

ISG Editorial: Mr. Hughes Comedy of Errors*

“The andesine found beneath this bush proved beyond doubt that the Tibetan mines are genuine.”

Richard W. Hughes, 2010.

“The Tibetan andesine deposits represent unfinished business.” Richard W. Hughes 2011

If the above statements appear contradictory, wait until you read the latest from Mr. Hughes regarding yet another Tibet andesine expedition. It seems that these expeditions prove something once and for all...until they get published and shot full of holes by common sense and the facts. So we now have yet another Tibet andesine expedition to deal with.

The problem is that we did not have to look very far to find some glaring errors and contradictions like the one you read above. As we all know, when someone tells a lie they have to remember that lie for a long time, or else it trips them up somewhere down the road. That has been the problem with these Tibet andesine expeditions. Each new expedition has contradicted the last one in demonstrable ways. This latest Hughes/Schorr expedition is no exception.

#1. We need to first remember that in 2006 Colored Stone Magazine Travel Correspondent, Jordan Clary, spent two weeks in Lhasa, Tibet actually looking for the Tibet andesine mine. Not one Tibet soul had ever heard of it and no one was wearing any. She published her account in Colored Stone Magazine. But once the well-funded Jewelry Television expedition led by Abduriyim and Li Tong arrived, suddenly there was a miraculous recovery of centuries of memories about Tibet andesine with the people around Lhasa. And in the latest expedition Mr. Hughes goes to great lengths to make a point of (and I paraphrase) “they did not know we were coming and still they knew where the andesine was”. Really?



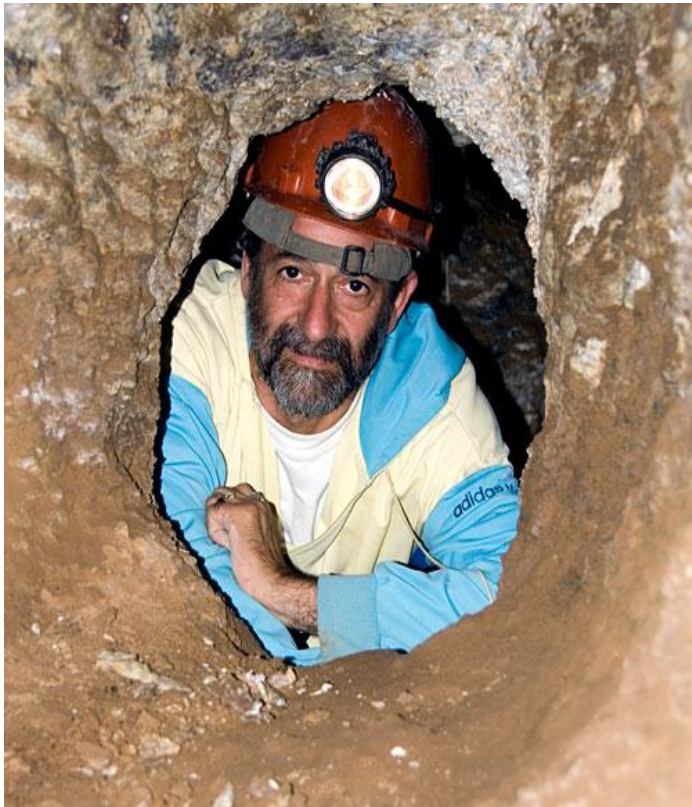
#2. The article introduces Dana Schorr as being on the Board of Desert Sun Mines which owns the Ponderosa Sunstone Mine in Oregon, and an expert in being able to “snuff out a scam” as Hughes claimed. We found two problems with this claim:

- **Mr. Schorr is not listed on the Desert Sun Mines Board of Directors.** Why this false claim was made by Mr. Hughes when the evidence says otherwise...we don't know. But read it for yourself by clicking this link to see the full page. **Desert Sun Mining Directors**
- **Mr. Hughes failed to disclose a very important relationship he has with Schorr**, they have traveled together for years on these mining trips. This was not a special invitation to a board member of the Ponderosa Mine to inspect this mine as it was made to appear in the article. This was yet another road trip for these guys who have had road trips for a number of years. Images taken from some of these expedition reports are below.



