

**Photo: Michael B. Leybov,**  
if not indicated otherwise

Europe's largest annual mineral Show, Mineralientage (Munich Mineral Days), was held at the end of October in Munich bringing with it many positive emotions, planned and unexpected meetings and, of course, interesting mineral specimens.

## 1. Season Novelties 2016

It is worth noting among the novelties two druses of **orpiments** with prismatic crystals of up to 6 cm (!) long from Jiepaiyu Mine (Shimen Mine, Shimen Co., Changde Prefecture, Hunan Province), China, represented by *Cristalli s.r.l.* company (Italy) Thus the number of mineral species with high class specimens from China is growing with every year.

Marcus Budil (Monaco) presented outstanding druses of tetrahedral crystals (up to 3 cm) of **freibergite** with tiny crystals of stannite on it from Melgarejo Mine, Bolivia.

Specimens displayed by Vilem Sturec, a former mining engineer from the famous Příbram mine in Bohemia, the Czech Republic, were probably the greatest specialty of the Show this year: wonderful specimens of native arsenic, stibarsen and dyscrasite and the biggest show-stopper – fantastic specimens of **native antimony** collected in 1984. According to Vilem, during his more than 30 years of work at the mine there was only one such outcrop in richness and quality.

“Spirifer Minerals” (Poland) represented a new batch of Moroccan **tourmaline** specimens, with small split polychromatic crystals framed with albite being especially striking.

1. Native **antimony**. 4 x 7 x 20 cm. Příbram, Bohemia, the Czech Republic. Specimen: Anatoly V. Kasatkin (bought from Vilem Sturec).

1



2



2. Druse of **orpiment** with crystals (up to 6 cm). 17 x 18 cm.  
Jiepaiyu Mine (Shimen Mine), China.  
Specimen: *Cristalli s.r.l.* company.

3



3. **Freibergite**. 9 x 11 cm.  
Melgarejo Mine, Bolivia.  
Specimen: Marcus Budil.



## 2. Notes on The *Museum's Hidden Treasures* Exhibition

After Johannes Keilmann passed over management over the show to his son Christoph Keilmann there have been visible changes in the last few years in the organization of the Munich Mineral Show “Mineralientage”.

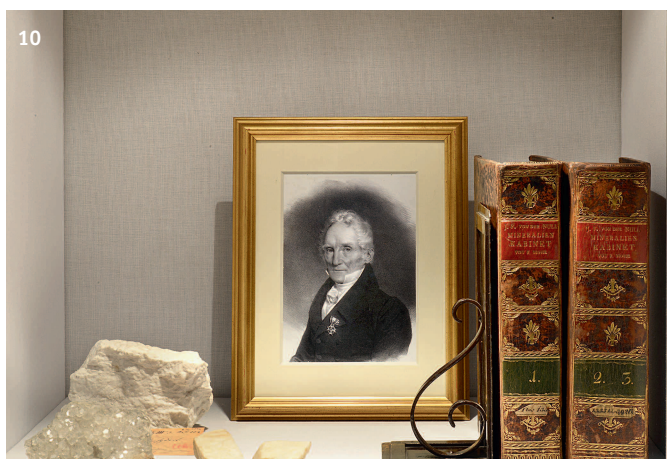
Every year sees something new in terms of organization and Munich '2016 was no exception. Free quality Wi-Fi, for instance, was a pleasant and long-expected innovation. The significant expansion of passages between rows also struck one's eye and undoubtedly made approaches to stands more convenient. On the whole the layout of the show became more modern and very visitor- and dealer-friendly while preserving all the best features of the past.

Theme exhibitions are an main important part of the Munich show. This year the subject of the main exhibition sounded intriguing “The Museum's Hidden Treasures” which could be interpreted as “Hidden treasures of museums” or “Treasures of museum stocks”. Each museum participating in the show approached the subject in its own way displaying expositions in comparatively small show-cases. Below we will briefly review some of them without claiming to present a full description of the exhibition.

***The Vienna Museum of Natural History*** (Vienna, Austria) (curator Vera Hammer) based its composition on materials dedicated to mineralogist Friedrich A. Mohs (1773–1838) a significant part of whose scientific work was connected with Vienna. Mohs won world fame thanks to the Mohs scale of mineral hardness which he developed in 1811–1812 and which became so apt and useful that it is being used for the express determination of minerals for over 200 years. Nowadays one can hardly find a mineralogist or collector who would not be familiar with the Mohs scale. A compact but fairly illuminating exposition of the Vienna Museum features tools and books belonging to Mohs and most importantly – the original of the scale in the form of a mini-collection.



