

"MINERAL & GEM" SHOW-2015 IN SAINTE-MARIE-AUX-MINES, FRANCE



4. View to Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines.
Photo: Jolyon Ralph (mindat.org).

1. **Vivianite** crystal (5 cm) on matrix. 8 x 6.5 cm.
Huanuni Mine, Dalance Prov, Oruro Department,
Bolivia. Specimen: Alfred Schreilechner.

2. **Ruby** crystal. 5 x 4 cm, 400 cts.
Mogok, Burma. Specimen: Federico Barlocher.

3. **Vivianite** on matrix. 25 cm across.
Cabeza do Cachorro Mine, Floresta Amazonica,
Amazonas, Brazil. Specimen: *Crystal Classics*.

Photo 1–3: Albert Russ; 5–6: Rainer Bode.

5. Jörg Thomas, artist (*right*) and
Claude Abel, mayor of Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines.
6. Children are drawing minerals.



1. Collector's Notes

"*Mineral and Gem*" Show in Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines (Alsace, France) is the second one in Europe (after the Munich Show). It is held every year for more than half a century in the last weekend of June. The mineral dealers from European countries as well as South America, Asia, Africa and Russia take participant in it. The most convenient way to get there is to rent a car in the airport of Frankfurt, Stuttgart or Basel. Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines is a small town that has been famed due to the silver mining. Silver was discovered here yet in the 9th century; besides, copper, cobalt and arsenic ores were also mined. Now this is an important historical center; yearly holding here a mineral show is unimitatedly and harmonically bound with the region cultural traditions.

The show had this year 1500 participants. About 1000 dealers from 53 countries presented mineral specimens, micromounts, fossils, meteorites, precious stones, jewels, accompanying goods and accessories. About 500 volunteers were ready to help attendants and participants. The show occupied totally 55000 square meters including buildings, halls, parks, and, merely, city streets. This year about seven special exhibitions were organized, among them most interesting for mineral collectors are "*Alpes Minerals*", "*Minerals and Paintings*", "*The Staurolites*" (see more on page 91).

For the first time, it was organized a Symposium open to public. Four speakers presented their work on the following topics: '*Mineral Collection Cataloguing in the 21st century*' by J. Ralph; '*What good gem cutting is and why it is worse than exclusive*' by V. Tuzlukov, '*On the importance of Mineralogy Museums: display and collections*' by Eloïse Gaillou, and '*The Amber of Kaliningrad*' by I. Toropova.

As to the presented minerals, the numerous, vivianite crystals of high quality and big sizes from Bolivia should be mentioned in the first line. A Schreilechner (Austria) had an especially wide range of choice.

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7. **Copper** on matrix. 12 cm tall. Tur'insk mine, Tulga River, Sverdlovskaya Oblast, North Ural, Russia. Specimen: *Wendel Minerals*.

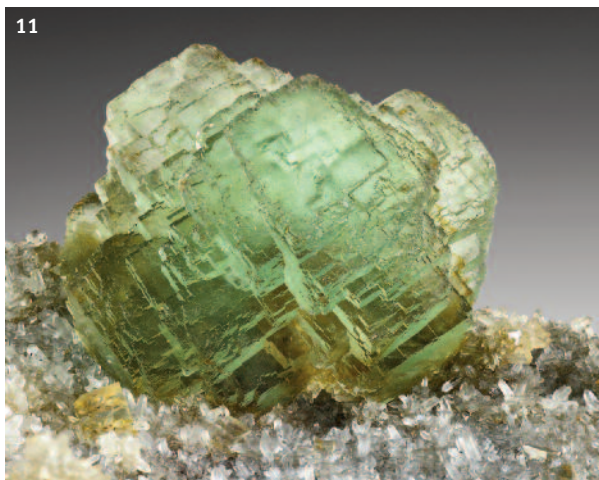
8. Bi-color **spodumene** crystal, about 30 cm tall. Resplendor, Doce Valley, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Specimen: *Wendel Minerals*.

9. **Silver**. 10 cm across. Himmelsfurst Mine, Brand-Erbisdorf, Freiberg, Saxony, Germany. Specimen: *Wendel Minerals*.

10. **Corundum** (var. sapphire). Up to 6 cm tall. Ilmeny Mts., South Ural, Russia. Specimen: *Wendel Minerals*.

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11. **Fluorite** crystal (5 cm across) on matrix. Youxi, Sanming, Fujian, China. Specimen: Karp.
12. **Hematite** (var. iron rose) crystal (up to 1 cm diameter) on matrix. La Fibbia, Gotthard Area, Tessin, Switzerland. Specimen: Jürgen Margraf.
13. **Corundum** (var. ruby) crystal (3.3 x 2.5 x 2.3 cm) in marble matrix. 17 cm tall. Kadote-tat Mine, Mogok, Burma. Specimen: Federico Barlocher.



One could also purchase here both good material from old collections and minerals of new finds. *Crystal Classics* (Great Britain) offered fine tourmaline crystals from Brazil and Afghanistan, uvarovite from Finland, topaz-imperial and vivianite new finds from Brazil; Jürgen Margraf, Austria, had a good choice of specimens of Brazilian tourmaline from an old specific collection; Alvaro Lucio, Brazil, offered crystals of topaz-imperial, euclase and tourmaline from Cruzeiro. Also excellent specimens of zircon from Norway, chalcopyrite on siderite and fluorite from China, specimens from Peru and Bulgaria could be purchased at the Show. Material from Pakistan and Afghanistan, Tanzania, Namibia etc. was widely presented. Most of specimens were impressive though, alas, there was quite a little number of novelties.

