

THE GOLD NUGGET

Aug 2024

The Prez Sez..! by Bobby Manning



Sorry about the Meeting on Wednesday, I came down with covid and was worried about giving it to someone else. So, we rescheduled the meeting for the 24th which was the following week. We did have a pretty good turnout with about 34 people showing up. We also did a swap meet. Largest nugget we gave away was a 2.3 gram and we had a scheduled outing to Oakland Park which turned out to be a problem with accessing the river. The water level was just too high so we were not able to get access to the sand bar! So, we went to Grant Frontier Park about five blocks away. We had a new member that had no experience and we tried to show him how to do some basic panning. Also tried to set a sluice box but had a problem in doing that! This told me that we need to do a Panning Class for all of the new members. And older members for when you don't do it on a regular basis, you forget that finesse on the water in and out. For the new members, doing the panning demos is a great way to get panning skills down, no worrying about lousing gold. In September we still need members to do the Highlands Ranch Demo on the 6th and 7th. I will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting and another group will be going to the Fort Wallace Museum to do a panning demo there for about 1300 kids. So we will hopefully get some pictures to let you all see what we were doing. The money we get from these Demos will go to pay for the Meeting Facility for the rest of the year and give us extra money to put in to gold. I will be doing a presentation soon to the Club on my trip to Arizona. Be very careful with the weather if you venture out as it is so Hot!! TAKE LOTS OF WATER with you, and the water is good now for prospecting as it has started to go down to safer levels. So, just watch for all things that bite, and PLEASE be careful with any FIRE! BE Safe and put lots of Gold in your Pan.! May your pans shine with yellow gold!!

Vice President's Corner! By_Kevin Singel



My July whizzed by and I bet yours did too! I do hope you found time to get out digging for gold. I was lucky enough to get to spend a week up at Alaska Gold Resort in Nome. After lots of practice using my new-to-me Gold Monster 1000 finding birdshot and trash...and \$0.26 in change lol...I was successful finding quite a few small nuggets at the mining camp. In fact we arrived in the late afternoon, settled into our rooms, had dinner, and then went out detecting. By 1am(!) when we quit, I'd found my first two gold nuggets ever! The rest of the week was one adventure after another that I won't bore you with for now...I'll do that, with pictures when I present to the club later this year at a meeting.

Meanwhile, I've recently driven past Clear Creek, the South Platte, the Arkansas River, the San Juan River, the Blue River and the Animas River (whew!). They are all medium to low water flows and it is definitely time to get out prospecting! Time to hit your secret honey hole!! If you don't have a favorite site, or need suggestions on where to go, check out the several dozen dig

sites explained on my website.

(Copy and Paste this like into you browser)

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I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the August meeting. Get out digging and bring in your gold to show us all. I'd love to see lots of vials with some gold in them at the meeting!

'Nuf said, get out there and Find Your Gold!



From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by John Johnson



We had a great turnout for the July meeting. We gave away lots of gold nuggets and other door prizes as well. Be sure to buy your gold nugget drawing tickets as well as your 50/50 tickets. If you have any door prizes you would wish to donate to the Club Door Prize coffers, be sure and bring those to me as well. I look forward to seeing everyone at the June meeting. See you all there!!

Board Meeting Minutes From July 2024

x	Bobby Manning	x	Mike Stevens		Andy Doll	x	John Johnson
x	Gordon Smith		Kevin Singel	x	Robert Ahr	x	Roger Schlenger
x	Gary Hamilton		Erik Von Halle	x	Bill Manning	X	Joe Johnston

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order by: Pres Manning at 6:01 pm.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Corrections: None Approved as read/corrected: M. Stevens moved to accept; 2nd by R. Schlenger.

Treasurer's Report: Questions: CD maturity date to be corrected Approved: Motion to accept by M. Stevens; 2nd by G. Smith. Approved Unanimously.

Correspondence: phone calls 3 emails 1 mail 0.

