

Anatoly Nikolayevich Korobkov  
(b. 1925).

### Anatoly N. Korobkov: A Remarkable Jubilee

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Anatoly Nikolayevich Korobkov turned 90 years old. Veteran of the World War II, who has started his military service as air forces pilot in the age of 16, close associate of Mstislav V. Keldysh, developer of the most advanced defense technologies, graduate artist, passionate amateur of minerals and most of all a good-hearted, genteel, caring and empathic person – all of these apply to Anatoly Korobkov.

He was fond of the minerals since his childhood and kept this passion all his life long, along with the interest in his main occupation. He only could devote the whole of himself to this infatuation after his dismissal from his main work. Spending all his free time on collecting and processing minerals, Anatoly Nikolayevich became the founder of a new movement in the decorative arts: miniature pictures “found” at the ornamental stone specimens and framed in the own-designed frames.

In the 1960’s, Anatoly Korobkov joined the Mineral Amateurs Club under the Moscow association of nature explorers (MOIP) and chairs this society permanently since 1982.

During his chairmanship, which amounts to more than 30 years, the educating and popularizing activities of the Society, which were traditionally important for the MOIP whose section the Society had formed, increased considerably. For almost 40 years, the number of the participants in the yearly exhibition “*Astonishing Minerals*” that had been organized since 1969 and held in the in the Timiryazev Biology Museum, increased from year to year.

The first exhibition counted only 17 participants, while their number reached 300 in the most successful years. This was a true “golden age” of exhibition, which is proven with the figures. As of 1988, this exhibitions had been visited by around 780 thousand people. Moreover, this figure was calculated only by tickets, without taking into account the personal invitations. Over 20 000 adoring records have been left in the exhibition’s guestbook. In the latest few years, the exhibition “*Astonishing Minerals*” takes place in our museum. Though its scope is relatively modest, it’s crucial that this half-century-old tradition remains actual. Anatoly Korobkov keeps promoting the idea of preservation of the Russia’s mineral assets. Collection and preservation of minerals which would otherwise have been doomed to destruction became the foreground purpose of the Mineral Amateurs Club and its cultural mission.

Temporary exhibitions are a mere drop in the ocean amongst the existing private collections. Korobkov has long been advocating for the creation of a private collections Museum so that a much wider audience could witness these treasures. It is not just collectors that are supportive of the idea. A detailed programme for the museum’s structure already exists. It is only two things that hold it back from fruition: the lack of exhibition space and the need for a blessing from Moscow’s administration (Government).

Anatoly Korobkov’s own collection of minerals, that he has been collection for more than 50 years with the help of his wife Victoria Veniaminovna, includes over 3500 specimens. Its core consists of fancy patterned specimens of agate and jasper, while its cherry on top are the ornamental stone miniatures artistically framed by the author. They became famous due to numerous exhibitions and publications, including the album “*Zhivopis v kamne (Painting in Minerals)*” published by our museum. Looking at this wonderful pictures and admiring the fancy of nature, one always feels a sense of gratitude towards the artist that was able to detect and show us this unique “painting”. Anatoly Nikolayevich is still full of creative energy: he exposed his new wonderful works at the recent 47<sup>th</sup> exhibition “*Astonishing Minerals*”.

We congratulate Anatoly Nikolayevich Korobkov on his jubilee, express our gratitude for our longstanding cooperation and wish him perfect health, good spirits and inspiration.

Fersman Mineralogical Museum (RAS, Moscow) Team

## New Finds: Dolomite from Onot Deposit



**Dolomite** twin. 20 x 18 cm.  
Onot Deposit, Cheremkhovskii district, Irkutsk Oblast, South Sibirea, Russia.  
Private collection. Finds in 2015. Photo: Michael B. Leybov.

## The Stone Cutters Ovchinnikov's Dynasty from Ural

On March 12, 2015, the State Art Gallery of Perm (PGHG) exposed for the first time the stone-cutting artworks produced by three generations of the Ovchinnikovs, a famous family from the Kama region: «*The Stone Cutters Ovchinnikov: a Dynasty from the Urals*». The exhibition was inspired by the history of the Western Urals stone-cutting art itself, which has begun by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the works of the artisan families. It is widely known that children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren continued the work started by their ancestors. The honorable patriarch of the Ovchinnikovs family is Anatoly Moiseevich, a hereditary stone-cutter, an eminent sculptor, holder of the Distinguished Artist of the Russian Federation title and of numerous awards. For 60 years, his path in the world of art was bound to clash with the unique stone-cutting traditions of the Kama region, which is first of all famous due to the art of the soft and colorful stone carving: calcite, anhydrite, talcochlorite and selenite. Keeping alive the best traditions of the Urals stone-cutting and using the classical experience of the Russian and worldwide realistic art, Mr. Ovchinnikov developed his own style and an unmatched artistic pattern. The artist proved the possibility to use soft stones in a variety of artistic genres – from small-sized ornamental figures to the full-sized indoor sculpture. From the 2000's beginning on, the small-sized animalist sculpture in the repertory of A.M. Ovchinnikov was supplemented with large-sized artworks for indoor use: ornamental bowls, large clock cases, torsos, figures and sculpture composi-

