

John Henry Heuland

By SIR ARTHUR RUSSELL, Bart.

JOHAN HENRY HEULAND, Fellow of the Geological Society, mineral collector and dealer of 25 King Street, St. James's, London, was born in 1778. He moved in 1839 to 31 Red Lion Square, London, where he remained until after 1850. Few details of his life are known, but his sale catalogues and his intense activity as a collector and dealer during the period when it was fashionable to form collections of minerals have secured him an important place in the historical archives of mineralogy.

In what year Heuland began to deal in minerals is uncertain, but it was before 1804 when we have a record of his buying in Lisbon. He subsequently travelled through France, Germany, Sweden, and Russia, collecting and buying minerals wherever possible. About the year 1806 he came into the possession of a fine collection of minerals which had been formed on the Continent between the years 1766 and 1806 by his uncle Mr. Jacob Forster. To this collection Heuland made valuable additions until 1820, when he sold it to Mr. Charles Hampden Turner, of Rooksnest, Godalming, Surrey. Subsequently the collection became the property of Henry Ludlam, who on his death bequeathed it to the Museum of Practical Geology, London. In the same year Heuland entrusted Armand Lévy, then resident in London, with the making of an elaborate *catalogue raisonné* of this collection, based on the system of Haüy, and to be accompanied by an atlas of crystal drawings. Lévy commenced the work and continued it at Brussels, where he had gone to live. In 1828, however, he took up a professorship at Liége, and did nothing further to the catalogue, although, as Heuland indignantly states in the preface, he (Lévy) had received from him £2,000 in emoluments. In 1832 Lévy returned to France, and Heuland, on the advice of H. J. Brooke and his son Charles Brooke, entrusted the execution of the remaining 34 plates to a Mr. M. E. Brookes, the three volumes in French and atlas of plates being eventually published in London in 1837.¹

In 1814 Heuland was buying from a Monsieur Lelièvre (Le Lièvre) in Paris, and during the next few years was holding sales in that capital.

In addition to the above-mentioned collection, Heuland formed

¹ A. Lévy, Description d'une collection de minéraux, formée par M. Henri Heuland, et appartenant à M. Ch. Hampden Turner, de Rooksnest, dans le Comté de Surrey en Angleterre. Londres, 1837, 3 vols. and atlas of plates, pp. i-iv.

another, even more important collection of his own numbering some 7,013 extremely choice specimens. In this was incorporated the fine collection of the Marquis de Drée, which he had purchased in Paris about 1826. The specimens belonging to this collection of Heuland's all



FIG. 1. Amethyst, crust of pyramidal crystals dusted with chalybite. Porkura, Transylvania, Romania, showing a Heuland label no. 7379; (B.M. 92126).

bore very characteristic boldly written numbers on rectangular labels (fig. 1) and very many of these are to be seen in the British Museum and other collections of importance. The manuscript catalogue of this collection, in Heuland's handwriting, came into the possession of Mr. John Calvert, and from him passed to Mr. Albert F. Calvert, but is now, unfortunately, lost, or at any rate, inaccessible.¹ Extracts from it relating to Heuland's specimens in the Mineral Department of the British Museum were made by Mr. Thomas Davies in 1873, and are preserved in two note-books. This collection was eventually disposed

¹ The writer has made repeated efforts to discover the whereabouts of this catalogue, including inquiries of Mr. Albert F. Calvert, but to no avail.

of piecemeal by Heuland along with specimens from other sources at his periodic sales. He had rapidly become the foremost dealer in Europe, adopting the excellent rule of handling only first-class specimens. Heuland was a good linguist and bought largely from individuals and at sales on the Continent, and was evidently an excellent judge of good minerals; he was, moreover, most careful to obtain, as far as possible, accurate localities with his specimens. His sale catalogues make most tempting reading. Evidently he had a rich and most enthusiastic clientèle, private mineral-collecting having reached its zenith in this country in the first half of the nineteenth century. His descriptions of the specimens are often quaintly elaborate, and sometimes, to say the least, somewhat exaggerated. The following are examples, and show the high prices certain specimens realized, although others, such as meteorites, fetched comparatively small sums.

