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Mark Mauthner, USA

TMGS Exhibits: fluorite

This year's theme was fluorite, a species that, as the title of the Royal Ontario Museum's display proclaims, is "*widely collected and admired*". It is, in fact, one of the most popular mineral species for collectors as the variety and riot of colour seen in the Main Show's exhibits attest. That such a colourful mineral also occurs in so many world-wide localities and is not as expensive as other gemmy, chromatic species, such as tourmaline, beryl or topaz, adds to its popularity.

Of all the theme adherent displays, the one that best exemplified the wide range of geography, hue and shape was, in my view, the series of cases presented by Marty Zinn. Not only that, but I felt the exhibitry matched the superior nature of the collection itself: very clean, uncrowded and impactful, with a spot of humour in the "*Fluorspar Rd*" sign.

Another display with excellent objects well presented that I thoroughly enjoyed was that of David and Elizabeth Hacker's "*Derbyshire Blue John*", which included one of the most aesthetic specimens of "rough" I have seen of the material, a wide selection of fine finished objects accompanied by a brief, informative text panel and a few contextual artifacts to round things out.

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77. Exposition of *Mineralogical Almanac and Russian Minerals* Company devotes to new finds of fluorite on Khuray deposit (Buryatiya, Russia): fluorite specimens and their paintings by Vladimir Scherbina, (oil, canvas), 2013.
Photo: G. Spann.



Exhibits at the 2013 Tucson Gem And Mineral Society Show, Tucson, Arizona, USA.

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72. **Fluorite** (Blue John).
Castleton, Derbyshire, England, UK.
David and Elizabeth Hacker collection.

73. **Fluorite**; field of view ~15 cm across. Hansonburg District, Socorro County, New Mexico, USA. Collector exhibit.

74. **Fluorite** (Blue John);
~10 cm across.
Castleton, Derbyshire, England, UK.
David and Elizabeth Hacker collection.

75. GIA Museum exhibit.

76. Classic Minerals case by Wayne & Dona Leicht.

That popularity and the impressive myriad that is fluorite was clearly evident, with notable geographic representation of the classic (Illinois, New Mexico, Mexico, England, for example – and what a treat to see entire cases devoted to the occurrences in France displayed by Alain Martaud), the current and the novel (Bob Jackson's fluorite encrusted quartz epimorphs after calcite are a fascinating entry on the Arizona mineral scene and a dramatically displayed collection of rare and unusual specimens from the Strzegom pegmatites in Poland, assembled by the Spirifer Geological Society, comes to mind).

Among the non-fluorite themed cases, my favourite has to be the GIA Museum's "*Brilliance of Trilliants*" case, which featured over 100 triangle shaped cut gemstones in a modified spectrum arrangement. "Modified" in that the museum staff, Terri Ottaway and McKenzie Santimer, chose to place red at the centre of the "spectrum"; something that I think, having created a "rainbow" display of minerals before, worked rather well in that it retained the familiar while creating a more balanced overall effect.

The Leicht's presented two large cases vibrantly stuffed with pieces from their collection. While I normally find simple, clean exhibitry preferable, I still found my eyes wandering over the stunning contents of these cases, seeing old friends and discovering fantastic treasures on the way. Perhaps representative of specimens and cases throughout the whole Show's exhibits, it was hard to remember or even take in everything in those cases, but several awe-inspiring specimens will leave a very long lasting impression on the gray cells of this fortunate attendee's memory banks.

Photos 72–74 and 78–79: Mark Mauthner.

78. **Fluorite** on quartz epimorphs after **calcite**; ~12 cm across.
Blueberry Pocket (2012), La Fuerita Dulcita Prospect, Cochise County, Arizona, USA. *Geology Adventures* specimen.

79. **Fluorite**. Le Beix Mine, Herment, Puy-de-Dôme department, Auvergne Region, France. Alain Martaud collection.

