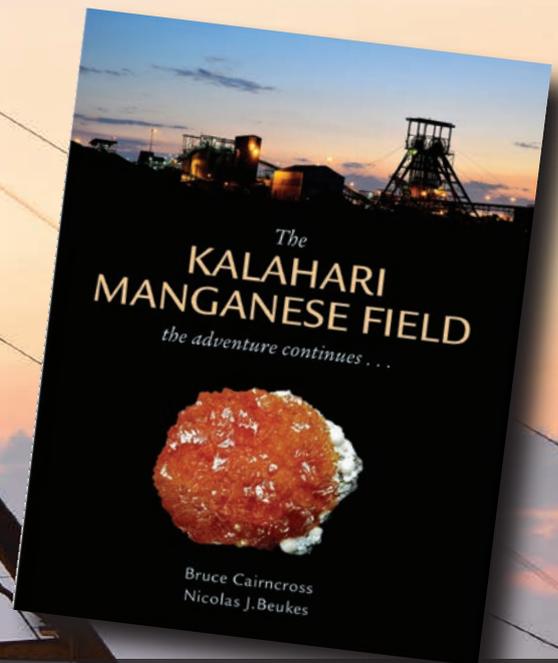


THE KALAHARI MANGANESE FIELD

The Adventure
Continues

By Bruce Cairncross &
Nicolas J. Beukes



Since the first geological description of the manganese deposits in 1907, the Kalahari Manganese Field has become world-famous as a geological and mineralogical wonderland. The first mine was opened at Black Rock in 1940 and ever since, the deposits have been the subject of geological scrutiny and, simultaneously, the source of some of the finest mineral specimens in the world. Hosting enormous manganese (and iron ore) deposits, geologists and mineralogists have focused their attention on the genesis of these ancient rocks and unraveled questions such as why such prodigious amounts of these two metals occur in these ancient rocks. The Kalahari mines continue to supply the world's steel markets with manganese metal and, based on current trends, will continue to do so well into the future.

Mineral collectors and museum curators around the world acknowledge the Kalahari Manganese Field as one of the premier mineral-producing localities and certainly, the most important one in the southern African region. Specimens from N'Chwaning and Wessels mines have been gracing the display cases of collections since the early 1960s when rhodochrosite was first collected at the Hotazel mine. For more than 60 years, thousand of mineral specimens have been collected adding not only to the aesthetics of collections, but also to the science on mineralogy.

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All these aspects of the Kalahari Manganese Field are presented in the book written by Bruce Cairncross and Nic Beukes. Profusely illustrated with full colour throughout, and containing over 500 photographs and diagrams, the book provides an up-to-date history, geology and mineralogy of the region. It will serve as a reference book to researchers and academics active in the field of manganese research, museum curators and mineral collectors with an interest in Kalahari Manganese Field specimens and the general public who may want to learn more about this particular aspect of South Africa's geoheritage.

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About the authors

Bruce Cairncross

Bruce Cairncross is an acknowledged expert on southern African minerals. He has written and co-authored six books on the subject and numerous other publications dealing with minerals and gemstones. An accomplished photographer, his photographs of mineral specimens have appeared in many books, articles, calendars and websites; most of the specimens featured in this book are his work as well. He serves on the editorial boards of two international mineral magazines and one local related publication. He is currently Professor of Geology and Head of the Geology Department at the University of Johannesburg.

Nic Beukes

Nic Beukes is one of the top three experts in the world on the Kalahari Manganese Field and the associated iron ore deposits. His stature as a scientist is reflected in his A1-rating by the National Research Foundation in South Africa, the highest ranking any academic can achieve. He has published many articles dealing with manganese and iron and is a regularly invited as a guest speaker to present keynote talks at international congresses. Currently retired from the University of Johannesburg's Department of Geology, but he is still actively engaged with the department, its students and staff on contract as Research Professor. He served for over 40 years full-time in academia at the University.



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