

"GEMMA", SPRING MINERAL FEAST IN MOSCOW

Michael B. Leybov
Mineralogical Almanac,
m_leybov@mail.ru

Photo: Michael Leybov

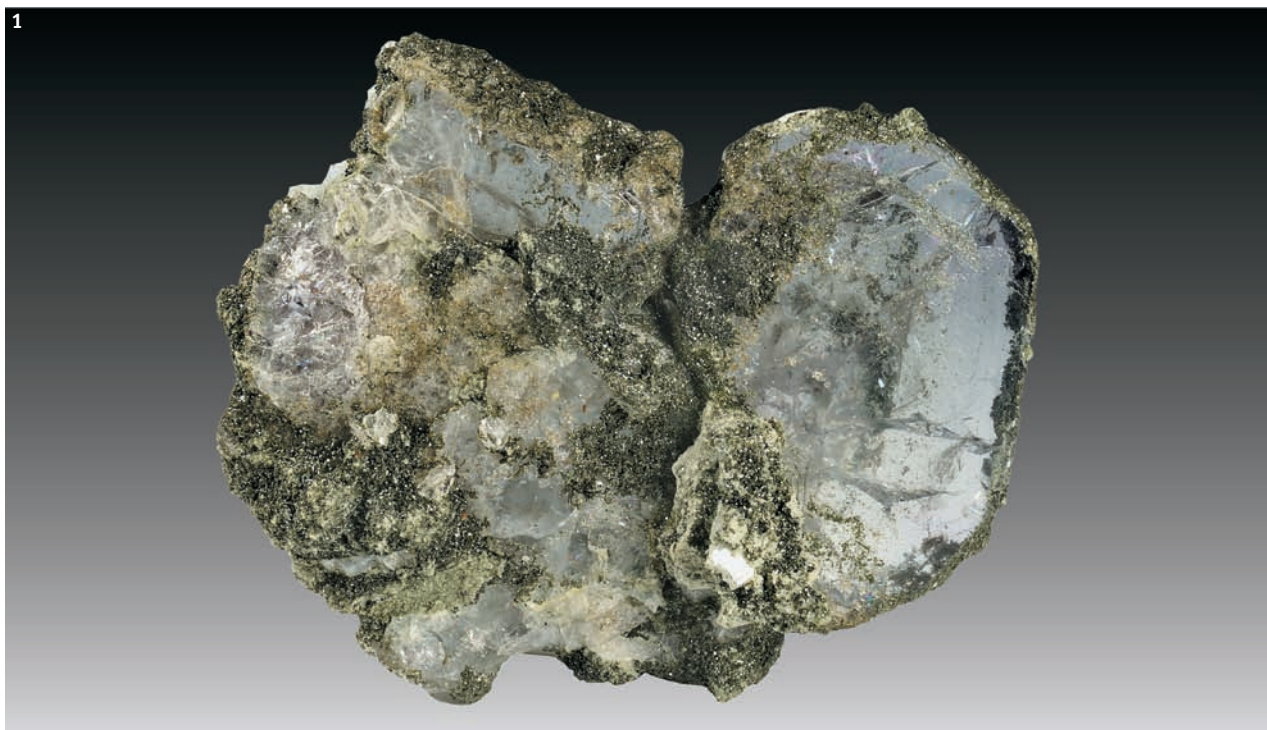
This Mineral show in Moscow is always looked forward to. Mineral amateurs and experts, jewelers, mineralogists, museum staff, scientists, and teachers go to Sokolniki park, where in pavilion no. 7 minerals prevail at their best for two days. Each visitor finds something that he likes. The collector will find a specimen for his collection; the jewels fan will find amazing artifacts; and the jeweler will find rough material.

