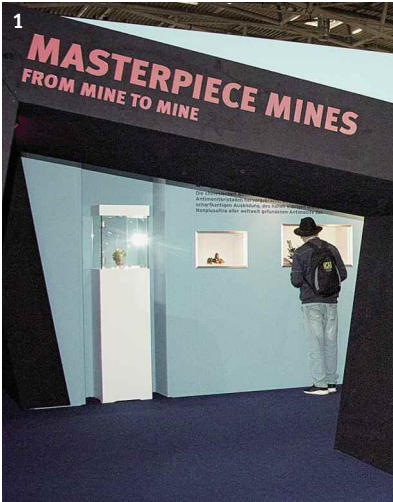


Mineral Shows of 2017:
Munich (Germany), October

MUNICH SHOW 2017



1. At the entrance to the special exhibit at the Munich Show.

Photos 1, 3–5, 7–14: Mark Mauthner

All specimens are from display in the special exhibit at the Munich Show (Mineralientage München) 2017.

2. Benitoite (Dallas Gem Mine, San Benito County, California, USA) case from collections of Mario Pauwels, Jim & Gail Spann, Rick Kennedy, Erica Pohl, Jerry Rosenthal and John Veevaert. Photo: John Veevaert.

3. Part of the Colorado Minerals section of the special exhibit at the Munich Show (Mineralientage München) 2017.



Munich show 2017 was one of the most successful for the last years by words of participants and guests. For those who couldn't come there and for these who want to remember these busy and interesting days, we present three notes: John Veevaert tells about new finds, Mark Mauthner tells about main special exhibit and Albert Russ shares his excellent photos of his favorite specimens.

1. Notes on Special Exhibit “From Mine to Mine”

The theme for the 2017 Munich Show special exhibit, “*Masterpiece Mines: From Mine to Mine*,” concentrated on specimens from localities that had produced some of the world’s mineral masterpieces. I have had numerous occasions to report on the special exhibits at this show and have always had a high regard for the exhibitry as a whole. I have eagerly anticipated every year’s displays and have never been disappointed. With the exception of a few rough edges, which I understand were very difficult to avoid, given some of the logistics, this year was no exception. Stunning examples of the Earth’s mineral treasures abounded once again in what is more a temporary museum than collection of mineral show displays.

OK, the *Alma King* stayed home to rule from his throne, but his envoys in the “*Sweet Home Mine and Pike’s Peak, Colorado, USA*” section represented His Eminence very well. Positioned at the gate to the exhibit area, the four cases filled with sublime examples of amazonite/smoky quartz from the Teller County pegmatite deposits, including some nice Manebach and Baveno twins, and top quality rhodochrosite and friends, crowned by a super-glam necklace and a rhodochrosite-fluorite-chalcopyrite specimen that must be one of the finer association pieces for the locality.

Titled “*Benitoite, San Benito County, California*” were a series of cases that paid homage to California’s big mineral trinity: gold, pegmatite gem minerals and the state gem, benitoite. Among the latter were some that have to be among the finest cut benitoite, including another – optimally lit – necklace that had fire one could see “*all the way from the nose-bleed seats*”.

Two of the US’s most well known quartz-producing regions – those of Arkansas and of Herkimer County, New York – found tribute in “*Arkansas, USA*”. Arkansas was well

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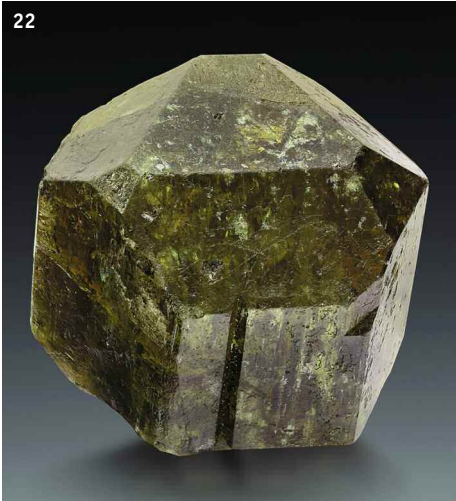
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19. **Zircon** crystal on matrix. 8 cm tall. Centovalli, Tessin, Switzerland.
20. **Erythrite** on matrix. Image size 6.7 cm, specimen 8 cm across. Daniel Mine, Schneeberg, Saxony, Germany.



