

# The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club -

**Club News,**  
**October, 2015**



**Program for the month: Saturday October 10 business meeting followed by a field trip. With this month, we start our Winter schedule—the monthly business meeting starts at 10:00AM.**

Our speaker for Saturday will be LGGMC Member **Ralph Palmer** who will give a presentation on “**Minerals as Gems Used in Jewelry**”. This will be a very good recap of the fundamentals of mineralogy of a group of popular gems used in jewelry. The presentation is designed to help our newer members learn more about mineralogy and what gemstones relate to which minerals.

**Steve Veatch** and several **Pebble Pups/Young Earth Scholars** will give a presentation at the **November 14** meeting. They will discuss several of the fun and exciting projects that have been underway this year.

## **Please Welcome the Following New Members**

### **Coming Events**

<b><u>First Double Eagle Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show</u></b> , Double Eagle, 442 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek; 9AM-5PM Fri., Sat.; 9-4 Sun.	...	<b>Oct. 9-11</b>
<b><u>Dinosaur Discovery Day: Girl Scout Day</u></b> , Dinosaur Ridge, Morrison. Go to <a href="http://www.dinoridge.org">www.dinoridge.org</a> for information.	...	<b>Oct. 10</b>
<b><u>“Basic Paleontology: An introduction to the fossil record”</u></b> , by Steven Veatch, Dinosaur Resource Center, Woodland Park, ages 12-adult; \$20 fee; call Deb at 719-686-1820 x 104 to register.	...	<b>Oct. 17</b>
<b><u>CSM Book, Mineral &amp; Fossil Sale</u></b> , 9AM to 4PM, CSM Geology Museum, 1310 Maple St., Golden. Call 303-273-3815 for information.	...	<b>Oct. 24, 25</b>
<b><u>“Cave Minerals in 3-D”</u></b> by Dan Wray, Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter bimonthly Meeting, Denver Museum of Nature & Science VIP Room 7:30PM, free admission	...	<b>Nov. 12</b>
<b><u>New Mexico Mineral Symposium</u></b> , Socorro; go to <a href="https://geoinfo.mnt.edu/museum/minsymp/home.cfm">https://geoinfo.mnt.edu/museum/minsymp/home.cfm</a> for info.	...	<b>Nov. 14-15</b>

✓ ✓ Pebble Pups meeting day is being moved to the third Wednesday, and meetings will still be at the PPHS Museum in Florissant from 6:00 to 6:45 PM. We hope that Wednesdays will avoid scheduling conflicts that prevent many students from attending on Tuesday evenings.

✓ ✓ **Bob Carnein** will present a three-hour mini-course in **Mineral Physical Properties** to members sometime this winter. A program like this is designed to teach new people in the hobby and refresh veteran members about the various physical properties used to identify common minerals in our area. This will give you ways to  
Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

**October, 2015**

identify what you are finding and give you clues as to what the minerals you're seeking look like. The class will be free to any member of the LGGMC.

### ✓ ✓ **Message from the President:**

The officers and many members are concerned about the **unexpected rapid growth of membership** and are seeking ways to handle the problems of a membership of around 400 persons. Field-Trip attendance has needed restrictions in several cases. At the October meeting, we'll discuss some ways to handle the situation. We may want to consider a short 3-month period when membership can be initiated or renewed. We may want to consider more or repeat field trips on weekdays or Sundays. Should we have a requirement that all members participate as 1) officers or 2) committee chairs or 3) perform some community Earth-science volunteer activity? How would that be monitored and is it practical?

Although we have a large number of members, we have a short list of persons expressing a desire to help run the club. Without more volunteers we may have to regress, and cut back on our activity. **YOU**, the LGGMC Membership, need to seriously consider what you can help out with for the Club. Do you want to be a "One Field Trip Member?" or will you help to keep the club activities moving forward? You don't have to be an experienced geologist or rockhound to help; there are plenty of other items where help is needed.

If you are willing to help, talk to any of the Officers and let's see where a match of your talents and time can fit with our needs.

Thank you in advance - All the past and present officers and I hope to see the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club continue to excel!

