

MUNICH 2019: “WHOEVER COLLECTS MAKES HISTORY”



1. Marienplatz is main beautiful square of the Munich city. Photo: Irina A. Golovko.

Photos 2–7: Michael B. Leybov.

2. **Fluorite**, two generations. 7 x 3 cm. Dalnegorsk, Russia. Specimen: A.V. Kasatkin.
3. **Datolite** with **quartz** and **hedenbergite**. 19 x 12 cm. Bor pit, Dalnegorsk, Russia. Collected in 2012. Specimen: A.N. Mineev.



In spite of what was expected by doubters, who predicted that the Internet will eventually kill mineral shows, the Munich Show is convincing evidence of the opposite. All parameters of this show, so to say, expand, the number of participants and visitors increases, the exhibition area is also correspondingly increased, and the stone material becomes ever more diverse and interesting. The number of subject exhibitions is also notably increased, as also is the number of children's playgrounds. We become used to that the heart of the mineralogical sector of the exhibition is the booths of famous European and American dealers, such *Kristalle*, *Fine Minerals International*, *Weinrich Minerals*, *Wendel Minerals*, *Cristalli*, *Anton Watzl Minerals*, *Arkenstone*, *Crystal Classics*, *Marcus Budil Minerals*, *Saphira*, and others. All specimens in these showcases set standards of beauty and quality.

Of course, much interesting was on display in others booths too. For example, these were splendid specimens from Russia: fluorite and calcite with datolite from Dalnegorsk, Russian Far East; tourmaline from Shaitanka, Urals; sperrylite from Norilsk; wonderful aggregates of large green transparent andradite crystals from the Bor pit, Dalnegorsk, Russian Far East. Their photos are presented below.

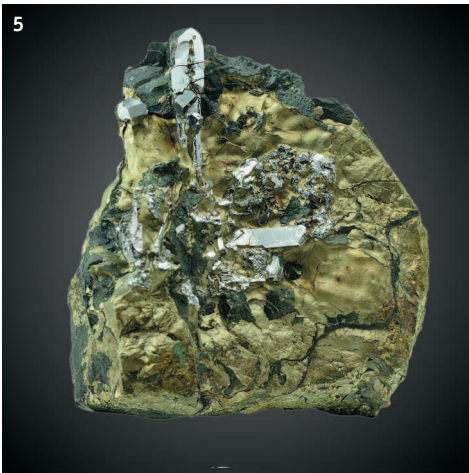
This brief account consists of a number of papers. "Newcomers" at the Show share their impressions. These are Mikhail Bitman and Thomas Klinepeter, experienced mineral collectors, who visited the show for the first time. We also publish here a short explanatory note to an interesting display of our German colleagues Karlheinz Gerl and Bernhard Sick. Their display is devoted to minerals named after famous historical persons. We also draw your attention to a story by Courtney Smale about an interesting mineral find. The main exposition of the Show 2019 in Hall A6 is in focus of Michael Leybov's paper.

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4. Poster of Munich Show 2019.

5. **Sperrylite** crystals in **chalcopyrite**. 3.0 x 3.8 cm. Talnakh, Norilsk district, Siberia, Russia. Private collection.
6. **Andradite** crystal cluster. Bor pit, Dalnegorsk, Russia. Collected in 2019. Specimen: A.G. Glotov.
7. **Elbaite**. 6.8 x 1.8 cm. Shaitanka pegmatite field, Sverdlovsk oblast, Middle Urals, Russia. Specimen: A.V. Kasatkin.



