

Dear readers,

The Editorial Board of the Mineralogical Almanac is pleased to present Volume 12, dedicated to Mineralogy of Volynian chamber pegmatites, Ukraine.

The selection of this deposit for the Almanac does not require special explanations: Volynian pegmatites belong to the most famous and well-studied mineralogical sites of the World. For dozens of years, they keep producing beautiful samples of classic pegmatite minerals. The unchallenged pure and beautiful crystals of beryl-heliodor and giant crystals of vine and blue topaz deserved international reputation among the collectors, museum workers and jewellers.

Outstanding geographic position of the deposit and beautiful outcrops of bedrock turned Volynian chamber pegmatites into scientific Mecca for geologists, mineralogists, petrographers, geochemists, etc. Several generations of researchers worked hard for more than 150 years on a coherent model of structure and origin of the Volynian chamber pegmatites. Their tremendous efforts produced many hundreds of principal scientific publications, dedicated to this subject. The authors of this issue of the Mineralogical Almanac also contributed significantly to this grandiose work. They are recognised scientists with international reputation.

Dr Vladimir Ivanovich Pavlishin is Professor of the Taras Shevchenko National University in Kiev. He is an Honourable Scientist of Ukraine, Academician of the Higher Education Academy, winner of the Nikolai Ostrovskiy Award, President of the Ukrainian Mineralogical Society (1991–2001), and Honourable President of the Ukrainian Mineralogical Society (since 2006). He is an author of more than 400 publications, including 20 monographs, 2 textbooks, and 3 manuals. Pavlishin is one of the leading scientists in regional, genetic and applied mineralogy. Personally and with his collective, he performed a fundamental study of the minerals from the mining districts of Ukraine, describing new genetic types of minerals in Ukraine. He compiled a mineralogical map of Ukraine.

Stanislav Alekseevich Dovgyi is Doctor of Physical-Mathematical Sciences, Professor and Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. He is also an Honourable Scientist of Ukraine and a winner of the State Prize of Ukraine for scientific and technical works. He is President of the Minor Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Dovgyi is an author of more than 200 scientific publications, including 20 monographs, textbooks and manuals. He is a widely gifted scientist and politician. His scientific works are dedicated to the mathematical modelling of geophysical processes and problems of environmental protection. His activity in mineralogy relates to the original works on systematic approach to understanding of the genesis of mineral kingdom, represented in his private mineralogical museum, in the ‘*Genesis of minerals*’ (2003) textbook and ‘*Ecological mineralogy of Ukraine*’ (2003) monograph.

As always, we paid much attention to the selection of photographs of mineral specimens. The photographs were taken in the two museums of the Republic of Ukraine, museums of Russia and private collections. The directors of museums, curators of collections and collectors provided support in selecting the specimens and logistics. The Editorial Board of the Mineralogical Almanac is deeply grateful to all people who participated in this process. First of all, we would like to thank the following persons:

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