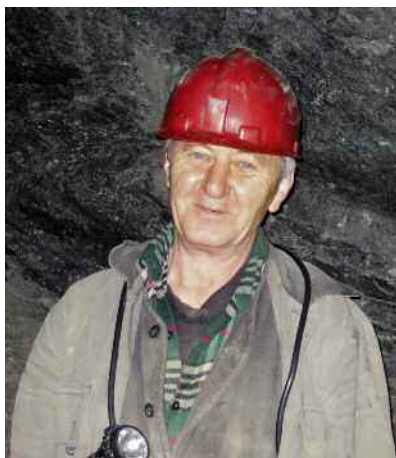


MEMORIAL OF ALEXANDER PODLESNYI (1948–2010)



Alexander Semyonovich Podlesnyi
(25.11.1948 – 13.10.2010)

Alexander S. Podlesnyi at the amazonite deposit of the Ploskaya Mountain, Western Keivy, Kola Peninsula. 1996

Alexander at work in the recently found pegmatite. An open pit on the Koashva Mountain, Khibiny, Kola Peninsula. 2007



Alexander Semyonovich Podlesnyi died on the 13th of October 2010. He was an amateur mineralogist of highest class, one of the most famous and respected Russian collectors. He was passionate in his hobby, very energetic, well-organised, and surprisingly modest and absolutely trustworthy. We must be grateful to Alexander Podlesnyi for our knowledge of diversity and, without doubt, outstanding beauty of minerals from the Kukisvumchorr apatite deposit in the Khibiny. Between the early 1980s and until 2007, almost all mineralogically interesting material from the Kirovskii underground mine, which works the deposit, was collected by this extraordinary man.

The contribution of the amateur collectors to the development of mineralogy is still not fully appreciated and poorly documented. Meanwhile, the role of these people is very significant. Serious collectors sooner or later would make a contact with professional mineralogists, paying their attention to the findings, requiring investigation, which often leads to scientific discoveries. Enthusiasm often leads the collectors to such places, where not every geologist would be able to visit these days, therefore giving a chance to obtain a truly priceless material for science. The role of amateurs, who work at the mining enterprises, is especially important as they and the mine geologists carry a function of “mineralogical emergency”, making observations and collecting data in just made fresh workings, which may survive at the present mining rate only for counted days. Perhaps, Alexander Podlesnyi was the brightest representative of such enthusiasts in recent Russia.

In contrast to many collectors, who started their hobby since the school days, Alexander became interested in mineralogy when he was an adult. His road to the minerals was not very usual.

Alexander Semyonovich Podlesnyi was born on the 25th of November 1948, in the village of Zabolotsi, Ivanichi District, Volynian Oblast, Ukraine. His father was a drilling foreman, specializing in drilling the oil and gas wells. In 1963, Alexander graduated from the 8-year secondary school in the town of Gorodok, L'vov Oblast, Ukraine. He then went to the L'vov Railroad College to become a mechanic. In

IN MEMORY OF SVETLANA PLOSKOVA (1971–2011)



Svetlana Igorevna Ploskova
(15.01.1971 – 29.03. 2011)

In the noon of the 29th of March 2011, the Geological Institute in Syktyvkar city was shaken by the tragic news. Svetlana Igorevna Ploskova died. She was a beautiful, responsive, multi-talented, and work-loving person and a head of the Chernov Geological Museum. Her departure to eternity on the 41st year of her life was untruly timeless. Only two months ago she passed her 40th anniversary on the hospital bed, fighting a deadly and long decease. The death of Svetlana has deeply wounded hearts of everybody who knew her. Her professional and friendship circles were unusually wide.

Svetlana Ploskova, Rozhkova before marriage, was born on the 15th of January 1971 in the township of Vozhega, Vologda Oblast. In 1994, she graduated with excellence degree from the St.-Petersburg Academy of Aerospace Devices specialised in “Computing machines, systems and netware”. She then came to Syktyvkar with her husband and began to work in the Geology Institute of the Komi Science Centre, Uralian Division of the Russian Academy of Sciences, where she worked for sixteen years as a programming engineer, junior researcher, and head of the museum. From 1997 to 2000, she was a PhD student in the institute.

Due to energetic activity of Svetlana and her management talent, a full modernisation of the museum, its exhibition halls and reserve funds have been performed. New exhibitions have been created; archive of documents, manuscripts, rare publications, photo archive and general cataloguing, with publication of monographic cadastres and collection catalogues, have been performed.

Svetlana Ploskova is an author and co-author of 50 scientific publications and several dozens of popular and informational articles and notes. Svetlana dedicated much time to compilation and editing of numerous collective publications, conference proceedings, as well as the periodical geological literature almanac, in which she was a member of the editorial council. Svetlana Ploskova participated in the expedition works as a head of geological teams, which worked in many regions, including the Arctic region, Paimkholi, Timan, Vychegda basin, Dvina, Sukhona and Bulgaria. We participated in several joint expeditions and I was always impressed by perfection of her preparations and actual field work, attention to colleagues and punctual demand to safety in all its aspects. She would not allow to sit into the boat without a safety jacket even to move for several metres. Under her control, it was impossible to drop a finished cigarette or piece of paper and to leave all visible traces of living activity in the camp site.

For her educational works and propaganda of scientific knowledge, Svetlana Ploskova was awarded a Honorary Diploma from the city administration of Syktyvkar. She also received other diploma, awards and numerous gratitude letters from the Geology Institute.

We will always remember Svetlana I. Ploskova in our hearts, in her deeds and achievements.

Academician Nikolay P. Yushkin