

## FIRST RUSSIAN HARDROCK GOLD IN FERSMAN MINERALOGICAL MUSEUM

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**Nicholas Stolowitz and Dylan**

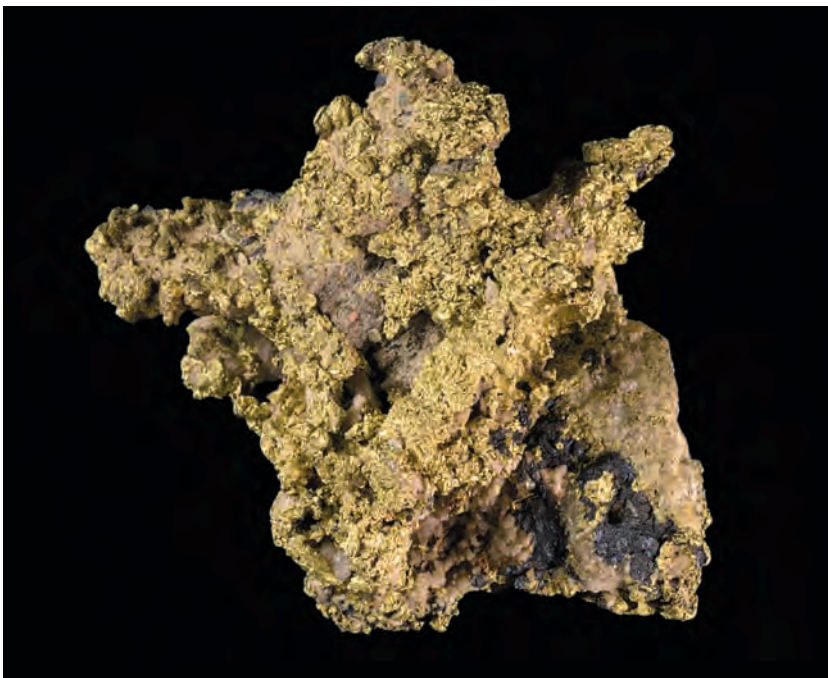
**Stolowitz** of *Green Mountain Minerals*,  
Garrison, New York, USA.

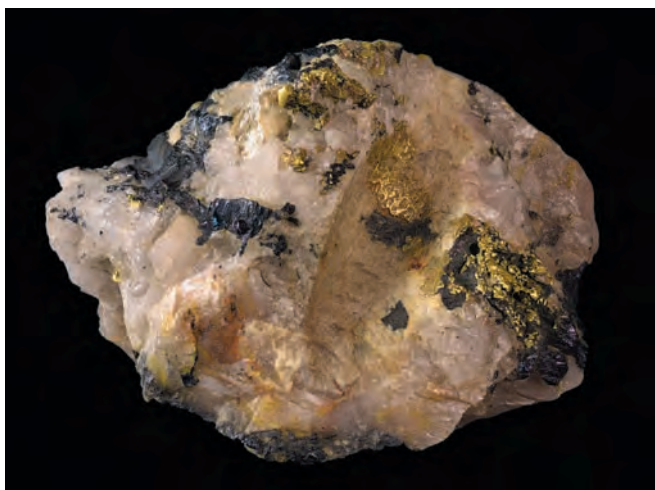
The Fersman Mineralogical Museum Collection has 45 specimens labelled «Voitskiy Mine». These are gold, chalcopyrite, bornite, serpentine, gypsum with barite and chalcopyrite. Gold (18 specimens in total) is from the old collections (14 specimens are referred to the inventory book with the first numbers from the Grewingk Catalogue, compiled in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century), as well as from collections of Scheintswitt, Kochubey and Kryzhanovskiy.

Эти These specimens, along with many others in the museum collection, are not only an example of mineralization, they are witnesses of complex and dramatic history of the legendary mine and mineral resources of Russia and many related events.

Let us start from the text written in the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century: «*There is no gold and silver born in the Moscow State, although the Chronicles report that Russian land is rich in gold and silver. However it could not be found and if it happens the Moscovites are not taught to do it even if it is very small. Foreigners would be able to find gold and silver, but do not want to be involved as can loose the money and business after they teach how to manage the plants*» (Kotoshikhin, 1859). This was

**Gold** aggregate in quartz-carbonate-sulfide vein. 5.5 x 4.5 cm. Gold mass is around 65 g, the fineness is about 700. Voitsky mine, Karelia, Russia, mined in 18<sup>th</sup> century. Systematic collection of Fersman Mineralogical museum, MMF #687 (#1 according to Constantin von Grewings' catalog of 19<sup>th</sup> century). Photo: Michael B. Leybov.





**Gold** in quartz-carbonate ore.  
11 x 8 cm. Gold mass is approximately  
15 g. Voitsky mine, Karelia, Russia.  
mined in 18<sup>th</sup> century.  
Systematic collection of Fersman  
Mineralogical Museum, #MMF 688,  
(#2 on the Constantin von Grewings'  
catalog, beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century).  
Photo: Michael B. Leybov.

It is not possible to completely exclude the veins of the Voitsky Mine and other mineralogically similar gold occurrences of Karelia as a source of metal in the glacial sediments of the Russian Platform. This was obviously not a single and main source. It is possible that the ore material was supplied into glacial moraine not directly from such sources, but rather from intermediate collectors.

This turns ore gold of the Voitsky Mine, recovered in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and kept in the funds of the Fersman Mineralogical Museum, into a very rare material, which unites complex ways of the Russian history and mineralogy in gold, one of the most demanding minerals by the humankind.

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