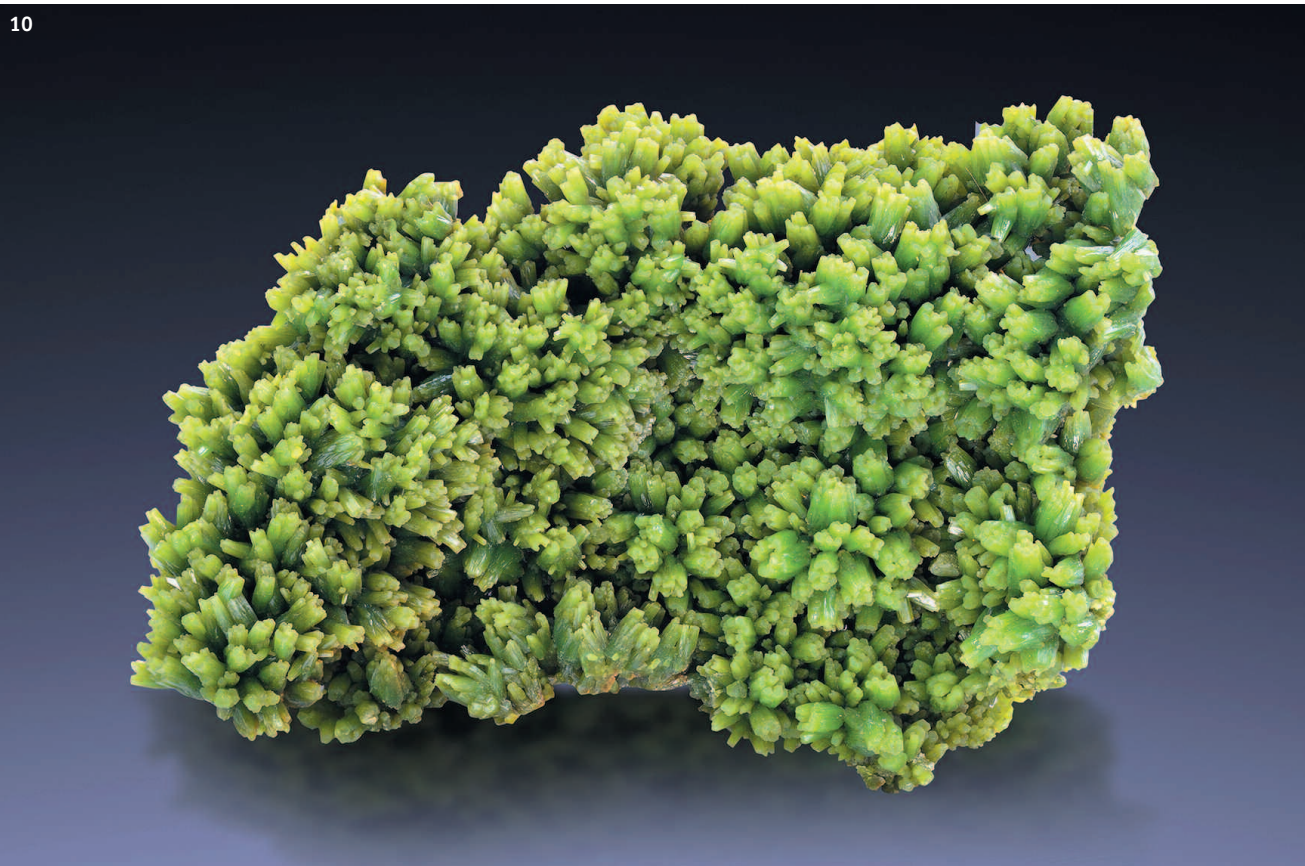
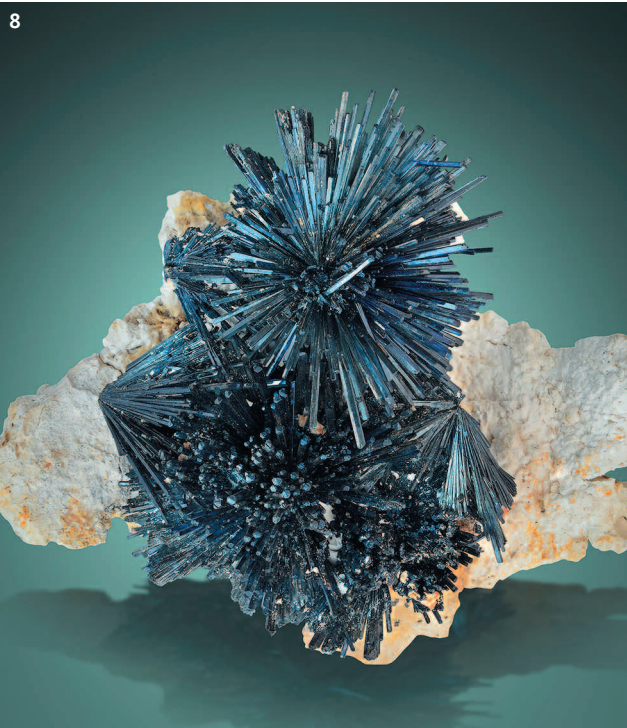
1. “Mineralientage Munchen”: attending is the must!”