Webmaster: Total: 338 Hits in last 30 days

Committee Reports:

Bylaws – held its first meeting virtually with three members in attendance. Members were asked to research requirements imposed by the Colorado Sec. of State on non-profits and, to also give input on the current bylaws so the committee can come up with a revised set to present to the board. A second virtual meeting will be scheduled prior to the next regular membership meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- When board members attempted to contact members about the postponement of the July 17 meeting due to President Manning having Covid, many of the phone numbers on our current membership listing were not correct. President Manning will ask the membership tonight to update their phone numbers with Bob Ahr or Shellie Zornes if they have changed recently.
- President Manning reported on his inventory of the items remaining in the club's store. The board already approved using these items as door prizes during last month's board meeting.

New Business:

- President Manning reported on conversations he has had with an Indigenous People's group in western Kansas to conduct two days of panning demonstrations in early September. If enough volunteers can be recruited by the end of tonight's meeting, we can accept this request.
- Additionally, a sign-up sheet for the Highlands Ranch Festival panning demo will be at the front table this evening. We need six volunteers for that event which is scheduled for September 6 & 7.

Planned Outings: Overland Park on Saturday, 27-July

Board Members Items of Discussion:

- R. Schlenger reminded the board the Gold-A-Palooza tickets are available and this will be mentioned to the membership at tonight's meeting and that the Denver Mining Club will have a sale of equipment on Monday, 29 July. This will also be announced to the general membership this evening.
- G. Hamilton brought up the need to expand members involvement in committees, per our current Bylaws by defining the club's needs better and encouraging participation. The discussion was tabled at this time and will be picked up during the next board meeting.

Tonight's General Meeting Program: Equipment sale and swap.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting August 21 at 6:00pm Next General Meeting: August 21 at 7:00pm

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Of the 92 naturally occurring elements, where is gold ranked ?

2024 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

Bobby Manning

Vice President

Kevin Singel

Secretary/Treasurer

John Johnson

2 Year Board Members

Robert Ahr (2024)

Andy Doll (2024)

Gordon Smith (2024)

1 Year Board Members

Gary Hamilton

Roger Schlenger

Bill Manning

Erik Von Halle

Mike Stevens

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Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 7:00 pm.

General Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2024

1. **Meeting** was opened at 7:05 pm by **Pres. Manning** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
 2. **Pres. Manning** then announced that the evening Program which was Sluicing technology with Allen Merschon.
 3. **Pres. Manning** then gave the Metals Report: Gold 2397 Silver 28.88 Platinum 949 Palladium ? Rhodium 4925.
 4. **Web hits** for last month: 338.
 5. **Treasurer John Johnson** reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review by anyone who wishes to see it.
 6. **Robert Ahr and Shellie Zornes** from the Membership Table reported that we had 33 members in attendance. There were 0 Guest(s) present tonight. New members 0. The total meeting attendance was 33.
 7. **Pres. Manning** read the 'Question of the Month', which was **What year did King Croesus introduce a gold coin as general currency?**
 8. **Pres. Manning** advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the '**Finds of the Month**' table and that the monthly winners from tonight will need to be saved for the Finds of the Year competition in November, 2024. A reminder to all that their gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out the entry cards completely. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.
 9. **Kale Smith** will provide the first clue for the new cache at the August meeting.
 10. **Pres. Manning** requested members to update their phone numbers with Robert Ahr and Shellie Zornes in light of the current phone list having multiple incorrect numbers when board members attempted to contact members about the last-minute cancellation of the July 17 meeting due to illness.
 11. There was a reminder to be sure to vote on the Finds of the Month and to answer the Question of the Month during the break
- Additional items to be discussed include:
- A sign-up sheet was at the front table for volunteers to work the Highlands Ranch Festival panning demo.
 - Additionally, an indigenous people tribe in western Kansas has reached out to the club asking for two days of panning demonstrations in early September. President Manning asked the members present for interest in working this panning demo. If enough volunteers step up, President Manning will confirm this event.
 - R. Schlenger announced he had tickets for the Gold-A -Palooza event in August for anyone that is interested, as well as the Denver Mining Club equipment sale this coming Monday.
12. **Pres. Manning** announced the break at 7:15 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 7:58 pm.
 13. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners of the '**Question of the Month**'. The answer was, "... 550 BC"...! There were 17 winners who received their extra ticket for the gold drawing.
 14. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners for the '**Finds of the Month**'. Those were:
 - **Best Coin** – Shellie Zornes
 - **Best Jewelry** – Bob Ahr
 - **Best Mineral** – Gary Hamilton
 - **Best Artifact** – John Olson
 - **Best Gold** – No entry this month
 15. **Pres. Manning** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes followed by the drawings for the gold nuggets. **Pres. Manning** also wants to remind that holders of drawing tickets for the regular gold drawings who did not win and want to redeem those tickets may present them at the end of the Meeting and they will be reimbursed at .01 cents on the dollar, or they shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were **John Johnson and John Olson**.
 16. **Pres. Manning** announce the winning ticket number for the 50/50 drawing. Bill Manning had the winning ticket and won \$43 and the same went to the Club.
 17. **Pres. Manning** reminds the members that sometimes during the meetings, The President's time is overwhelmingly taken up By the many who wish to speak to him and he apologizes if anyone ever feels like he is unavailable. It is not his intent to be inaccessible and he encourages anyone with questions to contact him by e-mail or phone outside the meetings at any time. His e-mail and phone number are on the web site.
 18. **Pres. Manning** thanked **Greg and Nancy Knerl** and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Each member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. Remember to contribute to the 'tip jar' also, which helps to defray costs. This really helps the folks who run the table and those who volunteer up front each month. The Club appreciates the efforts that each and every one of you to make the refreshment table enjoyable.
 19. **The August Meeting Program** will be TBA.