As ever, nobody could indifferently overpass stands of Anton Watzl, Austria; Riccardo Prato, Italy; Rudolf Watzl, Austria; Marcus Budil, Monaco, with his excellent tanzanite crystals; Michel Cabrol, France, and Wolfgang Wendel, Germany. These dealers' material is invariably distinguished by its high quality, wide range of species, and geography of finds. Interesting specimens could be seen on the stands of Jordi Fabre, Spain; Mustafa Ghulam, Pakistan; and *Vasconcelos Minerals* company, Brazil. Federico Barlocher, Italy, gladdened with his remarkable minerals from Mogok, Birma

Nevertheless there were no sensational or quite new finds, both beginners and versed collector were able to choose interesting specimens. Beside minerals, to purchase fine specimens for paleontological collections was possible too. The stone products, cut stones and gem raw stones also were on sale at the show. One has to mark pitifully the tendency of mineral prices to grow. This concerns especially the high quality and rare specimens; it's a pity that fewer and fewer of them are coming to the international market directly from their localities.

We would like to mention very friendly atmosphere in the city – more parking places, cafes, and even supermarkets worked additional time so every dealer can buy food and wine after work. It's must be written special book about wine and food of this region of France, but better to try it once then read dozens times about this...

The show of this year surely can be qualified as very successful: the number of guests has reached 30000 – by almost 10 per cent more than in the previous year. Let us wish further prosperity on it!

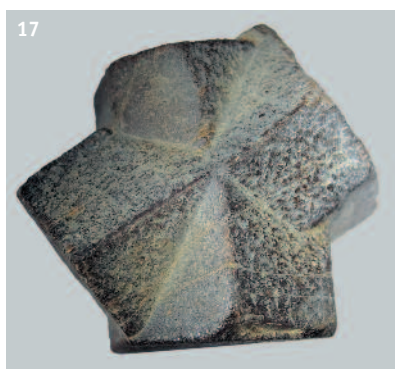
Oleg A. Lopatkin,
collector, minerolog@mail.ru



14–15. Cases of the “Alpes Minerals”
Prestige Exhibition.
Photo: Rainer Bode.

16. **Staurolite**. 7.5 cm.
Coray, Brittany, France.
Specimen and photo: J.-C. Leydet.

17. **Staurolite** macle triple. 3 cm.
Coray, Brittany, France.
Specimen and photo: J.-C. Leydet.



2. Mineralogical Exhibitions

Like every great show several exhibitions have been organized in Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines this year. In the main hall the central exhibition takes place. It was devoted to minerals of the Alps. Visitors were impressed by the pink fluorite and quartz from the Chamonix Valley, titanite crystals from France, amethyst clusters from Italy, and specimens of blue fluorite from France as well as other minerals from the Alps.

Alain Martaud, curator of this exhibition, invited great museums and collectors with their great specimens to be participants in this event. The Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle of Paris, the Museum of Natural History of London, the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale of Milan, the Musée Minéralogique de Mines ParisTech, the Musée Cantonal de Géologie of Lausanne, the Musée minéralogique de l'Université de Strasbourg, the Musée des Confluences of Lyon, the Musée des Cristaux de Chamonix, the Musée des minéraux de Bourg d'Oisans and some private collectors shared their knowledge and beauty of Alpine minerals with the public. A very educational project!

Also the “Minerals and Paintings” exhibition is worth to be noted. Jörg Thomas and Andrië Roth, German artists, presented their paintings in a small cozy hall. One of Jörg's work, imaging faden quartz on calcite, became the Show symbol (Fig. 5 on p. 89).

Very interesting was the exhibition dedicated to staurolite of Brittany (France) and Semiostrvoye occurrence (Western Keivy, Kola Peninsula, Russia). It was organized by Jean-Claude Leydet with the participant of Christian Lolon and Mikhail Anosov (“*Russian Minerals*”). As told us Jean-Claude Leydet, in Brittany three zones of staurolites situated in the paleozoic domains in 360–295 million years (chain varisque or Hercynian): The first one is in the massif of Léon situated in the North of the peninsula of Crozon, Finistère. A zone of 10 x 30 km of Conquet to the North of Brest allows to observe in the cliffs of the crystals of staurolites reaching 3 cm associated to garnets Fe-Mg up to 1 cm. The second is in the massif of Penthièvre, Côtes-d'Armor. A zone of 10 x 50 km in the South of Lannion allows to collect staurolites from 2 to 5 mm. The third is situated in the massif of Cornouaille in the South of the Brittany in the departments of Finistère and Morbihan on a zone of 6 x 100 km. Two major sites are known here Coray (in Finistère) where was collected macles exceeding 10 cm. We find also of the andalousite and the disthène there and Baud in Morbihan where the size of staurolites reaches 5 cm. Rare samples of staurolites with garnet are known. Semiostrvoye is the most known and rich Russian staurolite occurrence. Please read about the staurolite from Semiostrvoye occurrence on pp. 94–95 of this issue.

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