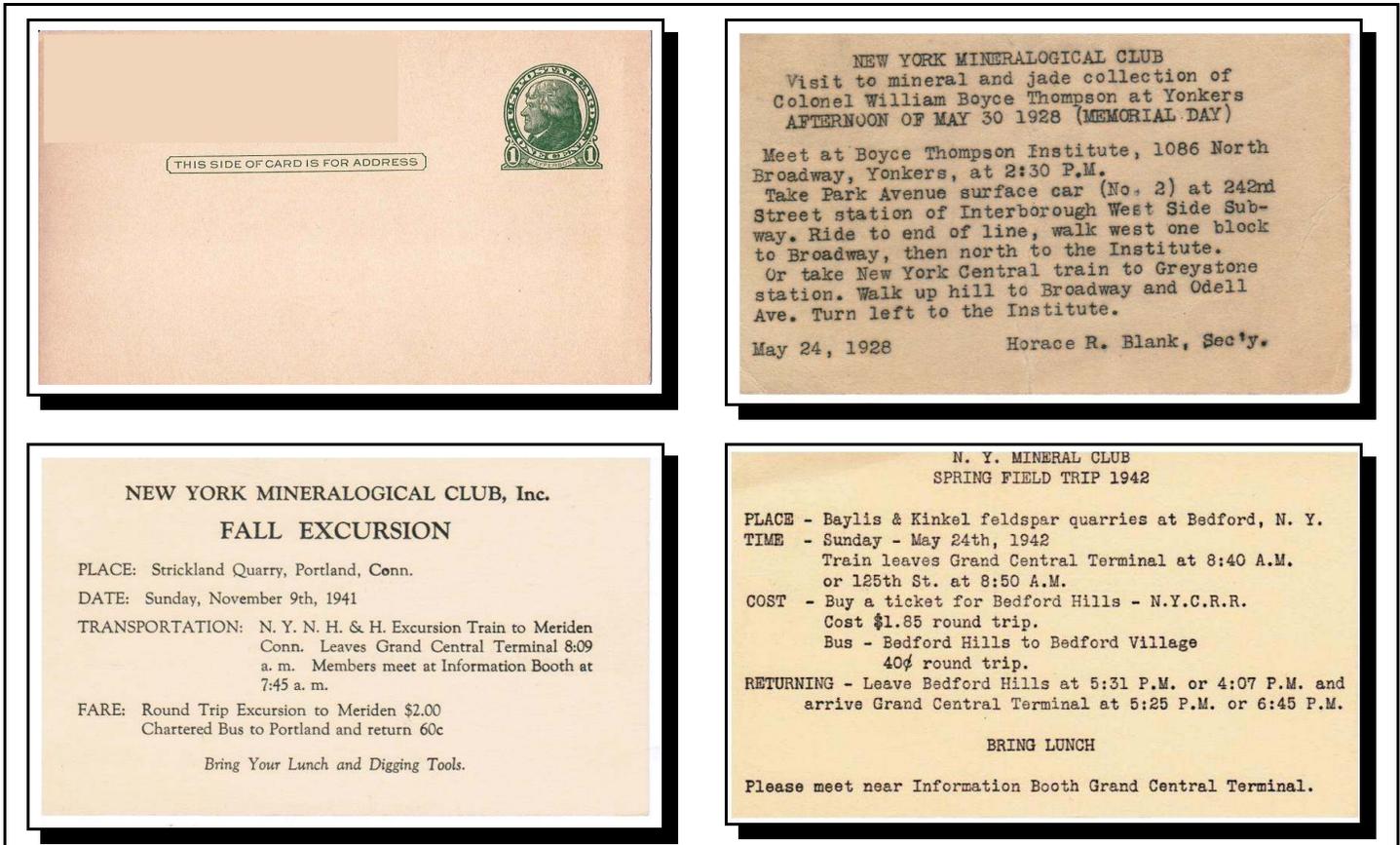


Introduction: Bulletins of the New York Mineralogical Club

Although the New York Mineralogical Club was founded in September of 1886, it did not publish and send out monthly newsletters (a.k.a. bulletins) until January 1961.

Be aware that the term "bulletin" was originally used to identify and number the nine special publications that the Club produced from 1907 to 1959. All of these booklets are available on this website either to view or for download.

