

THE THOMAS F. LAMB COLLECTION

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The mineral collection of the late Thomas F. Lamb of Portland, Maine, consisting of nearly 2,000 specimens, has been purchased by the Boston Society of Natural History. The greater part of the material is from New England localities and, therefore, the collection is of particular value to the Society which now specializes almost entirely on New England material.

During the forty-two years that Mr. Lamb collected minerals, he was also engaged in quarrying some of the well-known mineral localities of southern Maine which, in many cases, he was the first to work. The garnets from Phippsburg were first obtained by him and he continued to operate this locality for several years. With others he was one of the pioneers at Mt. Apatite in Auburn, where he actively operated for tourmalines. He was also interested in the Mt. Mica quarry in Paris.

The collection is, thus, rich in materials from these places and as Mr. Lamb never let a specimen go that was once included in his collection, some of the individual specimens are unusually fine. In addition to the tourmaline, beryl, purple apatite and smoky quartz from these quarries, are notable specimens of amethyst from Stowe, rose quartz with greasy luster from Mt. Mica, small gold nuggets from Byron, cassiterite crystals of exceptionally large size from Auburn and Paris, cancrinite with sodalite from Litchfield, and exceptionally fine topaz crystals from Baldface Mountain, Chatham, New Hampshire. Some of the rarities are bertrandite from Auburn, childrenite from Hebron and tapiolite from Topsham.

Some of the older readers of this magazine may recall seeing this collection on exhibition at the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, and meeting Mr. Lamb, who accompanied it and who personally attended to its proper repacking and return. Thanks to his care it did not suffer by this trip.

Only a very few pieces will be put on exhibition at present, owing to limited space, but any mineralogist who is interested in the collection will be welcome to examine it at any time.