

■ 20 YEARS IN MINERALOGICAL PUBLISHING

In 2013 we celebrate 20 years of our publishing in the field of “Mineralogy for Collectors” our magazine “Mineralogical Almanac” is a product of “Perestroika” – crucial, let's say dramatic political and economical changes in the former USSR. People were given the freedom to arrange or participate in all kinds of legal enterprises at their own risk and responsibility. We were full of hopes and enthusiasm. A lot of different newspapers and magazines suddenly appeared at that time. Ours was one of hundreds. We were ignorant of the economical aspects of the publishing business, but we hoped that knowledge of the subject would help us to succeed. From the very beginning we agreed that we would provide information to mineral collectors worldwide. Thus we designed our magazine as an English language publication, containing notes and articles about the mineralogy of Russia and countries of the former Soviet Union. At first we printed additional supplements of all the articles in Russian. But in 1998 we decided to publish identical versions of each issue: one in English and another in the Russian language. Since 2008 Mineralogical Almanac appears three times a year.

The main themes of our magazines are typical for such publication. We have several regular sections:

Localities. This is the main section of our issues. Moreover, each year we publish a special issue (it is 30 % thicker than regular issues) which we devote to one remarkable locality or place of origin. At present we have published the following special issues: *Dalnegorsk* (vol. 4), *Murzinka* (vol. 5), *Kukisvumchorr Deposit* (vol. 7), *Kerch* (vol. 8), *Ilmeny Mountains* (vol. 9), *Volodarsk-Volynskii* (vol. 12), *Ural Emerald Mines* (vol. 14-2), *Belorechenskoe Deposit* (vol. 15-2), *Rubtsovskoe* (vol. 16-1), *Subpolar Urals* (vol. 17-2), and *Kola Peninsula* (vol. 18-2). One of the most important special issues is *New Minerals from Former Soviet Union Countries 1996-2006* (vol. 11).

History of Mineralogy. We publish articles on outstanding museum and private collections, their history and sometimes their dramatic or happy fate. Some of these stories are so interesting that we publish them as separate issues: “Struve Collection” in the Fersman Mineralogical Museum, “Princes Gagarin’s Collection” in the Vernadsky State Geological Museum, etc. Some of these stories come to us from museums outside of Russia – from Vienna (Austria), Budapest (Hungary), Berlin, Munich, Jena (all Germany); Edinburgh (Scotland), and Paris (France). We have published two special issues of the Almanac devoted to *Mineral Collections of Russia* – (*Fourteen Personal Collections* (vol. 2) and *Twelve Museum Collections* (vol. 3)).

News from Field Trips. In this section we publish stories told by traveling collectors who spent days and weeks to get to some remote point on the map for the sake of several mineral specimens, which they mined themselves there. These people with strong hands and nerves and sunburned faces are regular heroes of our publications.

New Finds. It is here that we publish a photo of just one specimen in a full page format. The criteria for our choice are handsome (fine) specimens, perfect in shape and color, esthetically attractive, and another condition – the specimen should have been mined in the current year.

Mineral Show Reports. As a rule during the year we try to cover the following shows: Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show, WestWardLook Show, Tucson Gem and Mineral Show in Tucson (USA); Samotsvetnyi Razval (Gemma) in Moscow (Russia), Saint-Marie-aux-Mines in France; Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show and Denver Gem & Mineral Show in Denver, USA; Days of Minerals – (Munich, Germany); Jewelry Olympus (St.Petersburg, Russia).

Personalities in Mineralogy. This is a history of persons in mineralogy from A to Z.

Ontogeny of Minerals is a very important part of our publications. Each issue has information on this subject, and we published one special issue - *Crystal Growth & Development* (vol. 6.).

We would like to mention our important publications: *Gold* (vol. 1), and books: *Lovozero massif: History. Pegmatites. Minerals.* by Igor V. Pekov; *Minerals First Discovered on the Territory of the Former Soviet Union* by Igor V. Pekov; *Geology of Gems* by Eugene Ya. Kievlenko (edited by Art Soregaroli); *Natural Mineral Forms* by Alexander Godovikov and Viktor I. Stepanov.

The authors of our basic articles are professional mineralogists, museum curators, and advanced well-educated collectors. Our Editorial board consists of prominent scientists – mineralogists, geologists and professors of Lomonosov Moscow State University and Scientific Institutes of Academy of Sciences.

We are able to continue thanks to our friends. From the very beginning we were lucky to meet the extraordinary couple – **Marie and Terry Huizing**. For all of our 20 years they have been teaching us by sharing the secrets of publishing and sales. Their good will and patience seem to have no boundaries – when we made fatal mistakes, they pulled us out of the holes that we had fallen into.

Among those who encouraged us strongly at the very beginning was the late **Dr. Richard V. Gaines**. He wrote us a letter immediately after receiving the first issue and this letter was the first response to our publication. The letter was short, written by hand and sent by regular mail. We were really happy to read his congratulations and words of approval and support. It was Dr. Gaines, who presented us to Marie Huizing and arranged our first meeting at the Executive Inn during the Tucson Show twenty years ago.

Thanks to the hospitality of **Irina and Gregory Abramov** from Denver we have a “basic camp” in America, where we feel as if being in our native home. For all these years they have provided us with all kinds of support and help.

Herbert Obodda was the first volunteer representative of our magazine in the USA. It was he who attracted the attention of many US mineral dealers to our magazine. His impact in our growth could hardly be overestimated. For 20 years he has also supported us as an advertiser.

Bryan Lees gave us his friendly hand from the very beginning. He helped us not only with the magazine, but supported another project of the 1990's – the production of the video “*Gems of Russia*” hosted by Bob Jones.

Dr. John S. White has cooperated with us for many years. Thanks to his persistent efforts the texts in Almanac are improved greatly both in style and essence. John is an active member of the editorial board and he works hard to make the magazine better.

We are most grateful to **Irena and Eric Rook**, Mr. **Pim Kwak**, **Adriana and Renato Pagano**, **Dona and Wayne Leicht** and many others for their valued support of our magazine.

We receive a powerful impulse from cooperation with the Russian Mineralogical Society headed by academician **Dmitrii Rundqvist** and the Russian Geological Society (president **Yurii Orlov**). We get regular support from Lomonosov Moscow University authorities, and personally from vice-rector **Victor T. Trofimov**, museum directors and curators, professional mineralogists and amateur mineral collectors. All of these gifted people form a large family that creates ideas for further investigations, research trips, and new publications. We just take their ideas and put some of them into practice.

We produce our Almanac using modern technologies – digital mineral photography, digital image processing and color printing. Though important for the production of a good journal, they would not guarantee positive results without a team of professionals: Nikolay Parlashkevich, art director; Dmitrii Kilpio, designer; Yurii Ivanov, image computer processing artist; Ivan Glazov, layout; Natalia Vishnevskaya, computer graphics editor; Ekaterina Yakunina, advertising and promotion manager; Michael Bogomolov, Natalia Pekova and Stas Pekov, associate photographers; Pat and Michael Gray and Art Soregaroli, style editors. And for all these years we enjoyed the cooperation of translators Maria Alferova, Il'ya Anisimov, Ivan Baksheev, Yulia Belovitskaya, Olga Ellanskaya, Mark Fed'kin, Il'ya Kubantzev, Mikhail Povarennykh, Victor Zubarev, Alexander Yakubchuk, and Victor Zubarev.

There are many of our friends around the world who have continued to encourage us all these years. Though it is impossible to name all our friends on these pages due to the limited size of the issue, let us express gratitude and convey best wishes to our friends and colleagues:

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