Before the issuance of monthly bulletins, notices to members were sent by the club's secretary by postcard only. The postcard communications provided information for meetings, field trips or other activities. Some postcards seem to be individually typed, as they are not identical; others are professionally printed. A few are illustrated here. I doubt a complete set of all of these cards exist anywhere.



The meeting minutes, which are now contained in the regular monthly bulletins, were formally published in national mineralogical periodicals including *The Mineral Collector*, *The Exchanger's Monthly*, *American Mineralogist*, and *Rocks & Minerals Magazine*.

It is planned to eventually have all of these published meeting minutes from all of the above sources reproduced on this site.

You will notice that sporadic issues of the NYMC bulletin, indeed some full years, are missing from the archives. If you have some of these issues or know where they can be found, please contact us.

Please enjoy the excellent article written by Guenther Neumeier about mineral magazines that follows.

A Brief History of Mineral Magazines

By Guenther Neumeier

Mineralogical publications for scientists have been around since the 18th century. Publications for collectors, however, did not appear until the late 19th century in Europe with Gustav von Tschermak's *Mineralogische Mittheilungen* in 1872 and J. G. von Lenz's *Mineralogisches Taschenbuch* (1798, 1799).

A brief tour of the history of mineral magazines for collectors from the United States to Europe, and then to Australia and China, reveals ambitious magazine-publishing projects in the mineral community.

The first such magazine published in the US was the *American Mineralogical Journal*, modeled after the *Journal des Mines* of the Paris School of Mines, France. From 1810 until 1814, Archibald Bruce published a total of four issues of the Journal. It covered field trip reports, locality descriptions, discoveries of new species, chemical analyses and reviews of recently published mineralogical literature.

In 1884, 17-year-old Theodore H. Wise published *The Young Mineralogist and Antiquarian* in Wheaton, Illinois. In May of 1885 Wise incurred the wrath of W. E. Skinner, publisher of The Agassiz Journal, by accusing him of copyright infringement, fraud and criminal activities, and Wise's publication disappeared the same year.

The year 1885 saw the birth of another collectors' publication: *The Exchangers' Monthly*, published by Arthur Chamberlain, appeared in November 1885. In November 1890 the name of the magazine was changed to *The Mineralogists' Monthly*, and the price advanced to fifty cents per year. The magazine contained twelve pages of reading matter and eight pages of advertisements. The last number of this monthly appeared under the date of March 1893. It may safely be said that the heyday of wealthy American mineral collectors was about this period.

The journal *Minerals* was first published in January 1892. It was a much larger publication than the *Mineralogists' Monthly*, and as there seemed room for but one magazine of this character it was arranged to merge the two. *Minerals* ended with a double number—November-December, 1893—and *The Mineral Collector* appeared in March 1894 as a monthly until March 1909.

The well-known *American Mineralogist* was founded in 1916 under the auspices of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society, the **New York Mineralogical Club**, and the Mineral Collectors' Association. Initially it was a collector's journal designed to replace *The Mineral Collector*. Today, the *American Mineralogist* is a highly regarded, purely scientific journal published by the Mineralogical Society of America.

Rocks & Minerals, the oldest surviving mineral magazine, was founded in 1926 by Peter Zodac (1894–1967) in Peekskill, New York, as a small-format, black and white publication. The number of issues per year varied from four to twelve. Zodac, a "one-man band," continued as editor, publisher, circulation and advertising manager, and frequent author until his death in 1967. In 1975, *Rocks & Minerals* was sold to the Helen Dwight Reid Educational Foundation (HELDREF) in Washington, D.C. In the summer of 2009, *Rocks & Minerals* was purchased by Taylor & Francis, an internationally acclaimed UK-based publishing company with more than two centuries of experience and over seventeen hundred journals in its portfolio.

In 1933 Henry Dake founded *The Mineralogist* as a higher-level competitor to *Rocks & Minerals*. *The Mineralogist* was taken over by Don MacLachlan in 1960 and ceased publication in 1964.

