

NEW FINDS OF 2010

Michael Leybov

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Corundum, var. Ruby.
5 x 12 cm.
Rai-Iz, Subpolar Ural, Russia.

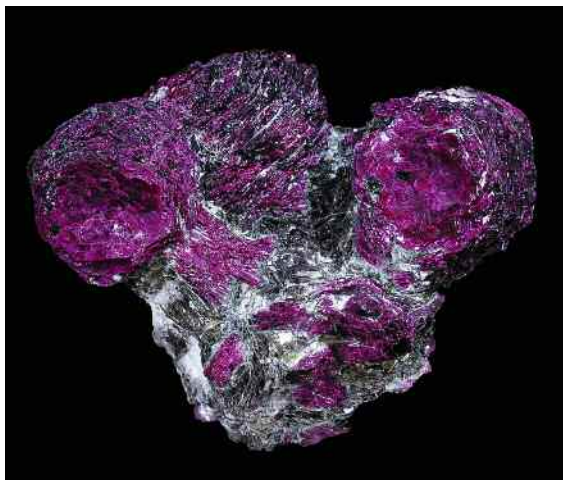
Specimen: *Russian Minerals Ltd.*

Photo: Michael B. Leybov.

The odd circumstance, in which these two specimens appear, is rather instructive... This story started at a minerals Show in Europe.

Passing along the tables laden with second-rate mineral specimens from China, Misha Anosov suddenly noticed among them a strange specimen. "Where does it come from?" The seller answered, "Italy." But Misha did not believe him. There was something familiar about the specimen.

Misha bought the stone and brought it to Moscow. The hunch ended up paying off. A careful examination left no doubt that the specimen came from the deposit Rai-Iz in Subpolar Ural, which was famous among collectors for its ruby. We decided to look inside the "boulder". This time it was Misha Moiseev who got down to work. Several hours of preparation yielded excellent results: from under the layer of waste rock there appeared beautiful ruby-red "roses", the two groups of crystals that you see in these photos. What prompted Misha Anosov, over there at the counter, to stop at a simple-looking "boulder"? Perhaps this was the "feeling of the stone", combined with the knowledge and intuition, about which academician Alexander E. Fersman wrote, when he was admiring the instincts of the Ural miners who were capable of tracing an inconspicuous vein to the hollow filled with gemstones ...



Corundum, var. Ruby.
6 x 4 cm.
Rai-Iz, Subpolar Ural, Russia.

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

Boris Z. Kantor

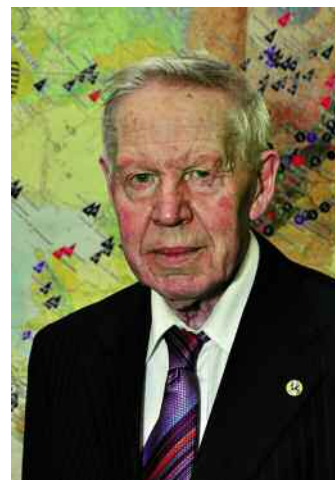
A member of our editorial board, Boris Z. Kantor is a well-known author of many books and articles addressed to the professional and beginning mineral collectors. His brilliant erudition, profound knowledge and passion for minerals give great appeal and power to his works. They are not only filled with valuable facts of mineralogy, but they are also charged with his boundless inspiration and enthusiasm for the subject. Generations of collectors in our country started their journey in mineralogy using books written by Boris Z. Kantor. His explanation of complex concepts and processes are done with such simplicity and skill that his books became bestsellers, enjoyed by people of different ages and levels of education.

Being an avid mineral collector himself, Boris Z. Kantor made dozens of long-haul trips in search for minerals, and we are looking forward to reading the stories about these trips.

Our editorial team of Mineralogical Almanac cordially congratulates Boris Z. Kantor on his 80th birthday. May he always be in good health and may his creativity continue bringing joy to the readers and collectors around the world.



Dmitry V. Rundqvist



Photograph by Alexei Muchin

The Academician of Russian Academy of Science and the Director of Vernadsky State Geological Museum of Russian Academy of Science, Dmitry V. Rundqvist, celebrated his 80th anniversary on August 10, 2010.

Being an outstanding scientist, Dmitry V. Rundqvist impresses people with the depth and diversity of his knowledge as well as unique breadth of his interests. The entire volume of this Almanac would not be sufficient for even a short characterization of the scope of the works of this amazing man. Let us mention that for many years Dmitry V. Rundqvist serves as a permanent Chairman of Russian Mineralogical Society, the Head of Geological Research Section of Russian Academy of Science, Academician and Secretary of the department of Geology, Geophysics, Geochemistry and Mineral Science Russian Academy of Science.

The contribution of Dmitry V. Rundqvist into the founding and development of the national mineralogy is very hard to overestimate.

The Editorial of Mineralogical Almanac wholeheartedly congratulates Dmitry V. Rundqvist on his 80th birthday and wishes him good health and new achievement in his extensive work.