

DENVER SHOW 2011: *THE MINERALS OF RUSSIA*



1. Pin of Denver Show 2011.

**Photo: Michael B. Leybov
if not mentioned otherwise**

2. Michael A. Wise, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, near museum exhibition case.

3. Robert Lavinsky (Arkestone)(center) with his colleague.

4. Robert Snyder (Stonetrust) with a new find.
Photo: Joaquim Callen.



Notes from the Show

Choosing minerals of different countries as a theme for the show has become a common practice and a well-respected tradition for the top mineral shows in Europe and the United States. The Denver Show that took place in September 2011 was another proof of that. The organizers chose Russian minerals as the show's main theme.

The exhibition halls were permeated with 'Russian spirit.' It was keenly felt in every detail. The show's title poster featured an amazing specimen from Murzinka – a perfect crystal of blue topaz nested on the foundation of morion (black quartz) crystals; the item belongs to the Fersman Mineralogical Museum in Moscow. Various specimens from Russian deposits were pictured on numerous leaflets, printed ads in magazines, and wall banners. A special pictorial commemorative token was created specifically for the exhibition; it was shaped as a map of Russia and colored in the shades of the national flag.

Private collectors and museums showed excellent, sometimes plainly unique, specimens from the classic Russian deposits of the Kola Peninsula, the Urals, and the Russian Far East. Especially abundant were specimens from Dalnegorsk. The Cincinnati Museum (curator Terry Huizing) presented a remarkable collection of Dalnegorsk minerals. American collector Keith Proctor showed an impressive group of pyrrhotite crystals at his stand that also featured a fine specimen of native silver from the Dukat deposit. The Colorado School of Mines demonstrated a unique, both in size and quality, group of quartz crystals from the Sinerechenskoe deposit.

The displays of the Smithsonian Institution have always upheld very high standards. This particular exhibit wasn't an exception. The museum's case presented, among others, a rare specimen of gold crystals (92 grams) from the famous Beresovkoye deposit in the Urals and a malachite, great antique specimen of Urals, that could compete with



5. Bryan Lees (Collectors' Edge) showing his *Colorado Minerals* collection.

6. Arif and Aisha Ian (Rocksaholics) are always kindly smiling.

7. Mikhail Anosov, Victor Levitskiy (Russian Minerals Ltd), Igor Pekov (center) (Lomonosov Moscow State University).

8. The show case "Russian Minerals in my collection" of Shealeene Kent (7 years old).

9. Entering world of minerals...

10. First steps to paleontology.

11. William Kosnar is doing business with Dona Leicht (KRISTALLE). Photo: N. Biezinsch.

the finest samples from the Count Rumyantsev collection in the Vernadsky State Geological Museum in Moscow. An extended note clarified that the specimen in question had come into possession of the Smithsonian Institution in 1927 as part of a private collection gifted to the museum. Another noteworthy specimen was a group of quartz (gwindel quartz) crystals from Puiva, Subpolar Urals.

Dalnegorsk was recognized with a cluster of perfectly arranged and brightly colored datolite crystals and a big crystal of galena

The Denver Museum of Natural History brought a collection of stone sculptures by the famous artist and gemstone cutter Vasily V. Konovalenko, who emigrated from the USSR and came to live in Denver.

Russian museums were represented by Fersman Mineralogical Museum and its thematic exhibition devoted to glendonites. It was a joint effort with Australian colleagues;