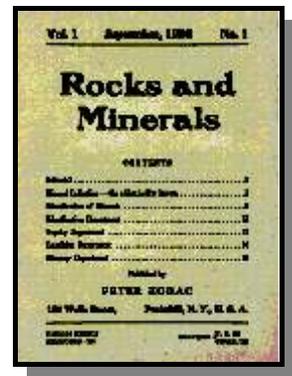
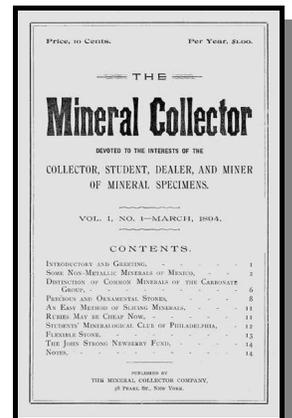
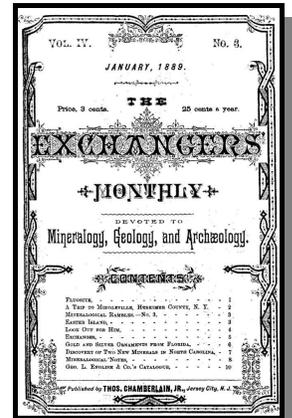
Lapidary Journal was established by Leland Quick in 1947; it took on its current title, *Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist*, in 2005, when it was purchased by Interweave Press.

Before taking over *The Mineralogist* in 1960, Don MacLachlan had started *Gems & Minerals* in 1952. The magazine ran until 1985. Don wanted to provide a place for mineral collecting articles to be published together with lapidary articles, and that was the policy followed in *Gems & Minerals*.

The 1970s and Later

The 1970s saw a number of startup mineral magazines:

In 1970, John White, then Curator of Mineralogy at the Smithsonian Institution, founded the *Mineralogical Record*, a bimonthly publication written by and for mineral enthusiasts worldwide.



Another mineral magazine launched in 1970 was *Mineral Digest*, founded by Argentinean mineral dealer Julio Tanjeloff (1916–1980). *Mineral Digest* was not strictly a mineral magazine; it also covered gemstones, rocks, fossils, petrified wood, moon rocks and tektites. Its purpose was to promote minerals generally and Tanjeloff's business in particular. Though *Mineral Digest* ran for only eight widely spaced issues it still ranks as the most extravagant mineral periodical of all time.



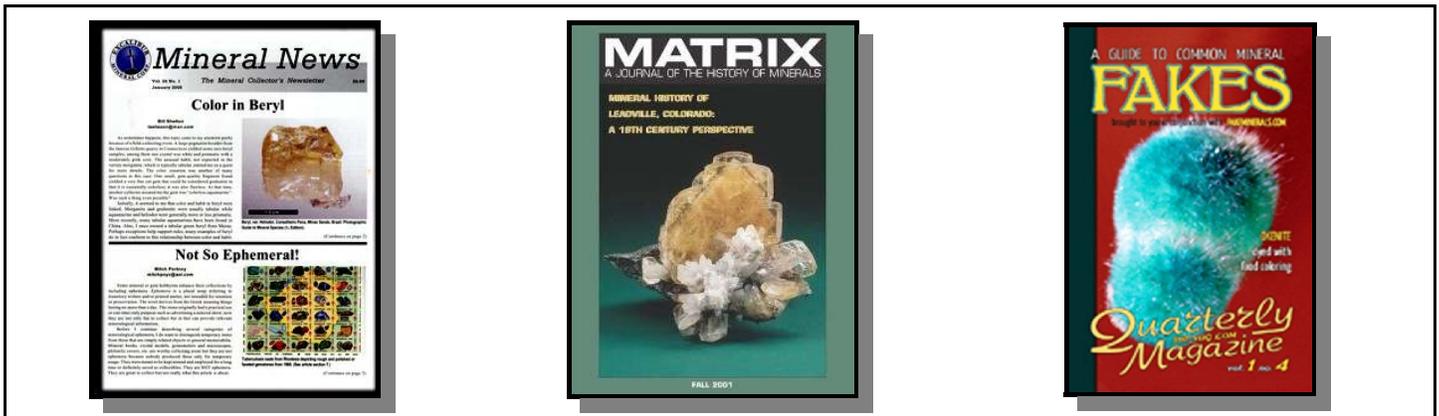
Just one year later, in 1971, *Rock & Gem* debuted, and claimed to be the leading magazine for the lapidary and mineral hobbyist.

The bimonthly *Rockhound Magazine*, published by John Latham of Texas, started in 1972 and was published until 1980.

Mineral News, a monthly newsletter for mineral collectors, was founded in 1985 by Lanny Ream of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; it was purchased by Tony Nikischer of Excalibur Mineral Corporation in late 2003.

In 1988, Jay Lininger and Lawrence Conklin founded *Matrix* as a bimonthly and later quarterly journal of the history of minerals.