✓ ✓ A slate of nominees for next year's **2016 Officers** will be presented at the October meeting. We have volunteers for some positions, but nominations (or self-nominations) are always welcome. Besides the "regular" officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Newsletter Editor), we are looking for volunteers for the following positions relating to the annual show: (1) Pre-planning (arranging porta-potties, field mowing, liability insurance, etc.); (2) management of physical assets (signs, spray paint, flagging, stakes, etc.); (3) volunteer coordinator; (4) marketing/publicity; (5) overall show coordinator (overseeing all of the above). **Becky Blair** did a great job keeping the show organized this year, and will be in charge of vendors in 2016.

✓ ✓ **Don Keith**, of the **Pueblo Rockhounds**, asked me to include this meeting announcement: "The public is invited to attend the Pueblo Rockhound meeting on Thursday, October 15, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; with a short business meeting at 6:15 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., Dr. Robert (Bob) Hickey, a geologist and volunteer with the CO Parks & Wildlife Dept./Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area will present a very informative and entertaining program about the geology of the Rio Grande Rift, the Big Horn Sheep Canyon of the Arkansas River, the Royal Gorge and the Front Range. For directions or questions, you may contact: Don & Beverly Keith, Co-Presidents, [PuebloRockhounds@yahoo.com](mailto:PuebloRockhounds@yahoo.com) "

✓ ✓ And here is the latest installment of "Bench Tips" by Brad Smith ([www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com)):

#### **DEBURRING A HOLE**

When you drill a hole, there's usually a burr produced on the underside of the metal. Typically, burrs are removed by filing or sanding the area smooth, but doing it this way will put scratches on your piece that will have to be polished off.

A quick way to remove the burr is to grab a drill that's two or three times larger than your hole. Simply twist it in the hole to cut off the burr. I usually do this twisting by hand, but if you have many holes to do, it's easier on your fingers to put the drill into a holder like a pin vice.



---

### CLEANING STEEL SHOT

Steel shot in a vibratory or rotary tumbler works great to burnish and shine your finished silver pieces. But a common problem is how keep the shot clean. Carbon steel shot can get rusty if exposed to the air, and even stainless steel shot can sometimes develop a blackish coating that's hard to remove.

My solution of choice to clean the shot is Classic Coke. Just pour an ounce or two over the shot and let the tumbler run for an hour or so. A bad case might require a second cleaning. Some folks like to let the bubbles in the Coke dissipate before using it so that gas pressure doesn't build up in the tumbler barrel. I've heard that it's the phosphoric acid in Coke that does the trick.

While you're waiting for the shot to clean up, just settle back and enjoy the rest of the Coke.

=====  
"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and  
"Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry"  
are available on Amazon

## Notes from the Editor

Bob Carnein, Editor  
[ccarnein@gmail.com](mailto:ccarnein@gmail.com)  
719-687-2739



Here's an interesting article by **Steve Veatch** about an historic gemstone.

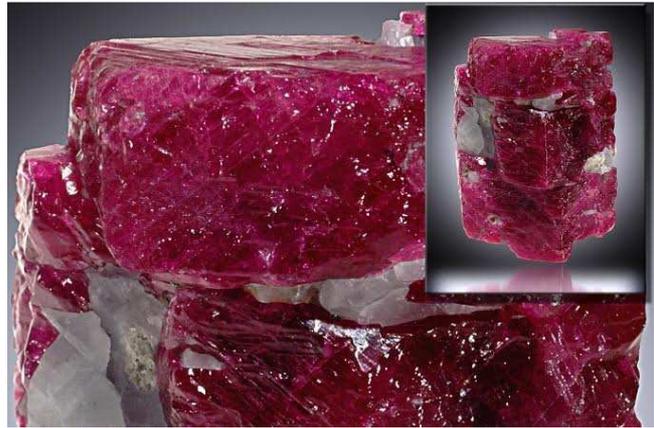
## The Regale of France: Henry VIII's Lost Ruby

By Steven Wade Veatch

Glittering jewels, precious metals, and religious relics—ranging from a spine from the Crown of Thorns to a twig from the Burning Bush, and sundry relics of saints—were important to all medieval monarchs as physical symbols of power, pomp, and religious expression. King Henry VIII (1491-1547) of England had one of these venerable objects— a ruby.



**Figure 1.** Henry VIII. The king can be seen sporting several jewels in this 1531 painting. Henry prized the French Regale, a ruby fashioned into a cabochon. It remained in Henry's private collection until he died at the age of 55 in 1547. Image public domain.



**Figure 2.** View of a ruby in its natural state. Note the crystal habit of terminated hexagonal prisms. Used with permission, Wilensky Fine Minerals.