'Red Tourmaline from Perm; in Siberia—to be put up at £50. This specimen has cost the late Mr. Forster £62. 10. 0, and Mr. H. can easily dispose of it for that sum in Russia. Since the burning of Moscow this is the largest specimen known, and the English Mineralogists having visited St. Petersburg or Moscow, will have convinced themselves of the value of this variety of the Tourmaline; it may be well to observe that but one specimen has ever been found, and that the few existing in the collections come from it, having been broken with the intention to divide it amongst the collectors, though, as already said, at enormous prices.' (Sale Catalogue, May 10, 1830, Lot 400.)

'The richest specimen raised of filiform Native Silver, from the mine Wheal St. Vincent, in the parish of Calstock, Cornwall, weight 50 ounces; cost the intrinsic value of £13. 15., at which price it is to be put up.' (Sale Catalogue, May 2, 1831, Lot 273.) This specimen remained unsold until the sale of May 13, 1839, Lot 997, when it found a purchaser.

'The finest specimen in this or any other country of Native Sulphur from Conilla, near Cadiz, Spain, in the highest preservation and of divers modifications of the primitive form; to be put up at £50. The King of Spain, Charles the IV gave a grant to the late uncle of Mr. H. (Mr. Jacob Forster) not only to work the mine, but also an edict that it should be closed after his selection was made; since that time, at the first siege of Cadiz, the place has been entirely destroyed. Far inferior Sulphurs to this lot from the said mine were sold in France and Russia from £100 to £200 a piece; and the late General Paris, of Paris, actually sent a special messenger to Cadiz to bring him a specimen which he bought unseen but by recommendation for one hundred louis d'ors.' (Sale Catalogue, May 2, 1831, Lot 712.) This specimen remained unsold until the sale of May 2, 1836, Lot 1,000, when it was put up with a reserve of £40, and sold privately to the British Museum (B.M. 57176) for that sum.

'Stalactitical Calcedony, from Bombay. A Christian Gentleman obtained this specimen for a certain number of rupees from an East Indian idolator while the latter was worshipping it. When Mr. H. obtained the specimen it was entirely besmeared with red ochre, which it appears is characteristic of these idols; to be put up at £10.' (Sale Catalogue, May 2, 1831, Lot 393.)

The most magnificent specimen extant of the lenticular rose Carbonate of Manganese, on calcedony Quartz, Schneeberg, Saxony; to be put up at £12.' (Sale Catalogue, May 5, 1834, Lot 401.) This specimen actually realized £31.

An invaluable specimen of prismatic and dentritic Phosphate of Lead, Hofgrund, Breisgaw; to be put up at £30. The eye can alone do justice to the indescribable beauty of this treasure.' (Sale Catalogue, May 5, 1834, Lot 824.) This specimen actually realized £33.

'The most valuable crystal known of the Idocrase, from Ala, Piedmont; cost 600 francs; to be put up at £24.' (Sale Catalogue April 14, 1834, Lot 820.) Actually bought by the Duke of Devonshire for £30.

'The Diaspore, of which but one specimen is known, and from which every other like this has been chipped by the late Mr. Lelièvre, selling the last and largest for 2,000 francs, to the College of Mines, Paris, he never gave the locality.'¹ (Sale Catalogue, May 13, 1839, Lot 830.)

'The finest and largest specimen of Malachite in England, from Gumosheffsky, Siberia,² to be put up at £100. In the year 1800, this slab was valued at £500 at St. Petersburg, and in 1808, Mr. H. could easily have disposed of it in London for £300.' (Sale Catalogue, May 15, 1843, Lot 200.)

In a letter of Heuland's dated May 11, 1839, he says: 'Mr. Turner (Charles Hampden Turner) took the chalcedony from Trevascus mine, Gwinear, Cornwall, for £35.' Many important specimens of meteorites passed through Heuland's hands, and in 1831 he presented a fragment of that from Bitburg, Rhenish Prussia, to the British Museum. He bought many Greenland minerals, then great rarities, from Sir Charles L. Giesecke, and American minerals from Professor C. U. Shepard of Yale.