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

20. Having nothing further at this time, remember to always prospect safely. Meeting was adjourned at __8:27__ pm.

A Miner's Laugh

A New York attorney representing a very wealthy old retired miner who was now collecting fine Art, called the old fella to speak to him. "Saul, I have some good news and I have some bad news." The old miner replied, "You know, I've had an awful day, Jack, so let's hear the good news first." The lawyer said, "Well, I met with your wife today, and she informed me that she has invested only \$5,000 in two very nice pictures that she thinks will bring somewhere between \$15 and \$20 million, and I think she could be right". The old miner replied enthusiastically, "Holy cow! Well done! My wife is a brilliant business woman, isn't she? You've just made my day. Now, I know I can handle the bad news. What is it?"



The lawyer replied, "The pictures are of you and your new secretary..!!!"

(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us 'old miners')

The finds of the Month July:

The Club has decided to change the Finds of the Month Program to eliminate the 'Bottle' category as well as combine the gold categories into a single category. Therefore, the following submissions were selected by popular vote at the July meeting:

- **Best Coin** – **Shelly Zornes**. with a \$1 Mexican peso she found while metal detecting.
- **Best Jewelry** – **Robert Ahr** with a sterling silver ring he found while metal detecting.
- **Best Mineral** – **Gary Hamilton** with a unique sample of igneous rock that he found.
- **Best Artifact** – **John Olsen** with an old US Cavalry belt buckle he found while metal detecting.
- **Best Gold** – There were no submission for this category this month



Remember that all gold must be dried and weighed. All monthly winners need save their entries for the November 2024 meeting when the years Finds of the Month winners will be judged for the Finds of the Year. So, be sure and save them.!

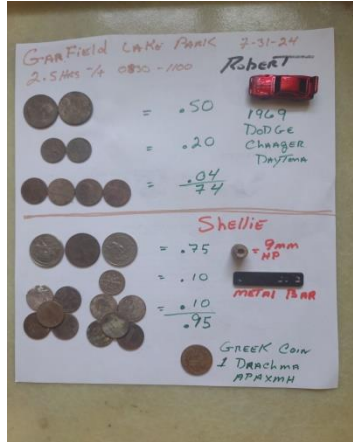
The Pirate's July 31 Hunt by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

