



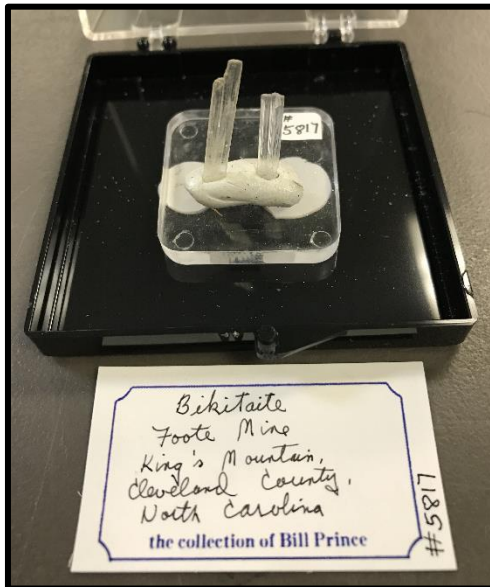
November 2023

King of the Mountain By Eric Brosius

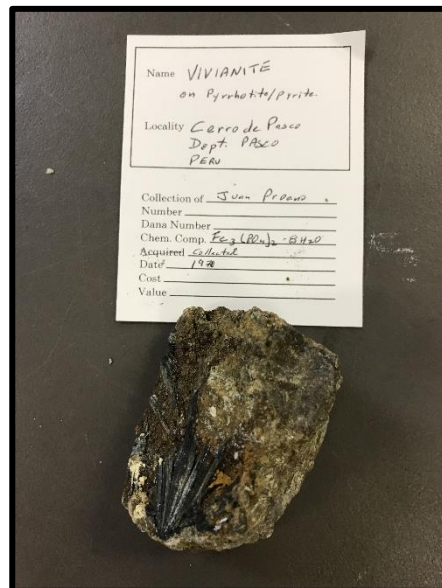
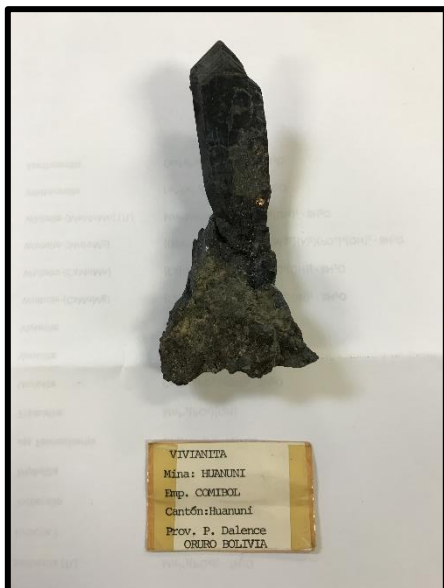


The October 19, 2023, meeting of the Leidy Microscopical Society featured a micromount roundtable of phosphate minerals from member's collections of the Kings Mountain Mining District, Cleveland County, North Carolina. There are 84 phosphate minerals and 11 type locality species listed on Mindat.org from the mines that comprise the Kings Mountain Mining District.

The 8 members present and 2 via the on-line Zoom® meeting site, had a respectable representation of phosphates as micromounts, including several of the rarer minerals and many of the type locality species, from the mines of the district. Bill Prince shared the most variety of phosphate mounts from his collection with Karenne Snow coming in a close second. Both had specimens of the rare bikitaite ($\text{LiAlSi}_2\text{O}_6 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$) from the Foote Mine. Bikitaite is not a phosphate but a lithium mineral which should not be that unusual from the location since the mines are located in one of the largest mineable lithium deposits in the United States. In 2013 the Kings Mountain Mine was reported as having 45.6 million tonnes of lithium ore grading 0.7% lithium resulting in 0.32 million tonnes of lithium. In 2017 the entire Kings Mountain Mining District had 5.9 million metric tons of lithium reserves. (source wikipedia.com).



Of course, if members did not have any phosphate micromounts from the Kings Mountain Mining District any phosphate from other localities was also shared. Society member Juan Proano displayed two spectacular macro vivianite specimens, one from Bolivia the other that he personally collected from Peru.



In other Society business, Symposium Chairman Don McAlarnen indicated he is still looking for a second speaker for the 2024 Leidy Micromount Symposium. Don also gave a brief report on the Baltimore Mineral Society Paul DeSautels Micromount Symposium on October 6-8, 2023, that he attended. Robert Carlton reported on the combined meeting at the Delaware County Institute of Science with The Philadelphia Society for Microscopy. He stated additional combined meetings are scheduled for November 11, 2023, and December 2, 2023, also at the Delaware County Institute of Science.

Finally, the November 16, 2023, meeting of the Society will feature a micromount roundtable of micromounts from the Perkiomen Mines, Audubon, Lower Providence Township, Montgomery County, PA. Please bring examples for viewing from your collections. All are invited.