Mikhail M. Bitman,
mineral collector, Donetsk

My only intention when visiting the Munich Show 2019 was to attend the mineral show *Mineralientage Munchen*. It had long been my dream to visit it, and this dream finally turned true this year. My friends sharing my love for mineral collecting had told me that this visit will somewhat change my perception, and this was really true. Here I would like to subdivide my emotions and impressions into two parts: people and minerals.

People. When approaching the Messestadt-Ost subway station, near which the vast halls of the Show are situated, I understood that absolutely all passengers from the train moved together toward a single target — both figuratively and literally speaking. People who spoke a dozen various languages amicably nodded to one another. All of them are united by their love for minerals, which yearly drives thousands of persons to the capital city of Bavaria in late October. At the Show, I met my old friends and acquired many new ones. When the doors of the Show closed at night, our communications did not stopped at all but rather gradually spread with us over the whole Munich. I often met people with badges of the Show far away from it.

Minerals. The Munich Show manages to democratically accommodate side by side relatively inexpensive specimens for beginner collectors and outstanding, rare, and unique masterpieces. Any visitor can find there something fitting his or her tastes, demands, and budgets. The booths of famous dealers with four- to five-digit price tags, were more similar to showcases of outstanding museums than the shelves of a show. However, it was not necessary to acquire samples I was eager to own for my mineral collection at these mineral boutiques: the prices elsewhere were rather acceptable for me. Upon coming home, I carefully revised my collection and did not touched only the shelves with specimens I found and recovered myself. Many of the specimens were then transferred to “vault” to give way to better new acquisitions. Show of this level set a certain standard for the mineral collector: upon seeing it once, he or she tries to, so to say, keep to the level and even raise it. Of course, even before my visit to Munich, I had read re-



On page 70–71:

8. Unusual **vivianite** from Oruro department, Bolivia. Specimen is 8 cm across.

9. **Pyromorphite**. 10 cm. Les Farges Mine, France.

10. **Pyromorphite**. 10 cm. Daoping, Guangxi, China.

8–13: Specimens: “Wendel Minerals”. Photo: Albert Russ.

11. **Pyromorphite**. 15 cm. Bad Ems, Germany.

12. **Silver** from Imiter Mine, Morocco. Specimen is 10 cm tall.

13. **Pyromorphite** from Mines les Farges, France. 18 cm tall.





14. Botryoidal **malachite** from Star of the Congo (L'Etoile du Congo) Mine, DR Congo. 15 cm tall. Specimen: Albert Russ.

15. **Chalcopyrite** from Tonglushan Copper Mine, Hubei Province, China. Specimen is 8 cm tall. Specimen: Arkenstone.

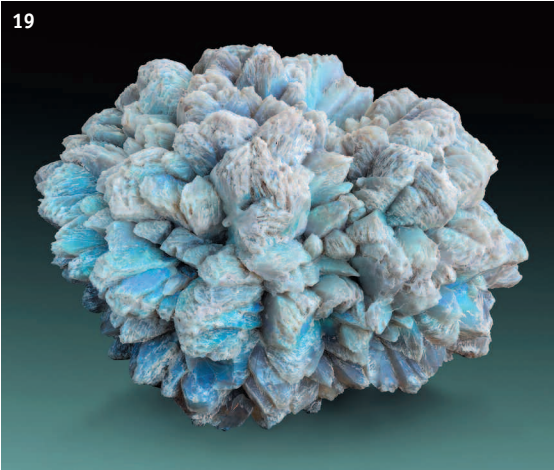
16. **Fluorite** from Berbes, Spain. Specimen is 15 cm tall. Collection: Fabian Wildfang.

Photo 14–24: Albert Russ.

17. **Olivine** from Mogok, Burma. Specimen is 3.5 cm tall. Collection: Federico Barlocher.

18. **Epidote** from Ras Koh Mts., Kharan, Balochistan, Pakistan. Specimen is 7 cm tall. Collection: Anton Watzl Minerals.

19. **Opal**. 12 cm. White Cliffs, Australia. Specimen: Wendel Minerals.



ports and seen photographs from past shows, but it turned out to be a great difference between seeing pictures and the show itself.