The following is a list of the Heuland sale catalogues known to the writer. It is obviously incomplete as to certain of the earliest, and also as to several of the later. All of these sales, with the exception of a few of the earliest, took place at 38 King Street, Covent Garden, London, under Messrs. Stevens and their predecessors. Some years ago the late Mr. F. N. Ashcroft fortunately obtained from Messrs. Stevens an incomplete series of these catalogues, which he most kindly placed at the writer's disposal, and which he subsequently presented to the Department of Mineralogy of the British Museum. All of Messrs. Stevens's other catalogues relating to the sales of minerals, of which they handled nearly all the important ones, have probably been destroyed along with the firm's early ledgers by a past employee.

List of Henry Heuland's Sale Catalogues.

1808. Mar. 16. 7 days' sale, 800 lots. 'A very select collection of minerals, chiefly from South America and Siberia.' Total realized £605. 3s. 6d.
A copy of this catalogue is in the Mineral Department, British Museum, with the prices marked.

¹ Probably Urals, Russia.

² Gumeshevsk, U.S.S.R.

- [1809] Specimens bought at a Heuland sale of this year with an invoice of their prices were in the collection of Lady Elizabeth Anne Coxe Hippisley of Stone Easton Park.
1812. May 4. 8 days' sale, 1,121 lots. Held at Mr. Christie's Great Room, Pall Mall, London. 'An extensive and most valuable collection of minerals, consisting of new substances almost without exception, and of those which are no longer to be found.' Among the buyers at this sale was Robert Ferguson of Raith, Kirkcaldy, Fifeshire. A copy of this catalogue is in the possession of the writer.
1815. Apr. 24. 6 days' sale, 820 lots. Held at Messrs. King & Lachée, 38 King Street, Covent Garden. A copy of this catalogue is in the possession of the writer.
1816. Mar. 25. Part I, 6 days' sale, 748 lots.
1816. Apr. 1. Part II, 5 days' sale, 600 lots.
1816. Apr. 22. Part III, 6 days' sale, 816 lots.
- } Copies of these three catalogues in the possession of the writer. Robert Ferguson from Raith a buyer from Part III.
1820. May 1. 6 days' sale, 775 lots. A copy of this catalogue in the British Museum (Bloomsbury) has the prices marked and the buyers names, who include Dr. Simmons, W. Lowry, Lady Aylesford, and J. Williams.
- [1821]
1824. Apr. 30. 4 days' sale, 602 lots. A copy of this catalogue in the British Museum (Bloomsbury) has the date partly obliterated and is entered in the Museum catalogue as 1821. The prices only are marked.
1826. Apr. 10. 6 days' sale, 1,150 lots. 'A splendid and most Select collection of foreign Minerals, formed from a portion of The Marquis de Dréc's and the duplicates of Mr. Heuland's private collection, including many large specimens for Public Museums and Shew Cabinets.' A copy of this catalogue is in the possession of the writer.
- [1826. July 25.]
1829. May 4. 6 days' sale, 1,020 lots. Total realized, £1,955. 16s. This included specimens from Heuland's private collection. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum, has the prices and buyers marked.
1830. May 10. 3 days' sale, 600 lots. All from Heuland's private collection. Copies in the Geological Society's library, and in the Mineral Department, British Museum.
1830. May 31. 3 days' sale, 510 lots. All from Heuland's private collection. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum.
- [1830. June 2.]
1831. May 2. 4 days' sale, 714 lots. All from Heuland's private collection. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum.
1832. May 14. 4 days' sale, 715 lots. All from Heuland's private collection. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum.

