From the Director’s Desk-Future Generations
By Barbra Barrett, MMGM Director

Recently, I read a lecture delivered to the National Museum in Georgetown, Guyana by Emmanuel N. Arinze, President of the Commonwealth Association of Museums. He said, “The traditional role of museums is to collect objects and materials of cultural and historical importance, preserve them, research into them and present them to the public for the purpose of education and enjoyment.”

Arinze sums up the role museums play in society rather nicely and reminds me of the positive potential the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum has to impact future visitors, and future generations. He goes further to state the critical role and relationship that education and museums share; “In modern society, the museums enrich the educational process by exposing children, and indeed the public, to their history in a positive way; they assist our future generations to understand and appreciate their history . . . through

(continued page 2)
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With the addition of Frank Perham’s collection (see March newsletter), MMGM now holds more than 1,000 Greenwood specimens! Sam and Anna Maria are leveraging previous collections work by Fred Bailey, Myles Felch and previous interns to efficiently locate, review and select Greenwood specimens for display. One case will be devoted to the adjacent Tamminen and Waisanen quarries on Richardson Hollow Road. Another case will hold specimens from the Harvard quarry and Morgan pit on Noyes Mountain. The third will display minerals from the Emmons and Tiger Bill quarries on Uncle Tom Mountain and other localities in Greenwood.

This exhibit is a glimpse at the larger story of the mining in southwestern Maine that will be told in the permanent exhibits on the first floor of the Kennett Building.

Events—A Bicentennial Look at Greenwood Mines and Mining
By Annemarie Saunders, MMGM Staff

The Maine Mineral and Gem Museum is supporting Greenwood’s bicentennial celebration in three ways. An exhibit of mineral specimens from the Greenwood mines will open in MMGM’s Preview Gallery at 99 Main Street, Bethel in early July and run through the fall tourist season. It will feature specimens from the collection of Nestor Tamminen, whose mine on Richardson Hollow Road is one of the best known in Greenwood. The exhibit will also include specimens mined by Frank C. Perham, son of Stanley Perham, founder of the Maine Mineral Store at Trapp Corner (later known as Perham’s of West Paris) and son-in-law of Nestor Tamminen. Perham is the dean of local pegmatite miners and still runs a weekend mining crew in Greenwood’s bicentennial celebration on August 13th and will run through the fall tourist season.

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Our educational programs, we should aim at bringing some “noise” into our museums, for “noise” is real in our society today. That “noise” will bring some warmth and excitement in our otherwise pale and dull museums.”

With that, I’d like to welcome a member of the next generation to our family. On June 28th, our Assistant Curator and staff geologist, Myles Felch and his partner, Lauren Taylor welcomed their baby girl, Delilah into the world. She will indeed add a little noise and inspire all of us to consider the next generation. Congratulations to Myles and Lauren!

Warmly,

Collections—Interns Develop an Exhibit Celebrating Greenwood’s Bicentennial
By Carl Francis, PhD, MMGM Curator

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Warmly,
Greenwood.

According to MMGM Curator, Dr. Carl A. Francis, “Greenwood, Maine had at least a dozen feldspar and mica mines active in the mid-twentieth century. Although commercial mining for these bulk minerals ceased by 1970, the mines are still explored by rockhounds and weekend miners who seek gems and mineral specimens. Scientists and students also visit the Greenwood mines to learn about granitic pegmatites, the special geological formations that host these rare gems and minerals.”

The Museum’s Third Thursday Talk for July will be “A Bicentennial Look at Greenwood Mines and Mining” presented by Dr. Carl A. Francis. It will take place at 3:00pm in the Preview Gallery on July 21st. The public is invited to attend — especially folks from Greenwood!

Greenwood’s formal celebration will be held on Saturday August 13th. On that occasion a collection of Greenwood minerals loaned by the Museum will be on display at the Greenwood Town Hall. It is being organized by Greenwood’s Dwight Mills, himself a former miner. Congratulations Greenwood! Stop into our Museumv Store and see our new collection of Mugs featuring Greenwood Mine specimen photos.

Treasures—Minerals as ... Coffee Mugs?!?
By Maggie Kroenke, MMGM Staff

Maybe I mean images of minerals on coffee mugs, but absolutely! We just received new coffee mugs and travel mugs that feature five different photos of minerals taken at high magnification (50X) on a petrographic microscope. This type of microscope uses a mineral thin section, along with special filters and polarizers, to help identify the mineral. Using the polarizers produces cross polarized light, which creates the unique colors that you see in the images. Attached to this microscope is a camera that captures the images digitally. Al Falster, of MP2, in the lab here at the Museum, uses these images in talks and in papers he publishes, but we decided to use them in a different way!

We feature five different images on coffee mugs and travel mugs that would make a great gift not only for those who love minerals, but for art lovers as well. We also hope to include more thin section images in the future (think t-shirts, notecards, calendars). These photos also come to us from Dr. Encarnation Roda Robles, a research associate with MP2, who also teaches at the University of the Basque Country in Bilbao, Spain. Be sure to check out the garnet and tourmaline image from the Emmons Mine in Greenwood. Are there any minerals you would like to see close up? Suggestions are welcomed!

Hours: Monday through Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. www.maineminaralmuseum.org
The laboratory has a new intern, Anna Maria Farrugia, from New Orleans. Anna Maria received a BS degree in earth sciences from the University of New Orleans, and is with the Museum to gain experience in the lab. She is planning to go to graduate school next year. Anna Maria has been involved with a number of projects already, including some sample preparation, analysis, proofreading, data evaluation and recalculation. She has also learned basic operation of the scanning electron microscope, and has analyzed several samples on it, and acquired images as well.

Here are some photos of what Anna Maria has been doing: heavy mineral separations, recovering the heavy liquids used in the separation process (we are using water soluble lithium metatungstate for the process), picking grains for investigation on the SEM, and mounting and polishing samples for analysis on the SEM.

Anna Maria will be involved in a project recovering and analyzing heavy minerals from Oxford County. Other recent activities in the lab revolved around finalizing several manuscripts for the special edition of the Canadian Mineralogist that is dedicated to Skip and Karen, and preparing a poster for the E.E Foord Pegmatite Symposium in Golden, CO. Anna Maria has become a valuable asset in the lab, contributing significantly to its productivity. Most importantly, she is learning many valuable analytical skills.

Dig in! Become a Member!

Contact us for a membership form or join online at www.mainemineralmuseum.org.

For sponsorship and funding opportunities, call us, 207.824.3036.