

DALNEGORSK: A RENAISSANCE OF FIRST SOVETSKY MINE?

Boris Z. Kantor
Russian Mineralogical Society,
boris_kantor@mail.ru

Specimens:
First Sovetsky Mine, Dalnegorsk,
Russian Far East.

Specimens:
Alexander N. Mineev,
collected June 2019,
if other is not specified.

Photos: Boris Z. Kantor,
if other is not specified.

Alexander N. Mineev, a Moscow mineral collector, narrated about new interesting finds in the First Sovetsky defunct mine, Dalnegorsk (Russian Far East), and showed some new specimens at the “*Mineralogical Almanac*” office.

The First Sovetsky mine (Fig. 1) whose commercial exploitation finished about half a century ago was famous for numerous excellent specimens including the first class ilvaite crystals (Fig. 4) and quartz crystals of bipyramidal habit (Fig. 2) sometimes passed off as “*beta-quartz*” in the market. In fact, these are pseudo-bipyramids typical for low-temperature quartz and composed of two rhombohedrons {10-11} и {01-11} with no prism. Then team of the “*Soyuzkvertssamotsvety*” state company explored a tectonic joint located within the mine area which produced a lot of fine calcite crystals and “*gummy*” crystals of green fluorite. This zone was exhausted by mid of 1990-ties; and no noticeable result was produced by the next attempts hereafter. However, the seasonal melting of ice in the last summer and the ensued tectonic movements has raised the chances for success. So Viktor Kovalenko, a veteran of mineral collecting, with his son Vitaly were lucky in July to make some interesting finds in the mine old workings that did not operate for many years. Some associations and mineral habits were never observed before within the First Sovetsky Mine in Dalnegorsk (Russian Far East).



1. View to First Sovetsky mine, Dalnegorsk, Russian Far East. Photo: Victor V. Ponomarenko.



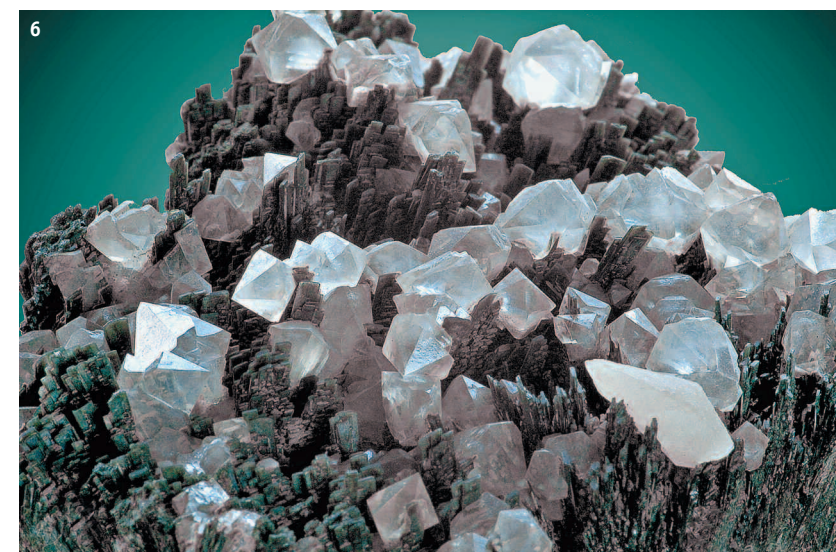
2. “*Bipyramidal*” quartz. 1.2 cm.
First Sovetsky mine, Dalnegorsk. Collected in
1990. Specimen: Victor V. Ponomarenko.



4. **Ilvaite** crystals (up to 17 mm).
First Sovetsky mine, Dalnegorsk. Collected in
1990. Specimen: Boris Z. Kantor.



5. “*Mountain leather*” with **ilvaite** and **quartz**.
First Sovetsky mine, Dalnegorsk. Collected in
1990. Specimen: Boris Z. Kantor.



6. “*Bipyramidal*” quartz crystals (up to 1 cm),
on **hedenbergite**. First Soviet Mine, Dalnegorsk,
Russian Far East. Collected in 1990s.
Specimen: Boris Z. Kantor.