



Celebrating 100 Years of  
Microscopical Magnificence



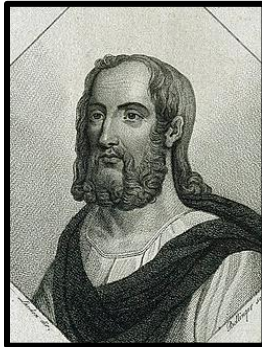
# *The Leidy Letter*

Volume 1

Newsletter of The Leidy Microscopical Society

June 2025

Number 6



Gaius Plinius Secundus  
(AD 23/24 – AD 79),  
known in English as  
Pliny the Elder



Georgius Agricola  
born Georg Bauer  
(March 24, 1494 –  
November 21, 1555)

## Editor's Note

The science of mineralogy has a long history. Information about rocks and minerals was passed down verbally, individual to individual throughout antiquity. In theory, the first human ancestors distinguished which rocks and minerals were better for a particular use. Some of those that were found could be fashioned into particular tools, projectile points, hammer stones, knives, etc. Others were discovered to enhance food taste and quality or to enrich soil for agricultural yields.

The science advanced with the earliest writings from ancient Babylonia, the Greco-Roman world, China and India. One of the earliest books about minerals is Pliny the

Continued on page 2

## 2025 Officers of the Leidy Microscopical Society

**President – Eric Brosius**

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**Secretary – Karenne Snow**

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## Meetings of The Leidy Microscopical Society are held at the

The Community Center at GIANT

315 York Road

Willow Grove, PA 19090

On the third Wednesday evening from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM in September, October, March, April, May & June and the third Saturday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in November, December, January & February.

The Annual Leidy Microscopical Society Micromount Symposium is held in March.



The Leidy Letter  
Vol. 1 No. 6, June 2025  
(Page 2 of 5)

Elder's Naturalis Historia. During the German Renaissance, Georgius Agricola wrote De re metallica and De Natura Fossilium. Both of these works began a scientific approach to the study of minerals. The modern study of mineralogy did not occur until the 17<sup>th</sup> century with the invention of the microscope.

In 1959 the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names (CNMMN) of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) was created. The purpose of the commission is to control the introduction of new mineral names and rationalizing mineral nomenclature.

Minerals are the foundation of our society. There is not a single thing in this world that does not have a reliance on some mineral.

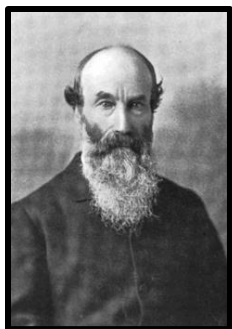
Many of the new minerals discovered came from amateur collectors. Their discoveries have led to vast mineral deposits of great economic value. Others have occurred as a single rarity in the mineral world.

In the February 1986 Rock Chatter, newsletter of the Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA., President Ralph Thomas wrote in his President's Message, *"It has always been a mystery to me why there are not more people, young and old, interested in the mineral hobby, and that includes fossils, lapidary and gemstones. Maybe I am biased but I don't think there is any comparison with stamp, coin, match cover, beer can, or any other type of collecting. With minerals there is only one and only one kind – there are no two specimens alike. The hobby takes you out-of-doors, it is inexpensive and is scientific because you are dealing with nature."*

### Program for June 18, 2025

The June 18, 2025, meeting of the Leidy Microscopical Society will feature micromounts from Murray Goldberg. Members and guests are requested to bring six of their best Murray Goldberg micromounts for viewing. The group will then vote on the best overall Murray Goldberg mount that was viewed. Everyone is invited even if you do not have a microscope or any Murray Goldberg mounts.

PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE NOW INTO OUR WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE UNTIL NEXT NOVEMBER. THE MEETINGS WILL START AT 6:30 PM. HOWEVER, YOU CAN ARRIVE EARLIER TO GET YOUR MICROSCOPE SET UP.



**"What is seen with the microscope depends not only upon the instrument and the rock-section, but also upon the brain behind the eye of the observer. Each of us looks at a section with the accumulated experience of his past study."**

— Thomas George Bonney (July 27, 1833 – December 10, 1923)  
English geologist, president of the Geological Society of London.



## Location Location Location

By Eric Brosius

The May 21, 2025, meeting featured micromounts of type localities.

The type locality mineral specimen designation is fairly new in the mineralogical world. The definition of the type specimen, also known as type material, is a reference sample by which the scientific name of that mineral is formally attached. The type locality refers to a specific geographic location where the mineral was first discovered and described in detail in scientific literature.

The official designation of type locality specimens was taken from the biological sciences and adopted by the International Mineral Association's (IMA) Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names (CNMMN) which was not fully adopted until 1987. Prior to this date, many of the minerals that were discovered and described in antiquity do not have a type specimen or locality. The best available information for many early specimens has a designation as 'Original Material' as described on old mineral labels and catalogues from museums.

In preparing for the Society's May meeting, I did a little research on the [www.MINDAT.org](http://www.MINDAT.org) website on type locality mineral specimens. I made a full list of all the type mineral specimens found in the United States by each individual state. Additionally, I went country by country around the world and made a list of the number of type locality specimens found in each country. The document that I created will be sent as separate attachments in the email for the newsletter.

