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"**S**amotsvetny Razval" is a place where three times a year all fans of minerals who are driven by an insatiable inquisitiveness and a voracious collector's appetite gather together. This place of brisk trade is also a temple or shrine for the worship of nature. You can definitely meet your old friends here and admire the beauty of minerals together, exchange news, and have a minute of silence in memory of those who are no longer with us. By the way, nobody appears to know exactly what minerals are. They are so complex that scientists are arguing about it unceasingly. As Irina D. Borneman-Starynkevich (1890–1988) – a well known mineralogist – said in the middle of such a dispute:

*"The whole scientific world is aware,
That the term "mineral"
Isn't clear yet anywhere;
Though everybody knows,
That mica and fluorite,
And calcite, and apatite,
And zircon, and magnetite,
Quartz, opal and amethyst –
well known "Minerals"
(And there are so lovely ones!)"*

Figure 1. **Aquamarine**.

Growth spirals are distinctly shown on the crystal pinacoid. 3 cm. Pakistan.
Boris Z. Kantor specimen and photo.

Figure 2. **Malachite** spherocrystal. 2.3 cm in diameter. Severnyi Mine, Dzhzhkazgan, Kazakhstan. Boris Z. Kantor photo.

And the last phrase is the most important for us.





Figure 3. **Quartz** with **chlorite** phantoms. 2 x 2.3 cm. Aktas, Kazakhstan. A.L. Kovalev specimen. Michael B. Leybov photo.



Figure 4. **Quartz**. 9 x 11 cm. Chifeng, Inner Mongolia, China. Dmitrii V. Davydov specimen. Michael B. Leybov photo.

Figure 5. **Baryte**. 15 x 22 cm. Nadar, Maroco. "Russian Minerals" company specimen. Michael B. Leybov photo.