Ruby ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ) is a gemstone and a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminum oxide). It's one of the hardest minerals on Earth (9.0 on the Mohs mineral hardness scale of 10) and ranges in color from pink to blood-red. Traces of the element chromium cause the red color to bloom in rubies. The Latin word for red, *ruber* is the basis for its name. The other variety of gem-quality corundum is sapphire. The ruby is extremely rare and considered the king of the gemstones with its magnificent color and exceptional brilliance.

Louis VII (1120-1180) became the first King of France to visit England when he made a pilgrimage in 1179 to St. Thomas Becket's shrine at Canterbury. He spent the night there and made several offerings, including the "Regale," considered the finest gem in Europe, for St. Thomas's intercession and help in the recovery of his son from illness. Period clerics said its blood-red color commemorated the blood of Thomas Beckett, the martyr, whose shrine held the stone. A Bohemian ambassador in 1446 described the ruby as "a carbuncle [ruby] that shines at night, half the size of a hen's egg." A traveling Venetian wrote about the gem in 1500, that the "ruby, not larger than a thumbnail . . . is fixed at the right of the altar. The church is somewhat dark, and particularly in the spot where the shrine is placed, and when we went to see it the sun was near setting and the weather cloudy; nevertheless I saw the ruby as if I had it in my hand. They say it was given by a king of France (State Papers)." While descriptions of the size of the ruby do not match, there is no question this gem was exceptional in size and beauty.

By the time Henry VIII dissolved monasteries in England (between 1536 and 1541), he became aware of the gemstone and longed to possess its radiant beauty. In 1540, Henry VIII ordered the shrine demolished. From that rubble, the ruby mysteriously appeared in the king's Royal Treasury. A rare document describes the event, the "Royal Commission for the destruction of shrines, under Dr. John Layton and a strong military guard, arrived at Canterbury to carry out the work of sacrilege. The spoil of jewels and gold of the shrine were carried off in two coffers on the shoulders of eight men, while twenty-six carts were employed to remove the accumulated offerings to God and St. Thomas, and the noted Regale of France was mounted in Henry's thumb ring (Wall, 1905)."

At Henry VIII's death in 1547, an inventory of his property was taken, and the Regale doesn't appear in that document. Edward VI, just like his father, was very fond of jewels and would likely inherit it, but there are no records of it during his reign. The precious ruby quietly disappears from history, forever. Today its whereabouts are unknown.



**Figure 3. Formal portrait Edward VI (1537-1553) in his early teens. Edward was King of England from 1547 until his death at the age of 15. He was the son of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour. Image public domain.**

Many questions surround the Regale: Did it end up back in France? Was it the size of a thumb or as big as a pigeon egg? Did King Henry order the jewel placed in his royal coffin, or was it secreted away by an attendant? Some thought that the gem was buried with Henry, especially George IV (1762-1830). *Notes and Queries* (1863) reports that "With respect to the large carbuncle of diamond [ruby] given by Louis VII, which is said to have been worn by King Henry VIII in his thumb-ring, it was probably buried with him . . . George IV, when Prince Regent, having ordered the tomb of Henry [VIII] to be opened, and the coffin searched for some ring, which he supposed were still to be found therein . . . Nothing however, was found except some large bones."

Since the Regale became widely known in 1179, it has been coveted by many people. It was last seen being worn by the Henry VIII of England. Since then the march of time has continued on and years have become centuries—cloaking the ruby with the dark veil of the past. The ultimate fate of Henry's favorite gem remains unknown.

#### **References Cited:**

Lake George Gem and Mineral Club

October, 2015

Wall, J. Charles, 1905. Chapter Four: Prelates and Priests, *Shrines of British Saints*, Metheun & Co., London.

<http://queryblog.tudorhistor.org>

<http://www.mocavo.co.uk/Notes-and-Queries-Jul-Dec-1863-Volume4/877270/475>

State Papers (ed. 1830), Part II, p. 583. Polydore Vergil, Relation (Camden Society, 30).

