

Photos 37–40:
Minerals of Trentino exposition at the
Munich Mineral Show,
Mineralientage-2015.
Photo: Roberto Appianni.

Minerals of Trentino: a 200-year History of Discoveries

Trentino is a small province in the North-East of Italy. Its extraordinary geological and mineralogical richness recently contributes to inscribe the Dolomites in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The geology of the Dolomites is also important from an historical point of view: since the end of the 18th century, when Deodat de Dolomieu discovered the dolomite, the mountains of Trentino (then part of the South Tyrol) drew lots of geologists and mineralogist from all over the world. Their studies and the scientific debates they produced were a basic phase for the development of the modern geology. The minerals coming from Dolomites and from the mining district between Trento and the Valsugana Valley became a worldwide classic. In this context a tradition in the mineralogical research strengthened: this is expressed in the exhibition proposed in the *Alp* section of the 52nd Mineralientage in Munich. The samples came from private and museum collections, gathered thanks to the collaboration between some mineralogical associations operating in Trentino (Gruppo Mineralogico Trentino and Gruppo Mineralogico di Fassa e Fiemme) and MUSE, the new science museum of Trento, designed by Renzo Piano and visited by one million of people since this opening in July 2013.

The central idea of the exhibition is the discovery: from the Dolomites geology to the mining deposits, exploited in Trentino from the Middle Ages to the 1960s and recently “rediscovered” by the minerals researchers. The exhibition goes through the main phases of the mining and geological history of the Province, showing the most important mineralogical findings. The exhibits are organised in four sections: the first introduces the geo-mineralogical and historical-scientific context; the second and the third show some classic specimens from the Fiemme-Fassa Valleys and from the mines located between Trento and Pergine Valsugana; the last section is for minerals coming from less famous localities, as Cima d’Asta, Adamello, Adige Valley, Rabbi Valley and Pejo Valley.

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