I was really glad that new mineral finds were made not solely in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, but the subsoil of old Europe itself (known and explored in all possible detail, I thought) was also able to gladden and please us with new beautiful mineral finds. I could not resist stopping in front of many showcases with lovely specimens of transparent green vivianite from Romania. As a lover of “the carbonate theme”, I was fascinated with newly found radiating aragonite aggregates from Pantoja near Toledo, Spain; by phantom Iceland spar crystals from the Carolina Mine, Asturias, Spain; by calcite specimens from Rio Mayor, Portugal, which were amazingly similar to analogous specimens from Donbass. By the way, I was pleased to find specimens from Donbass, too, at the Show: these were chalcedony-replaced crinoids from the Komsomolskoe deposit. I cannot resist mentioning here pink fluorite recently found in China and beautiful tetrahedral crystals of zunyite from Iran.

My visit to the Show was over in a blink. I did not manage to see all what I hoped and intended to, and it was hardly possible indeed, considering the vastness of the Show. I cherish my charming impressions. My mineral collection is now replenished with samples purchased at the Show. And I definitely wish to visit it on a regular basis.



20. Unusual **epidote** "stalactites" from Ras Koh Mts., Kharan, Balochistan, Pakistan. The specimen is 14 cm tall. Collection: Fine Art Minerals.

21. **Cerussite**. 15 cm. Flux Mine, Arizona, USA. Specimen: Wendel Minerals.



22. **Vivianite** from Rosia Poieni Mine, Musca, Alba, Romania. Specimen is 8 cm tall. Collection: Anton Watzl Minerals.

23. **Wulfenite**. 8 cm. Jianshan Mine, prov. Xinjiang, China. Specimen: Dan Weinrich.

24. **Amethyst** specimen from Austria. Specimen is 27 cm tall. Collection: Anton Watzl Minerals.



2. “The future of our hobby in the children...”

Thomas Klinepeter,
collector, Fryeburg, Maine, USA

I attended countless mineral shows in my life but it happened so, that I have never been at the Munich Show, though well aware that it is an attractive event for any mineral collector.

But to start this off I must tell you what I had planned on not doing at the show. Having attended countless shows, mostly in North America I decided not to look at minerals from India, China, Brazil and the US as these are well represented at most shows. My goal was to add specimens from areas that are not well represented in US shows. To that end I was very happy with what was represented in the show. As is with all major shows there was an abundance of high priced minerals.

However when I got past the expensive mineral dealers I quite pleased with the variety of minerals and some very good prices. Five euros for a nice alpine smoky quartz crystal!

Three areas that impressed me the most.

1. The future of our hobby is in the children. Of all the shows I have ever attended Munich is tops for children’s activities. Most shows if they have children ac-

tivities are small with just a couple things to do. The amount of activities and the size of each area was very impressive. Saturday afternoon the must have been 100 children in the sand box sifting for minerals. I also found it amusing that the beer garden was right along side the children area, a play area for adults.

2. The Alpine area is where I spent quite bit of time. The displays were wonderful and the minerals for sale were very good. It is a great idea where a group of collectors come together and rent a booth, each selling their finds. I bought a couple of specimens from one stand, was invited to join the group for coffee and talk with them. It was difficult as they spoke very little English and I did not speak Swiss but we all could enjoy the beauty of our hobby.

3. I was always told that the display cases in Munich were world class and they did not disappoint. I attended the show Saturday and Sunday, the crowds on Saturday were so large I waited to view the cases Sunday. Early Sunday I had plenty of time to view the cases. Much to my surprise a mineral that had been in my collection was on display, that made my day.

Overall I felt it was a well planned show with plenty to do for a wide spectrum of attendees.

So all in all it was a very good visit to Munich despite my cold. Would I attend again, yes. Will I ? Don't know the answer to that as there is plenty left to explore in the world.

3. History “fossilised” in mineral names

Karlheinz Gerl and Bernhard Sick,
collectors, Germany, bsick@uni-kassel.de

Photo 25–26: Michael Leybov.

25. Karl Heinz Gerl and Bernhard Sick showcase of specimens named in honor of famous historical personalities.

26. Showcase of C. Smale (curator of Caerhays collection) devoted to specimens from the miniature cabinet from MacMurdo Wright in Williams’ mineral collection in the Caerhays Castle (UK).

