



1. Guard at the Wittelsbacher diamond exhibit.
Photo: Mark Mauthner.

Photo: Michael B. Leybov
if not mentioned otherwise

Exciting Gathering of Exceptional Specimens

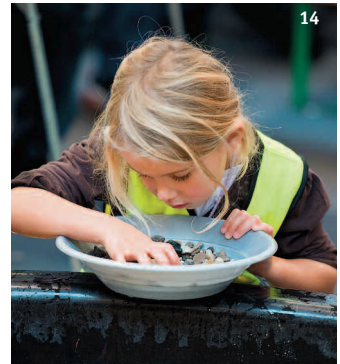
This year the special exhibit for minerals was *European Classics* and I can't remember when a special exhibit at Munich generated so much enthusiastic feedback. Everyone appeared to be really excited to see such a gathering of exceptional specimens from many private and public collections. Assembled together in excellent display cases were some of the finest minerals ever found at European localities that are, for most of us, ones that we regard as exceptional. The British Museum of Natural History was particularly well-represented, as was the Erika Pohl collection now on exhibit in Freiberg, Germany. That the former was given such presence is not surprising since the British mineral dealer Ian Bruce was intensely involved in negotiating the borrowing of specimens for this event.

There were so many wonderful specimens that it is difficult to select the outstanding ones, but some that stood out in my view were the stunningly beautiful calcites from the Malmberget mine, Lappland, Sweden, collected and owned by Peter Lyckberg, and an array of amazing native silver specimens from Kongsberg, Buskerud, Norway. The photos included here illustrate just a small sampling of what was offered. One negative note was that the printing of the localities and the ownership of the pieces was so small that it was difficult to read. Most of the viewers had to press their noses up against the glass to read the fine print, sometimes a challenge because of all of the people standing in front of the cases taking photographs with their digital cameras.

With regard to what was considered relatively new at Munich, the list is short. Perhaps the most interesting were specimens of shattuckite pseudomorphs (probably after calcite) with diopside from The Democratic Republic of the Congo. Exceptional and large ilvaite crystals from Inner Mongolia, China, were abundant, as were what are likely the world's finest genthelvites from the Huanggangliang Iron mines, Chifeng, Inner Mongolia, China, seen at Jordi Fabre's stand. There were also very new cerussite twins from Morocco, and a small number of quite good molybdenite matrix pieces from the Dayu mine, Jiangxi Province, China

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3. Johann Keillmann with his family and friends.

4. An entrance to the exhibit "European Classics".

5. Bertold Ottens presents his new book "Minerals of India".

6. Wayne Leicht at the joint "Kristalle" and "Crystal Classics" booth.

7. Boris Igdalov, carving artist, presents new carvings, created in the Tsarskoe Selo carving workshop, which he headed.

8. Well-known mineral photographer Roberto Appiani and his spouse Laura at the "Rivista Mineralogica Italiana" booth.

9. Vladimir Pelepenko with his wife Yulia, and Ludmila Cheshko.

10. Michael Anosov and Oleg Bartenev.

11. Claudette and Michael Cabrol (Merveilles de la Terre).

12. Peter Lyckberg observed specimens at the Markus Budil's booth. Photo: Mark Mauthner.

13. Gold prospecting – a breathtaking hobby.

14. Girl looking for gold at the gold panning pavilion. Photo: Mark Mauthner.