

200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIAN MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

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1. Logo of Russian Mineralogical Society which celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2017.

**Specimens: Mining Museum of
St.-Petersburg Mining University (GM).**

Photo: Michael B. Leybov.

2. Building of St.-Petersburg Mining University where Russian Mineralogical Society presidium and library are operating.



In 2017 the Russian Mineralogical Society (RMS) celebrated its 200th anniversary. During many decades, its activity was related with Saint-Petersburgh Mining University and the Museum (at present – the Mining Museum). According to the decision of its President Nicolas M. de Leuchtenberg, the Russian Mineralogical Society was based on the premises of the Mining Institute for 150 years. Many scientists, specialists and University staff members were and are the members of the Society, and their private collections are kept in the Museum storage. Curators of the Mining museum prepared a temporary exhibition that displays those collections of the Russian Mineralogical Society members for the day of commemoration.

At the exhibition there were displayed mineral, rock and fossil specimens, donated by the outstanding scientists – members of RMS. One of its founders was Professor Dmitry I. Sokolov, who chaired the Museum for many years; Vasily V. Nefedev, who followed him, was elected an honorary member of the Society in 1875. This exhibit displayed mineral specimens delivered by them from different trips and expeditions in Russian Empire. Many years long the Museum curator's post (and later – its director') was occupied by V.V. Beck, whose collection of lavas from the famous Italian volcano – Vesuvius was donated to the Museum in 1859. For a long time the director of the Mining Institute Museum was Gregor von Gelmersen. During this period, the Museum acquired many famous pieces, such as the nugget “Bearskin” weighing over 840 kg, the famous topaz crystal described in the “*Catalogue of Russian topaz*” by Nikolai I. Koksharov; his own monographic collection of brachiopodes from Orenburg province (data was published in 1847) is also interesting.

Starting from the 1840s the Mineralogical Society was facing an important task of preparing geological map of Russian Empire. To aim this goal they organized multiple expeditions, which participant were both Russian and invited foreign scientists. As acknowledged by the contemporaries, this research resulted in “*the major results in clarification of geological constitution of considerable part of Siberia*”. This research yielded multiple collections, compiled by the members of the Mineralogical Society during this period. In 1840 Nikolai I. Koksharov donated fossil specimens that were collected in different provinces while travelling together with Roderick I. Murchison and Édouard de Verneuil.

After relocation the Society headquarters to the Mining Institute, these collections were transferred to the Museum, where they became a part of the unite collection. This event was an important step in the forming of the Mining Institute Museum. On the 7th April 1869 the State Council established the additional posts at the Museum: a curator associate and a technician, for preparation and regis-

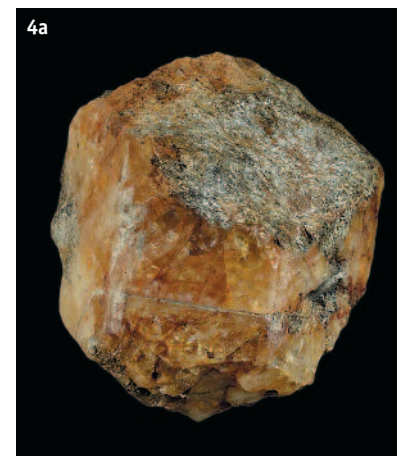


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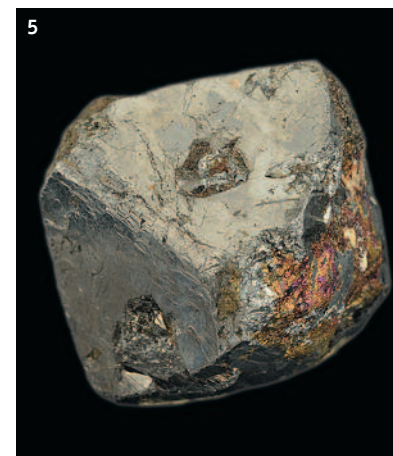


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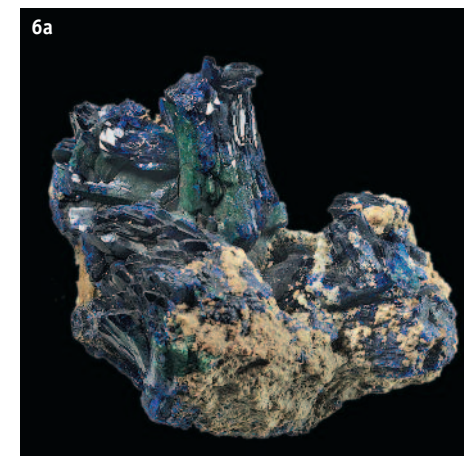
3. **Aragonite.** 12 x 6 cm.
Hungary. GM, #MGS-269/15, from Duke N.M. Leuchtenberg's collection, 1893.



4a



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6a



4b

4. **Phenakite.** 6 x 7 cm. Izumrudnie Kopi, Central Urals, Russia. GM, #MGS 617/15, from L.A. Perovskiy's collection, 1847.

5. **Glaucodot.** 2 x 2.2 cm. Sweden. GM, #MGS 60/1, from A.E. Nordenskiöld's collection, 1886.

7. **Fluorite.** 11 x 9 cm.
Saxony, Germany. GM, #MGS-228/44, from Johann F.A. Breithaupt, 1853.



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