

## THE 200<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIAN MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

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The emblem of the Russian Mineralogical Society.

In the year of celebration (07.03.2017) the Commission on New Minerals, Mineral Names, and Classification of Minerals, International Mineralogical Association approved pansnerite (iron, sodium, and potassium arsenate from fumarole exhalation of Tolbachik in Kamchatka) named in honor of L.I. Pansnerite as new mineral species. This mineral was discovered by O.V. Pekov, N.V. Zubkova, N.N. Koshlyakova, D.I. Belakovsky, M.F. Viganina, V.O. Yapaskurt, A.A. Agakhanov, S.N. Britvin, E.G. Sidorov, and D.Yu. Pushcharovskiy, members of the Society.

The building of the St. Petersburg Mining University, in which the Presidium of the Russian Mineralogical Society and its library work.



**O**n January 19, 2017, the Russian Mineralogical Society, the oldest mineralogical society worldwide, officially turned 200 years of age. Its two centuries of activity are reported in detail in the monographs, historical digests published by the Society, and articles and reports of the Academic Council of the Society<sup>1</sup>. The Mineralogical Society was committed to the principles built into its first Statute, “*Order of Saint Petersburg Mineralogical Society*”, adopted by the constitute assembly January 7 (19 in new style), 1917. It unites “*amateurs of inorganic nature ... in aptitude for science and true love of the Fatherland*”, contributes to development and popularization of mineralogy “*in all the space of this word*” and promotes the development of mineral resources and therefore the economic growth of Russia.

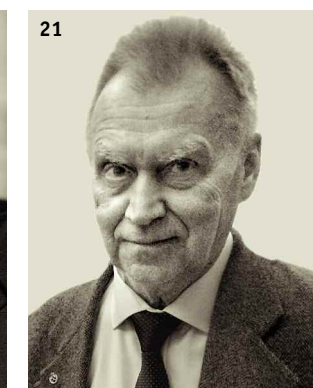
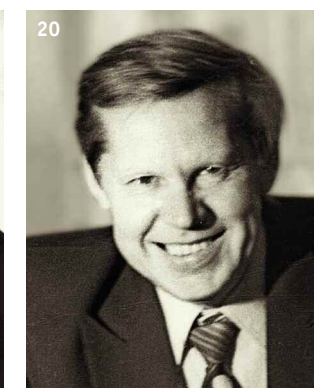
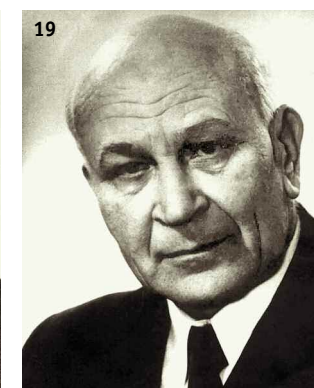
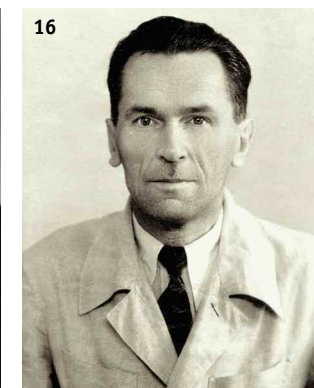
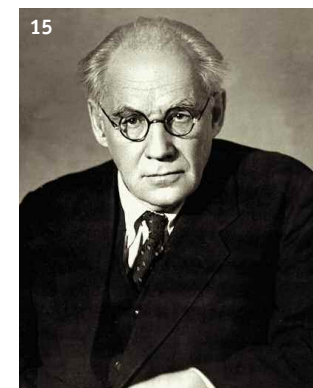
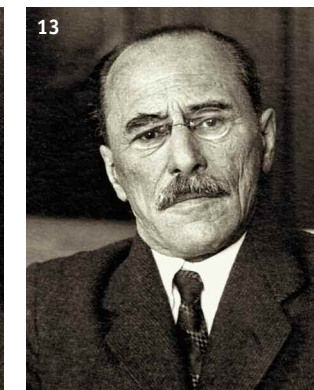
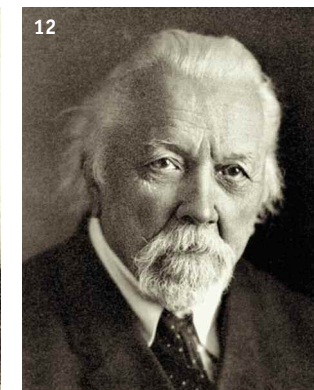
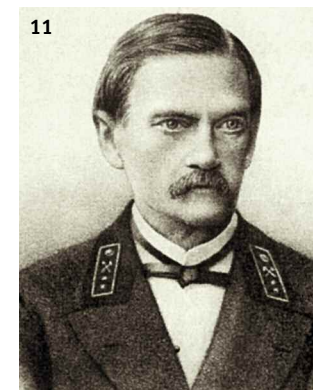
The constitute assembly was held in Saint Petersburg in Mikhailovsky (Engineer’s) Castle at the flat of L.I. Pansner, doctor of philosophy, well-known investigator in mineralogy and geodesy. It was named Imperial Mineralogical Society under patronage of members of the Imperial family. Statesmen, mining industry businessmen, members of the Imperial family, and outstanding scientists were presidents of the Society.

