

TUCSON-2009: MINERAL ODDITIES

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Frank Hawthorne (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada) is the recipient of the 2008 Carnegie Mineralogical Award with his wife – Elena Sokolova

Roy Kristiansen (Norway) is awarded by the 2009 Pinch medal

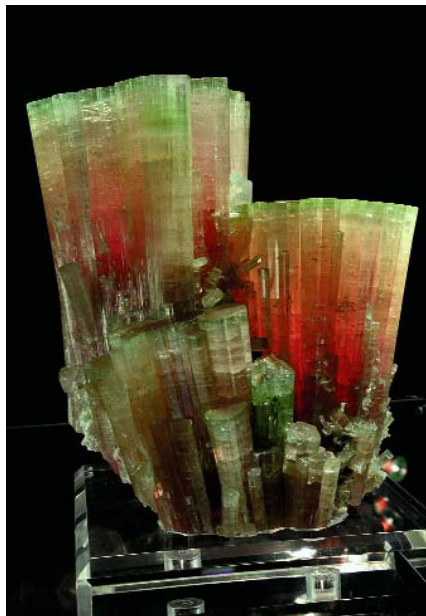
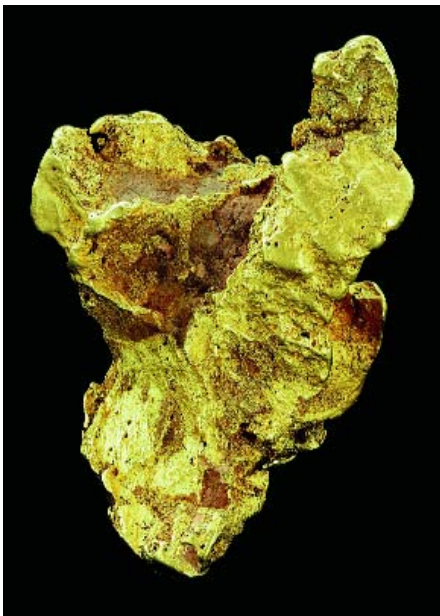


Everybody, who visited this year the Tucson mineralogical fair, will surely remember it for a long time. The reason is not that it took place at the height of the world economic crisis, but due to inventiveness of its organizers, who called the year theme “*Mineral Oddities*”. The theme proved to be surprisingly fruitful. Exposing it, the participants of the exposition showed a sea of invention, deep knowledge, and often an excellent sense of humor. What does it mean, for example, a table served by plates from different stones: bread from sandstone, wine from pink quartz, ham from carnelian, and cake from banded jasper! Or a stand of the Mineralogical Museum of the Bonn University, dedicated to nature of the wine stone, which shows with pure German pedantry all stages of its formation, results of chemical analyses and X-ray investigation, not mentioning about excellent specimens of the wine stone from wine cellars of different regions of Germany Pseudomorphs of all known types were splendidly represented at the exposition, among which were such outstanding pseudomorphs-exceptional cases, as aragonite after shoe, birds nest with eggs, replaced by aragonite, “malachite” mouse from Fersman Mineralogical Museum RAS (Moscow).

It was impossible to pass by indifferently the tube of sand baked by lightning from exposition of the Museum of Natural History and Science of Cincinnati, or not to stay in surprise before the nature miracle – amethyst skeletal crystal, the symbol of Tucson 2009 Show. The endless variety of forms and colors and their combinations in show-cases forced to see for a long time into specimens, trying to guess the meaning of their formation.

Very often a prompting was contained in caption – the authors of the exposition took care of visitors, due to which it was possible to study complex mineralogical phenomena using some show-cases, as revived manuals. Moving along exposition from one show-case to another, one has impression of fascinating trip about such wonderful, strange and splendid world of minerals.

As regards commercial part of the exposition of this year, it was as always brilliant. Splendid specimens one might see in show-cases of Jordi Fabre from Spain, for example, excellent specimen of hematite pseudomorphs upon magnetite (Argentina), rare crystal of blue-black fluorite from Kara-oba (Kazakhstan), first-class specimen of South-African olmiite. At company “*Kristalle*” in its refined exposition attract attention outstanding specimens of crocoite from the Tasmania island (Australia), the specimen of emerald from old collecting (Ural Emerald Localities, the Urals, Russia) is very seductive for collectors. Dr. Robert Lavinsky startled by large specimen of amethyst with calcite from Artigas (Uruguay) and magnificent rhodonite crystal from



Boelite (crystals up to 1 cm) in matrix, 12 cm wide. Santa Rosalia, Baja California, Mexico. Specimen: Kevin Ward, The Mineral Gallery, from Dr. Miguel Romero collection

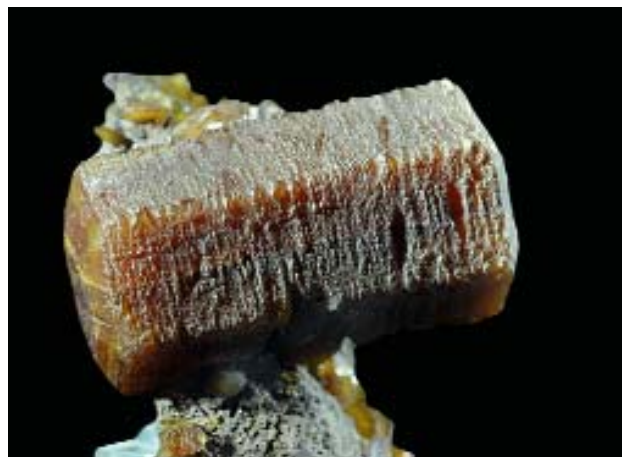
Heulandite with mordenite, 16 x 10 cm. Rat's Nest Claim, Custer Co, Idaho, USA. Specimen: John Cornish Minerals