Dana Schorr, Richard Hughes and Vincent Pardieu examine the route to Badakhshan's ruby and spinel mines. Photo: Surat Toimastov.

Photo from a previous Hughes/Schorr expedition in 2006 to Madagascar.



#3. Where is Li Tong? He was graphically showcased as the Tibet mine owner on every expedition, until now. But Peretti films his crew salting the mine area and suddenly Li Tong is hawking 8 kilo parcels of Tibet andesine on the Chinese equivalent of eBay, and is no longer the mine owner guiding the expedition. We hope he's OK. And where is that holy shaman guy who had the power to keep people out of the Tibet mines as reported by the Abduriyim expedition? He seemed to not be a player either this time. Totally disappeared along with Li Tong. There are a lot of people falling by the way side on this thing.

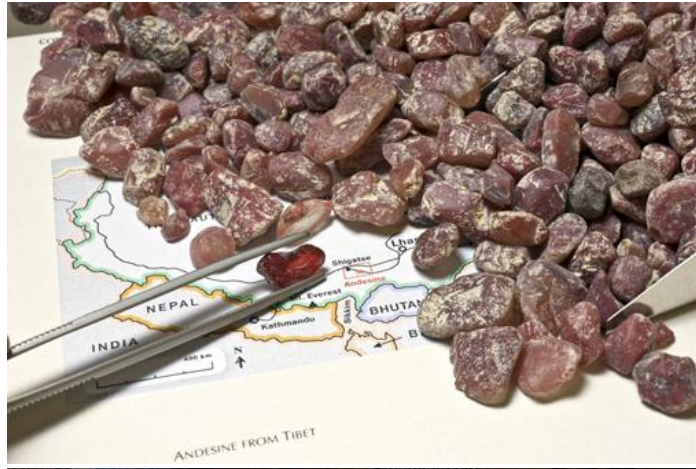
#4. Hughes claimed that all of the village's andesine that they gathered was already sold. And he provides the following picture of two young Tibetan boys who could just go out and pick up Tibet andesine from the field. **The question is: If they were selling everything they could get, why does this field not look like it's been dug up?** There are no holes. If they can sell everything they can get, and the andesine is in the ground, why are they not digging up the ground? That has been the problem since day one on these expeditions....there are no actual mines in evidence! And none here. Just a flat plain with green bushes and shrubs. No one digging. And no evidence of any digging having taken place. Look for any evidence of digging in the image below from the Hughes report.



And yet....this poor Tibet village can sell all of this material they can get their hands on. But we are supposed to believe they don't dig holes to get more of it. Really?

#5. Where are the greens? All of the previous expeditions that reported finding Tibet andesine reported finding green colored stones. And yet the Hughes/Schorr expedition found a 525 piece bag with absolutely no greens.

#6. Speaking of colors, how can this material which is claimed to be naturally diffused with copper all be exactly the same identical color? Exact. Compare the images below to those of the various expedition reports. You guys out there that own and operate mines....can you get this much material of anything out of the ground and have every single stone be the exact same color?





#7. The Inner Mongolian mine photographs contradict each other. Below are the two images published by the GIA of the Abduriyim expedition to the claimed mine operations in Inner Mongolia. Above you see the picture supposedly of one of these units. So in 2008 the belt assemblies look as you see them below, and in 2011 one of them is supposed to have turned into the image you see above. Different size. Different shape. Different colors. Even different tilt grades of the ground around it. Yet another astounding contradiction.



#8. There is a complete lack of scientific evidence, and no qualified geologists on the trip. That issue stands on its own merits. There is not one iota of scientific evidence by Hughes or Schorr to back up their claims. **“We found a red stone in the desert!”** That is the extent of their research for both of Hughes expeditions now.

