

California Gold Nuggets.

Editors Press:—I see in the Press of this week an interesting article on "Gold Nuggets," which gives the locality and value of foreign nuggets. I suppose in the continuation of the article other nuggets will be enumerated; and desiring to add to the information on the subject, I send you a list of California nuggets. Part of these I mentioned in an article in the Mining and Scientific Press some years ago, but a number of others are here given. I may add that many of these nuggets I saw myself, and I have visited all the localities mentioned and gained the particulars, being interested, so that most of my information is from personal observation.

I will now commence with the different counties in which the nuggets were found:

Siskiyou County.—In a gulch near the Klamath river, a short distance above Groot's Ferry, some years ago, a nine-pound lump of almost pure gold was found; and at various times numerous smaller ones, weighing from a few ounces upward, have been discovered.

Trinity County.—In 1870, on Little Mule creek, near Minersville, in gravel diggings, two nuggets of solid gold were found, one weighing eight pounds, avoirdupois, the other about eleven pounds. In 1873, on Buckeye Mountain, so-called, a dry gravel ridge, lying between Bush Creek and Stewart Fork, two nuggets of solid gold were found, one weighing three and a half pounds, avoirdupois, the other nearly ten pounds.

Shasta County.—In 1870, on Spring creek, near the town of Shasta, in gravel diggings, a nugget of almost pure gold was found, which weighed fifteen pounds four and a half ounces, valued at \$3,200.

Sierra County.—At French Ravine, at various times, large nuggets have been found. In 1850, a mass of quartz and gold, weighing about 36 pounds, over half of which was gold; in 1851, a mass of quartz and gold, worth about \$8,000 besides numerous smaller ones, weighing a few ounces and more; in 1855, one of quartz and gold, valued at \$10,000; in 1860, one worth \$1,760, and in 1866, one was found valued at \$1,575.

At Smith Flat, a short distance above the last locality: In 1861, a mass of quartz and gold worth about \$1,500; in 1864, one weighing about 140 ounces, and with but very little quartz; in 1866, one weighing about ten pounds, most of which was gold.

At Forrest City: In the Live Yankee claims, from 1854 to 1862, twelve nuggets, some of them very interesting specimens, were found, weighing from 30 to 170 ounces each. The Oregon Co. 's claim, adjoining the last, furnished, between 1856 and 1862, numerous nuggets weighing from 30 to 100 ounces. In other claims in the vicinity numerous large ones have been found. In the Hope & Co. claims, four miles below the Mountain House, a nugget of almost pure gold, valued at \$1,770, was taken out in 1864; in 1878, a nugget of gold was taken out of Bald Mountain, weighing five and a half ounces; also, another weighing fifteen ounces.

In Minnesota, Sierra county, at various times, numerous large boulders have been found, some yielding over \$5,000. In 1869, a nugget of almost pure gold, worth about \$2,000, was found at the Little Grizzley diggings. The same year the Monumental Q. M. Co., at Sierra Buttes, took out a piece of quartz and gold worth some \$30,000, according to reports.

Nevada County.—At Remington Hill: In 1855, a nugget of quartz and gold, worth \$3,500; in 1867, one worth about \$2,400; and at numerous times various pieces, weighing a few ounces and more, have been taken from the same hill.

At Lowell Hill, in 1865, a mass of quartz and gold, worth about \$1,100, was found, besides numerous smaller ones at different dates.

El Dorado County.—In the vicinity of Pilot Hill, various boulders of quartz and gold have yielded large amounts; one, in 1867, yielded about \$8,000.

One of the most beautiful specimens of dendritic crystallized gold which has, perhaps, ever been found in the world of its size, was discovered in El Dorado county, and you gave an engraving of it some time since from a photograph by C. E. Watkins. It was found in a seam of decomposed quartz, between the slate, at a depth of about 60 ft. from the surface, in August, 1865, at what is known as the "Grit" mining claims, in Spanish Dry Diggings, El Dorado county, Cal. It weighs about 16 tbs. and is valued at \$3,500. Although much larger nuggets than the one described have been found in this State and in Australia, so far as ascertained, none have been found presenting such a remarkably beautiful appearance. The gold branches out in the form of offshoots like the branches of trees.

Strange to say, this beautiful specimen was not retained in California, but was taken to Paris. It was exhibited at the Paris International Exposition, in 1868, and was much admired and appreciated by those who had the pleasure of seeing it.

This county has produced at various times numerous smaller nuggets from a few ounces to a few pounds.

Placer County.—In 1864, on the middle fork of the American river, two miles from Michigan Bluffs, a fine large mass of almost pure gold was found, which weighed 15 ½ lbs.

Calaveras County.—In the quartz claims at Carson Hill, numerous masses of gold, weighing from six to seven lbs., have been found. In November, 1854, a nugget of quartz and gold was discovered in this county, which weighed 195 lbs. Troy, valued at \$37,400. This is the largest piece ever found in the State.

There is no doubt but that many other large masses of gold have been found in the State, and it is to be regretted that we have no full list. What a pity for the cause of science that facsimile casts of these nuggets were not taken at the time, so that they could have been preserved.

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