



1. Road monument at the entrance to the Sarany town.

2. Abandoned quarry of the Biserskoe (Yuzhno-Saranovskoe) area of the Saranovskoe deposit in the vicinity of the Sarany town. Here in the 19th century uvarovite has been discovered, and in the 20th century – shuiskite.

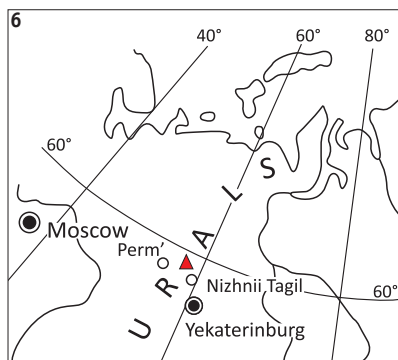
3. Bolshoi Pester quarry of the Saranovskoe deposit. Vicinity of the Sarany town.

4. Oleg K. Ivanov, author of this monograph (right) and Eduard A. Fishchenko select mineral specimens for photographing. Sarany town.

5. Miners after the work in the Rudnaya underground mine. Photo: M. Lodzinski, July, 2005.



INTRODUCTION



6. Geographical position of the Saranovskoe deposit.

Photos on pages 4–5:
A.A. Evseev, July 23, 2014,
if not other mentioned.

7. Mine headworks at the Saranovskoe deposit.



The Saranovskoe chromite deposit is one of the greatest mineralogical localities, which justly belongs to the series of famous locations in the Urals, including the Ilmeny and Vishnevyy Mountains, the Ural Gemstone Belt, the Ural Emerald Mines, and the Berezovskoe, Bazhenovo, and Kochkar deposits. However, while these locations occupy areas up to ten and one hundred square km, the area of the Saranovskoe deposit is only 0.5 km².

Its mineralogical prominence is because of a series of spectacular hand specimens of some Cr-bearing minerals. Most of all is the remarkable and abundant uvarovite. The unique specimens of shuiskite, redledgeite, guyanaite, grimaldite, and chromium varieties of amesite, diaspore, titanite, kassite, chlorites, and pumpellyite are famous for their museum quality. The deposit is also famous for its millerite and unusual varieties of antigorite. The fuchsite, chrome-celadonite, rare sulfides, some serpentine group minerals, micas and chlorites are also worth noting.

A total 111 mineral species have been found at the deposit exclusive of their interesting varieties, which will be discussed separately. More than 30 minerals are poorly studied and their identification seems doubtful. Uvarovite and shuiskite have been discovered here. Chromium-bearing varieties of diaspore, amesite, and chlorite have been described here for the first time.

The conditions of the formation of the vein mineralization are very interesting. At the Saranovskoe deposit we do not see granite and granitic pegmatites or hydrothermal quartz veins typical of the Urals, but calcite, dolomite, or carbonate-silicate veins with rich mineralization and mainly the chromium mineralization, which is unique for the Middle Urals which is comparatively poor in hydrothermal occurrences and outstanding in diversity and distinction worldwide.