Good day to all. Yesterday we had our Pirate's hunt and started with **NO** Breakfast due to the weather conditions for that day as it was in the Mid 70's by 0800hrs. Well, later I found out that almost caused a mutiny among some of the crew members that we didn't stop for breakfast (LOL}. We had 8 members show up sand took our group picture and then we were off and running by 0830. Shellie was with Joe and Chris and getting them familiar with their new detector (Nokta-Legend). Gary H. was on the move looking for treasure fit for a King. John O. was in the ToT-Lot and Cindy O. was working the perimeter of the ToT-Lot. I took off in search for Joe F. who was on the other side of the Park. **Joe F.** found 3.93 with a 1945 Wheatie, **Shellie Z.** with .95 cents plus 1 Greek Coin and a 9mm bullet, **John O.**, 76 cents, 1 silver 925 cross and 1 cowboy boot. **Robert A.** .74 cents and a toy 1969 Dodge Charger, **Cindy O.**, .51 cents 1 Bling ring and fishing lure, next was **Chris & Joe K.** with .31 cents and a car. They would have had more but while Joe was digging a find he



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

had a little Buccaneer come to watch and ended up jacking the Dime that Joe was digging. And by that time, it was about 1100. and the heat wave was on. So, we all loaded up our finds and headed back to A/C of our homes. We all had a good day for sure. Seeya all at the next meeting on Aug, 21, 2024, be safe and keep swinging (Photos were by the Pirate.)



Geology Basics for the Gold Prospector – Part 2

MAY 24, 2024 BY MATTHEW HOSPODAR

We will delve into rock identification and formation in our series “Geology for the Gold Prospector”.

Identifying common rock types in the field is a must for any prospector. The type of rocks you find in the field can tell you if an area is likely to produce any gold, and if so, they can tell us which types of gold deposits may be in the area. As with anything in gold prospecting, there is no 100% accurate method to determine if there is gold in the area you are looking at. All the rock types that see could be correct, for there to be gold around, but there still may not be any gold.

The Three Rock Families

All rocks fall into one of three groups: Igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. It should be noted that all rocks are composed of minerals and the identification of various rock types relies on the identification of specific minerals within the rock (I covered the identification of common minerals in Part 1 last month).

Igneous rocks are the ancestors of all other rocks. They are formed when liquid rock (magma) cools and crystallizes.

Most sedimentary are formed from the breakdown of preexisting rocks, usually through erosion. Metamorphic rocks are the third family of rocks. They are created when heat and pressure alter rocks from their primary form to a new form.

Of these three rock groups, igneous and metamorphic are the most important for the prospector. When it comes to identifying various rocks, I highly recommend that prospectors carry a mineral and rock identification guide. The common rocks that you encounter in the field are generally easy to identify with a good guide.

Igneous Rocks

Igneous rocks form when the molten rock cools and crystallizes. There are two general types of igneous rocks: extrusive and intrusive. Extrusive igneous rocks are those that you think of when you think of a volcano erupting. They are extrusive because they have been brought to the earth’s surface and cooled and crystallized at the surface under atmospheric conditions. Intrusive igneous rocks have been brought near the earth’s surface and have cooled and



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

crystallized underground. Intrusive igneous rocks are of particular interest to the prospector because most of the mineral and metals that we prospect for are related to intrusive igneous rocks. In this article, we will focus on intrusive igneous rocks.

Intrusive rocks are basically injected into open or weak places within the earth crust by pressures from below. How quickly the intrusive rock cools control the size of the crystallized mineral within the rocks. The slower it cools, the longer the minerals have to grow, resulting in larger crystal structures within the intrusive rock. The faster the magma cools, the less time there is for the mineral to grow and the smaller the crystals are in the rock.

Igneous rocks with easily visible crystals have a phaneritic texture (cooled slowly), and those with minerals that are too small to see have an aphanitic (cooled quickly). If the magma cools really, really slow, you end up with a pegmatitic texture. Some common intrusive igneous rock types are granite, gabbro, diorite and andesite.