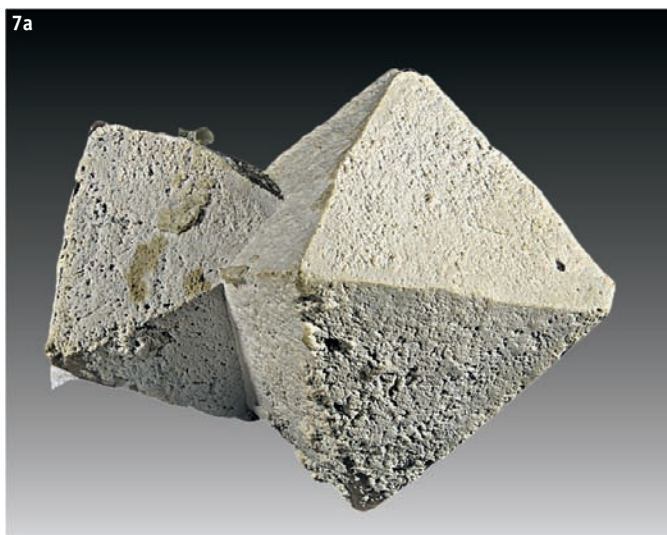
It is impossible to review a diversity of exhibited mineralogical specimens and artifacts. We will make only brief notes on several new or forgotten specimens from old collections.

We are used that Dmitry Davydov makes us happy with new specimens from China at each show. And this time it was something to look at his booth. New white dull but well-faced large octahedrons of **fluorite** drew our attention (Fig. 7a,b).

The booths of the *Russian Mineral Company* are nice and meaningful as usual. At the show, not a lot of dealers had such geographical diversity with excellent specimens. Also they have good staff of minerals specimens for kids and beginner collectors.

1. **Fluorapatite**. 19 x 8 cm. Dodo, Subpolar Urals, Russia. Specimen: V.B. Sladkov, 2015.





7. Crystals of **fluorite**.
(a) 11 x 5 cm and (b) 8 x 8 cm.
Inner Mongolia, China.
Specimen: : D.V. Davydov.

Along with recent acquisitions, those which are first place are pink **beryl** (morganite) from the Malkhan pegmatites in the Transbaikial Region (*Fig. 6*), new **datolite** from Dalnegorsk, partial pseudomorph of **limonite** after large iron cross of **pyrite** from Colombia (*Fig. 5*), and **aquamarine** crystals from Afghanistan and Pakistan. We saw at the Show old specimens such as a cluster of **amethyst** crystals from Dashkesan in Azerbaijan (*Fig. 3*), a large druse of **morion** from Akchatau and a magnificent cluster of **diopase** crystals (up to 3 cm) from Altyn-Tyube, both from Kazakhstan (*Fig. 8*).

The Caucasus concretions of **pyrite** overgrowing apices of belemnites became hit of the collection market recent years. And this time, they were exhibited at some booths. A crystal of burgundy **topaz** recently mined from the Volyn miarolitic pegmatites in Ukraine was of interest (*Fig. 4*).

The specimens from the Subpolar Urals, among which was a large cluster of grayish-bluish transparent tabular crystals of **fluorapatite**, were conspicuous and should be mentioned (*Fig. 1*).

Interesting specimens were brought from the Sarany deposit in the Urals. In particular, in addition to the classic uvarovite specimens, a large specimen of unusual acicular **clinocllore** (*Fig. 2*) could be seen in one booth.

And, finally, you could see a magnificent **copper** tree, a dendrite of native copper from the Itauz copper deposit south of Dzhezkazgan (Karaganda Oblast) in Central Kazakhstan (see Photo on First Cover).

It is necessary to especially tell about visitors. The Mineral Show, which many visitors name "Gemma" after the signature name of the organizer, most recently moved to a new hall in Sokolniki park. This move was a coup by organizers. The exhibition area and number of participants increased. And, of course, visitor traffic substantially increased. Such an increase meant that in the hall that sometimes there was no possibility to squeeze up to the required booths.

It is encouraging to note that many young people and children were among the visitors interested in minerals. In turn, many dealers presented mineral specimens and artifacts available to kids.

In general, the event named Gemma Mineral Show was successfully held in April 1–2 and once again delivered a lot of pleasure to visitors.

8. **Diopase**, crystals up to 3 cm. Altyn-Tyube, Kazakhstan. Specimen: N.P. Koul.