1833. Apr. 29. 6 days' sale, 1,200 lots. Part from Heuland's and part from Lady Aylesford's collection. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum.
1834. Apr. 14. 3 days' sale, 610 lots. Total realized, £304. 3s. 6d. Part from Heuland's and part from Lady Aylesford's collection. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum, has the buyers and prices marked and a note in Heuland's handwriting referring to the numbers on the specimens.
1834. May 5. 5 days' sale, 840 lots. Total realized, £1,669. 0s. 0d. A copy in the library of the Geological Society of London.
1835. May 11. 5 days' sale, 1,002 lots. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum.
1836. May 2. 5 days' sale, 1,025 lots. Part from Heuland's and part from Lady Aylesford's collection. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum, has some of the prices marked.
1837. June 12. 5 days' sale, 1,002 lots. Part from Heuland's and part from Lady Aylesford's collection. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum, has some of the prices marked.
1837. Dec. 11. 2 days' sale, 500 lots. Including 'a choice collection of iron ores, the property of a Gentleman in the East Indies'. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum, has some of the prices marked.
1838. May 14. 4 days' sale, 837 lots. Part from Heuland's and part from Lady Aylesford's collection. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum.
1839. Feb. 18. 2 days' sale, 407 lots. Total realized £186. 2s. 0d. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum, has the prices and buyers marked.
1839. May 13. 5 days' sale, 1,048 lots. Part from Heuland's and part from Lady Aylesford's collection. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum, has most of the prices marked.
1840. May 4. 3 days' sale, 630 lots. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum.
1841. Jan. 12. 2 days' sale. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum.
1841. May 10. 2 days' sale, 456 lots. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum.
1842. May 9. 4 days' sale, 821 lots. This included the collection of Mr. Hazelwood. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum, has a few of the prices marked.
1843. May 15. 3 days' sale, 600 lots. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum.
1844. May 13. 2 days' sale, 420 lots. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum.
1844. July 16. 1 day sale, 222 lots. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum.
1846. Feb. 16. 2 days' sale, 400 lots. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum, has most of the prices marked.
1846. May 18. 5 days' sale, 1,002 lots. Total realized £803. 2s. 6d. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum, has the prices and

- buyers marked. Dr. G. Troost of Philadelphia (1776-1850) bought largely at this sale.
1847. Mar. 15. 2 days' sale, 400 lots. Total realized £221. 6s. 6d. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum, has the prices and buyers marked.
1847. June 14. 2 days' sale, 400 lots. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum.
1848. Apr. 14. 1 day sale, 200 lots. A copy in the Mineral Department, British Museum.

N.B. For the years enclosed in square brackets there is known to have been a sale, but the catalogues have not been seen by the writer.

In many cases specimens which were sold appear again in later sales, Heuland having bought up the collections of his former clients. Among these were those of Lady Aylesford, Mr. Hazelwood, and Sir Francis L. Chantrey, F.G.S., F.R.S., the sculptor. It has been recorded that Heuland, knowing that the Prince Consort had greatly admired Sir Francis's collection, obtained an interview with His Highness, and apparently might have effected a sale, had not Queen Victoria come in at the critical moment, and, on hearing the price asked, £1,000, told the Prince he could not afford it, Heuland being abruptly dismissed.¹

A number of letters from Heuland to Charles König, Keeper of Minerals in the British Museum, are preserved in the Mineral Department (fig. 2). An interesting letter also of Heuland's to His Excellency Sir Edward Thornton (1766-1852), Minister to Portugal, dated London, May 15, 1821, came with the C. H. Turner collection to Henry Ludlam, and is preserved along with the latter's papers in the Museum of Practical Geology. In this letter Heuland begins by speaking of the value set on 'rejected' Brazilian diamonds which he had received from the Portuguese Government. He goes on to say 'What I require is a first quality diamond of 16 carats' and for which he was prepared to send minerals to the value of £600 in exchange.

'The Brazilian objects I long to possess are the green Tourmaline with *summits* only, the Chrysoberyl in perfect crystals, the Euclase and the beryls with *summits*. The yellow topaz I had from the Marquis of Angaga is matchless, and Mr. Chamberlain never saw the like at Rio de Janeiro. I have some hopes of getting the refusal of his two crystals of beryl with pyramids and his immense large fragment of Euclase, but he makes me long too much for them, and has nearly tired out my patience. I have no objection to give him a very excellent price, if he will name one at once in the reach of my limits and of justice. I lately sold for him his water-worn Chrysoberyl to Mr. Henry Philips Hope (the well-known collector of pictures and precious stones) for £250. It was less valuable in the rough, and I advised him to have it cut; he did so, and besides a small stone, it gave a perfect one of 44 carats. Speaking of Mr. Hope, I beg to inform Your Excellency that he is most anxious to

¹ E. G. Allingham, *A Romance of the Rostrum*. London, 1924, pp. 35-36.