A few interesting facts I came across include:

- There are 995 valid type locality minerals and 2868 valid minerals in the United States.
- California has 158 type locality minerals. The most of any state.
- Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina and West Virginia have no type locality specimens.
- Kansas has four type locality minerals. All come from the Norton County meteorite.
- Russia has the second most type locality minerals at 943 with 2787 valid minerals.

Amazingly, the members who attended the May meeting and provided type locality micromount specimens from their collections, had very few specimens that were duplicated. After everyone had a chance to view the provided mounts, Karenne Snow came away with the best mount. Her Senegalite from Kouroudiako Faleme River, East Senegal and mounted by Anthony DiDonato gave her bragging rights for the evening.



Karenne Snow's Winning Micromount for the Leidy Microscopical Meeting May 21, 2025, on Type Locality specimens.

Senegalite, Kouroudiako Faleme River, East Senegal  
 $\text{Al}_2(\text{PO}_4)(\text{OH})(\text{OH})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$



**The Leidy Letter**  
**Vol. 1 No. 6, June 2025**  
**(Page 4 of 5)**

## **In Other Society Business**

There were 10 members (Don McAlarnen, Bill Prince, Karenne Snow, Dick Braun, Paul Langer, Robert Carlton, Len Porocelli, Matthew Okasinski, Christel Hoffmann, Eric Brosius) in person attending the May 21, 2025, meeting.

There was no Zoom® on-line access to join the May meeting as the venue's on-line access equipment was broken.

The Society's storage unit lease expired. A new lease was obtained under Don McAlarnen's wife's name to hold down costs.

Don McAlarnen acquired a microscope at the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society's Lulu Temple show that was labeled as Paul Seel. Don graciously donated the scope to the Society.

Christel Hoffmann will confirm with the Advent Lutheran Church in Richboro, PA that the dates for the March 13-14, 2026, Leidy Micromount Symposium are secure.

Don McAlarnen is taking suggestions for the speakers for the 2026 Leidy Micromount Symposium.

Concerns over member Peter Fireman's health were raised after the emails for the newsletter kept coming back as undeliverable.

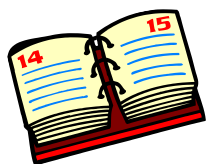
The June 18, 2025, meeting will feature micromounts of Murray Goldberg.

Eric Brosius made a note of a correction to the May Leidy Letter; the Paul Langer specimens were lichen not fungi as mentioned in the newsletter.

## **Who are our members:**

The following picture was taken at the Leidy annual summer picnic (year unknown) by Ralph Thomas. Neil Wintringham was the host. Can you provide the names of those in the picture?





## Calendar of Events

**June 18, 2025 – Willow Grove, PA – Leidy Microscopical Society Regular Meeting 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, Giant Community Center, 315 York Road, Willow Grove, PA,** the subject of the meeting will feature Murray Goldberg micromounts. Members and guests are requested to bring six of their best Murray Goldberg micromounts for viewing. The group will then vote on the best overall Murray Goldberg micromount that was viewed. Everyone is invited even if you do not have a microscope or any Murray Goldberg micromounts.

**July 12-13, 2025 – Syracuse, NY - Gem World.** Center of Progress Building New York State Fairgrounds, 575 State Fair Boulevard, Syracuse, NY 13209. Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For additional information visit: <https://gmss.club/>

**June 14-15, 2025 - Cherry Hill, NJ - South Jersey Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, & Fossil Show \*\*NEW LOCATION\*\*.** Trinity Presbyterian Church, 499 Route 70 East, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034. Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For more information visit: <http://sjmineralshow.com/>

**June 14-15, 2025 - West Friendship, MD - Gem Miner's Spring Show.** Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, MD 21794. Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sunday 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For additional information visit: <https://www.gem-show.com/>

**June 21, 2025 - Newton, MA - Boston Mineral Club Annual Auction.** American Legion Nonantum Post 440, 295 California Street, Newton, MA 02458. Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For additional information visit: <https://bostonmineralclub.org/events/auctions/>

**June 28-29, 2025 – Gilsum, NH - Gilsum Rock Swap and Mineral Show.** Gilsum Elementary School, 640 Route 10, Gilsum, NH 03448. Saturday 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sunday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For additional information visit: <http://www.gilsum.org/rockswap>

**July 26-27, 2025 – Pittsburgh, PA - The 2024 Monongahela Rockhounds Gem Mineral & Fossil Show.** West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Co., #4 Skyview Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15236. For additional information visit: <https://www.monongahelarockhounds.org/>

**August 1-3, 2025 – Belfast, ME - Midcoast Gem and Mineral Fair.** Bayview Point Event Center 15 Front Street, Belfast, ME 04915. Friday 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For additional information visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3792515137745005>

**September 13, 2025 – Poland, ME – Maine Mineral Tailgate Sale.** Havey Quarry, 34 Levine Road, Poland, ME. Saturday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For additional information visit: <http://nemineal.org/>

**November 28-30, 2025 – Salem, VA - Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Show.** Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, Salem, VA 24153. Friday 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sunday 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For additional information visit: <https://www.rvmgs.org/>