

Scepter Quartz Crystals from the Treasure Mountain Diamond Mine

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For years black-stemmed scepter quartz crystals with colorless tips have been among the most sought after, but rarely seen, specimens from the Herkimer "diamond" localities of New York's Mohawk Valley. Finally, one of the localities for such scepters has been opened for collecting. This is the first detailed report of how and where these unusual specimens occur.

Location

The Treasure Mountain Diamond mine is located just over 2 miles from New York State Thruway exit 29A near the city of Little Falls (fig. 1). To reach the mine, go through the toll booth at exit 29A and take the first left onto Route 169, which ends in a quarter of a mile. Turn right onto Route 5S and continue for about 1.8 miles to the Treasure Mountain Diamond mine on the right. The mine was opened to the public as a fee collecting locality in the spring of 1999 and now operates seven days a week from April into November.



Cover photo; for caption information, see table of contents.

Near Little Falls, Herkimer County, New York