#9. Mr. Hughes only tells half the story regarding the “experts” who claim a Tibet andesine mine exists. He left out one important comment:....**andesine from Tibet that tested natural was not gem quality.** That is the part that no one is telling you. Of course there is feldspar in Tibet! 51% of the earth’s surface is some type of feldspar. There is feldspar all over Tibet. But the statements made about this andesine from Tibet being natural.... was clarified as not being of gem quality. I was there when the statement was made by Dr. Rossman. Mr. Hughes was there also but apparently forgot that last part.

#10. What bothers me most about this new expedition report is the claim made about the status of Dana Schorr on this expedition. Schorr is presented as being on the Board of the Ponderosa Mine, and invited to go along to “snuff out a scam”. When in reality, **Schorr is not listed on the Desert Sun Board** at all, and is instead shown to be a long standing running buddy of Richard W. Hughes going back to at least 2006.

Is there some kind of collusion going on here? We don’t know. But the Desert Sun Mine certainly does not list Schorr as being on the board. That you can read for yourself.

I have no idea what Mr. Hughes hopes to accomplish by these repeated and desperate efforts to find some miniscule chance of a gem quality Tibet andesine mine. Perhaps it’s because he has strangely been present at every step of the saga of Tibet andesine from the Larson presentation at the 2006 AGTA Gemfair to the current 2011 expedition fiasco. If you look at each step, the AGTA GTC certificates, the television shopping channels, the expeditions trying desperately to prove this thing up....**Richard W. Hughes is the one common denominator.** It’s historical evidence that speaks for itself.

Why? Either Mr. Hughes truly believes that this Tibet andesine exists and is making a comedy of errors trying to prove it, or else he has known it was a hoax from the beginning and is in a desperate attempt to cover his tracks.

But at the end of his article Mr. Hughes challenges me (BTW...the name is Robert James, Mr. Hughes) to go to Tibet and find the specimens for myself that I have offered a \$1,000.00 reward to acquire. In truth, I have contacted the Chinese Mining Association, the Inner Mongolian Mining Association, the land and resources office of the People’s Republic of China, the Chinese mine equipment and repair companies, mineral dealers, feldspar dealers, everyone in China I could find for over 2 years to get just one....just one....to sell me any gem quality plagioclase feldspar from anywhere in China. I contacted over 277 Chinese dealers who specialize in feldspars. I offered some pretty big money for just one piece. Every single one has told me they could not find, and have not heard of, any...anywhere. And yet Mr. Hughes claims that the villagers around these claimed Tibet mines can just go out and pick it up, and sell all of it they can find...without digging any holes. Something they could not do before the Jewelry Television expedition by Abduriyim.

Indeed, if you look at the totality of all of the reports claiming that a gem quality Tibet andesine mine is real, you are down to a list of about seven names. That’s it. Go back and read the reports and see which names continue to come up at all steps. They are the same and are all connected to the big gemstone companies or labs that support them.

It is the position of the World Gem Society that when an independent team of geologists decides to go to Tibet and do a complete and proper geological study of the area that produces in situ crystals in the basaltic matrix, and can verify these with proper scientific testing, we will be the first to publish that report.

Until then, **geologically untrained gem dealers are neither qualified nor credible to issue reports** on this subject that carry any weight. To date, everyone who has gone to this claimed mine(s) (...the numbers keep changing with every expedition) has been on the payroll of someone with a vested, collateral interest in the outcome of the report.

I personally would like to see this thing end. Every person I know is tired of this fight, including everyone involved with the litigation. (With the possible exception of Andegem who started this whole thing and are the documented suppliers to the television networks. The Chens must be laughing their butts off at those silly Americans). This whole fiasco just been stirred to the point that there is no more stink in this andesine poop bucket.

But we want Mr. Hughes, Mr. Schorr and everyone else to know that we will not see our industry deteriorate into this level of anarchy. We may be the only one's standing up against this kind of fiasco in the industry, but we are the 99% of this industry.

This new Hughes/Schorr expedition report is so full of misrepresentations and contradictions that it cannot be given any credibility....in our humble opinion.

Robert James

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