DENVER MINERAL SHOW
SEPTEMBER, 2013

Photo Report by Rainer Bode
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on Exhibition
“Tourmaline of the World”,
Denver Mineral Show,
September, 2013.
We are so accustomed to the high levels of Munich Mineral Show, where high quality management in full harmony with the equally high quality of “stone” material, that we would rather call Mineralientage Munich-2013 quite standard, if not for one thing: this year, Munich Show is celebrating its fifty-year anniversary. In half of a century the Show has become a major event in Europe for everyone connected with minerals — for professional mineralogists, museum curators, for the vast army of collectors, and mineral amateurs. Dealers and miners used to bring here all their latest and greatest finds that they managed to get over the summer field season, so with trepidation and impatience everybody expect the opening day of the Show.

In 50 years the Show was visited by countless visitors from around the world. Inside the spacious, well-arranged halls at the booths of the Show, visitors can often come across real masterpieces, worthy of the best museums in the world. Well, curators of leading mineralogical museums — regular visitors of the Show and they never miss an opportunity to add a new fine specimen to the museum collection.

This annual “feast of minerals” has become a global event, thanks to indomitable energy and creative ingenuity of Johannes Keilmann, the Show’s founder, and his wife Hermi who led the Show since 1963 until the last few years, when they handed over the management in the capable hands of their son Cristopher Keilmann.

It was the Munich Show where the “discovery” of Russia for collectors from the rest of the World happened: here in the late 1980s, when Russia began “Perestroika”, came our collectors and brought specimens of Russian minerals, which became a sensation...

There is no surprise in the fact that Show organizers have chosen as the subjects of the year “Gold”.

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1. Jubilee staircase at the Munich Show.

2. Christoph Keilman, Managing Director of the Munich Show, declares the Show 2013 open.

3. Mr. Johannes Keilmann, founder of the Show (right) and Christoph Keilman, Managing Director of the Munich Show.

5. Alexandro Stern (The Jungle Buyer) with customer.
6. Johan Kjellman (Museum of Evolution, Uppsala University) represented historical gold from Russia.
7. Frau Hermi Keliman.
9. Mary Fong and James Walker (Heritage Auctions) are talking to Kyla Donell (Arkestone).
10. Mineralogical Almanac booth manned by our friends.
11. Jaroslav Konecny with an amethyst specimen (Brandberg, Namibia) from KARP minerals/Czech.
12. Main entrance to the Show.
14. Adriana Pagano (Mineralogical Record) and Marie Huizing (Rocks & Minerals).
15. Stephanie Snyder (Stonetrust), Gunther Neumeier (Mineralogical Record) are talking with collector from Italy.
17. Peter Lyckberg (Sweden) and Albert Russ (Slowakia).
18. Bryan and Tresa Kosnar (Mineral Classics) and Dr. Edward Rosenzweig (Edwards Minerals).
19. Jeff Scovil and Mike Leybov (Mineralogical Almanac).
20. Ian Bruce and Diana Schlegel (Crystal Classics, UK).
21. Zhang Shi Cheng (Shi Sheng Mineral & Jewelry Exhibition Hall) with new specimens from Inner Mongolia, China.
The specimens of natural gold on quartz from the Museum of Natural History in Milan (Italy) seemed to be interesting pieces among the contemporary European specimens. Looked like tangled wire splices of natural gold were apparently released by dissolving of quartz matrix, and they look very impressive.

South African Republic, one of the major gold-producing countries for almost the entire 20th century, being a world leader of gold production, was presented at the even more modestly than Russia — just a couple of small specimens in the display of the London Natural History Museum.

Australia was presented brightly and powerfully at the exhibition with specimens from the private collection of Robert Sielecki. The best of which was a nugget "Ausrox", weighing 23 kg 260 g found in 2010 and then became a real sensation Tucson Show. At the moment it is in a private collection.

South American gold, which many people associated with the time of the Conquest, was widely presented in the collection by "Stonetrust" by modern specimens of natural gold from Venezuela. Finally, gold of North America. Natural gold from deposits of the United States was represented extensively by a large group of private collectors and museums. Obviously, North American gold completely reigned in this exhibition by the number of specimens and their quality.

Dozens of outstanding specimens of the famous fields of California, Colorado, Nevada can be seen in almost every showcase of private collections and museums. And the major masterpieces — specimens from the collection of Dona and Wayne Leicht and specimens from the collection of the Natural History Museum in Houston — were stored in separate showcases — safes.

Generally, the exhibition "Gold" — a powerful hymn to nature, which created all this glittering splendor and perfection of different forms of natural gold. We must thank all those who resist the temptation to melt these masterpieces into ingots, preserved the pristine beauty of natural gold and provided us with the opportunity to see them with own eyes.

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