



## SPECIMEN of THE MONTH:

QUAHOG PEARL

# MINERALOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

at HARVARD UNIVERSITY

**Exciting New Loan** - Early this year, native New Englander Alex Park bought a dozen clams to prepare stuffed quahogs. Perched on the meat of one of the quahogs was a purple pearl. The pearl was a rich purple color, nearly spherical and remarkably large. While technically a biomineral, the MGMH is excited to announce that this rare and spectacular New England specimen can now be seen in the Birthstone Case of the Mineral Gallery.



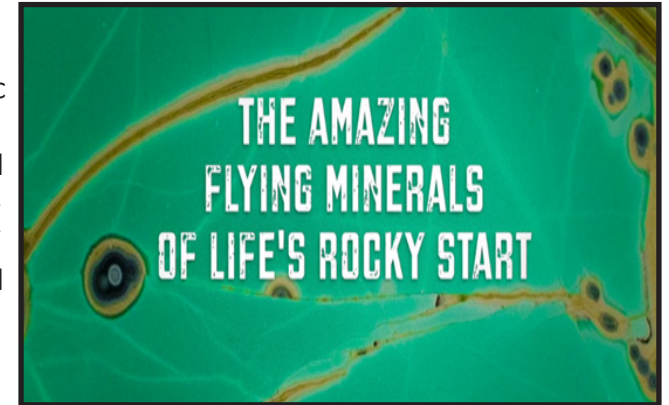
### Notable Aquisitions

The MGMH staff had a wonderful and productive visit to the Springfield Gem and Mineral show on August 8th. During the visit, the MGMH acquired some new and exciting specimens including this fine plate of Red Ember Mine, Erving, Massachusetts garnet in graphite from Treasured Mountain Mining (image above).



### Filming with NOVA

The MGMH is delighted to have worked with film team Rob Tinworth and Mitch Butler to shoot a variety of minerals for Robert Hazen and NOVA's feature "Life's Rocky Start", set to be released in Spring 2016. "Life's Rocky Start" will look at the work being done by Robert Hazen and his colleagues involving the impact of minerals on the origins of life. Hazen's most recent research has included studying such process as mineral-catalyzed organic synthesis and the selective adsorption of organic molecules on mineral surfaces. Mr. Hazen selected the MGMH as the source for images of fine minerals for the NOVA featured program. A short film of the work done using our specimens can be viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/136263460>. The film crew was a delight to work with, and the MGMH is excited to see the final production.



### New Fourth Floor Exhibits

The MGMH had the pleasure of hosting Isabelle de Carvalho von Randow and Manuel Gustavo Silva Izaias, Brazil Scientific Mobility Program Exchange Student, this summer. As a capstone project, Isabelle and Manuel each developed a new exhibit on display on the fourth floor of the Hoffman Laboratory and the Geomuseum Building. Isabelle's exhibit is an overview of Brazilian minerals and gemstones. Manuel's exhibit looks at the history of Brazilian quartz and its uses in the quartz oscillator plate industry of WWII. We are pleased to have their work on display for the semester.

### Basement Renovations

Thanks to the generosity of our sister museum, the MCZ, with a donation over 400 new storage cabinets and the hard work of the entire staff of the MGMH and EPS facilities crew, the primary working and major collections storage area of the MGMH has undergone a significant renovation. After nearly seven months of cleaning, demolition and moving, our space has been revitalized into a modern storage space we are pleased to call our own. We look forward to showing future visitors our fresh space.

### Upcoming Shows

The MGMH will be attending the Denver Gem and Mineral Show August 18th to the 20th. While at mineral shows, the museum is capable of facilitating the acquisition of research material for EPS members. We encourage anyone with a request to contact MGMH Curator Raquel Alonso-Perez at [ralonso@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:ralonso@fas.harvard.edu).