



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Dazzling Meieran Trilliant Gemstone Collection coming to the Rice Museum**

HILLSBORO, OREGON (June 10, 2019) – Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals is pleased to announce an exciting new traveling exhibit – the Meieran Trilliant Gemstone Collection. Trilliants are faceted gemstones in some variation of a triangular shape and the brilliant cut, and this dazzling display will be on loan at the museum and on exhibit for one year.

This impressive collection contains many traditional gems such as quartz, aquamarine, and sapphire as well as some large and more uncommon stones like a 136-carat amethyst from Brazil and an 81-carat fluorite from Morocco. The collection contains many stones that are rarely seen as cut gemstones; a rare orange clinohumite from Afghanistan, scheelite from China, and sphalerite from Spain. In all, there are 132 specimens, comprising around 30 mineral species from over 28 countries collected over the last 30 years.

The Meieran Trilliant Collection is owned by Gene and Roz Meieran and their daughter Sharon Meieran and her husband Fred Cirillo. The collection was assembled primarily by Gene Meieran, the president of the museum's board of directors. Gene started as a general collector, but later began specializing in high-quality gem species and native element crystals. He used his knowledge of crystals in a lengthy professional career perfecting semiconductor material at Fairchild Semiconductor and Intel. Sharon Meieran is Multnomah County Commissioner of District 1.

The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, houses a world-class collection of rocks and minerals recognized as the finest in the Pacific Northwest and one of the best in the nation. The Museum is in Hillsboro, Oregon just west of Portland (exit 61 off Highway 26). Its educational programs include organized school field trips as well as ongoing educational outreach throughout the community at large. A variety of public and private events are hosted throughout the year as well. The Museum is listed on the National Registry for Historic Places for its unique architectural style and its use of natural stone and extraordinary native Oregon woodwork throughout the building.

For more information about the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals, call (503) 647-2418 or visit [www.ricenorthwestmuseum.org](http://www.ricenorthwestmuseum.org) or [www.facebook.com/RiceNWMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/RiceNWMuseum).