Our showcase presented minerals named after famous historical persons. Not only today, also in past centuries, discoverers of new minerals aimed at honoring scientifically or politically important persons – typically not themselves which is what we can observe today quite often.

Examples for such minerals include Humboldtine (Alexander von Humboldt, 1769–1859), Alexandrite (Tsar Alexander II of Russia, 1818–1881), Dolomite (Déodat Gratet de Dolomieu, 1750–1801), Stephanite (Archduke Stephen, Palatine of Hungary, 1817–1867), or Hauyne (René Just Hauy, 1743–1822). The showcase “paired” examples for such minerals – which themselves originated



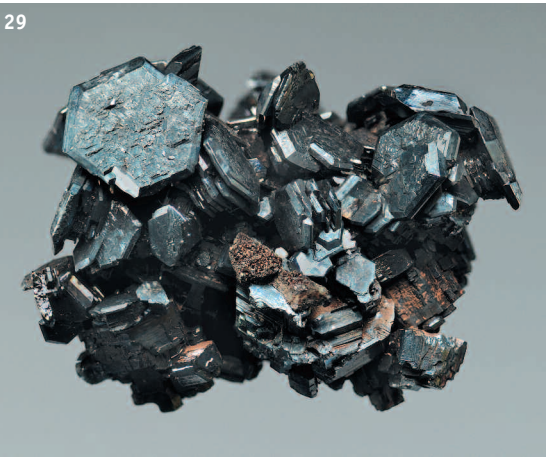
27. Bryce MacMurdo Wright senior.

28–30. Specimens from the MacMurdo Wright’s miniature cabinet in the Williams Caerhays mineral collection.

28. **Copper** from Michigan, USA. Caerhays # 306.

29. **Chalcocite** from St. Ives Consols, St. Ives, Cornwall, England, UK. Caerhays # 361.

30. Pseudomorph of **cassiterite** after **orthoclase** crystal cluster. Wheal Coates, Cornwall, England, UK. Caerhays # 1053.



from old and partially very famous collections – with autographs of the honored persons. So, the showcase presented amongst others a photo with signature from Tsar Alexander II with an Alexandrite from the collection of Gustav Tschermak (1836–1927).

The mineral Tschermakite is named after him. Another example was a letter of Archduke Stephen with a Stephanite from the Henri Léon Ungemach (1879–1936) collection, a french collector, also with an “own” mineral (Ungemachite).

Most interesting was a letter of August Breithaupt (1791–1873) in which he complains about Hauy, saying that Hauy made some errors in measuring angles of a crystal. The corresponding Breithauptite showed a label of the royal Saxonian mineral sales agency (Mineralienniederlage).

4. Bryce MacMurdo Wright
miniature cabinet from Williams Caerhays

Courtenay Smale,
the Curator of the Caerhays Castle Collection, UK, courtenaysmale@gmail.com

The world renowned mineral collection, assembled by the Williams family of Burncoose House and Scorrier House in the late 18th century and early 19th century, was based largely on the superb suite of copper minerals from the parish of Gwennap in Cornwall.

In the early 1860s the Scorrier House collection was moved to Caerhays Castle, another Williams residence, and occupied by John Michael Williams (1813–1880).

By this time metal mining in copper and tin was in serious decline, and with the closure of many local mines, the opportunity to acquire fine specimens shrank dramatically.

Already steeped in the mining and mineral tradition of Cornwall, John Michael Williams nevertheless continued to add to the family collection, by casting the net much further afield. He purchased worldwide cabinet-size specimens mainly from Emile Bertrand of Paris, Dr. Leopold Eger of Vienna, Felix Pisani of Paris, Samuel Henson of London, and Bryce Wright of London.

A unique purchase by John Williams around 1871–1874 was a one-off commissioned cabinet of miniature-sized specimens arranged in order of their metallic element. In 2008, Courtenay Smale, the Curator of the Caerhays Castle Collection, discovered a

fine mahogany cabinet, manufactured by Howard & Sons of London, which had originally housed the collection of some 1340 specimens. Fortunately, each specimen bore a small numbered pink label but unfortunately there was no catalogue. The painstaking process of identifying the minerals was undertaken. Three years later a member of staff at Caerhays found more miniature specimens in the private quarters of the castle wrapped in fragments of newspaper of the 1860s and packed in Cuban cigar boxes. On top of one of the boxes was an untitled faux leather book which turned out to be the catalogue. Although the collection had been catalogued by way of the species, the discovery of the original catalogue itemized each specimen and gave a brief description and location. The handwriting in the catalogue was quite distinctive, and a search of historic specimen labels used by the dealers of the day quickly established that the collection and catalogue originated from the London dealership of Bryce McMurdo Wright (1814–1874).

