

TEN YEARS OF THE MOSCOW CLUB OF FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

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**Photo: Alexander A. Evseev,
if not otherwise specified.**

*Figure 1. On Tenth Anniversary
meeting of the Club of Friends of
Mineralogy, 16th March 2012.*

First row (left to right):

Elena L. Sokolova,
Dmitrii I. Belakovskii,
Ekaterina V. Lovskaya,
Yulia G. Karchevskaya,
Evgeniya B. Khalezova,
Marina A. Labyntsova,
Galina B. Medveshchuk
Alexander A. Evseev,
Tat'yana V. Dubrovskaya,
Boris Z. Kantor.

Second row (left to right):

Alexey F. Glushkov,
Vyacheslav V. Korolev,
Elena N. Matvienko,
Alexander V. Surkov,
Tat'yana Yu. Dolzhanskaya,
Mikhail A. Kuzmin,
Dmitrii V. Lisitsin,
Tat'yana M. Shipunova,
Tat'yana M. Pavlova,
Evgenii N. Terekhov,
Vera V. Meleshina,
Alexander V. Meleshin,
Ludmilla A. Cheshko,
Michael B. Leybov.

Photo: Olga Tyul'pakova.

For the first time we discussed a union for amateurs of mineralogy with Tatiana Mikhailovna Pavlova in the Fersman Mineralogical Museum of the Russian Academy of Sciences back in January 2002. She agreed to coordinate the place and time of the meetings with Margarita I. Novgorodova, the director of the museum. I volunteered to outline the main directions of activity. I emphasized five directions: a club, exhibitions, popular science publications (magazines, guidebooks), excursions, and “days of mineralogy” (festivals). In addition, we suggested educational programmes and further development of the topic “*Studying and preserving the mineralogical diversity*” proposed by Mikhail Maleev, director of the Earth and People museum (Sofia, Bulgaria). We proposed meetings with famous people, popular lectures (“*Non-boring Mineralogy*”), public excursions to thematic collections of minerals, slide and video presentations, World in Crystals exposition, consulting, competitions for the best identification of the minerals, creation of the personal library, exhibitions and fairs, bookshop and even a café, because many people may be coming after the work. We decided to conduct our meetings on Fridays, with the first meeting to take place on 15th March 2002. All attendees – there were 20 people – signed a piece of paper entitled “*Let be the Club of Friends of Mineralogy!*”

We did not manage to fulfil all our plans. Regardless of all obstacles, we conducted more than 300 club meetings during 10 years. Most frequently they were held in the Fersman Mineralogical Museum, Ershov Geological Museum at the Moscow State Mining University, or Mineralogical Museum of the Russian State Geological Exploration University. Up to 25 people were attending if there was an interesting topic or a guest! More than fifty per cent of those who attended the first meeting in 2002 are still coming to the club. We do not draw plans or produce reports. We do not have membership documents, fees or charter. We have different educational background, age, and professions. The amateurs of minerals and collectors of minerals meet and discuss with professional





Figure 2. V.Ya. Gerasimenko. Photo: A.E. Korolkov.

Figure 3. M.A. Bogomolov и V.E. Lashneva, 2009.

Figure 4. R.V. Galiulin with analcime crystal from Ozerne (Central Siberia), 2008.



Figure 5. M.A. Kuzmin with maket of salt vein, Baskunchak Lake, 2007.

Figure 6. V.S. Chernavtsev is beginning his excursion "Color Stone in Moscow underground", Mayakovskaya, 2012.

Figure 7. A.V. Surkov, 2010.

geologists, mineralogists, and employees of the museums. We have a website where we announce the topics and place the photographs (http://geo.web.ru/druza/in_club.htm).

Two types of meetings became traditional. These are birthdays of outstanding people. In January, Alexander Nikiforov, employee of the Fersman Museum, presents the specimens from the famous collection of Viktor Ivanovich Stepanov (1924–1988), an “uncrowned king” of national mineralogy. His birthday is on the 7th day of January. One can talk endlessly about him and his collection. In September, after summer field season, we meet in the Ershov Geological Museum, where Vitaly Yakovlevich Gerasimenko (1936–2009) used to work and travel across the country. He was born on the 12th of September. Gerasimenko was one of the most interested visitors; he never refused to talk about his travels, including his last trips to the Polar Urals in 2001, Anabar in 2005, and Norilsk and Plateau Putorana in 2007.

Probably the most interesting events of the club life are meetings with the famous mineralogists, connoisseurs of minerals and collectors from Moscow (Ravil Galiulin, Boris Kantor, Vladimir Krikov, Igor Pekov, Viktor Slyotov, Alexander Surkov, and Alexei Timofeev), from other cities (Viktor Grishin, Sergey Kolisnichenko, Nikolai Nebritov, Vladislav Semyonov, Alexander Sidorov and others) and other countries (Mikhail Maleev, Jolyon Ralph, Peter Lyckberg, Douglas Toland, Marco Marchesini).

Quartz with inclusions was a interesting exhibition by Krikov. It was opened on the 21st of January 2004 in the Fersman Mineralogical Museum after he showed his specimens in the club during several meetings.

The stories about the foreign museums, private collections and mineral shows in Tucson, Denver, and Munich (Alferova, Belakovskiy, Leybov, Levitskiy) always attract a special interest. They are accompanied by photographic presentations about the trips and expeditions. The presenters vary from geology students to amateurs of extreme travelling.

More than 30 thematic excursions in the Fersman Mineralogical Museum were conducted by the author of this notes. They were mostly about Russia in crystals, presenting a review of the famous deposits and outstanding mineralogical findings in the regions of Russia

We visited almost all museums of Moscow where there are mineralogical collections. We also went to the city of Serpukhov (Moscow region, about 100 km far from Moscow), where we inspected the newly formed geological-mineralogical museum. We attended the new exhibitions of minerals in the museums of Moscow (collection of Sergey Mironov in the Vernadsky State Geological Museum, new *Art of Nature in Stone* exposition in the Museum of Earth of the Lomonosov Moscow State University). We attended exhibitions of mineral photographs in the museums of the Moscow State Mining University and Russian State Geological Exploration University (personal exhibitions of Boris Kantor in 2010, Mikhail Bogomolov in 2011, Nikolay Koltovoi in 2012). The new and old specimens in their collections were shown by Akimov, Bogomolov, Lopatkin,