

## THE 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ACADEMICIAN EVGENY K. LAZARENKO

Orest I. Matkovsky, Vladimir I. Pavlishin



Evgeny Konstantinovich Lazarenko  
December 26 1912 – January 1, 1979

**D**ecember 26, 2012, was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of academician Evgeny Konstantinovich Lazarenko, the outstanding Ukrainian Scientist and Teacher.

He left a rich heritage which is a part of the gold fund of Ukrainian education, science and culture. His contributions to the development of mineralogy and, most of all, such specialties as regional and genetic mineralogy, mineralogical crystallography, cosmic and general mineralogy are considerable.

Evgeny Konstantinovich Lazarenko was an organizer and dean of the geological faculty and head of the Mineralogy Department of Franko L'vov University. He was the founder of the L'vov Geological and Ukrainian Mineralogical Societies, many thematic journals and periodicals, the pro-rector and rector of the Franko L'vov University, director of the Institute of Geological Sciences of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialistic Republic (AS Ukrainian SSR), organizer and head of the Department of Regional and Genetic Mineralogy in the Institute of Geochemistry and Physics of Minerals of the AS Ukrainian SSR (now called the Semenenko Institute of Geochemistry, Mineralogy and Ore-forming, National Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine). He is an Honored Scientist of the Ukraine, honorable doctor Honoris Causa of the Sklodowska-Curie University (Lublin, Poland), recipient of the Ukraine state award in the field of science and technics (posthumously), honorary member of the Bulgarian Geological Society, Society of Mineralogy and Geochemistry of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, the All-Union Mineralogical Society (a scientific organization named after Taras Shevchenko, outstanding Ukrainian poet), and a full member of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

E.K. Lazarenko was born in Khar'kov, Ukraine. He graduated from Khar'kov University and finished a postgraduate study there. Before WW II he earned a PhD, and worked at the Voronezh University, improving the pedagogical process.

Beginning 1944 he worked for 25 years at L'vov University. In 1947 he defended his thesis for a doctoral degree and the next year a doctoral degree of geology and mineralogy was confirmed, and Lazarenko attained an academic status of professor. Lazarenko worked for 12 years as rector, and these years were the brightest of his rather short but very active life.

Due to the initiative of E.K. Lazarenko, in 1945 at L'vov University the L'vov Geological Society was organized, which he headed for 18 years. From the beginning the Society starts up great activity in geological investigations and publications. Since 1946, the society has published many geological, petrographic and paleontologic scientific works. Later some periodical publications appeared, among them "*Mineralogicheskii Sbornik L'vovskogo Universiteta*" (Mineralogical collected papers of L'vov University), "*Geological Sbornik*", "*Paleontological Sbornik*", and "*On mineralogy of sedimentary formations*". Lazarenko was editor-in-chief of

## «...TODAY I WOULD TAKE THESE PHOTOS IN QUITE DIFFERENT WAY...»

Alexander A. Evseev, Tatiana Yu. Dolzhanskaya,  
Mineralogical Museum, RGGRU-MGRI



Figure 1. Alexei Vladimirovich Sverdlov, the 1950s.

Perfect mineral photos in albums are familiar since childhood. Here is a Malachite album with green curves on a book shelf at home or sandy waves on the cover of Selenite. Later, when geological work brought us to the Urals, we were always bringing home new albums with similarly vivid photographs of minerals.

All these photos were produced by master photographer Alexei Vladimirovich Sverdlov (1924–2010). He was a professional photographer who worked at the Photoizdat of VDNKh and for the central newspapers. Starting from 1963 he was a photo correspondent of the Novosti Printing Agency for 33 years. During this period, he took many photographs of decorative art and paintings. Later, he started photographing stones and mineral specimens. From 1970 until 1990, he participated in more than 20 albums, including the “*Minerals of the Urals*” series (*Agate, Malachite, Selenite*), albums of the Urals Geological Museum, the Nizhniy Tagil Museum of Regional History and others.

The Master died in 2010... When such a gifted person dies, his photographic work continues to live. In his small apartment, the neighbours were a Dymkovo toy, a carved bone, China ceramics, paintings and mineral specimens, which were presented to him by friends and colleagues. This way he compiled a small and eclectic, but nice collection.

Our Mineralogical Museum accepted with great gratitude this mineral collection from his son Grigoriy Alexeevich Sverdlov. Together with his camera and other instruments of the master, these specimens – rhodonite, lazurite, jasper, flint and agate – are in the centre of our exhibition. This is the main point of our exhibition, being the first such ever presented.

From a professional point of view the exhibited minerals are not related to each other neither in chemical composition nor in their structural classification. This is true, but they share a different commonality. This diversity and apparent eclecticism just emphasizes the diversity of interests and creative ability of Sverdlov, as well as the geography of his travels. Here one can see his best albums and magazines, and rare calendars featuring Emerald, Cameo, Malachite and Jasper. Two of them received first prizes at the competition in Rome in 1996 and 1997. Due to their large size, they allow one to better appreciate the work of the master with light and attention to details. The Cameo was photographed in the famous Hermitage collection and was published only in the calendar.

He discovered his passion for photographing when only 10 years old when he went to the photo studio in the orphanage at Malakhovka village near Moscow. He was there in 1932–33. He received his first prizes at the studio exhibitions. He began to work and studied in the aviation club.

Then, WW II began. He was only 17 years old, so he changed his birth year from 1924 to 1922(!) in his passport to be able to join the army. He was a fighter pilot and, after being wounded, he went into the infantry.

Sverdlov started to work as a professional photographer after demobilization from the army in 1946. “...First, it was photo studio, where I was taking portraits. Then it was a