

Notable New Mexico Microminerals

Ramon S. Demark, Michael Michayluk and Thomas Katonak

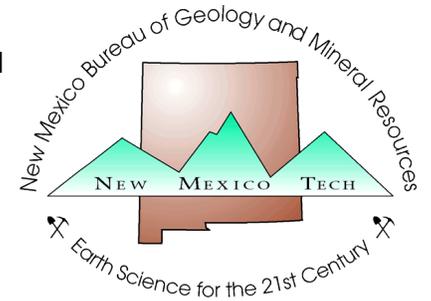
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The annual [New Mexico Mineral Symposium](#) provides a forum for both professionals and amateurs interested in mineralogy. The meeting allows all to share their cumulative knowledge of mineral occurrences and provides stimulus for mineralogical studies and new mineral discoveries. In addition, the informal atmosphere encourages intimate discussions among all interested in mineralogy and associated fields.

The symposium is organized each year by the [Mineral Museum](#) at the [New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources](#).



Abstracts from all prior symposiums are also available: <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/nmms/abstracts>

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RAMON S. DEMARK¹, MICHAEL MICHAYLUK², THOMAS KATONAK³
¹Albuquerque, NM raydemark@msn.com, ²Las Cruces, NM, ³Corrales, NM

New Mexico has an abundance of localities that produce a wide variety of mineral species best viewed as microminerals. This is a result of the diverse geological environments occurring in the state. Igneous intrusives and volcanics that generated hydrothermal fluids are widespread. Contact metamorphic rocks (e.g. tactites) and regional metamorphic rocks (quartzites, shists, etc.) are also numerous. The Rio Grande rift has mineralization similar to the Mississippi Valley type deposits. Sedimentary environments have also produced superb microminerals. The uranium/vanadium minerals in the Grants uranium district in western New Mexico are particularly noteworthy. Oxidation of hydrothermally deposited primary minerals (sulphides) produced a plethora of colorful secondary minerals which delight the micromineral collector.

The extensive geologic activity created ample ore bodies which have been mined in New Mexico for over two hundred years. Numerous mining districts cover the state. Commercial mining activity has ceased with the exception of large open-pit copper mines in the southwest (Silver City area). This long history of mining has resulted in numerous abandoned mines, prospects, and mine dumps. This program will document some of the notable microminerals recovered and the locations that produced them.

References

Northrop, S.A. and La Bruzza, F.A. (1996) Minerals of New Mexico (revised), Univ. of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 346 p.



Figure 1. Brochantite, Brochantite, Mex Tex Mine, 6mm Fov. Michael Michayluk photo.



Figure 2. Gold, San Pedro Mine, 9mm Fov. Michael Michayluk photo.



Figure 3. Libethenite, Chino Mine, 8mm Fov. Michael Michayluk photo.



Figure 4 Raydemarkite, Cookes Peak, Summit Group, 2mm Fov. Michael Michayluk photo.