**Special Mystery Vendors**  
will be attending???

Morocco's  
Fossils & Minerals

THE DOUBLE EAGLE  
442 E. BENNETT AVE  
CRIPPLE CREEK, CO  
80813

**DOUBLE EAGLE  
PRESENTS**

Gem, Mineral  
&  
Jewelry Show  
with the  
addition of  
Fossils

BURTIS  
BLUE  
TURQUOISE

9-11 OCT 2015  
FRI & SAT 9-5  
SUN 9-4

**Lake George Gem & Mineral Club**  
Box 171, Lake George, Colorado 80827  
[www.LGGMClub.org](http://www.LGGMClub.org)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email (please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
*(required to receive newsletter and field-trip info)*

Names/ages of family members (if family membership) \_\_\_\_\_

---

Dues for Jan 1 through Dec. 31 each year are as follows (please check membership type):

\_\_\_\_ Individual (18 and over).....\$15.00

\_\_\_\_ Family (includes dependents under age 18).....\$25.00

Dues are due on or before March 31. Members with unpaid dues will be dropped from the roster on April 1. On/after **August 15**, dues will be reduced to half price for **NEW members only**.

I agree to abide by the Club constitution, by-laws, and rules regarding field trips and club claim visits.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_

I am or have previously been a member of Lake George Gem & Mineral Club. Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

**My interest areas** include (check all that apply): Minerals\_\_\_\_; Fossils\_\_\_\_; Lapidary\_\_\_\_;  
Micromounts\_\_\_\_; Colorado geology\_\_\_\_; Pebble Pups (ages 7-17)\_\_\_\_; Mining History\_\_\_\_;  
Crystallography\_\_\_\_; Other \_\_\_\_\_

**I am willing** to give a talk/presentation to (the Club) or (Pebble Pups) on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and/or lead a field trip to (list) \_\_\_\_\_

**I am willing** to participate/help in the following ways (can choose more than one): Club Officer\_\_\_\_;  
Newsletter Editor/Writer\_\_\_\_; Local Show/Show committee\_\_\_\_; Nominating Committee\_\_\_\_;  
Winter Programs Committee\_\_\_\_; Field Trips\_\_\_\_; Art (badges)\_\_\_\_; Membership Coordina-  
tor \_\_\_\_; Website Assistance\_\_\_\_; Pebble Pups\_\_\_\_; Other (be specific) \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions about the Club or Activities? Visit the website or contact a Club officer.**

Lake George Gem & Mineral Club  
PO Bo 171  
Lake George, CO 80827



**The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club** is a group of people interested in rocks and minerals, fossils, geography and history of the Pikes Peak/South Park area, Indian artifacts, and the great outdoors. The Club's informational programs and field trips provide opportunities to learn about Earth science, rocks and minerals, lapidary work and jewelry making, and to share information and experiences with other members. Guests are welcome to attend, to see what we are about!

The Club is geared primarily to amateur collectors and artisans, with programs of interest both to beginners and serious amateurs. The Club meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Lake George Community Center, located on the north side of US Highway 24 on the east edge of town, sharing a building with the county highway shops. **In the winter, we meet at 10:00AM. From April through October, we meet at 9:00AM, to allow more time for our field trips.**

Our organization is incorporated under Colorado law as a nonprofit educational organization, and is a member of the Colorado, Rocky Mountain, and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies. We also sponsor an annual Gem and Mineral Show at Lake George, where collectors and others may purchase or sell rocks, minerals, fossils, gems, or jewelry. Annual membership dues (Jan. 1 through Dec. 31) are \$15.00 for an individual (18 and over), and \$25.00 for a family (parents plus dependents under age 18).

**Our Officers for 2015 are:**

**John Rakowski**, President  
PO Box 608  
Florissant, CO 80816  
719-748-3861  
[rakgeologist@yahoo.com](mailto:rakgeologist@yahoo.com)

**Char DeVries**, Vice President  
280 Homestead Rd.  
Divide, CO 80814  
719-686-1822  
[swordfishblue@wildblue.net](mailto:swordfishblue@wildblue.net)

**Suzanne Core**, Treasurer  
PO Box 1154  
Cripple Creek, CO 80813  
719-689-2092  
[suzc@peakinet.net](mailto:suzc@peakinet.net)

**Norma Engelberg**, Secretary  
2732 W. Bijou St.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904  
719-337-8994  
[njengel60@gmail.com](mailto:njengel60@gmail.com)

**C.R. (Bob) Carnein**, Newsletter Editor  
507 Donzi Trail  
Florissant, CO 80816  
719-687-2739  
[ccarnein@gmail.com](mailto:ccarnein@gmail.com)