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Figure 1. Climbing gear:  
Detail in one of the "Strahler huts" at  
Münchner Mineralientage, München, Bayern,  
Germany.

**Mark Mauthner photos.**

Figure 2. Entrance to the Special Exhibit  
"Africa" at Münchner Mineralientage,  
München, Bayern, Germany.

There are many things I look forward to when heading to the Munich show — the people, the minerals for sale, the food — but very high on the list is the main exhibit. Even a disappointment here is still generally of higher quality than in most show exhibits I have seen elsewhere, at least in terms of exhibitry. This year's displays, following the show's theme of African minerals, was no disappointment.

Despite that the overall exhibit lacked a few of the ambient and contextual touches that really made some of the past Mineralientage experiences unforgettable, "Africa" was nonetheless still of the kind that makes even some museum counterparts pale in comparison. The specimens were, of course, all of world-class quality. Among the highlights were some truly stupendous examples that have to be in the company of "the best". With few exceptions, I felt the selection was a rather thorough representation given the space and limitations of such a temporary event.

Predictably for a geographical theme as broad as this one was, the displays were largely broken down to represent the major mineralogically significant regions: Tsumeb/Namibia, Morocco, the Kalahari Manganese Field, Zimbabwe/Zambia, D.R. Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, and Madagascar. However, several displays featured different themes or were centered on private collections, and in the "Schatzkammer" — the "Treasure Chest" — four of the six cases were species specific.

The main gateway into the exhibit area featured four cases housing several "museum" sized, from-a-distance-eye-catching specimens, which included: three large botryoidal/stalactitic Katanga malachites, a 40+ cm Madagascar tourmaline, an equally large Mt. Malosa aegirine on microcline, and a South African amethyst. Most impressive though were two more pieces. One was an eye-popping, 20+ cm, Touissit phosgenite with anglesite. Next to it stood the other, that has to be one of the largest and certainly most impressive South African ajoite-included quartz crystal groups (Fig. 16), of which the main crystal was recognizable about the same time as the exhibit entry itself as one approached the pavilion — huge (Adalberto Giazotto collection, naturally)!





*Figure 3. Tsumcorite.* ~9 cm across.  
Tsumeb, Namibia.  
TU Bergakademie Freiberg collection.

*Figure 4. Gold.* up to 10 cm across.  
Zimbabwe. Natural History Museum –  
London collection.

**Photo: Mark Mauthner**

*Figure 5. Olmitte.* 7–8 cm tall.  
N'Chwaning II Mine, Kalahari Manganese  
Field, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.  
Paul Stahl collection.

*Figure 6. Zoisite (tanzanite) crystal.*  
7 cm tall. Merelani Hills, Arusha, Tanzania.  
Marcus Budil specimen.



*Figure 7. Diamond.* 296 ct. South Africa.  
DeBeers – London Diamond Academy specimen.

*Figure 8. Malachite* (up to 10 cm tall).  
Mine de l'Etoile, Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic  
of Congo. Mario Pauwels collection.

*Figure 9. Cerussite twin on angeliste.*  
17–18 cm tall. Touissit, Oujda-Angad, Morocco.  
TU Bergakademie Freiberg collection.