Since the beginning, the Society has been closely connected with the Saint Petersburg Mining Institute. Four eminent persons of the Mining Institute were among 33 founding members of the Society: Evgraf Ilich Mechnikov (later appointed director), Professors Dmitry Ivanovich Sokolov and Yakim Grigorievich Zemnitsky, and future academician Vasily Mikhailovich Severgin. Saint Petersburg Mining University is the seat of the Society Presidium and its library, and venue of congresses, annual meetings, and conferences.

The Mineralogical Society has united investigators of minerals, rocks, mineral resources, and geology of Russia. Statements and articles on mineralogy, geology, chemistry, paleontology and other natural sciences by the members were heard and discussed at meetings of the Society; books and samples of minerals, ores and fossils donated to the Society were exhibited. The Society organized public lectures in geology, mineralogy, chemistry, and paleontology.

“*Trudy of Mineralogical Society*” (Proceedings of Mineralogical Society) and “*Zapiski of Imperial Saint Petersburg Mineralogical Society*” (Proceedings of Imperial Saint Petersburg Mineralogical Society) had been published since 1830 and 1866, respectively. Papers in mineralogy, geology, paleontology, petrography, mineral deposits, and crystallography were published.

The Society developed international cooperation. The poet and natural scientist J.W. Goethe, who donated an extensive collection of minerals and rocks of Germany; scientist and traveler A. Humboldt; R.J. Haüy, founder of crystallography; and C. Lyell, creator of uniformitarianism were among foreign members



11. Pavel V. Eremeev (1892–1899).
12. Alexander P. Karpinsky (1899–1936).
13. Alexander P. Gerasimov (1937–1942).
14. Sergey S. Smirnov (1945–1947).
15. Alexander N. Zavaritskiy (1947–1952).
16. Victor A. Nikolaev (1952–1960).
17. Anatoly G. Betekhtin (acting 1960–1962).
18. Pavel M. Tatarinov (acting 1962–1964; 1964–1976).
19. Alexander V. Sidorenko (1976–1982).
20. Dmitry V. Rundqvist (acting 1982–1987; 1987–2015).
21. Yuriy B. Marin (2015–present).

Photos 1, 3, 5, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 20 are published due to the courtesy of the Group studying history of geology at the Geological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences. Other photos obtained through the courtesy of the Russian Mineralogical Society.

Since the beginning, the Mineralogical Society has sought to study the Earth’s crust, its composition, and mineral deposits. Progress in contribution to mineral wealth of the country was largely achieved by teaching about typomorphism of minerals developed since the early 1930s (A.E. Fersman, F.V. Chukhrov, A.I. Ginzburg) and teaching about ontogeny of minerals developed since the early 1960s (D.P. Grigoriev, A.G. Zhabin, N.P. Yushkin). This first teaching allows forecast of the commercial value of prospects based on the chemical features and structure of mineral individuals. The second teaching allows reconstruction of mineral life based on anatomy of crystals and their aggregates. It is clear now that teachings on typomorphism and ontogeny of minerals have incorporated the natural-philosophic seed of nonequilibrium thermodynamics, i.e., the idea of self-similarity in both composition and structure of different-scale mineral bodies (typomorphism) and process within these different-scale bodies (ontogeny).

<sup>1</sup> List of publications (in Russian) is available at the Society site <http://minsoc.ru/about/history/>.

One of the most important works: *Solovyev S.P., Dololivo-Dobrovolsky V.V. History of the All-Union Mineralogical Society and its role in the development of geological sciences. Nauka, St. Petersburg, 1992.*