Something to keep in mind about igneous rocks is that while they are often associated with many types of gold deposits, they rarely host gold deposits within themselves. If we take a granite pluton as an example, the granite may contain trace amounts of gold scattered randomly throughout the pluton's mass, but nothing in minable quantities.

Gold deposits are, more often or not, associated with a granite pluton.

What I mean by this is that while the granite itself doesn't hold much gold, the effects of the granite intruding the surrounding country rock is where valuable deposits of minerals, including gold, are hosted. Whether as skarn deposits, hydrothermal deposits or others, it's through the heat of the intruding granite that the gold becomes mobilized and concentrated in various types of deposits. So, in most cases, it is not the igneous rock itself that you are looking for when prospecting. It is the effects that the intruding igneous rock has on the surrounding country rock that should draw attention.

While igneous rocks are often discussed as possible indicators of gold, it is more often the heat from the igneous rock that forms gold deposits. This shows that metamorphism, i.e., heat and pressure are the true means through which gold deposits are formed, and the igneous rocks are merely an indicator of heat.

Sedimentary Rocks

Any and all rock that is exposed at the earth's surface is subject to chemical and mechanical erosion. As it is eroded and redeposited, it can then form a sedimentary rock. Sedimentary rocks are classified into two types: Clastic and chemical. Clastic sedimentary rocks are made up of rock fragments derived from other rocks. The most common types are shale, sandstone and conglomerate. Chemical sedimentary rocks are those which have been precipitated from minerals that were dissolved in water. The common chemical sedimentary rocks that we are interested in are limestone and dolostone.

Sedimentary rocks have given us a specific way of describing the sizes of rocks themselves, whether they be igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic. These classifications are essential for the prospector to learn due to their use in mining and scientific literature.

While most sedimentary rocks do not host gold deposits, it should be noted that some sedimentary rocks that have formed from erosion in gold bearing areas can hold gold. The most likely ones to host gold would be conglomerates and, to a lesser extent, sandstone. There are numerous documented cases of gold being found within conglomerates that are near an existing gold bearing region. I have discovered placer gold in Virginia outside what is considered the regular gold belt, and I have determined the gold origin to be conglomerates that formed near a gold bearing area.

Metamorphic Rocks

Metamorphic rocks can be formed from either igneous or sedimentary rocks. They are formed when either igneous or sedimentary rocks are subjected to intense heat and/or pressure that radically alters their form.

There are two types of metamorphism: Contact and dynamic. Contact metamorphism occurs when an area is intruded by large amounts of magma. As the magma cools, it produces a zone or halo around the intrusion that gets baked. The zone that has undergone contact metamorphism is altered due to the heat, and the intruded rock will often be recrystallized. Depending on the conditions, these alteration zones can range in size from a few inches to a mile thick.

Dynamic metamorphism primarily occurs during mountain building events when igneous and sedimentary rocks are buried and exposed to tremendous amounts of heat and pressure. The type of rock that forms is dependent on what the parent rock was and the amount of heat and pressure that it was exposed to. Some common examples are sandstone morphing into quartzite, shale becoming slate or phyllite, granite becoming gneiss, shale turning to siltstone and some sandstones becoming schists. **Rocks point the way..!!**



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

The types of rocks you have in a given area can tell you a lot about the possibility of finding gold and the types of deposits that could be present. When you are researching at home or in the field prospecting, the best combination of rocks to see is igneous and metamorphic rocks in close proximity to each other. It is igneous and metamorphic rocks that make up the bulk of the bedrock within most of the goldfields of the US. That is because the events that create igneous and metamorphic rock are also usually the events that can produce gold deposits.

It is also the heat and the pressure from the formation of igneous and metamorphic rock that provide the conditions for the most common gold deposits. Being able to identify the rock types within an area can help determine what types of deposits to search for. The important take away here is that the rocks that are typically gold indicators actually indicate that heat and pressure existed and possibly produced the right environment for a gold deposit to form.

