

Dr Sharad Master



Honorary Member of the
Geological Society of Zimbabwe

February 26, 2016

Azurite : $\text{Cu}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$, Malachite



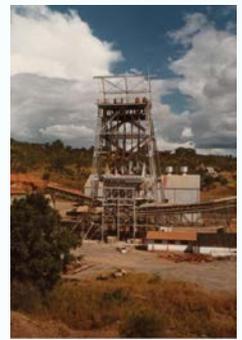
Early Days

Spessartine : $\text{Mn}^{2+}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$, Quartz



- Sharad is a geological enthusiast – we know that.
- He was born in Johannesburg in about 1959 in modest surrounds. His Dad was a grocer.
- From 1971 to 1975 he attended Nirvana High School in Lenasia, Johannesburg, to which he bussed to and from over 64 km a day for 5 years due to Apartheid laws. He achieved the best Matric results for English and Biology at Nirvana in 1975.
- He frequented the minerals collection housed at the Johannesburg Public Library during this time, and could cite the provenance and properties of nearly every specimen – Enthusiasm!

University and his first Job



- Still dogged by Apartheid stigma, Sharad had to attend Durban-Westville University through 1976.
- By dint of determination (and enthusiasm) he became enrolled at Wits for the remainder of his BSc Degree between 1977 and 1979, majoring in geology, physics and archaeology (more enthusiasm).
- Finding it hard to get a job in SA he took up a post as mine geologist at Mangula Mine, reporting there on Independence Day 1980. That took some guts as he, as a young graduate, was facing strange uncertainty in a new Zimbabwe. He made a go of it – with enthusiasm.

Degrees in Zimbabwe Copper

- Whilst at Mhangura on the Norah Mine Sharad took time off to complete his First Class Honours Degree at Wits in 1984 followed by registration for Masters, which was upgraded to PhD at the Economic Geology Research Unit between 1985 and 1991. His thesis was on the geology and origin of copper and precious metal mineralization at the Mangula and Norah mines, Mhangura.
- Subsequently he spent time in exploration for stratabound sediment-hosted copper mineralization with Lomagundi Mining and Smelting, a subsidiary of MTD (Mhangura), and was based at Alaska from 1992 to 1994, thus cementing his intimacy with the Proterozoic of the Magondi Belt.



EGRI, Research & Harvard



University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
School of Geosciences



- Returning to Wits, Sharad has been attached to the Economic Geology Research Institute since 1995 where he is a senior research officer placing emphasis on stratabound copper deposits in Zimbabwe, Zambia and the DRC, but also gaining intimacy with the regional geology, tectonics and evolution of Africa as a whole through his work in 25 African countries.
- In September 1996 Sharad led the First Field Conference for IGCP 363 across the Palaeoproterozoic of Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Then in 1997/98 he was awarded a Harvard-South Africa Scholarship to visit their Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences.

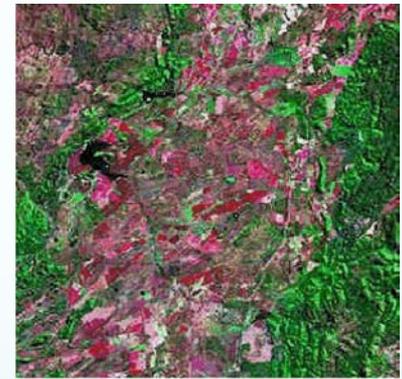
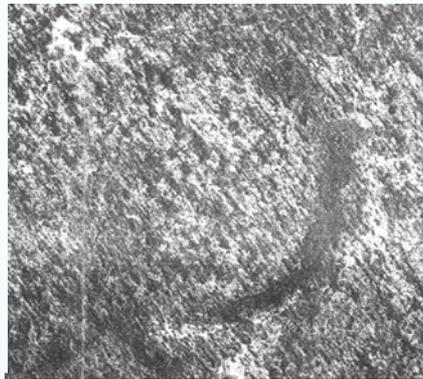


HARVARD
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
DEPARTMENT OF EARTH AND PLANETARY SCIENCES

The Great Meteorite Quest

- Sharad has become a total enthusiast and expert in the quest for meteorites and impact structures and has many records to his credit, including our own Highbury and Sinamwenda structures, the former being recognized on enhanced Landsat Imagery at the BGR, Hannover in 1987.

***Sinamwenda 200m
& Highbury 15km***



- He is central to the idea that a meteorite impact in central Iraq may have ended Bronze Age civilizations in about 2300BC, and he relates finds in Botswana, Iran, the DRC and elsewhere.

Enthusiasms

- Sharad talks of his ideas on the trade between gold and salt across North Africa, and his idea that chemical signatures in the gold leaf adorning some of the Timbuktu Manuscripts will define its origin. His ideas have gelled during visits to Mali and to the Danakil in Ethiopia.



- Then he publishes on the disappearance of a beach in Cape Town or on a volcano in the Cape Verde Islands, some feature in Prague, or more recently on a trip through Lapland and to the Norwegian Fjords. Then there is an account of Darwin as a geologist in Africa etc.etc.

A sustained passion for our regional geology

- Sharad's association with our Society, and his interest in our geology has remained steadfast.
- He, with Andrey Bekker and Axel Hofmann took the Phaup Award for their paper on the "Lomagundi" global carbon isotope excursion published in *Precambrian Research* in 2010.
- Currently, with student Sarah Glynn, Sharad has been pursuing the relationship of gneisses exposed in Botswana, the Choma-Kalomo Block and at Kariba by means of geochronology. Sarah now runs the date lab in Potsdam, Germany – watch this space.

He is a busy Boy!

- As we speak, Sharad is in Cape Town working on “The Life and Work of A.L. du Toit” by delving through trunk loads of papers. What a challenge, but again watch this space.
- Just to keep himself busy, Sharad is on the organizing committee for the 35th International Geological Congress to be staged in Cape Town in August.



Honorary Membership

For Sharad's sustained association, support and involvement in our Society it is appropriate that we extend our appreciation and declare him an **Honorary Member**.



Photo: Tim Broderick

Our Congratulations

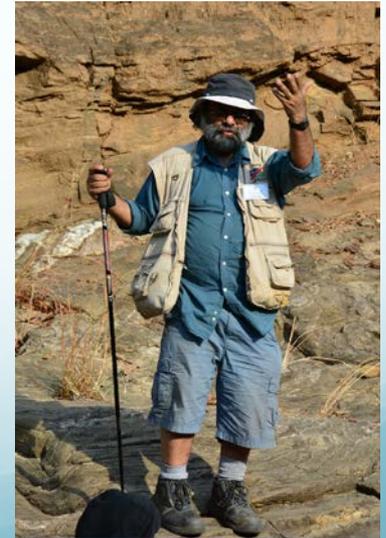


Photo: Tony Martin