

## TUCSON-2018: "CRYSTALS AND CRYSTAL FORMS"

The motto of the 2018 Tucson Mineral Show was "*Crystals and Crystal Forms*", and provided the attendants with superior opportunities of selecting specimens and their ensembles when organizing the exhibitions and displays. Indeed, nature as if purposefully took care of mineral lovers and collectors and created multicolored mineralogical masterpieces of endless morphological diversity.

The prominent scientist and poet of minerals and gems Acad. Alexander E. Fersman referred to minerals as flowers of the Earth. This is brilliantly confirmed by the displays of the main Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. The inquisitive, intelligent, and well-informed mineral collector sees there, apart from the beauty, much interesting issues concerning the complicated life of crystals.

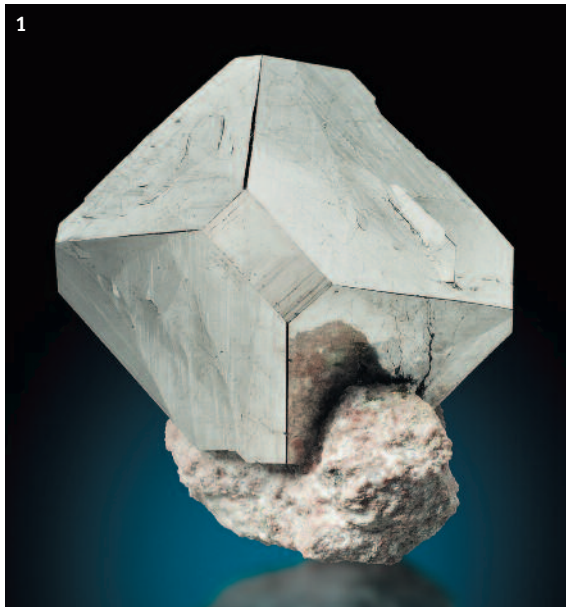
"*The Aesthetics of Imperfectness*" is the title of one of the chapters of the wonderful book "*Talks on Minerals*" by Boris Z. Kantor, a well-known enthusiast ontogenisit and our frequent author. This title fully applies to an exhibition of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History that displays twelve quartz specimens. Each of them features a quirk that provides an insight into its growth circumstances and/or evolutionary history.

One of the most brilliant exhibitions of this year seems to be the collection of crystal models presented by Herbert and Monika Obodda. We put many photos of items from his selection for display to allow the reader to scrutinize this masterpiece and pay what is due to the skills and erudition of their authors.

Below is our report on the Tucson Show of this year. The report includes a number of short stories written by authors from various countries each presenting their own experience and personal view on the Show. Each story is followed by photos of author's choice.

1. **Carrollite** crystal. 7.7 cm high.  
Kamoya South II mine, Katanga, DR Congo.  
Specimen: *Paradise Wood*. Photo: Jeff Scovil.

2. **Aquamarine** with **orthoclase** and **manganotantalite** inclusions.  
25.4 x 20.3 cm. Shigar, Northern Areas, Pakistan. Specimen and photo: Stuart Wilensky.



3. **Topaz**. 25 cm.  
Fazenda do Centro, Espírito Santo, Brazil.  
Specimen and photo: *Saphira Minerals* Company.

4. **Topaz**. 20.5 cm.  
Fazenda do Centro, Espírito Santo, Brazil.  
Specimen and photo: *Saphira Minerals* Company.



## 1. New Finds of Topaz from Brazil

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Sometimes the most spectacular discoveries begin with the most ordinary stories. With a walk on a hill for example, finding a hole in the ground, filled with debris and mud and covered in vegetation. Such a hole was found near a farm in Fazenda do Centro in the southern part of Espírito Santo, Brazil in the year 2017.

Attracted by some dirty quartz crystals, the finder soon started cleaning the pocket, careful not to break the quartz. After weeks of digging and cleaning not only quartz but also fluorite, amazonite and topaz crystals appeared.

As the amazonite and fluorite cubes were not relevant from an economic point of view, the focus soon turned to the topaz which proved to be not only large and of the highest quality but also showed exceptional shape and architecture!

The exceptional and rather spectacular pocket at Fazenda do Centro yielded a total of about 80 kg of high quality topaz with some of the largest reaching sizes of up to 33 cm! Among this great number of topaz specimens are a handful of utterly stunning sculptural specimens that are just unprecedented in their intriguing, artful design!

The floater crystals of this new pocket are of unique shape due to heavy three-dimensional etchings and razor-sharp etches. There is no matrix present but also no impurities! Sharp etchings, mirroring faces and distinctive colors from orange to yellow, brown and light blue are combined on some of the most breathtaking topaz specimens the world has seen to date!