

Mineral Spotlight: Bornite

One of the most visually striking minerals in the Museum, bornite is informally known as “peacock ore”. It tends to occur as a hydrothermally deposited mineral in or around copper deposits with minerals like covellite, malachite, and azurite. Bornite itself is a brassy color, but upon exposure to the air, the surface will oxidize into the characteristic, iridescent hues of blue, pink, and purple. These hues are actually surface layers of other copper minerals like chalcocite – so the characteristic colors of bornite are actually not due to bornite at all. Bornite is a copper ore.

This feature was posted on Dice Museum social media by Museum curator Jillian Herlinger on 11/1/2022.

