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The Princes Gagarin Mineralogical
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Elena L. Minina

pages 104, b/w pictures 56, color 114

The issue presents the first complete description
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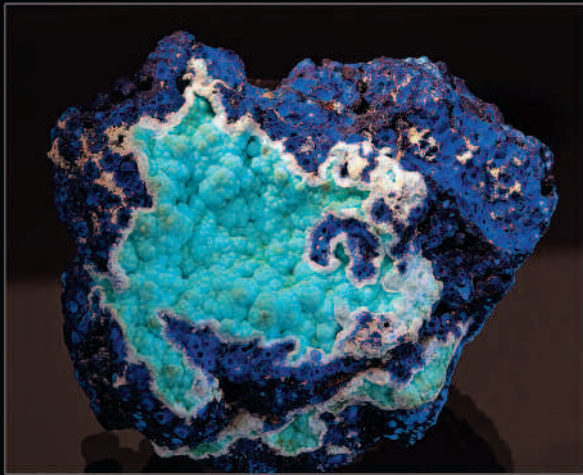
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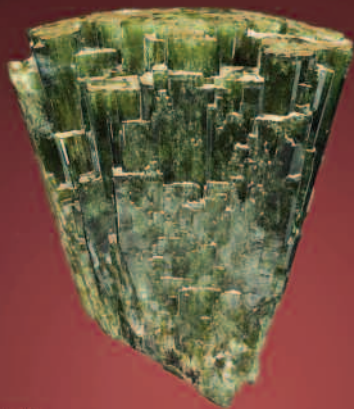


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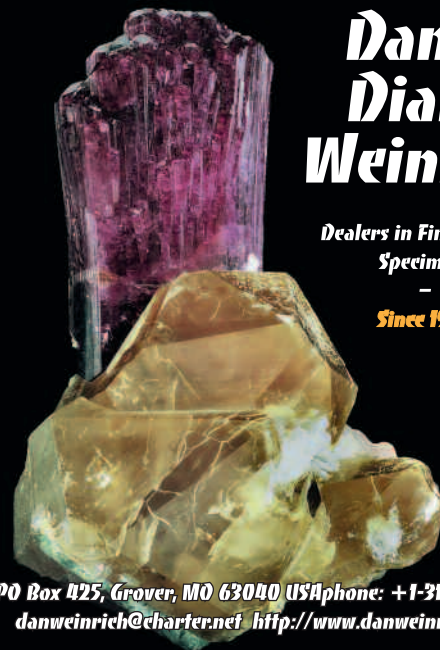
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Ruby. 4 x 4.5 cm. Mogok, Burma.
Specimen: Bill Larson, Pala International.



Apatite. 3.5 cm. Pulsifer Quarry, Mt. Apatite, Maine. Specimen: Stonetrust.

Malachite. 28 x 11 cm. Katanga, DR Congo (Zaire). Specimen: Ausrox Ltd.



growth of several huge tanzanite crystals, or the series of first-class specimens offered by Kristalle and Crystal Classics to realize how perfect Nature's creations can be.

At the Main Show in the Convention Center, this festive parade of the mineral world's best representatives continues, every visitor was able to find his own favorite mineral, his favorite showcase, or his favorite stand. It is impossible to effectively describe all their diversity and abundance. One could contemplate for hours the showcase of the Gemological Institute of America (GIA), where the precious stones of the world were arranged along a color scale, from deep red to purple through all the hues of red, yellow, green, and blue... And every color was presented with a remarkable faceted stone. A true King Solomon treasury! And here is the showcase of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History where the calcite specimens from all over the world – China, Russia, Tanzania, USA, Mexico etc. – seemed to compete in beauty and perfection... The Fersman Mineralogical Museum RAS (Moscow, Russia) showed a very spectacular and cognitive exhibit “*Properties of Precious Stones*”; The *Mineralogical Almanac* Publishing House presented on its stand the “characters” of its publications: specimens from Dal’negorsk, Urals, Altai, Volodarsk-Volynskii pegmatites, Sherlovaya Gora Mt. Joan Kureczka and Jesse Fisher, our American friends, have brought to Tucson, for this exhibit, topaz with morion and albite from Murzinka pegmatites; an excellent ferroaxinite specimen from Puiva, Nether-Polar Urals, was displayed by Brian and Brett Kosnar.

The organizers of the Main Show in the Convention Center this year provided another present for visitors, an exhibition of artists who draw minerals. On a special stand about 30 meters long, the works were presented by Wendell Wilson, Eberhard Equit, Hildegard Kunighofer, Susan Robinson and others. The “models”, the actual minerals that were painted, were placed in showcases beside the pictures. These artists work in different mediums and use different techniques; however, all of them are united by their high professional skills and profound understanding of the minerals.

A true sensation were the two tourmaline crystal groups from Afghanistan presented by the Collector's Edge at the Main Show in the Convention Center. According to Bryan Lees, the company head, these pieces had been mined only some months before the Show. Unquestionably they are the top-top specimens from Afghanistan seen for at least ten years.