tions, as well as compact relief icons and utilitarian objects combining beauty with functionality. The son Roman and the daughter Tatiana followed the path of their father and mother – Faina Pavlovna Ovchinnikova, another famous stone-cutter from the Kama region. As of today, they take part in many domestic and international exhibition, festivals, workshops and competitions. Their artworks are exposed in the Art and History museum of Zagorsk, the Moscow Kremlin Armory, the Art Gallery of Perm and in many other museums and private collections, both in Russian Federation and abroad. Roman Anatolievich, the son of Anatoly Moiseevich, has an artistic family too: his wife Tatiana and the elder son Dmitry are sculptors and stone-cutters. The dynasty of Ovchinnikovs comprises the artist with very various individual taste and preferences. Every one of them “speaks” his own language in the art of sculpture. But they are all united by their attitude towards the stone, which they consider as a living spirited material and the co-author of their artworks. The exhibition is divided into three topical sections and includes over 150 stone-cutting artworks created by the Ovchinnikovs in more than a semi-centenary. The artworks of the last decade are prevailing. The exhibits are courtesy of the Art Gallery of Perm, the private collector Yu.A. Kozlov and the artists' workshops. Besides the exhibits, the exhibition includes the fine-art photographs by A.M. Ovchinnikov and photos from the family's archive.

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1. Anatoly Moiseevich Ovchinnikov (on the right), his son Roman and daughter-in-law Tatiana.

2. Owl (anhydrite, talcochlorite). 28 x 16.5 cm. A.M. Ovchinnikov, 2013.
3. Fox (yellow and white anhydrite). 10.5 x 23 cm. A.M. Ovchinnikov, 2013.
4. Bear (brown and grey anhydrite), 30 x 48 cm. R.A. Ovchinnikov, 2014 (design by A.M. Ovchinnikov).

**Photos: A.I. Pestova.**



## The “Astonishing Minerals”-2015 Exhibition

This yearly exhibition is known in Moscow since 1965. It is organized by the Mineral Amateurs Club under the Moscow association of nature explorers (MOIP). For almost 40 years, it has taken place in the premises of the Timiryazev Biology Museum and was extraordinarily famous: its visitors number reached 35 000 people sometimes. After several years of wearisome roving from one room to another, the “*Astonishing Minerals*” exhibition finally found its permanent place in the Fersman Mineralogical Museum of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS).

On March 22, the 47<sup>th</sup> exhibition was opened. The exhibition was relatively modest and consisted of eight showcases where various exhibits of the seventeen participants were exposed. There were all kinds of stone specimens there: raw and polished, Russian and international, as well as articles made of stone.

The Mineral Amateurs Club’s Chairman and at the same time one of the oldest exhibition participants, Anatoly N. Korobkov, accompanied by his wife Victoria Veniaminovna, presented the stone specimens from their own collection. His new work – landscape jasper and agate framed in the own-designed frames (Fig. 1) – kindled a particular interest.

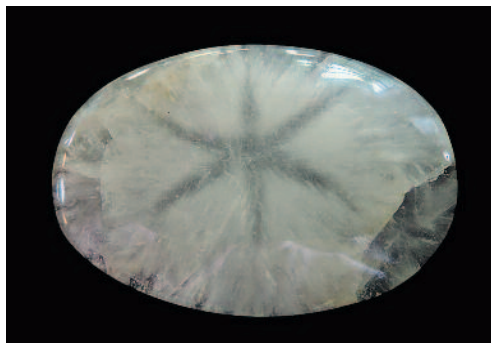
Another long-time Club member, M.L. Fedorov, also presented some small but impressive specimens from his collection. E.M. Sterninson showed a monomineral collection – a selection of finely coloured fluorites from various deposits around the

world. The large calcedony septarium from the Altai (Fig. 3) is the most arresting exhibit from the collection of Leonid M. Yoffe. Mikhail Yu. Bakhin presented polished speckled jasper and flint specimens – as he usually does, including several landscape stones. The oval cabochon which is a section of sectorial quartz crystal with a translucent hexactine star inside (Fig. 2) is something particularly interesting among the exhibits of E.Ya. Rofin. Though the region of Moscow seems to be very well trodden by the geologists, there are many new specimens collected there by several participants, for example an amethyst inside a flint found by Nina M. Kunitsyna (Fig. 4). M.E. Beresovsky, a permanent exhibitor, gladdened the public with his stone handiworks: little dogs and colourful butterflies. The collection of minerals of Bulgaria collected by Valentina E. Lashneva and Mikhail A. Bogomolov, whose pictures are exposed at the exhibition, is also very expressive. Though it is not possible to mention and honorate all the exhibition participants and their fascinating exhibits within a short report, but we would like to invite the readers to visit the exhibition.

The “*Astonishing Minerals*” exhibition has now taken place in the our museum for the fourth time. We hope that the connection between the mineral amateurs and the professional mineralogists will increase and promote not only the tradition of these yearly exhibitions, but also give start to new interesting projects.

**Elena L. Sokolova, Oxana L. Sveshnikova,  
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1. Framed **agate**. 6.5 x 7.5 cm. Specimen and design: Anatoly N. Korobkov.
2. **Quartz** (cabochon with a star inside). 4 x 6 cm. Astafievskoye deposit, S. Urals, Russia. Specimen: E.Ya. Rofin.
3. **Calcedony**, argillite septarium. 14.5 cm. Chagan-Uzun, Altai, Russia. Specimen: Leonid M. Yoffe.
4. **Amethyst** and quartz in flint. 16 cm. Kalinovskie Vyselki, Moscow. Specimen: Nina M. Kunitsyna.

**Photos: Mikhail A. Bogomolov,  
Elena N. Matvienko.**

