

## SPRINKLINGS

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**Specimens and photo:**  
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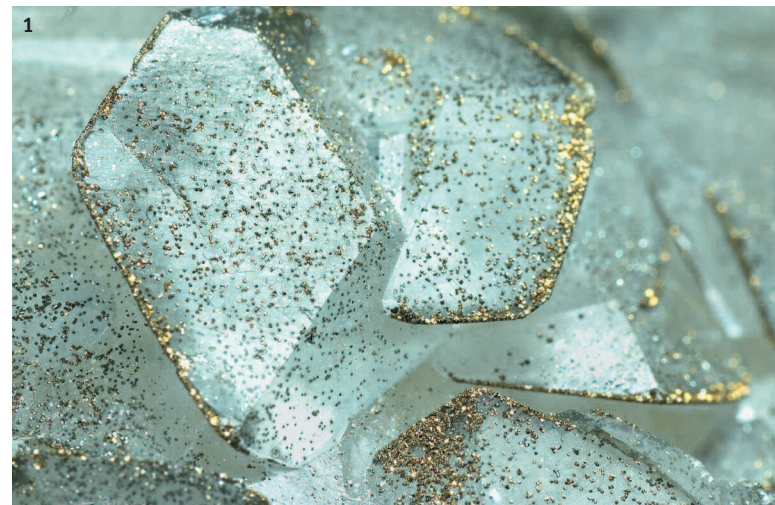
What is shown in *Fig. 1* is commonly called by collectors and museum curators as “calcite with pyrite sprinkling”. The term indicates the typical feature: the calcite crystals seem to be “sprinkled”, mainly at the same sides, with the pyrite tiny crystals of similar size, tenths of millimeter in this case.

Sometimes the sprinkling is promotive of the mineral morphology and genetic type to be brought to light. For example, the calcite specimen shown in *Fig. 2* was initially taken to be some exotic skeletal crystal. However, a closer inspection reveals a scalenohedral crystal edge denoted by delicate pyrite sprinkling, so the item turned to be a scalenohedral crystal covered with 2<sup>nd</sup> generation calcite.

Similar sprinklings are also known among other species, a few of which are illustrated below: pyrite on apatite (*Fig. 3*), anatase or epidote on quartz (*Figs. 4 and 5*), quartz on hedenbergite (*Fig. 6*), goethite or hematite on quartz (*Figs. 7 and 8*). The sight of a “sprinkling” stimulates imagination (*Fig. 1*): it seems that someone dredges the matrix crystal with another mineral powder as if one garnishes food with salt or paprika. The tiny crystals are scattered everywhere on the matrix’s upper side, and is more concentrated on its edges as the most active zones (*Fig. 1*). One may even take notice of the “shadows” from the matrix crystals situated higher up, the zones free from the sprinkling (*Fig. 9*). A few of the pyrite crystals may be also held by the lower faces impeded by the vicinals or other unevennesses (Grigor'ev and Zhabin, 1975). The sprinkling crystals’ peculiar distribution imparts a bit of harmonization to the specimen thereby improving it in an aesthetic

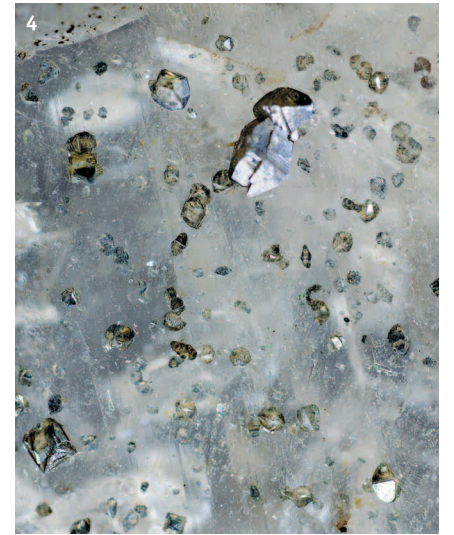
1. **Pyrite**, sprinkling on **calcite**.  
3 cm wide. Belorechenskoe deposit,  
North Caucasus, Russia.

2. **Calcite** crystal with **pyrite** sprinkling.  
6 cm tall.  
Sarbai mine, Kazakhstan.  
Specimen: Leonid M. Ioffe.



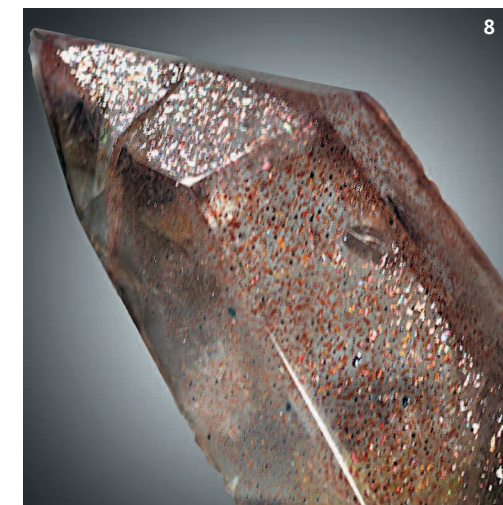
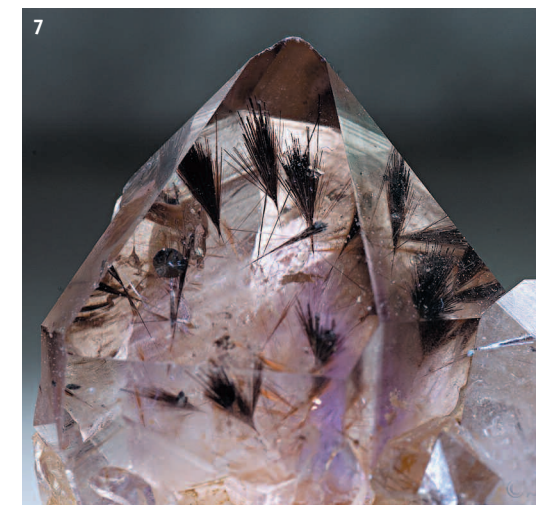
3. **Apatite** with **pyrite** sprinkling.  
Apatite crystals up to 1.8 cm.  
Barroca Grande, Panasqueira,  
Portugal.

4. **Anatase** sprinkling on **quartz**.  
6 x 7 cm. Dodo, Subpolar Urals, Russia.



5. **Epidote** on **quartz**. 6 cm wide.  
Tizi-n-Ouasann, Imilchil,  
High Atlas, Morocco.

6. **Quartz** on **hedenbergite**.  
Quartz crystals 6 to 8 mm long.  
Pervy Sovetsky mine, Dalnegorsk,  
Primorsky krai, Russia.



7. **Goethite**, split crystals  
(up to 5 mm high)  
in **quartz**.  
Mangyshlak Peninsula,  
Kazakhstan.

8. **Hematite**, inclusions in  
**quartz**. 1.7 cm wide.  
Brandberg, Namibia.