

A NATIONAL MINERALOGICAL COLLECTION AT KRÜGERHAUS IN FREIBERG, SAXONY

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1. View over the Schlossplatz with the Krügerhaus. Photo: T. Mayer.

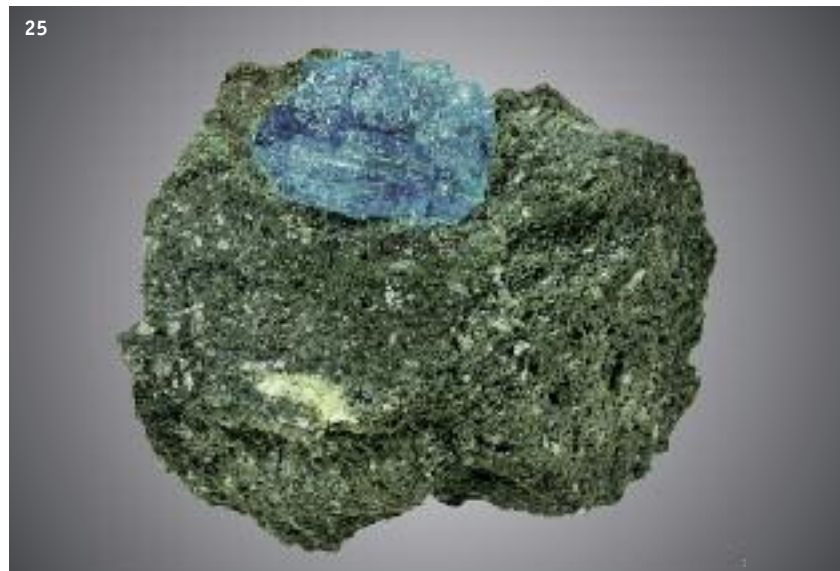
**All specimens
are from German localities**

German scientists have made significant contributions to the development of the geosciences in the last few centuries but the discipline of mineralogy has developed into an independent scientific discipline in Germany, particularly in the town of Freiberg in Saxony. Due to the federal structure and the history of Germany, there are a large number of state and university-owned mineralogical collections in the country, but none with the character of a national mineralogical collection. The oldest academy of mining in the world is located in Freiberg. When this educational institution was founded 250 years ago, geoscientific collections were set up. Today, they are among the ten oldest and largest university collections in the world. The *Terra Mineralia* exhibition was inaugurated at Freudenstein Castle in Freiberg in 2008. This was made possible by the permanent loan of the mineralogical collection of Dr. Erika Pohl-Ströher, from Switzerland, who originally came from the Vogtland region of Saxony. Over a period of 60 years, she put together one of the largest private mineralogical collections in the world. Since the minerals came from all over the world, the concept of a mineralogical world tour was emerged – the *Terra Mineralia*. The exhibition has been very well received by the public, and there are between 80,000 and 90,000 visitors every year. Due to the limited space in Freudenstein Castle, a decision was made, to exhibit the minerals that had been collected at



2. **Strontianite** with **chalcopyrite** on **barite**.
Width 10 cm.
Dreislar, Sauerland, North Rhine-Westphalia.
Collection Prof. Unland, Freiberg.
Photo: H. Meyer.

25. **Häüyn.** Width 3.2 cm.
In den Dellen mine, Niedermendig, Eifel Mts.,
Rhineland-Palatinate.
Mineralogical Collection TU Bergakademie
Freiberg.
Probably the largest crystal ever found.
Photo: A. Massanek.



Euros to the TU Bergakademie Freiberg (Technical University Mining Academy of Freiberg) in order to support applied research. The foundation was named after the father of the Freiberg-born donor, Dr. Erich Krüger, who was a lecturer at the mining academy. The first large project that the foundation supported was the Freiberg High-Pressure Research Center. The goal of the research group was to develop new materials, to optimize and characterize their properties and to extrapolate these findings into marketable products. The vision was to manufacture extremely hard materials that are much cheaper than diamonds but which have a higher degree of resistance to temperature and corrosion. At present, the successful results are being applied in practical applications. Meanwhile, the next research plan is under way – the Bio-Hydro-Metallurgical Center of Strategic Elements. Inter-disciplinary research along the entire bio-

26. **Pyromorphite.** Width 9 cm.
Braubach near Bad Ems, Lahn valley,
Taunus Mts., Rhineland-Palatinate.
Pohl-Ströher mineral foundation.
Photo: H. Meyer.