9. Exposition of the Natural History Museum of Vienna, Austria.  
Original of the Mohs scale of mineral hardness developed by Friedrich Mohs.



10. Exposition of the Natural History Museum of Vienna, Austria.

J.F. von der Null private collection catalogue composed by Friedrich Mohs.



11. Exposition of the Natural History Museum of Vienna, Austria.

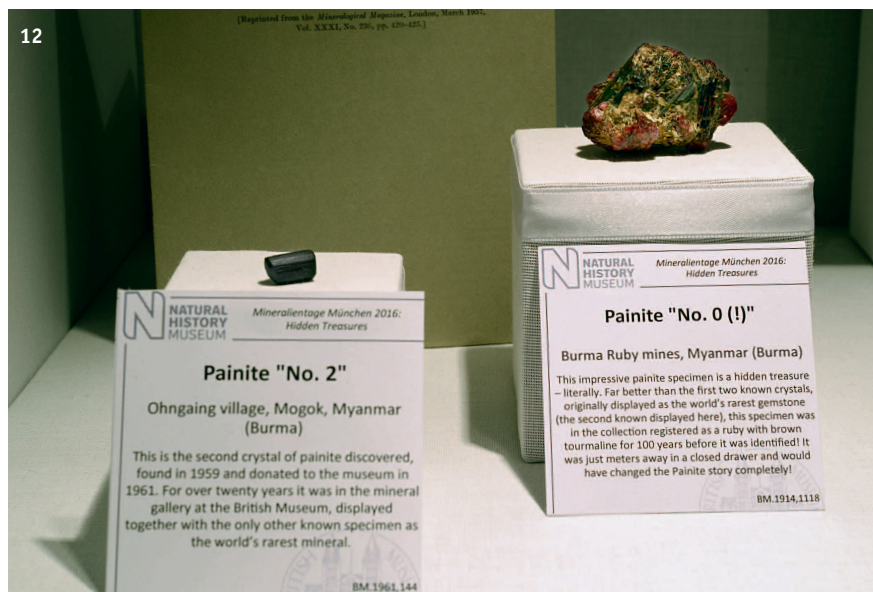
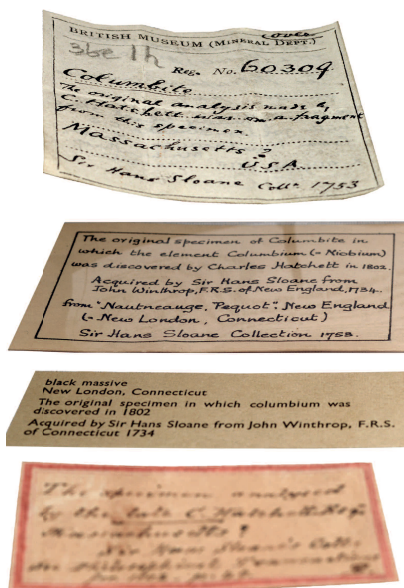
Goniometer of Friedrich Mohs.

**The London Natural History Museum** (London, United Kingdom) (curator Michael Rumsey), one of the oldest European museums, presented several interesting historical subjects one of which was dedicated to painite. The very first specimen of the mineral was discovered in the middle of the 1950s in Mogok (Myanmar) by British mineralogist Arthur Pain whose name the mineral carries. For years painite was regarded as one of the rarest minerals and only recently its rich manifestations were discovered in the self-same Mogok. Until 1979 only two small crystals of the mineral were known and both belonged to the London museum. In 2006 during a routine audit museum workers paid attention to a big specimen defined as brown tourmaline. The definition made at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century aroused doubts. And an examination confirmed them – the specimen was a painite! It is amazing that while tiny crystals were presented as most rare finds a much more representative big specimen of painite peacefully stayed in the museum's stores under an alias for over a century. That's a hidden treasure for you!

One more curious story from the Natural History Museum of London was dedicated to columbite. Visitors were given an opportunity to see the very specimen of

12. Exposition of the Natural History Museum of London, Great Britain.

Specimens of painite and original labels.







20–22. Exhibits of Museum of Freiberg Mining Academy, Freiberg, Germany. Specimens from collection of Johann Friedrich August Breithaupt, professor of Freiberg Academy, with original handwritten labels.

20. Crystal of **aeschnite** (0.6 x 4 cm) on rock. Ilmeny Mountains, South Urals, Russia.

21. **Beryl**. 3 x 20 cm. Sherlova Gora Mt., Transbaikalia, Russia.

22. **Crocoite**. 8 x 9 cm. Berezovskoye deposit, Middle Urals, Russia.

