



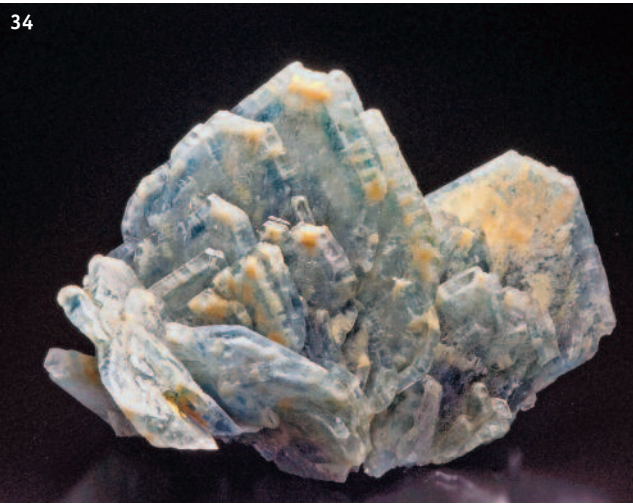
32. Bill & Diana Dameron display at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show.

Specimens: Bill & Diana Dameron.
Photos: Bill Dameron.

4. Baryte from Romania, Italy and Greece as a Part of Baryte World Tour

Bill & Diana Dameron
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Bill had the mineral collecting virus quite seriously as a youth in the 1950s but went into remission when he entered university and did not have a relapse for 34 years, until shortly before his retirement. Starting over again, baryte soon became a specialty because it was relatively easy to acquire excellent crystals in a wide variety of habits and colors from most of the world. Fortunately, his wife Diana shares in the excitement of building collections and sub-collections. They also have significant suites of smithsonite, prehnite, sphalerite, amethyst and minerals from Mali, but their nearly 500 baryte specimens have helped focus their activity as they reach the stage when they realize they should begin downsizing the collection.

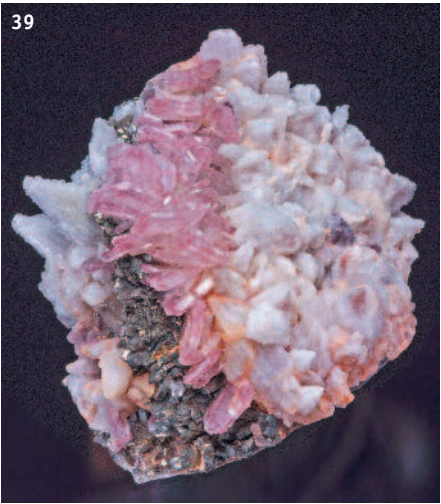
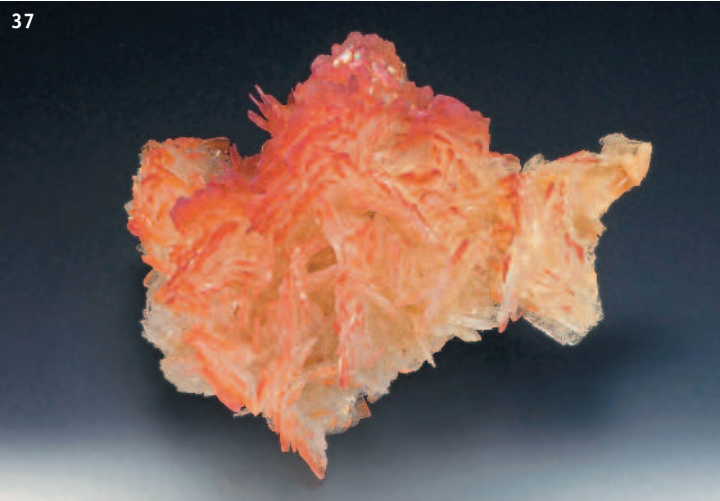


33. **Baryte.** 9 cm.
Baia Sprie, Marmures, Romania.

34. **Baryte.** 7.5 cm.
Herja, Baia Mare, Marmures, Romania.

35. **Baryte** and pyrite. 6 cm.
Turt, Satu Mare, Romania.

36. **Baryte.** 6.5 cm.
Baia Sprie, Marmures, Romania.



37. **Baryte.** 6 cm.
Lavrion, Attiki, Greece.

38. **Baryte** and **calcite.** 7 cm.
Muscadroxii mine, Silius, Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy.

39. **Baryte, calcite** and **marcasite.** 7.5 cm.
Genna-Tres Montes mine, Silius, Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy.

40. **Baryte.** 6 cm.
Baia Sprie, Marmures, Romania.

Diana and Bill have displayed at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show for about 17 years. In 2016, while thinking seriously about future exhibitions, they decided to display annually at Tucson a series, for at least 10 years, of worldwide baryte specimens, even though some had been exhibited previously. After displaying baryte from France and Italy, then three U.S. States (Illinois, Iowa and Indiana), for 2018 they chose baryte from Romania, Italy and Greece. Romanian baryte especially exhibits a very wide variety of crystal habits and colors, and Italian specimens are also quite heterogeneous. Those of Greece are somewhat lesser-known. Of course, how to compartmentalize the rest of the world around nice barytes, i.e. select specimens from various countries or regions to build displays which have some sort of geographic kinship, will be a challenge. For example, does a display include specimens from a country with only a few occurrences of attractive baryte if that country is in a different continent than the primary country being featured, just to provide the right number of specimens (about 26–30 specimens each year)? Good specimens from a few countries could fill a case (England or Morocco, for example) but then the ten-year goal stretches out to 15 years or more. But what a fun problem to tackle!