Bryce Wright was Scottish born and his family moved south during the 19th century, affording him the opportunity to acquire fine specimens from southern Scotland, Cumberland, Derbyshire, and Cornwall. His final move was to London. In assembling this collection Wright relied on the finest collector/dealers of the districts and in the case of Cornwall, the renowned dealer Richard Talling. Some of the specimens in the collection bear Talling’s handwritten numbers.

A geographical analysis of the source of the miniatures indicates that by far the greatest number of specimens are from England, mainly from Cornwall, followed by a significant number from the Old German States. By contrast, just two specimens are from Australia, and only one from the whole continent of Africa.

Photos 31–37: Michael B. Leybov.

31. **Malachite**. Nizhny Tagil, Middle Urals. Specimen from Duke Maximilian Leuchtenbergsky collection, “Reich der Kristalle” museum, Munich, Germany.

32. **Clinochlore** (leuchtenbergite). Shishimskaya pit, Shishimskie Mts., Southern Urals. Specimen from Duke Maximilian Leuchtenbergsky collection, “Reich der Kristalle” museum, Munich, Germany.



5. Mineral collecting: poetry and science

Michael B. Leybov,
Mineralogical Almanac, Moscow, Russia

“Whoever collects makes history” was the motto of subject exhibits at the 2019 Munich Show, and hence, any collector makes history.

I doubt whether politicians, historians, paleontologists, archeologists, and anthropologists will irrevocably agree with this statement. However, in the context of mineral shows, all of us who love minerals do never fail to understand the mes-



57. **Fluorite** from Diana Maria Mine, Frosterley, Weardale, Co. Durham, UK. “Crystal Classics” company. Photo: Michael B. Leybov.

Among numerous joyful friendly meetings and pleasant events that filled the life of the Show one desires to make a pointed reference to the generous gesture of Diana and Ian Bruce (Crystal Classics) who donated a fine fluorite specimen from their famous Diana Maria Mine in Frosterley (Weardale, Durham, UK) to the Mineralogical museum of “Inventa” school, Moscow region. Our journal is on friendly terms with this museum and helps scholars and teachers in the creating of museum collection. Many thanks to Diana and Ian Bruce!

58. Christoph Keilmann, director of the Munich Show (center) with Diana Bruce (left) and Katrin Schlegel (right), “Crystal Classics” company, UK. Photo: Michael B. Leybov.



The stand of the known collector Paul Stahl showed true rarities and unique specimens, including two beautiful and remarkable specimens from the Kola Peninsula: kovdorskite and bobierite. Federico Pezzotta named his collection “Elba, My Mineral Paradise”. Of course, the heart of this collection was specimens of tourmaline (el-baite), for which Elba is the type locality.

The exhibits of private mineral collectors at the Show have demonstrated an extremely broad spectrum of approaches to composing the collections. For example, Adalberto Giazotto (1940–2017) collected solely large hand specimens (no smaller than 25 x 35 cm) throughout his whole life. Thomas Weiland collects copper minerals only. Mario Powers demonstrated specimens of unusual shape. True to himself, Eugene Meieran presented a laconical collection of “elite” gem specimens: clusters of tourmaline crystals and crystals of beryl and kunzite.

The subject exhibition named “Whoever collects makes history” did not leave an impression of a coherent orchestra playing but rather incoherent sounds from an orchestra pit before a concert. However, may this be indeed the true face of mineral collecting nowadays? The most important thing for any collector is feeling happiness when seeing a beloved specimen. In addition to its main exhibition, the Show offered many other interesting stands and showcases in other halls. Tireless Courtenay Smale, the curator of collections at the Caerhays Castle, Great Britain, whose paper on discoveries at the castle was published in one of the recent issue of the *Mineralogical Almanac*, made a discovery deserving a publication. It is described in a dedicated paper in this issues of the *Mineralogical Almanac*. Another publication of the issue is one by German researchers Karlheinz Gerl and Bernhard Sick and offers historical materials related to mineral names.

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