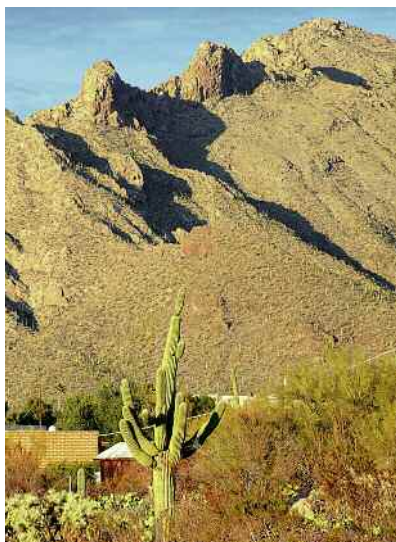


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Outskirts of the Westward Look Hotel.

**Photo: Michael Leybov.**

### To photos on pages 67–68:

One of most valuable and attractive features of the Tucson Show is the possibility to see friends, partners and colleagues from all over the world and to meet known prominent personalities, famous mineralogists, dealers, publishers, writers, photographers and, of course, collectors who are the center of the show activity.

The more time passes after the Tucson Show, the more clear its features become. At first glance, the Show's physical appearance is practically permanent, its parameters are very stable, the changes only visible to old-timers and participants of long standing who have something to remember and compare. These changes mostly refer to the Show participants. As for the visitors, they are, thanks to the efforts of the Show organizers, supplied with comprehensive catalogue guides to all of the 32 shows running simultaneously in the hotels and tents across the city. They are mainly preoccupied with the problem of the time needed to endure this marathon.

Beginning at the end of January until the middle of February, for three weeks, thousands of dealers were meeting daily with tens of thousands of buyers — mineral amateurs, collectors, museum staff and professionals. The old-timers affirm that the stream of visitors is slightly diminished this year compared with the two previous ones; and those that were present seemed to shorten their stays in Tucson. However, the dealers, in turn, reported sales increases and were in an optimistic mood at the end of the Show, having concluded contracts for the next year, placed a lot of advertising and made festive presentations and exhibitions. The Show life resembled a boiling kettle. It is enough to remember, for example, a typical party “*Fluorite and Beer*” given by Joan Kureczka and Jesse Fisher, for which Jesse transported several barrels of beer of his own making. And what a magnificent fest was the carnival in the mountains that was produced by the partner companies, Kristalle and Crystal Classics. Dona and Wayne Leicht and Ian Bruce put on a performance in the best Hollywood tradition. The



General view of the Main Show in the Convention Center.

## 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.

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