Matt is a trained geologist with a background in geotechnical engineering, mineral exploration, gold prospecting and mining, Matt's passion for gold prospecting began in 2013 when a friend told him about a local creek in Virginia where people panned for gold. Since then, he has become an avid prospector focusing in dredging and brown and green field exploration

A Brief History of Gold

Who discovered gold ?

A child finds a shiny rock in a creek, thousands of years ago, and the human race is introduced to gold for the first time.

Gold was first discovered as shining, yellow nuggets. “Gold is where you find it,” so the saying goes, and gold was first discovered in its natural state, in streams all over the world. No doubt it was the first metal known to early hominids.

Gold became a part of every human culture. Its brilliance, natural beauty, and luster, and its great malleability and resistance to tarnish made it enjoyable to work and play with.

Where does gold come from?

Because gold is dispersed widely throughout the geologic world, its discovery occurred to many different groups in many different locales. And nearly everyone who found it was impressed with it, and so was the developing culture in which they lived.

Gold was the first metal widely known to our species. When thinking about the historical progress of technology, we consider the development of iron and copper-working as the greatest contributions to our species' economic and cultural progress – but gold came first.

Gold is the easiest of the metals to work. It occurs in a virtually pure and workable state, whereas most other metals tend to be found in ore-bodies that pose some difficulty in smelting. Gold's early uses were no doubt ornamental, and its brilliance and permanence (it neither corrodes nor tarnishes) linked it to deities and royalty in early civilizations. Gold has always been powerful stuff. The earliest history of human interaction with gold is long lost to us, but its association with the gods, with immortality, and with wealth itself are common to many cultures throughout the world.

Early civilizations equated gold with gods and rulers, and gold was sought in their name and dedicated to their glorification. Humans almost intuitively place a high value on gold, equating it with power, beauty, and the cultural elite. And since gold is widely distributed all over the globe, we find this same thinking about gold throughout ancient and modern civilizations everywhere.

Gold, beauty, and power have always gone together. Gold in ancient times was made into shrines and idols (“the Golden Calp”), plates, cups, vases and vessels of all kinds, and of course, jewelry for personal adornment.



The “Gold of Troy” treasure hoard, excavated in Turkey and dating to the era 2450 -2600 B.C., show the range of gold-work from delicate jewelry to a gold gravy boat weighing a full troy pound. This was a time when gold was highly valued, but had not yet become money itself. Rather, it was owned by the powerful and well-connected, or made into objects of worship, or used to decorate sacred locations.

Gold has always had value to humans, even before it was money. This is





Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

demonstrated by the extraordinary efforts made to obtain it. Prospecting for gold was a worldwide effort going back thousands of years, even before the first money in the form of gold coins appeared about 700 B.C.

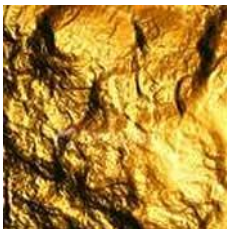
In the quest for gold by the Phoenicians, Egyptians, Indians, Hittites, Chinese, and others, prisoners of war were sent to work the mines, as were slaves and criminals. And this happened during a time when gold had no value as ‘money,’ but was just considered a desirable commodity in and of itself.

The ‘value’ of gold was accepted all over the world. Today, as in ancient times, the intrinsic appeal of gold itself has that universal appeal to humans. But how did gold come to be a commodity, a measurable unit of value?

Gold, measured out, became money. Gold’s beauty, scarcity, unique density (no other metal outside the platinum group is as heavy), and the ease by which it could be melted, formed, and measured made it a natural trading medium. Gold gave rise to the concept of money itself: portable, private, and permanent. Gold (and silver) in standardized coins came to replace barter arrangements, and made trade in the Classic period much easier.

Gold was money in ancient Greece. The Greeks mined for gold throughout the Mediterranean and Middle East regions by 550 B.C., and both Plato and Aristotle wrote about gold and had theories about its origins. Gold was associated with water (logical, since most of it was found in streams), and it was supposed that gold was a particularly dense combination of water and sunlight.

The Incas referred to gold as the “tears of the Sun.”



