

A Legacy Revived: New Treasures from the Eagle's Nest Mine

Daniel Trinchillo

44th New Mexico Mineral Symposium
November 1-3, 2024, Macey Center, Socorro, NM
pp. 17-18

Downloaded from: <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/nmms/abstracts/home.cfm?yr=2024>

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>

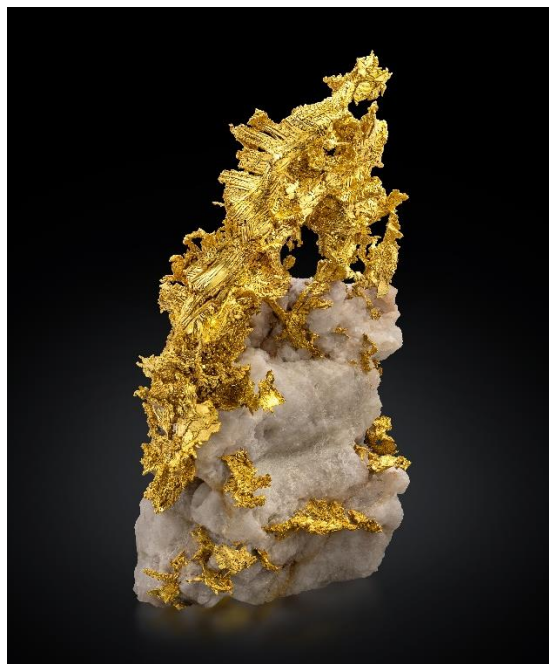
This page is intentionally left blank to maintain order of facing pages.

A Legacy Revived: New Treasures from the Eagle's Nest Mine

DANIEL TRINCHILLO

11 Progress Street, Edison, NJ, Daniel@finemineral.com

The Eagle's Nest gold mine, nestled in the heart of the Sierra Nevada foothills in California, is a legendary site that traces its origins back to the great American Gold Rush—a defining chapter in our nation's history. While all gold is crystallized at the atomic level, Eagle's Nest is renowned as one of the primary sources of crystallized gold that can reach individual crystals over an inch. Its specimens have a remarkable degree of purity and geometric perfection, all at extraordinary proportions. Their intricate and beautiful crystal forms, richness and quality are a testament to the particular geologic environment of the locality.



Gold and quartz, Eagle's Nest Mine, Placer County, California. 16.8 cm. Fine Minerals International # 23643, James Elliott photo.

The mine was originally claimed by three Swiss settlers who held ownership through the generations. Although always known for its crystallized examples, its most prolific period

was between 1970-2004 when it produced more crystallized gold than any other California specimen mine. (Leicht, 2004) Afterwards, it lay dormant for decades, and was considered a "sleeping giant" of the Gold Rush era. Through the years, it remained in one way or another with its original families until it was acquired by Daniel Trinchillo in 2019. Employing a new mine manager, Keith Wentz, and lead geologist, Ian Merkel, along with the latest technology and methods available, Trinchillo and his team initiated a new era of mining.



Gold, Eagle's Nest Mine, Placer County, California. 7 cm. Fine Minerals International #23621, James Elliott photo.

After years of inactivity, Eagle's Nest had a very special gift (and on Valentine's Day of 2024, at that). A pocket of breathtaking gold specimens was discovered, the likes of which had not been seen in over a decade. With a number of complex, large, three-dimensional, "new" pieces, Valentine's pocket specimens mark an exciting next generation of specimens for the historic mine. As the Eagle's Nest mine

reawakens, it continues to contribute to our understanding of the geology of the Sierra Nevada and asserts its place in the rich legacy of American gold mining.

References

Leicht, Wayne C., Cook, Robert B. (2004) The Eagle's Nest Mine, Placer County, California, in *Diamonds & Gold!. The Mineralogical Record*, 35 (1) 65-72