21

21. **Anglesite** cluster. 12 cm. Tsumeb, Namibia.



22

22. **Apatite** crystal. 7 cm. Malberget, Sweden.



23

23. **Fluorite** crystals cluster. 9 cm across. Freiberg, Saxony, Germany.

24. **Fluorite**. 7 cm tall. Roeslen, Seealpsee, Switzerland.

25. **Quartz** crystals cluster. 11 cm tall. Uri, Switzerland.



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26–38. Specimens and photo:
John Veevaert

3. Exciting New Find

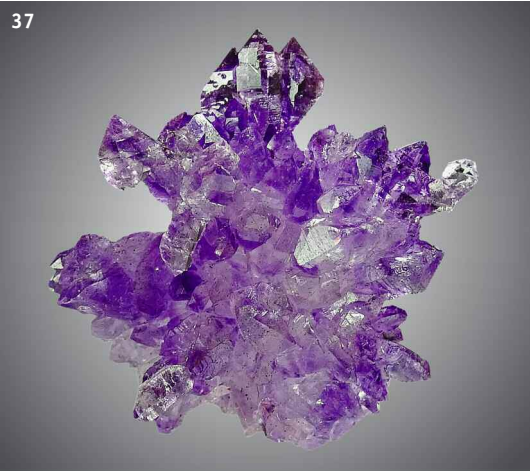
We arrived in Munich on Tuesday the 24th of October. We'd been in England the previous week so we were already adjusted to European time. Mineral shows in Europe are strikingly different than in the United States. In the US you can pay by credit card, write a check or pull out cash. Here in Germany, especially, it is a predominantly a cash or bank wire business only. Some folks also use PayPal but I would estimate that 90% of the transactions are cash or bank wire deals. So for me to be able to purchase specimens I have to get a wad of cash and the easiest and cheapest way to do so is out of an ATM. If you're as old as I am you might recall the old ad phrase: "American Express Traveler's Cheques: Don't leave home without them". Well I can assure you no one wants them at a mineral show and if they take them they will generally give you 90–95% of their stated value. Before leaving home I get a temporary raise on the withdrawal limit to \$5,000 a day. The banks charge a flat 1% for every euro I withdrawl. That covers the exchange from dollars to euros.

Before getting to what was new at the show I thought it would be of value for folks to see a small sample of some of the sights of Munich. Everyone and their brother has pictures of the Rathaus-Glockenspiel but the city is full of interesting buildings and beautiful parks. We took a tour one day and here are some scenes we enjoyed. I had a chance to talk to quite a few people at the show. There were, happily, quite a few new things to talk about. Some were seen at the Ste. Marie show and also at the Denver Show as small offerings.

First a bit of news: *Crystal Classics* has gained mining rights to the Rogerley mine. This is the same mine that Jesse Fisher and Cal Graeber worked for the past 15 years as *UK Mining Ventures*. *Crystal Classics* is going to retain that name for their marketing purposes. Ian Bruce mention that he has some grand plans for that deposit. Perhaps of most significance is the new find of fluorite from a new locality in Weardale, England. Over this hill from the Rogerley mine on an entirely different structural outcrop they found a new vein and have named it the Diana Maria mine. It is named after Ian's wife Diana. What is exciting about this new find is that the fluorite occurs on crystalline quartz and it is color zoned. The fluorite is every bit as fluorescent inky blue in sunlight as the Rogerley mine material is but the color zoning with a violet center and green exterior is new to the area. It was also found associated with snow white aragonite which offers some striking contrast. So far there have been three pockets found — the Snow Storm pocket (these feature the aragonite), the Graeber-Jones pocket (these have the fluorite on quartz) and the Emerald pocket (a richer green color but still color zoned). I selected a number of fine specimens from this exciting new find (*Figs. 26, 27*).