Homer, in the “Iliad” and “Odyssey,” makes mention of gold as the glory of the immortals and a sign of wealth among ordinary humans. In Genesis 2:10-12, we learn of the river Pison out of Eden, and “the land of Havilah, where there is gold: and the gold of that land is good?”

As far back as 3100 B.C., we have evidence of a gold/silver value ratio in the code of Menes, the founder of the first Egyptian dynasty. In this code it is stated that “one part of gold is equal to two and one half parts of silver in value.” This is our earliest of a value relationship between gold and silver.

In ancient Egypt, around the time of Seti I (1320 B.C.), we find the creation of the first gold treasure map now known to us. Today, in the Turin Museum is a papyrus and fragments known as the “Carte des mines d’or.” It pictures gold mines, miners’ quarters, road leading to the mines and gold-bearing mountains, and so on.

Where is that gold mine located? Well, you know how it is with treasure maps – there’s always something a little vague about them, to throw you off the trail.

Modern thought is that it portrays the Wadi Fawakhir region in which the El Sid gold mine is located, but the matter is far from settled. Jason and the Argonauts sought the Golden Fleece around 1200 B.C.

That Greek myth makes more sense when you realize that the fleece that it refers to is the sheep’s fleece used in the recovery of fine placer gold.

Early miners would use water power to propel gold-bearing sand over the hide of a sheep, which would trap the tiny, but heavy, flakes of gold. When the fleece had absorbed all it could hold, this ‘golden fleece’ was hung up to dry, and when dry would be beaten gently so that the gold would fall off and be recovered.



This primitive form of hydraulic mining began thousands of years ago, and was still being used by some miners as recently as the California gold rush of 1849.

The first use of gold as money occurred around 700 B.C., when Lydian merchants produced the first coins. These were simply stamped lumps of a 63% gold and 27% silver mixture known as ‘electrum.’ This standardized unit of value no doubt helped Lydian traders in their wide-ranging successes, for by the time of Croesus of Mermnadae, the last King of Lydia (570 -546 B.C.), Lydia had amassed a huge hoard of gold. Today, we still speak of the ultra-wealthy as being ‘rich as Croesus.’

Their science may have been primitive, but the Greeks learned much about the practicalities of gold mining. By the time of the death of Alexander of Macedon (323 B.C.), the Greeks had mined gold from the Pillars of Hercules (Gibraltar) all the way eastward to Asia Minor and Egypt, and we find traces of their placer mines today. Some of the mines were owned by the state, some were worked privately with a royalty paid to the state. Also, nomads such as the Scythians and Cimmerians worked placer mines all over the region. The surviving Greek gold coinage and Scythian jewelry both show superb artistry.



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 9

The Roman Empire furthered the quest for gold. The Romans mined gold extensively throughout their empire, and advanced the science of gold-mining considerably. They diverted streams of water to mine hydraulically, and built sluices and the first 'long toms.' They mined underground, also, and introduced water-wheels and the 'roasting' of gold-bearing ores to separate the gold from rock. They were able to more efficiently exploit old mine-sites, and of course their chief laborers were prisoners of war, slaves, and convicts.

A monetary standard made the world economy possible. The concept of money, (i.e., gold and silver in standard weight and fineness coins) allowed the World's economies to expand and prosper. During the Classic period of Greek and Roman rule in the western world, gold and silver both flowed to India for spices, and to China for silk. At the height of the Empire (A.D. 98-160), Roman gold and silver coins reigned from Britain to North Africa and Egypt. Money had been invented. Its name was gold.



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For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

Contact the GPR President
(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for Sept 2024

(**WMMI** - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921
<https://www.wmmi.org/>) (Free to GPR Member with badge)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 <u>Labor Day</u>	3	4	5	6 Highlands Ranch Festival	7
8 <u>Grandparents Day</u>	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 GPR Club Meeting	19	20	21 Prospecting: South Boulder Creek west of Rollinsville
22	23	24	25 Pirate's Hunt (weather permitting)	26	27	28 Beginners Panning/Sluicing
29	30					