Tucson 2010 confirmed once more its status as the largest and most interesting mineral show in the world, having shown, on its countless stands, the very best of Nature's gifts in the world of minerals.

SAINTE-MARIE-AUX-MINES-2010

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As summer comes to Europe, the mineral amateurs know this is the time to prepare for the show in Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines, France. This constancy in dates and sites is the best model for creating and preserving traditions. Indeed, the Sainte-Marie Show arose only 38 years ago. It has become, like Tucson and Munich, a reference milestone for everybody interested in minerals.

Seemingly, mineral shows ought to have already disappeared, being ousted by the Internet and the web trade. However, this is so merely at first sight. Indeed, the trade is possibly the main aim of a show but not at all the only one. The possibility of personal intercourse is a privilege of a show and one that is inaccessible on the Internet, along with the possibility to “feel” a specimen with one’s own hands. In addition, for some recent years, the two shows, Euro-Mineral and Euro-Gem, occur in Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines at the same time. At the Euro-Gem, jewelry is traded, mostly cheap ones, from around the world. Due to this symbiosis, the visitor number in Saint-Marie increases several fold as adornment is a perpetual topic and a stone in a setting is more understandable for many people than in a crystal group or a geode. Another guise of rocks is their “healing and magic properties” which are actively promoted by dealers. It seems that ancient superstitious beliefs, legends, and myths are swaying the minds once again and even overtake popular consciousness. Several pavilions and tents were devoted to the “healers” offering a wide range of “magic and healing” goods and services. Even more, a conference was undertaken to discuss this topic. In view of the background of recent scientific achievements and the people’s generally higher educational level in comparison with the Middle Ages, this phenomenon defies any logical explanation.

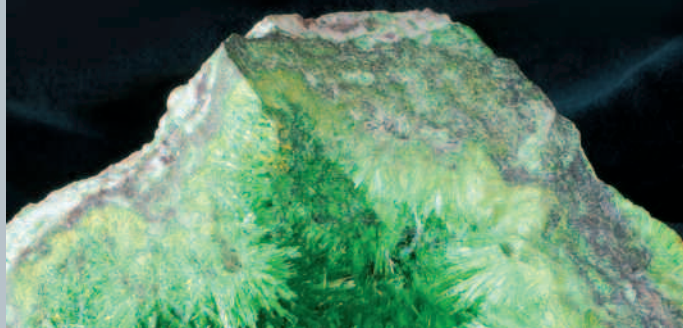
Many experienced collectors and dealers agree that there was, this year, no important mineralogical discovery in Sainte-Marie au Mines. No new material appeared here after the Tucson Show. This is rather true in respect to minerals but there were, surprisingly, a lot of novelties as for mineralogical publications. All the basic European magazines: *Le Regne Minerale* (France), *Rivista Mineralogica Italiana* (Italy), *Mineral Up* (Spain), *Lapis* (Germany), and *Mineralogical Almanac* (Russia) presented their most recent issues. On the stands of *Lapis* (Germany), one could see several new books including the *extraLapis* recent issue devoted to Karnten or Carinthia (Austria), the old European mining region. It presented numerous interesting stories on minerals, collectors, and their adventurous travels into abandoned mines and quarries of Hochalm, Ankogel, and Lavantal. This *extraLapis* issue is of interest to everyone who can read German. Our publishing house, *Mineralogical Almanac*, has also marked its visit to Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines with the presentation of the new, freshly printed special issue (volume 15-2), “*The Belorechenskoye Deposit*”. This unique uranium deposit has been abandoned by miners but is not forgotten by collectors attracted to its remarkable barites, calcites and a lot of rare minerals. The freshly printed “*Minerals & Precious Stones of Brazil*”, having appeared on the Luiz Menezes’s stand, made a sensation. A careful analysis is in store; we will surely publish a detailed review of this book in the next issue of our Almanac.

As to the general impression of the Show, everybody is already used to the friendly, joyful, and festive atmosphere at Sainte Marie aux Mines that is actively supported by the organizing team with Mr. Michel Schwab as its eternal head, as well as the entire population of this cozy town in Alsace.

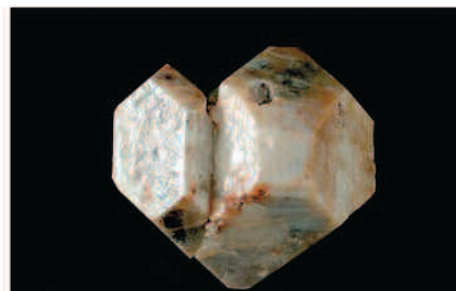
On pages 74–75: Photo report by Michael Leybov on Euro-Mineral Show in Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines, June, 2010.

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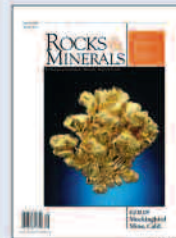
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