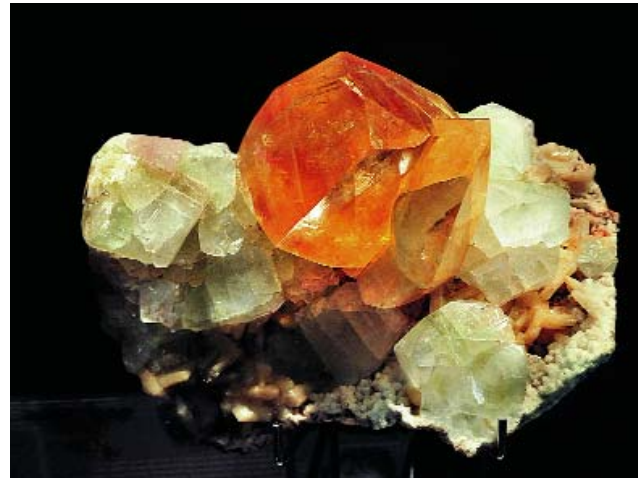
Gold nugget, 10 x 6 cm, weight 826 gram. Coolgardie, Australia. Specimen: Robert Sielecki, Ausrox, Australia

Tourmaline, 19 x 16 cm. Nuristan, Laghman province, Afghanistan. Specimen: Herbert and Monika Obodda, USA

Ferroaxinite, 12 x 9 cm. Puiva, Subpolar Urals, Russia. Specimen: Brian and Brett Kosnar, Mineral Classics, USA

Sturmanite, 10 cm long. N'Chwaning, South Africa. Specimen: Marcus Budil, Fine Minerals





Fluorite with calcite, 25 x 20 cm.

Nashik, India. Specimen: Superb Minerals India Private Limited

Apophyllite with calcite and stilbite,

24 x 14 cm. Nashik, India. Specimen: Superb Minerals India Private Limited

Diopside, 9 x 3 cm. Malar, Tanzania.

Specimen: Nick and Dylan Stolowitz, Green Mountains, USA

Amethyst with calcite,

22 x 18 cm. Artigas, Uruguay.

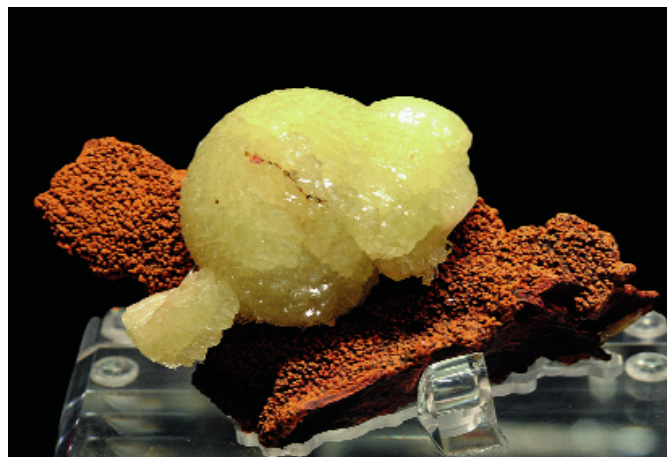
Specimen: Rob Lavinsky, Arkenstone, USA

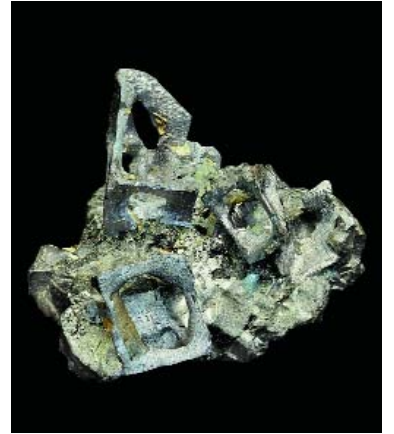
Fluorite with apatite and quartz,

7 x 5 cm. Dayu, Ganzhou Prefecture, Jiangxi prov, China. Specimen: Dan and Diana Weinrich, USA

Adamite, 10 x 6 cm.

Ojuela Mine, Durango, Mexico. Specimen: Collector's Edge





Crocoite. Adelaide Mine, Dundas, Tasmania, Australia. Specimen: Wayne and Dona Leicht, Kristalle, USA
Ferberite twin, 5 x 5 cm. Tasna Mine, Rosario section of Cerro Tasna, Nor Chichas Prov., Potosi Department, Bolivia. Specimen: Brian and Brett Kosnar, Mineral Classics, USA
Galena, with **chalcopryite**, **pyrite** and **cleio-phane**. 5 x 7 cm. Djourkovo Mine, Luki, Bulgaria. Specimen: Richard Trapp
 Pink **fluorite**, 18 x 13 cm. Goschenen valley, Uri, Switzerland. Specimen: Wayne Thompson
Hematite after **magnetite**, 18 x 15 cm. Argentina. Specimen: Jordi Fabre, Spain
 New unnamed mineral - sodium silicon hexafluoride, 4.0 x 2.5 cm. Bartow, Polk County, Florida, USA. Specimen: I.C. Minerals
Rhodonite, 6 x 2.5 cm. Morro da Mina, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Specimen: Rob Lavinsky, Arkenstone
Silver, 13 x 5 cm. Dukat Mine, Magadan Oblast, Russia. Specimen: Star and Brad van Scriver, Heliodor