26. **Fluorite** specimen with glassy crystals (up to 2.4 cm across). Graeber-Jones pocket, Diana Maria mine, Weardale, Co. Durham, England, UK. Specimen: Crystal Classics Company.

27. **Fluorite** specimen with glassy crystals (note the color zoning). 9.2 x 5.5 x 3.7 cm. Snowstorm pocket, Diana Maria mine, Weardale, Co. Durham, England, UK. Specimen: Crystal Classics Company.



This recent find produced crystals of each species that are orders of magnitude better than any previous finds - especially the olshanskyite which has been found as veinlets in the past. Really exceptional stuff! (*Fig. 35*).

Czech dealer Jaroslav Hyrs had a new find of clinozoisite from San Cristobal Hill, Canete, Lima Peru. The crystals are predominantly a pale olive green however there are zones where they are pinkish in hue (*Fig. 36*).

California dealer Steve Ulatowski of New Era gems had a large group of new tsavorite crystals from Merelani. Most have an association with graphite. I picked out quite a few including a matrix specimen with one of the elongated crystals also associated with laumontite. Steve also had a new find of titanite crystals from Mondo, Tanzania. He had a tray of them but all except one had damage. Turns out that the one without damage is also a fine twin. I suspect more of these will make it out of Tanzania in the coming months.

I found an Indian dealer who had new specimens of quartz variety amethyst from Karur, Tamil Nadu, India. This locality has produced sceptered quartz in the past but these are new pieces just found in the past few months. He had one on matrix which is quite rare (*Fig. 37*).

I was also able to meet with two collectors at the show who had specimens they were selling. I picked up such items as a Chessy azurite, Gold and petzite from Montana, wurtzite from Hungary, an old Russian kyanite, boulangerite from Sala, Sweden, bismuthenite from Riddarhyttan, Sweden and several interesting specimens from Langban including: langbanite, barysilite, kentrolite, margarosanite and many others. But one standout is a hedenbergite from Nordmark, Sweden that was found in the 1830s (*Fig. 38*).

The theme for the show this year was "*Mine to Mine*" — meaning something taken from a mine and then becoming personally possessed.

I was proud to be a part of the display this year as one of the localities highlighted was the Benitoite Gem Mine. There were some fabulous specimens in the displays this year. I will start it off with the two benitoite cases I was responsible for and then offer up some of the other highlights in the displays. The first one was filled with specimens I organized and the second one was a case I had A LOT of help with. All the specimens in it belong to Mike Scott - the first CEO of Apple Computers. I had the chance to visit Mike in his home and view the specimens and faceted stones that would comprise his display. That is a day I will never forget. Anyway Mike worked on lighting to provide the best light for the rich blue color of benitoite to come out. It was a very popular case. Okay I got that out of the way. On to some other great specimens!

It was another great time in Munich this year. I love coming to this city where you don't need a car and you can get just about anywhere using the trains and your feet. Every mineral collector should try to make it here at least once in their lives. I have also given up trying to predict where mineral prices are going. There are a growing number of folks, however, that think a correction is around the corner. But that sort of talk has been ongoing for the past 15 years.

One piece of good news on the horizon is that Bryan Lees is back in the vicinity of the Sweet Home mine. He is on the upper part of the structure and he has done considerable work with results good enough to justify opening it up and hunting for more rhodochrosite.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Josef Klarer and show organizer Christophe Keilmann. These guys spent a couple of sleepless nights getting the show ready for the masses and were instrumental in the organization of the displays. It was a very good show in my opinion and we fully intend to return here again next year.

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