



*Figure 1. Mountain Ginayadag in the Upper Koshkarchai Valley.*



*Figure 2. Northeastern open pit.*

**Photo by M.M. Moiseev, 2008.**



*Figure 3. Ore-dressing plant and the town Dashkesan.*

All the Specimens are  
from the Dashkesan deposit,  
Azerbaijan.

Alexey F. Glushkov  
collector

## 2. Some Luck and Hard Work, and...

Specimens of Alexey F. Glushkov.

Photo by Michael B. Leybov.

I have been to Dashkesan many times. The actively developed quarries had huge waste-rock piles – a real treasure for collectors. Some luck and hard work eventually brought some good finds. Some of my trips – like those in 1982–1983 – were notably successful.

In 1982, I was on a business trip to Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. Although I was very busy, I decided to spend the weekend at Dashkesan to roam the new piles and check the new pits for minerals.

A rattling and squeaking old bus was swiftly rolling from the ancient town of Gyandzha to distant hazy mountains. It stopped at one place waiting while a bulldozer was clearing the road from fallen rocks. Finally it reached the small market square of Dashkesan. Having checked into a hotel, I headed out to the Northwestern Area, but on my way there I have heard from geologists that a massive explosion was scheduled at 3 p.m.

Then I remember that I have not yet been to the old Northeastern Area, already developed! I had heard legends about famous garnet-epidote specimens, bundle-shaped quartz crystals, and amethyst from that place. I was lucky to hitch a ride in a quarry truck, and so here I was standing in front of a vast waste rock field. I can see the Northwestern Area like the palm of my hand, but suddenly deep rumbles of a massive explosion and large clouds of smoke, dust, and rock appear from that direction. Here, at the foot of the quarry wall, a huge unmovable calcite specimen is lying; its crystals sparkling and gleaming in the sun. What a big treasure sat here untouched. It would have been great to set up a tent for a week or so and dig in those piles.

For a long time and without too much results I poked my hammer in barren rock. The sun had already rolled behind a mountain, and cool air was creeping into the quarry. I started digging under a lump of rock. Then something interesting blinked ... and in a moment I was holding a wonderful specimen of dark green epidote with a bundle-like clear rock crystal in my hands. I stood there for a while watching in amazement... Suddenly, a pack of large stray dogs showed up... What did these beasts have in their

Figure 4. **Laumontite, calcite.** 14 x 11 cm.  
Northwestern open pit.

Figure 5. **Andradite.** 16 x 17 cm.  
Northwestern open pit.

