CRIMEAN MINERALS IN THE COLLECTION OF THE SEVASTOPOL MUSEUM OF MINERALS: RECENT DISCOVERIES

Irina E. Rudenko,
founder of the Sevastopol Museum of minerals, Sevastopol, Crimea
vladis.r-o@mail.ru

Sevastopol Museum of minerals,
33V, Vakulenchuk str., Sevastopol, Crimea
founder Irina E. Rudenko
tel.: +7 978 788 2270
vladis.r-o@mail.ru
site: https://www.sevstone.ru/
founded in 2012.

The Sevastopol Museum of minerals has been operational for four years. At present, more than 3200 specimens are displayed in the Museum exhibition. The mineralogical collection is divided into systematic (about 500 mineral species) and regional. In addition, there are showcases with rocks and fossils. Preservation of mineral diversity of the Crimea is one of the priority areas of the Museum, therefore most of the exposition is devoted to our region (*Fig.* 2). The museum emphasizes the geological objects from where mining companies have operated.

The Ukrainka village (former Kurtsy) in the vicinity of Simferopol is one of the locations best known to the mineral amateurs in the Crimea. It was here that future academician Alexander E. Fersman started his professional activity. His favorite spot, North Kurtsy quarry, is a depressing sight now: it is abandoned and became a wasteland. However, fresh mineralogical material can be collected in operating quarries of the Kurtsy diabase and porphyritic diabase deposit located south of the Ukrainka village.

In the summer of 2016, my friends and I rested adjacent to an unremarkable area of gray dense clay in the road wall at the entrance to the quarry. It turns out that clay fills a fracture of two meters long in the rock. The footwall of the fracture is coated by a crystal crust of dolomite, which is coated by palygorskite in some places; the hanging wall consists of isolated dolomite balls up to 1 cm in diameter and their aggregates occasionally with pyrite powder. The clay, as it turned out, is stuffed with these balls (*Fig.* 3).

Photo: Irina E. Rudenko if other is not mentioned.

1. Irina Rudenko, founder of the Sevastopol Museum of minerals, narrates to Alexey Timofeev, Moscow collector, about new acquisitions to the Museum. Photo: Alexander A. Evseev.

2. Crimean minerals exposition in the Sevastopol Museum of minerals.


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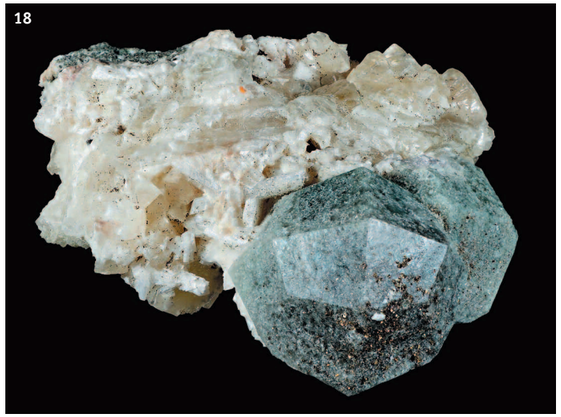
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15. **Stilbite** split crystal (2.2 cm) with **calcite**, **laumontite** and **quartz** in cavity of subvolcanic rock. 4.5 x 5 cm.

16. **Hydroxyapophyllite-(K)** spherulite. 2.5 x 2.5 cm.

17. Cluster of **hydroxyapophyllite-(K)** split crystals colored to gray-green with abundant inclusions of fine-fibrous actinolite. 4 x 5 cm.

18. **Analcime** crystals (up to 2.2 x 2.2 cm) with **pyrite** inclusions; with **calcite** and **laumontite**. 5.5 x 4 cm.

19. Hexagonal crystals (up to 1 cm) of **gmelinite-Ca** associated with **calcite** and **laumontite** in cavity of volcanic rock. **Stilbite-Ca** small yellow crystals in the specimen bottom part. 6.8 x 4 cm. *Zeolites identified by Anatoly V. Kasatkin.*

Photo 10–19: Pervomaisky quarry, Bakhchisarai region, Crimea.


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