

Mineral Spotlight: Crocoite

For the museum's 10 year anniversary celebration later this week, we have an especially unique and meaningful mineral: crocoite! Crocoite exhibits an adamantine luster and is found in brilliant red or orange prismatic crystals. It is a lead chromate mineral that forms in the oxidized zone of lead deposits.

The best specimens typically come from Tasmania, Australia and can also be found in Russia and California. When the geologist who ran the mine where this specific sample of crocoite came from died, Bruce Dice got the chance to acquire the first sample. Given that such a beautiful sample of crocoite is so rare, Bruce Dice recounted several instances of the Smithsonian trying to acquire this sample from him.

This feature was created by curator Andrew Mulder and posted on Dice Museum social media on 3/13/2023

