

Dear Readers!

This special issue of the Mineralogical Almanac is dedicated to one of the world's most important Russian deposits of Ural's emeralds. In Russian literature, this region of the Middle Urals, where the emeralds have been found and produced for 180 years, is known as Emerald Mines (on Russian – *Izumrudnye Kopi*). This happened due to the geological publications of the 19th century and especially due to fundamental works by the Academician Fersman and his followers of the first half of the 20th century. This name will be widely used in this issue. In many museums of the world are the specimens from the Emerald Mines of the Urals. They can be found both in the museums and private collections labeled “River Tokovaya” (or misspelled “Takovaya”) or “Malyshevo” (“Malyshevskii”). The other names are more local: town of Malysheva is a modern name of the settlement with administration of the mines; Tokovaya is not the only river which yielded emeralds in the belt of Emerald mines.

The history of discovery and mining of the Emerald Mines in the Urals is well studied and reported in numerous publications. However, only some of them are available to the collectors. The situation with geological and mineralogical information on this interesting and unique deposit is not much better. Publishing the issue of the Mineralogical Almanac, we attempted to fill this gap. Its author Vladimir Ivanovich Zhernakov is an Associate Professor of the Department of Mineralogy of the Urals State Mining University. He is a well-known Russian mineralogist, who has been studying of the Emerald Mines for many years, and he is still actively conducting the research. This will give an opportunity to learn “from the first hands”.

To illustrate this issue, we photographed specimens from the museum and private collections. A great deal of help was provided by the directors and employees of the museums, as well as by the collectors, our colleagues and friends. We are deeply grateful for all of them:

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We sincerely hope that the readers will enjoy this publication and find it useful.

With best wishes,

Editorial Board