



## St Aubyn collection

### *News on the project January – April 2008*

#### Wednesday 23 January 2008

Today, Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery are starting our search for other minerals belonging to Sir John St. Aubyn's original mineral collection before it was split in 1834. As part of the project we would like to locate as many specimens as we can so that Sir John's collection can be fully documented. If you think you may have a Sir John St. Aubyn specimen please contact Plymouth City Museum on 01752 304765 or email [st.aubyn@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:st.aubyn@plymouth.gov.uk).

#### Monday 11 - Friday 22 February 2008

For the next fortnight, we will be trying to update all the scientific names associated with the St. Aubyn herbarium as well as checking our own documentation. In the past, all the sheets from this herbarium had been transcribed and entered onto an excel spreadsheet. In order to make sure that there were no transcription errors, we are going through them all again whilst updating the names.

#### Monday 25 February 2008

Most of the scientific names for the specimens on the St. Aubyn herbarium have been updated on our spreadsheet. This means we can use the current Latin names on our database which should help when searching for specimens.

#### Tuesday 26 February 2008

To make Sir John's mineral collection easier to work on, we have decided to extract his minerals from our main geological collection and store it in its own cupboard. Over the last fortnight all of the drawers and storage boxes that we ordered arrived. Today we began to move Sir John's minerals into their relevant drawers. It is very exciting seeing all of his minerals together in one space and surprising to see just how many there are. We hope to finish this part of the project before the end of May 2008.

#### Monday 3 March 2008

Today one of our conservators began to work on the drawer labels. We were trying to see if it was possible to remove the labels from the broken drawers without damaging them. By the end of the day it seemed that we had found a sympathetic method for removing the drawer labels. Work will continue to test this method on more challenging labels that have been damaged in the past. Once the labels have been removed, the museum will store them in archival quality files so that they are secure.

#### Thursday 3 April 2008

Staff from the museum's natural history department visited Sir John's property on St. Michaels Mount today in order to carry out some research on the St. Aubyn family. Luckily the weather was really beautiful making our visit extremely productive. After looking at the house and gardens we drove to the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro. Whilst we were there, we met the documentation officer who will hopefully translate our two French catalogues which were written by the Count Jacques Louis de Bournon. We think that the catalogues may be written about Sir John St. Aubyn's mineral collection, but currently we are not sure and hope that the translation may shed some light on this.

#### Monday 21 April 2008

This week Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery began photographing Sir John St. Aubyn's mineral collection. During the week we captured over two thousand images which we aim to put on our database.