The quarterly magazine *The Vug*, founded by Justin Zzyzx and Brandy Naugle in 2008, was an ambitious project to promote mineral businesses on various Internet platforms. A total of 16 issues were published from 2008 until 2011.

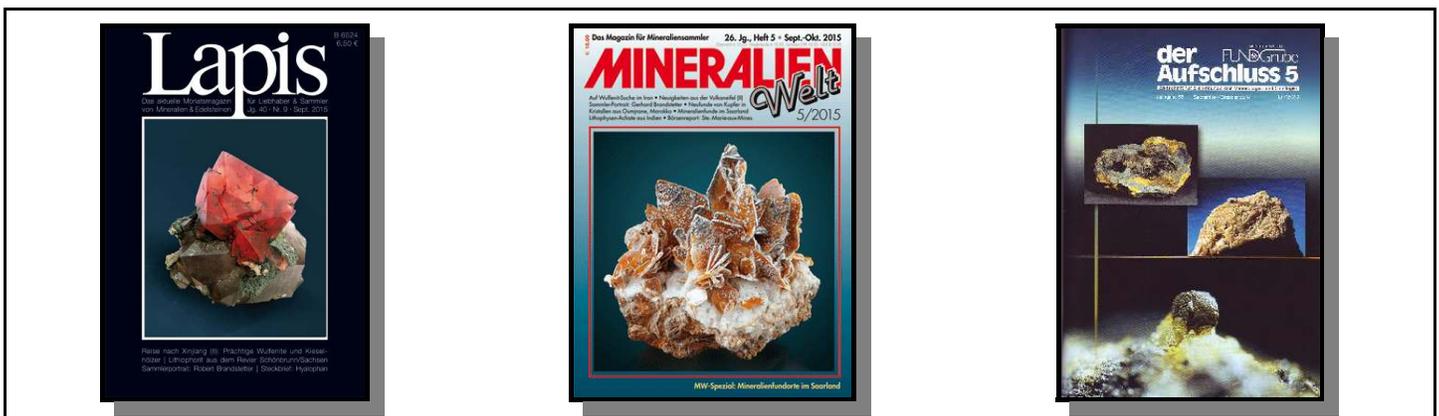


The newest addition to American mineral magazines will be *American Rockhound*, based in Asheville, North Carolina. It is planned to be quarterly magazine focused on promoting the hobby of rock, gem, mineral and fossil collecting. The first issue was scheduled for April (2014) but has not come into existence as of October 2015.

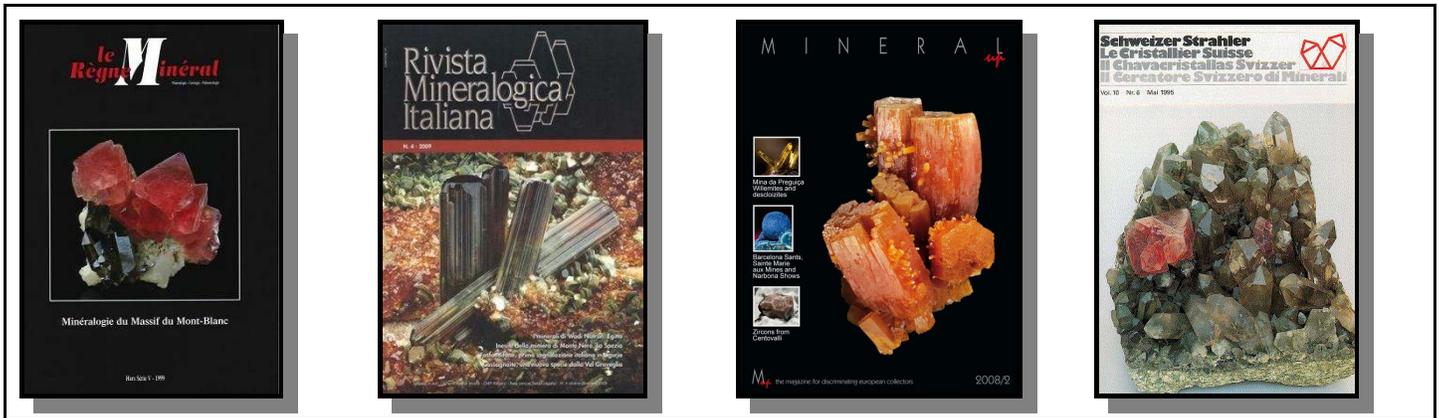
Foreign Mineral Magazines

Europe has a multitude of publications for collectors; however, most of the mineral “magazines” in many European countries are club newsletters with a more or less professional approach. The focus here is on a few important magazines that cover not only local subjects but also worldwide mineral topics.

