Mineral Shows of 2016:
Melbourne, Australia, November

THE SECOND AUSTRALIAN FINE MINERALS SHOW

Malcolm Southwood,
Melbourne, Australia,
mal.southwood@bigpond.com

November is usually a pleasantly warm month in south-eastern Australia although the weather in Melbourne can be somewhat unpredictable. Cool weather prevailed for this year's show, which was hosted by Rob Sielecki of Ausrox, who welcomed several local and international mineral dealers, as well as an enthusiastic community of collectors, mainly from the eastern states of Australia, but also from as far afield as New Zealand and Canada.

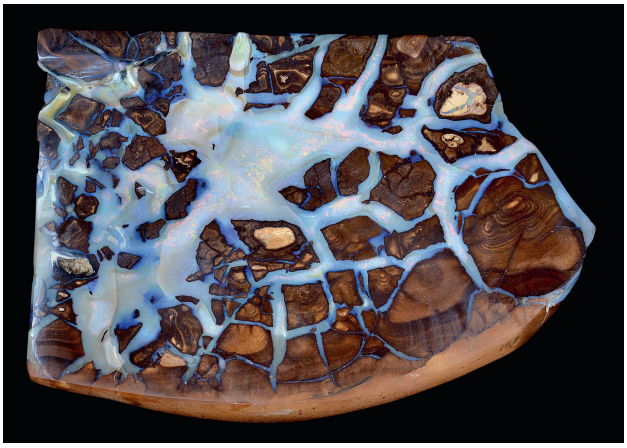
With an inevitable focus on Australian minerals, Dehne and Maureen McLaughlin offered some very fine azurite suns from this year's mining season at the Malbunka Mine, near Areyonga, in the Northern Territory, while both Ausrox and Crystal Classics each presented a diversity of specimens from the Milton Lavers collection of minerals from Broken Hill in New South Wales.

Moving away from Australia, Costa Englezos had a nice selection of azurites from the Sepon Mine, in Laos, while Rob Sielecki (Ausrox) had a large array of valentinite specimens from the Xikuangshan antimony deposit, in Hunan Province, China. According to Rob the valentinites were found a couple of years ago but so far, not too many of them have reached the Western market.

The weather warmed up just a little for the following day when dealers and collectors reconvened for a garden party, with a good selection of local wines to wash down the traditional Australian barbecue.

Rob Sielecki (*Ausrox*) and Diana Bruce (*Crystal Classics*) at the Australian Fine Mineral Show. Photo: Malcolm Southwood.

A specimen from this year's crop of "**azurite** suns", from the Malbunka Mine, Areyonga, Northern Territory, Australia. 16 cm. Specimen and photo: Dehne McLaughlin.



Opal. 18 x 13 cm. Australia. Specimen: Ausrox. Photo: Michael B. Leybov.

YARATKULOVA, A NEW RUSSIAN METEORITE

Sergei V. Kolisnichenko,
author of books for mineral collectors, Verkhnyaya Sanarka, sanarka@mail.ru

Previously unknown chondrite was found May 3, 2016 in the Argayash district, Chelyabinsk oblast, South Urals. L.B. Pudovkin, expert on local history, and S.V. Kolisnichenko, mineralogist found a specimen of 0.4 kg in weight. Research work was carried out according to the program of Meteorite Expedition of Central Siberian Geological Museum, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences.

Search location was not for nothing. Sergei (author) twice observed (first time in 1989) in the morning-tide sparking low-flying bolides west of Chelyabinsk that mobilized searching in the Argayash district. Locality situates in the vicinity of the Yaratkulova village is alternate forest areas and fields. Relief is plain, slightly hilly.

The meteorite was found at a pasture at the depth of 3–12 cm in below surface. It consists of 7 fragments, which are combined into single body. Weight of separate fragments is 190, 136, 33.35, 15.6, 16, 1.2, and 7 g. All fragments were found within the area of 5 x 6 m that testifies to the meteorite collapse as a result of impact and farming. The meteorite presumably felt 20–25 years ago, as determined by a degree of weathering effect and shallow depth in plowed field.

The meteorite body is rounded, polyhedrous, and angular. The surface is rough, irregular. One side is a pattern of retained pezographs with the fingerprint-type etches. This indicates that the meteorite is only small part of cosmic body collapsed in atmosphere and is most like a part of small starshower. In general, meteorite could be 25 x 30 x 30 cm in size and larger. Other sides are slightly fused and coated with glassy melt.

The meteorite is light brown to light reddish brown to light brown. The color is irregular, patchy; glance fusion crust is occasionally retained. The surface of large fragments is fractured with parallel undulating fissures up to 3 mm in width, which are occasionally healed by impact melt. These fissures disappear with depth.

This is a typical chondrite with breccia structure: dark reddish brown slightly fused chondrite fragments of 0.5 to 1.5 cm in size, rare iron grains and tiny troilite are visible at the black ground. Chondrules are strongly altered, but occasionally are conspicuous. The primary pattern is strongly complicated by the late transformation. The meteorite is composed of olivine, orthopyroxene, albite, Cr-bearing diopside, troilite, kamacite, taenite, Ni-bearing pyrrhotite, chromite, chlorapatite, secondary chlorite (?).

The Yaratkulova meteorite was registered by the International Society for Meteoritics and Planetary Science at December 10, 2016. This is the third meteorite from the Chelyabinsk oblast (South Urals). Previously the Kunashak and Chelyabinsk meteorites, which felt in 1949 and 2013, respectively are known.

Fragment of Yaratkulova meteorite (Chelyabinsk oblast, South Urals, Russia). Finds of May 3rd, 2016. Photo: Sergei V. Kolisnichenko.