Monday 6th May 1839.

My dear Sir,

After I had the honor of seeing you, I went to the Marquis of Northampton, who received me with great affability. He expects to meet you at the Royal Society on Thursday; Friday he intends going to the Sale room, and most assuredly will speak to you with regard to your kind recommendation of the opportunity to the Charles König Esq. & c.

Fig. 2. Letter from Henry Heuland to Charles König, F.R.S.

1837 part 2 p 11

Trustees. On Saturday morning the
Marquis leaves London. Let me
entreat you ~~by~~ the glory and interest
of the collection under your guidance, not
to lose this time Lot 200, 400, 600
and 800, which lots, should you wish it,
can be withdrawn before the sale, to save
a Bidding. I remain

My dear Sir

Yours most respectfully
Henry De la Beche

possess a diamond *perfectly* black, and he would go far to obtain that end. He has the finest collection of cut jewels in the world, and if Your Excellency should meet with any *quite extraordinary* Brazilian gem, I am confident I could place it for Her. [Apparently Lady Thornton was a collector of minerals, for Heuland speaks of sending her boxes of specimens, two lists of which are attached to the letter.] 'I am infinitely obliged to Your Excellency for the Meteoric iron from Bahia (Bendegó, Bahia, Brazil) which is now in Mr. Turner's collection, from which I took a smaller one which Your Excellency finds under Lot 575 in my mentioned sale (1821) with the price it fetched. It was bought by the British Museum, and the description I gave of it (according to Your Excellency's kind communication to me) was the reason it obtained such an extraordinarily high price, causing a great deal of good humour in the sale room at the time. Mr. Chamberlain possesses a specimen of 2 lbs. weight.'

Heuland wrote three short papers on minerals: 'On a Mass of Platinum at Madrid',¹ in which he gives an account of the history of a platinum nugget weighing 1 pound 9 ounces 1 drachm, found in 1814, near the mines (washings) of Don Ignacio Hurtado at Chocó, Colombia, South America, and which was presented to the King of Spain, who deposited it in the Royal Museum at Madrid. This paper also notes the discovery of two mines of precious opal in the district of Gracias a Dios, Honduras, and the receipt by Heuland of specimens from there, also the receipt of an undescribed meteorite from a spot 10 leagues inland from the coast at Omoa, Honduras. 'Account of some new Minerals' refers to helvite, Brothers Lorenz mine, Schwarzenberg, Saxony; albin (apophyllite); peliom (iolite); scorodite; tungstate of lead (stolzite) Zinnwald, Bohemia (the first reference to this species given in Dana, 6th edition, is Breithaupt, 1820); zircon on zoisite, Prickler Halt, Sau Alp, Carinthia.² 'Notice concerning the Matrix of the Brazilian Diamond' was read May 16, 1823.³

Heuland was elected a member of the Geological Society of London in 1813, becoming its foreign secretary in 1818, an office which he filled until 1828.⁴ The mineral 'Heulandite' was named after him by H. J. Brooke in 1822 (Edinburgh Phil. Journ., vol. 6, p. 112).

In the latter part of his life Heuland resided at Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, and died at 4 Pelham Place, Hastings, Sussex, on November 16, 1856, from 'softening of the brain' from which he had suffered for two years.

¹ Henry Heuland, Ann. Phil. (Thomas Thomson), 1818, vol. 12, p. 200.

² Henry Heuland, Ann. Phil. (Thomas Thomson), 1818, vol. 12, pp. 453, 454.

³ Henry Heuland, Trans. Geol. Soc. London, 1824, vol. 1, p. 419.

⁴ H. B. Woodward, The History of the Geological Society of London. 1907, pp. 72, 73; pp. 275 and 298.

By the terms of his will he bequeathed any minerals that remained in his possession to his wife, Frances Ann.

Heuland had two brothers, of whom Conrad, the younger, went out to Cochabamba, Peru, in 1793, as mineralogist to the Spanish Government, being accompanied by his elder brother who acted as his secretary. The elder died there of fever in 1806, and the younger had, in 1821, not been heard of for six years.