23. **Phenacite**. 3.5 x 5 cm. Ural Emerald Mines, Middle Urals, Russia.

In the exposition of the **Freiberg Mining Academy** (The Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg, Freiberg, Germany) (curator Andreas Massanek) one could not overlook old specimens from Russia collected by famous Johann August Friedrich Breithaupt, professor of the Freiberg Academy, during his travel to Russia in 1851–1852 either. Among them we would single out a wonderful specimen of crocoite from Beryozovskoye deposit (Middle Urals), a large phenacite crystal from Ural Emerald mines (Middle Urals), a crystal of aeschnite on matrix from the Ilmeny Mountains (South Urals) and a wonderful crystal of aquamarine from Sherlova Gora Mountain (Transbaikalia — Baikal Lake area).

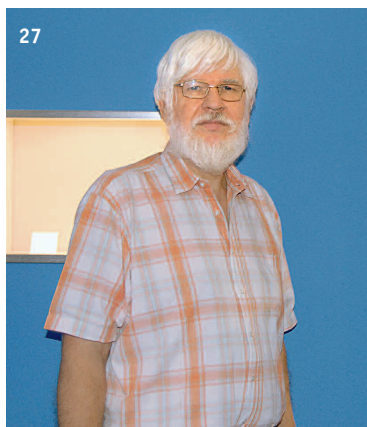
On the whole the exhibition gave the visitor the joy of discoveries and meetings with wonderful people from the distant and near past, with scientists and collectors. It enriched us transforming information from books into actual visual impressions which indisputably was one of the main objectives of the exhibition.

Michael B. Leybov,  
Mineralogical Almanac, m\_leybov@mail.ru

### 3. New Publications

The Fersman Mineralogical Museum (Moscow) presented a new publication by Nina A Mokhova and Marina L. Moiseyeva **"The Collection of Petr Arkadyevich Kochubei at the Fersman Mineralogical Museum"**. This comparatively short, 112-page publication features the "pearls" of the famous collection. Published in Russian.





24. Dmitri Belakovsky (Fersman Mineralogical Museum, Moscow) with new book "Collection of Peter A. Kochubey in Fersman Mineralogical Museum".



25. At the booth of Sapphire Company (left to right): Rudolf Watzl, Patrick Mayer, Robert Lavinsky.



26. Vera Hammer, Natural History Museum of Vienna (Austria) at one of the showcases devoted to Friedrich Mohs.



27. Rupert Hochleitner, *Reich der Kristalle* (Kingdom of Crystals) Museum, Munich, Germany presents old Russian specimens from collection of Maximilian de Beauharnais, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Leuchtenberg

28. Insight into new acquisitions at the booth of Gunnar Faber (left to right): Gunnar Faber, Jwrgen Langhoff (Natural History Museum of Stockholm, Sweden), and Mike Rumsey (Natural History Museum of London, Great Britain).



29. Andreas Massanek, curator of mineralogical collection in Freiberg Mining Academy, Germany.

Traditionally, the Christian Weise Verlag, publisher of the German mineral magazine *Lapis* puts out a new issue of the well-known monograph series *extraLapis* for the Munich show. For this year, the topic was **Chinesische Achate (Chinese Agates)**, compiled by equally well-known author and China expert Bert Ottens. Just make sure you can read German!

Rainer Bode from Mineralienwelt was not setup at the show but brought two new and highly anticipated books. One was offered at the booth of the Museum of the Freiberg Mining Academy: **Namibia: Minerals and Localities II** by Ludi von Bezing, Rainer Bode and Steffen Jahn. A 664-page behemoth, weighing in excess of 3 kg, it is full of great photos.

The second new book from the Mineralienwelt publisher was offered at the booth of the French publisher Edition du Piat, who is known for his magazines *Le Regné Minéral* and *Fossils*, numerous monographs and books. It was Gregor Markl's second (of three) books on the **Black Forest: Schwarzwald—Lagerstätten und Mineralien aus vier Jahrhunderten. Band 2 Mittlerer Schwarzwald, Teil I.** (Black Forest—Deposits and Minerals from four Centuries. Vol. 2 Central Black Forest, Part I). The 650-page giant on the minerals and deposits of the central Black Forest is in German.

Not a new book but still worth being mentioned is the book **Kalahari Manganese Field** by Bruce Cairncross and Nicolas J. Beukes. Yes, it has been published in 2013, but whoever has tried to order a book from South Africa will appreciate that this book is now available through *Crystal Classics*.

**Guenther Neumeier**, editor, [ganeumeier@yahoo.com](mailto:ganeumeier@yahoo.com)