EDITORIAL

Sherlova Gora has been famous for almost three centuries as a source of excellent of beryl and topaz specimens as well as aquamarine and heliodor of gem quality. During the last century Sherlova Gora became known in our country as a complex ore deposit exploited for tin, tungsten, bismuth, lead, and zinc. Today industrial exploitation of this locality is no longer conducted. Nevertheless, findings of interesting mineralogical specimens are still continuing. Almost two hundred mineral species has been discovered within the Sherlova Gora locality and, according to the work of the several last decades, no less than half of these minerals occur in the oxidizing zone of sulfide-containing ore bodies. Several minerals from this list are very rare, and can rarely be found elsewhere. This issue consists of two mutually large articles written by specialists who have made significant contributions to the knowledge of Sherlova Gora`s mineralogy. Both articles contain a significant amount of original data.

The first article is by Georgiy A. Yurgenson and Oleg V. Kononov – well-known Russian mineralogists and geologists. They have investigated for a long period of time the localities gemstones and ore mineralization. This article is dedicated first to the hypogene formations of the Sherlova Gora locality, and our attention is focused on the mineral associations with gemstones. The most interesting and important minerals reviewed in this article are: beryl, topaz, quartz, fluorite, tourmaline, cassiterite, wolframite, and arsenopyrite. A complicated history of the investigation and exploitation of these Transbaikal localities is also thoroughly presented by these authors in this article as well as rather detailed data on the geology of the Sherlova Gora deposit. The ore bodies with gemstones and tin-polymetal mineralization are also completely characterized, and it is shown that the Sherlova Gora locality is still very promising, not only as a source of mineral specimens, but also gem varieties of beryl, topaz and smoky quarts.

The second article is dedicated to the mineralogy of the Sherlova Gora locality oxidized zone. The authors, Anatoly V. Kasatkin, Konstantin I. Klopotov, Jakub Plášill, have been systematically and very thoroughly investigating (using up-to-date mineralogical methods) the supergene minerals of the Sherlova Gora locality during the several last years. They studied specimens they personally collected as well as older mineralogical samples in museums. They also gathered and analyzed all of the appropriate scientific literature, and they provided the most complete and modern list of Sherlova Gora's minerals. The wonderful treasures and diversity of secondary mineralization of this locality are shown in the article, first of all the arsenate (in particular they characterized world-class discoveries of mixite group minerals) and sulphate mineralization. After their analysis of these minerals one can understand that the Sherlova Gora locality should be put on the list of the top ten Russian mineral localities due to the mineralogy of the oxidized zones of chalkogene sulfide-containing ore bodies. The complicated history of the investigation and exploitation of this Transbaikal locality is also reflected in the article, but it is shorter than the article written by G.A. Yurgenson and O.V. Kononov. Our editorial hope is that publishing both historical reviews is useful because they organically add to each other, and they simultaneously give more full knowledge in this respect than if alone due to the different points of view and historical material presented. We hope that these two articles will be interesting to the readers and allow them to know more about this famous Sherlova Gora, one of the oldest and most classic mineral localities of Russia.

To illustrate this issue, we used mostly photographs of specimens taken in museums and private collections.

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