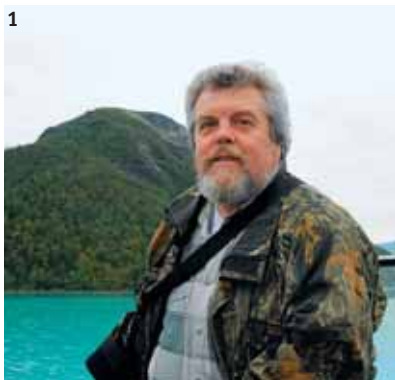


THE MINERAL COLLECTION OF VIKTOR GRISHIN

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1. Viktor Grishin at Seidozero Lake in the central part of the Lovozero Tundras. 2009

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2. Lamellar **vigrishinite** (2 cm) in altered ussingite. Mount Maly Punkaruaiiv, Lovozero, Kola Peninsula. Collection: I.V. Pekov.
Photo: I.V. Pekov and A.V. Kasatkin.



This year the famous Russian amateur mineralogist and collector Viktor Grigorievich Grishin celebrates his 60th birthday. Within a month's accuracy, this anniversary coincides with another jubilee — it is 30 years (half of his life) that Viktor Grishin has been living in the Kola Peninsula, in the town of Revda. Since 1985 he has been putting together his mineral collection, which not only is top-ranked among the private collections of the Kola region, but also is one of the most interesting collections in Russia. The main specialization of this collection is the famous Lovozero alkaline massif. The collection brilliantly represents the remarkable mineralogical discoveries made in this region over the last quarter-century, including the best known specimens for a number of mineral species. The collection also contains outstanding specimens from the West Keivy, Khibiny, and many other interesting areas of the Kola Peninsula and beyond.

Viktor Grishin was born on October 31st, 1953, in the town of Askino, Bashkiria Republic, in the West Urals. His father was the Director of the Askino telephone and radio communication station, and his mother worked at the post office. In 1965, their family moved to Voroshilovgrad, Eastern Ukraine (in 1990 the city was returned to its original historical name Lugansk), where Viktor graduated from high school in 1970. He then served in the army from 1972 to 1974. Having returned home from military service, he began working as a turner at the machine shop of the October Revolution Voroshilovgrad locomotive plant, where he stayed until 1979. In parallel, Viktor developed an athletic career. In 1969 he started training seriously for throwing events hammer, discus, and javelin; and in the army he switched to weightlifting. As soon as 1976 he received a Master of Sport qualification in the weight category under 90 kg, and three years later became a State Championship of Ukraine medalist in that category. In 1979, Viktor started his professional career in weightlifting he became a Coach at the "Zenit" Voroshilovgrad sport league.

In 1983 his life made a sharp turn. After returning from a summer vacation in the Kola Peninsula, Viktor and his wife Lubov, both captivated by the beauty of the north, decided to leave Ukraine and settle in Revda, where their old friends were living at that time. In the fall of the same year they made the move, and Viktor started to work at the mechanical shop of the Umbozero Mine, which was developing the Alluaiv Mt. rare metals deposit. Since then Viktor's life was closely tied to the Lovozero Mountains or, as they are often referred to, the Lovozero Tundras. Revda is a town of miners and metallurgists who deal with extraction and enrichment of the loparite ores of the Lovozero — the world largest deposit of tantalum and niobium. The Lovozero Tundras is an amazing place: its forests, lakes, rivers, hills kept calling Viktor — a passionate nature lover. In 1990, he left the mine and became one of the founders of the company "Seid", which took on organizing geological tourism in the Lovozero district. The early 1990s were,



3. Cluster of **usingite** crystals. 10 cm. Shkatulka pegmatite, Umbozero mine, Mount Alluaiv, Lovozero, Kola Peninsula.

4. Intergrowth of crystals of **eudialyte** coated by greenish gray crust of wadeite in apatite. Kirovskii mine, Mount Kukisvumchorr, Khibiny, Kola Peninsula. 4 cm.

Collection: V.G. Grishin. Photo: M.B. Leybov.

5. Crystal of **manaksite** on usingite with white natrosilite. 11.5 cm. Palitra pegmatite, Mount Kedykverpakhk, Lovozero, Kola Peninsula.

6. Crystals of **catapleiite** in cavity of its pseudomorph after large crystal of zirsinalite(?). 8 cm. Catapleiiitovoe pegmatite, Umbozero mine, Mt. Alluaiv, Lovozero, Kola Peninsula.