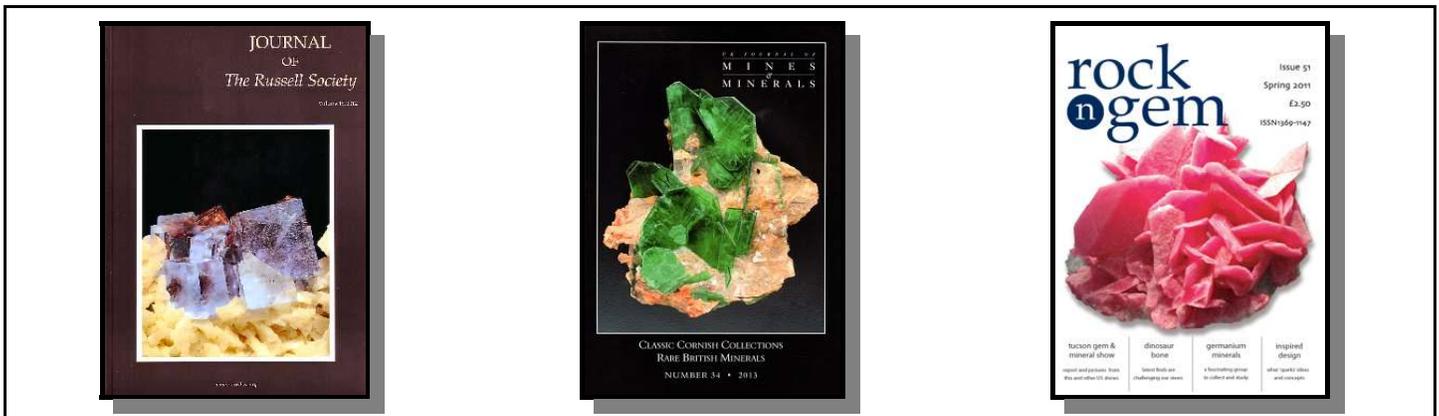
The one that first comes to mind is certainly *Lapis*, a mineral magazine founded in 1976 by Christian Weise. *Lapis* is a monthly magazine with ca. 10,000 subscribers. Next in line is *Mineralien-Welt*, a bimonthly magazine founded in 1990 by Rainer Bode. *Der Aufschluss* (Outcrop) started as a newsletter for the Friends of Mineralogy and Geology in Germany and developed into a widely respected periodical for collectors. It covers not only mineralogy but also geology, paleontology and mining.



Across the border in France, Louis Dominique Bayle established the bimonthly *Le Règne Minéral* in 1995, while in Italy the quarterly *Rivista Mineralogica Italiana*, established in the mid-1970s, thrives. Spain has *Mineral Up*, a quarterly since 2006. Switzerland has its quarterly *Schweizer Strahler*, published since 1967 by the Swiss Federation of Strahler, Mineral and Fossil collectors.



In England, the Russel Society founded the *Journal of the Russell Society* in 1982. It includes papers, topographical reports and brief notes on all aspects of mineralogy, together with book reviews and information relating to members of the Society. The *U.K. Journal of Mines & Minerals* was begun in 1986 as *Rockbottom* by a group of British mineral enthusiasts; later its subtitle became its main title. And finally, *Rock'n'Gem*, a quarterly publication with a wide range of topics all relating to minerals whether untouched, faceted, carved, shaped, polished, fossilized, set in jewelry or made into beads, started up in 1997.



In Scandinavia, the Swedish/Norwegian magazine *Stein* was introduced in 1973. Published by the Association of Amateur Geologists, it covers rocks, minerals and fossils.

In 2010, Tomasz Praszkiar founded the *Polish Minerals* (The Collector's Newspaper), and in Russia, in 1999, the Mineralogical Almanac, now called *Mineral Observer*, succeeded the magazine *World of Stones*. The entrepreneurial Russians Michael Leybov and Ludmila Egerova from Moscow founded both magazines.

Heading to Australia, the *Australian Journal of Mineralogy*, a joint publication of the Australian Mineralogical Societies, has promoted Australian mineralogy, as well as providing information of interest to mineral collectors, in two issues per year since 1996.

Last stop is China, where *Mineral Lover* is published out of Hong Kong.

