

## MINERAL of THE MONTH:

APRIL - DIAMOND



# MINERALOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

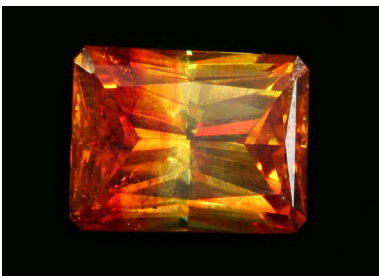
at HARVARD UNIVERSITY



## Diamond

Diamond, the birthstone of April, is composed of the element carbon and is the hardest substance known. Most diamonds form about 150 km beneath the surface of the Earth under intense heat and pressure. Diamonds are excellent conductors of heat, have the highest melting point of any material, and have the highest refractive index of all natural minerals. Due to these unique properties, diamonds are valued gems and are used for a wide variety of industrial purposes.

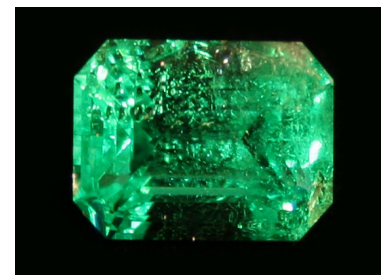
Dear friends, happy spring! We are excited to share recent happenings at the museum with you.



Sphalerite from Las Manforas Mine, Picos de Europa, Spain. 36.39 carats. Donated by the Yurmans.

## Notable Donations and Loans

The museum is pleased to announce a generous donation of gems and minerals from **David Yurman Enterprises LLC**. The gifted objects from the Yurmans are of exceptional quality and enhance the museum's species and locality holdings. The museum also received a recent donation of Zambian emeralds from **Gemfields PLC**. Rough emerald crystals from this gift will be used to support emerald research at the MGMH. John Sigerman has loaned a 1.28 carat emerald gem from North Carolina, one of five faceted stones from the crystal that the famous Carolina Emperor was sourced from. This emerald along with gems and minerals from the Yurman donation will be displayed in the MGMH public gallery. Thank you to the Yurmans, Gemfields PLC, and John Sigerman for their generosity and support!



North Carolina Emerald on loan from John Sigerman.



Opal, Hacienda Esperanza, Mexico. Gift of J.A. Garland. Robert Wheldon image.

## Sinkankas Symposium

Curator Raquel Alonso-Perez attended the thirteenth annual Sinkankas Symposium (<http://www.sinkankassymposium.net/>) in Carlsbad, California on April 18th. The theme of the symposium this year was opal. Raquel gave a presentation on the museum's impressive collection of about 300 opals from around the world and the geochemical and internal structure results from research on a selection of MGMH opals. A Mexican fire opal in matrix donated by J. A. Garland in the late nineteenth century is a highlight of the opal collection. Garland was a close friend of the famed Tiffany & Co. gemologist George Frederick Kunz and donated some of the most precious pieces in the museum's collection, including a selection of tourmalines from the A. C. Hamlin Collection.



## 2015 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show

Curator Raquel Alonso-Perez and Curatorial Assistants Tracy Warmington, Theresa Smith, and Kevin Czaja attended the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show in Arizona this year. The MGMH was invited to be the featured collector at the Westward Look Mineral Show and exhibited more than 85 of its finest minerals for the public to enjoy. It was one of the best received and highest attended Collector's Day to date. The museum also displayed a Western European themed exhibit at the TGMS Main Show. In addition, the MGMH staff made several new connections in the industry and acquired material for the museum's collection, including a hyalite opal, a chalcantite, and a wupakiite (a new species addition). All in all, it was a very successful Tucson show!