

## David Barthelmy

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**From:** McDougall Minerals <ray@mcdougallminerals.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2018 3:53 PM  
**To:** webmineral@gmail.com  
**Subject:** New from Egypt

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## New From the White Desert, Egypt

I have added a new [Egypt Update \(click here\)](#), featuring excellent goethite pseudomorphs after marcasite from the White Desert, north of Farafra Oasis. These are the super goethite pseudomorphs after marcasite, collected in 2013-2014.

This locality has been known for a number of years and pseudomorph specimens have come out once in a while. The pseudomorphs occur within the Cretaceous Khoman Chalk, from which the White Desert derives its name. Most crystals have typically been fairly indistinct, and to date sharp specimens have been relatively uncommon. The specimens in this update are remarkable for their high quality, relatively sharp, marcasite crystal forms in aesthetic crystal clusters.

Over the years, these pseudomorphs have been variously labeled hematite, goethite and limonite (the latter no longer a valid mineral species name, but is a term still used in reference to unidentified iron hydroxides, so its use has not been incorrect). Recent work by Hannah Allen at Hamilton College has confirmed that the White Desert pseudomorphs are predominantly goethite. The small white grains lodged in among the crystal blades are barite, calcite and gypsum. (Allen, Hannah M., Pseudomorphed Mineral Aggregates of the Khoman Chalk, Western Desert, Egypt, Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs. Vol. 46, No. 2, p.66 (2014)).

Hope you enjoy them!

### **Canadian and US Dollar**

The currency disparity remains significant in favour of the U.S. dollar these days. My usual reminder - prices on the website are in Canadian dollars (if you are thinking in - or used to browsing online minerals in - US dollar terms).

If you are receiving this email in any format in which the above link does not work, the address is:

<http://www.mcdougallminerals.com/Egypt-October-2018.html>

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