ll be looking for more evidence of local materials.

If you missed this opportunity (or want to go again!), John McCabe (805-464-0528) of Santa Lucia Rockhounds is taking sign-ups for the next tour, planned for November. The waiting list for this trip was 20 people, so don’t delay!

Happy Hunting!
Love, Bess

HIGHWAY CLEANUP

Please join us on Saturday, September 21 for Highway Cleanup of our two mile stretch on Highway 166, east of Highway 101. Gather at the turnoff by 8 a.m., and stay for breakfast at Omelets & More afterwards.

Working Fire Agate

Marjorie Hoogenbosch has provided us with a link to a fire agate site you may want to view: <http://www.opalcutter.com>. Marjorie also donated a copy of the pamphlet entitled “Working Fire Agate” by Wes Roth, and it will be available through the OMS Library.

CLUB BREAKFAST

The OMS Club Breakfast will be held on September 28th at The Girls Restaurant, Arroyo Grande at 8 a.m. Please join us for this fun and informative sharing time.

Official Stuff

OMS Purpose

Founded in 1958, and is named after William Orcutt, a geologist and civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a district manager for Union Oil Company in 1888. In 1889, Orcutt discovered the fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits, one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history. The Society is a non-profit club, dedicated to stimulating an interest in rocks and minerals. The club offers educational programs, field trips, youth activities, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in collecting and lapidary treatment of rocks, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of Earth Sciences. In addition, a goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship and proper ethics in pursuit of the society's endeavors. Operating rules have been set forth to guide the Officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these purposes. Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

2002 OMS Elected Officers

President	Dick Shields	(805) 937-0357
President Elect	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Secretary	Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immediate Past President	Glenda Reeves	(805) 733-2775
CFMS Representative	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2002 OMS Board Members

Bill Hood	(805) 481-6860
Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Don Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Marshall Reeves	(805) 733-2775

Save the Dates

- Afton Canyon field trip on September 27-29.
- Paso Robles Gem Show on September 20-22.
- Jade Festival in Pacific Valley on October 11-13.
- La Brea Tar Pits and Paige Museum on October 26.
- OMS Annual Meeting on Dec 7.

**Web sites of note:
September 2002**

Exterior Movie Making Locations (Red Rock Canyon):

<http://employees.oxy.edu/jerry/index.html>

Cyberocks Kid Page:

<http://www.cyberocks.com/kids3.htm>

Herkimer's Guided Tour:

<http://www.thegemshop.com/grvyrdpt2.htm>

USGS Geologic and Thematic Maps:

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/products/maps/>

Pearls: the moon in your hands:

<http://www.prgems.com/geminfo/pearls.htm>

Bead & Button basics:

<http://www2.beadandbutton.com/bnb/default.asp>

Rock Key:

<http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/rockkey/index.html>

Mary Ellen Jasper (stromatolite) MN:

<http://www.wmnh.com/wmmn005.htm>



OMS Logo

A rock saw cutting a piece of stone was selected when the first bulletin, *ORE-CUTTS* (name-sake, William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor.

Do you have email? You can save the club 63¢ per month by receiving your copy of *Ore-cutts* via email. Notify us by sending a message to oms@ix.netcom.com.

Final Gem Show Note: We want to extend a special thanks to Rick Kennedy for his interesting talks and demonstrations on Benitoite etching. We all learned a lot from his expert advice (his definition of an expert: someone who has made all the mistakes and lived!).

Some key points to remember:

- Always use protective gloves.
- Use a 10% solution of fresh acid at room temperature (outdoors), always pouring acid into water. Strong mixtures tend to create a solution too rich in silica which deposits on the specimen. Hot mixtures are dangerous. Change the mix daily.
- Use paraffin to resist etching in areas you want to be retained. Heat will remove the paraffin in the final step.
- The big secret is lye. Lye neutralizes the acid by forming salt water, and creates a luster on the finished specimen.

You can obtain a copy of Rick's detailed instruction sheet from the OMS Library.

If you want to try your hand at etching, Dick Shields purchased extra mine run and fluorescing specimens to offer club members who missed the chance while Rick was here.

GRAB BAG EXCHANGE

(from Fredericksburg TX Rockhounds)

The rules:

You have to GIVE one to GET one!

You can give 1-2-3 or more.

All material being exchanged must be in a bag.

Fill your bag with minerals, rocks, fossils, or something you have made.

In a note, inside the bag, please identify the materials (you can also include your name and phone number).

Don't be skimpy or stingy – make sure it is something you would like to receive. Grab bag table will be set up for a specified time, and bags may be traded again **if unopened**, if you spot a brighter, bigger or more interesting bag.

Orcutt Mineral Society
P.O. Box 106
Santa Maria, CA 93456

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED