

2021 DENVER MINERAL SHOW REPORT

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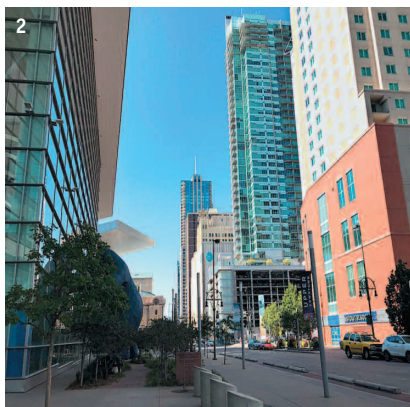
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1. Poster of Hardrock Summit Show-2021.

Photo 3, 4, 7-23: Jeff Scovil, all other made by Philip M. Persson and Ludmila Cheshko.

2. Denver Convention Center where Hardrock Summit Show 2021 took place.



The 2021 Denver Gem and Mineral Showcase (taken herein to mean the collection of gem, mineral and fossil shows and events happening in Denver, Colorado in the first half of September) saw a lot of changes this year, and speculation about the show proved to be an enduring topic of speculation in the mineral community over the past year. Thankfully, we can say now that, Covid-19 pandemic related challenges aside, the show turned out to be excellent constellation of events, which were well-received and well-attended. The Denver Mineral Show, a collection of mineral, gem and fossil events traditionally taking place during an approximately ten-day window during the second and third weeks of September, is built on a rich history going back to the first Denver Gem & Mineral Show, which began in 1967. After 50+ years, the Denver Show has evolved into what is arguably the second most important gem and mineral show in the world (after the Tucson Show), and takes place in the vibrant city of Denver, Colorado, itself one of the best cities to be a mineral collector or dealer in the United States.

This year, the biggest change to the Denver Gem and Mineral Showcase was the birth of a new show called the “**Hardrock Summit**” (September 16–19th), which combined both the former Denver Fine Mineral Show (run by Dave Waisman of Fine Mineral Shows, LLC) and the traditional **Denver Gem & Mineral Show**®, the non-profit show organized by a group of Denver area gem and mineral clubs and currently in its fifty fourth year. But, let’s start at the beginning and circle back to the Hardrock Summit later in this report. The one of the main “commercial” shows in Denver in recent years have been the Denver Mineral Show (September 10-19th), a gigantic conglomeration of vendors selling everything mineral, gem, fossil and rock-related (and sometimes not so related) under the sun. This event takes place at the National Western Complex, a large venue best known for hosting the annual National Western Stock Show, one of the largest rodeos and livestock events in the United States. **The Denver Mineral Show**, run by Lowell Carhart and his company Eons Expos, is the premier event in the Denver Showcase for wholesale purchasing, and features over 100 tents, 11 square miles of tables(!), and 525,000 square feet of selling space. While definitely oriented more towards the needs of the wholesale buyer looking to re-stock gem and mineral products for their business, as well as the general public (who, in the Denver area, think the Denver Mineral Show is “the only show”, thanks to the show’s excellent advertising), there were some great minerals for collectors at the Denver Mineral Show this year. Notably, well-known rare



3. **Fluorite**. 5.3 cm high. Sierra Rica mine, Manuel Benavides, Chihuahua, Mexico. Specimen: Peter Megaw.

4. **Fluorite**. 9.3 cm wide. Mahoning #7 mine, Cave-in-Rock Dist, Hardin, Illinois, USA. Specimen: Harris Precht.

species and collecting supply dealer Mike Shannon (**Shannon & Sons Minerals**) of Gilbert, Arizona occupied their typical spot in the arena floor of the main coliseum building, with a large and eclectic stock including numerous rarities worthy of a search in Fleischer’s guide, as well as fine worldwide minerals from various collections such as Victor “Vic” Hoffman. Also notable in Shannon’s booth were specimens from the stock of well-known dealers Gene and Sharon Ciscernos (Mineralogical Research Company) being sold at discounted prices. Just outside Shannon’s booth in an adjacent room was Rocky Krichbaum of **Rocky Houdenstein LLC**, a Tucson-base business with a great selection of minerals from around the world and something for everyone. A fine crystallized silver on copper from Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, an unusual crystallized silver on copper from the Ray mine in Arizona, and a great selection of inexpensive specimens from the recent finds at the Detroit City mine in Alma, Colorado all caught the eye of this writer. Outside, beyond a constellation of tents featuring large (and sometimes extremely large!) amethyst geodes, quartz crystals, polished spheres, and much more, was the **Miner’s Co-Op**, a friendly and nomadic tribe of mainly Colorado-based dealers who set up as a “show-within-a-show” at the Denver Mineral Show. Notable at the Miner’s Co-Op were John and Laurie Scully of Fairview, New Mexico (**Scully’s Minerals**) who had their usual selection of colorful, showy, and fairly-priced minerals from around the world, many acquired on various trips to far-flung localities in Asia, Africa and South America. Two fine large aquamarine crystals from the recent finds in Thanh Hoa Province, Vietnam proved too much for this author to resist. Nearby, Robert “Sky” Roberts (**Red Sky Minerals**) had a great selection of covellite from Butte, Montana, both cutting and ‘specimen-grade’ material. Friendly

Colorado prospectors and amazonite miners Kim & Bodie Packham (**Running Boar Minerals**) had their usual impressive selection of self-collected amazonite and smoky quartz specimens from Colorado’s Lake George area, including a behemoth cluster of crystals they have nicknamed “401K.” The Denver Mineral Show, with its ample parking, seemingly unlimited shopping options, and proximity to downtown Denver and both major highways, is destined to be an important part of the Denver Mineral Showcase landscape for many years to come.

The second major “anchor” of the Denver Mineral Showcase in recent years has been the **Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show**, started decades ago by veteran show promoter Marty Zinn, and now run by the capable Sandra Gonzales and her team at Rocky Mountain Gem and Mineral Productions. The show ran from September 10-18th this year and featured over 175 great dealers from around the world at the spacious Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Denver, Colorado. This pleasant venue, which includes a large hotel and restaurant, is conveniently located close to both interstate highway 70 and Denver International Airport, and this collector-oriented show continues to thrive in this space. This year, while unfortunately some international vendors and collectors could not attend the show due to pandemic-related travel restrictions, the mood was generally upbeat and the selection of great minerals from around the world was excellent. Near the entrance to the main ballroom, Jason Camilo Roys and Ian Schimpfle of **Lost Creek Mining LLC** had a truly-impressive selection of recently-mined aquamarine beryl crystals from the famous Colorado locality of Mount Antero, along with fine phenakite, smoky quartz, and other specimens from this classic area. Just down the hall, a Pakistani deal-