



1. **Diamond** cubic.  
76 carats. D.R. Congo (?).  
Specimen and photo: Robert Lavinsky,  
*Arkenstone*.

2. **Phurcalite** from Senhora de Assuncao  
mine, Viseu, Portugal.  
Specimen and photo: Jordi Fabre.

3. **Churchite-Y**. 6.4 x 3.5 x 3.3 cm.  
Skorpion mine, Namibia.  
Specimen: Dieter Brunner, *Kalahari Classics*.  
Photo: John Veevaert



## Mineral Novelties

The Munich Show is without question a must attend event for anyone interested in minerals. It is a relatively short at just 5 days from set up day to Sunday's take down time. But it is an enormous show spread out across four large buildings that were once airplane hangers. It is not possible to take the whole show in so, for me, I tend to focus on where the best minerals are likely to be found and that is Halls A5 and A6.

First a little about Munich. It is a large city spread out over a large area but no car is necessary to get around as there is an outstanding system of underground and surface trains. The Marien Platz area is a dedicated pedestrian area with numerous shops and restaurants featuring classic Bavarian dishes and the world famous German beers.

Now for information about new minerals from the show. I always visit Spanish dealer Jordi Fabre. His material is always of high quality and fairly priced. He had a nice array of specimens of **phurcalite** from a new find made at the Senhora de Assuncao mine, Viseu, Portugal. They are associated with autunite. They are a brilliant yellow color and, though the crystals are small, quite attractive. These erupt with fluorescence under an ultraviolet light source. I opted to not obtain any of these simply because of issues related to carrying radioactive minerals and over zealous customs agents in the USA.

South African dealer Dieter Brunner of *Kalahari Classics* had a new find of **churchite-Y** specimens from the Skorpion mine in Namibia. The crystals are acicular and occur as hemispheres to 0.75 cm across. This find has produced some very large crystals groups of this fairly rare yttrium bearing mineral.

Spanish dealer Luis Miguel Burillo had his usual spread of fine minerals which are meticulously prepped. What piqued my interest in his booth this time were some of the finest **hutchinsonite** crystals from the Quiruvilca mine I have ever seen in terms of luster. Hutchinsonite is one of the few minerals found in nature to contain the element thallium. Thallium is also quite poisonous so care should be excersized when handling these specimens. The three specimens I obtained from him have brilliantly

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11. One of the better **fluorite** specimens I saw in terms of clarity from the new find. Greenlaws mine, Daddy Shield, Weardale, England. 7.1 x 5.3 x 3.7 cm. Specimen: Gerd Wiedenbeck.

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12. **Diopside** and **minrecordite** on **calcite** from Desmond Sacco of Tsumeb. 4.9 x 2.9 x 2.1 cm. Specimen: Paul Balayer.

13. **Hematite** and **calcite** from the N'Chwaning II mine, Kuruman, Kalahari manganese field, Northern Cape Prov., S. Africa. 4.5 x 2.9 x 2.1 cm. Specimen: Paul Balayer.

14. Cuprian **smithsonite** from the Skorpion mine, Rosh Pinah, Lüderitz District, Karas Region, Namibia. 6.7 x 4.4 x 4.0 cm. Specimen: Paul Balayer.

draw is the enormous quantity of good specimens here and of course the great city of Munich. With some hussle you can find many good specimens that won't break the kid' college fund. Mineral prices are what they are and they are continuing to higher — especially for the best pieces. The best quality material is scooped up quickly even at 6 digit prices! Attendance was as high as I can remember and most people were pulling cash out left and right to purchase specimens. An interesting note here is that the vast majority of dealers and collectors only use cash for buying and selling. Few use credit cards and checks are unknown. It all works and the availability of ATM machines makes it easy for me to get cash at only a 1% cost. If you ever come to Europe all you need is an ATM card. No one accepts Traveler's Checks for payment. NO ONE!

I will be back again in 2016 and will look forward to my plate of sausages and sauerkraut and pilsner beer with great anticipation.

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