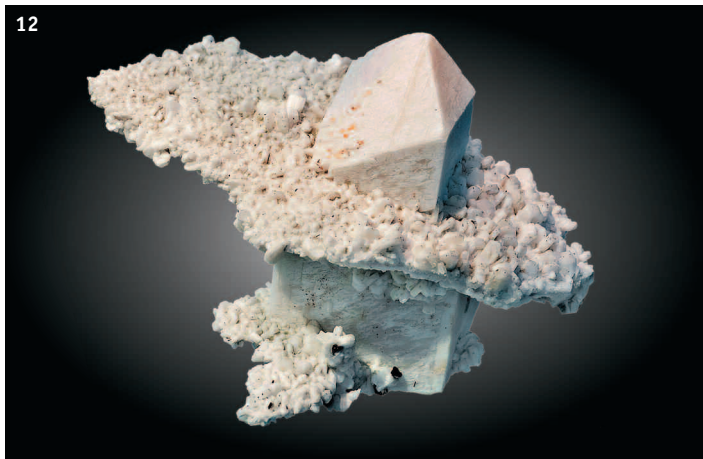




10. **Autunite.**
Assunção Mine, Aldeia Nova, Ferreira de Aves, Sâtao, Portugal.
Specimen: *Amazing Minerals*.



11. **Sphalerite.**
Áliva Mine, Picos de Europa, Cantabria, Spain.
Specimen: *NIMERAL*.



12. **Microcline.**
Nyt Bruk, Shigar Valley, Skardu District, Pakistan.
Specimen: Mustafa Ghulam.



13. **Gold.**
Aouint Ighoman, Assa-Zag Province, Guelmim-Oued Noun Region, Morocco.
Specimen: Anton Watzl.

were in the stock of Anton Watzl, including this lovely pair forming a heart (Fig. 13). The gold crystals form spinel law twins and are stacked into typical bent aggregates. Not only a perfect mineral specimens but also a romantic gift, great idea!

Munich-2021: my impressions

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I was asked about some of my favorite things at the Munich Show 2021. My absolute first, right-off-the-top response? It happened! Seriously, after nearly two years of no mineral shows (for me...there were a few smaller shows that went ahead this year, notably the Bologna Show, but I was unable to attend) the best thing I can say about my experience at the first, major international show that has sprung like a phoenix from this still smoldering (never mind cold ashes...that is still a dream) monstrosity that is Covid is...that Christoph Keilmann and his Munich Show team made it happen. Hats off.

The show was necessarily smaller than previously, and while some saw this and the lower attendance as signs that shows are dying, I am not sure I agree. One of the things that is so important about the show actually taking place is the human con-

Photo 14-21: Mark Mauthner.

tact. When I was just getting starting in my career, my mentor, Joe Nagel, sent me to scout out minerals for the collection and for our Collector Shop at the University of British Columbia Geology Museum (Canada). Yes, he had more experience, blah, blah, blah...but he justified his actions by saying he was at the shows to meet people, to catch up on other museum activities and to discuss ideas. Now, one can argue that, especially in times of Covid, we have learned that much can be accomplished online, especially in terms of commerce and holding meetings, but as much as technology has advanced, it cannot replace in-person contact. The importance of this personal contact was driven home to me even further when I asked the president of the board of directors I once reported to why he felt it necessary to make such long-distance trips over such a short time (I asked after this man had returned from his second complete circumnavigation of this planet inside of a month, each trip having no less than six stops and a maximum trip duration of five days) and his response was „...*nothing builds trust like looking someone in the eye and shaking hands. Nothing.*”

Where is this trust in our hobby/passion/business? First, there is trust in a specimen. There are collectors, not few, that will not buy a specimen unseen and unheld. Now, return privileges by mail can alleviate that somewhat, but nothing can replace looking at and comparing several pieces at once, or better, several pieces at several dealers' booths. Then there are the costs and risks of mail approvals. No, the benefits of being able to see specimens at a show, especially at a relatively local show (and Munich really is fairly 'local' for all of Europe, more so, given means of transport, than Tucson is even to the Western USA), are far more satisfying than online/mail order.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, there is the trust between a dealer and a customer...in both directions. People, especially those new to the hobby, are generally better able to build relationships in person.

That brings me to another point that makes shows important: new collectors. If shows are dying, it is not because of online sales or Covid, it is because there too

14. **Quartz, chrysocolla, malachite.**
6.5 cm tall. Tenke-Fungurume, Kolwezi, Lualaba, Katanga, DR Congo.
Specimen: *Spirifer Minerals*.

15. **Calcite.** 8.5 cm tall.
Gunung Keriang, Alor Star, Kedah State, Malaysia. *Spirifer Minerals* specimen.

16. **Gold.** 5.3 cm tall.
Aouint Ighoman, Assa-Zag Province, Guelmim-Oued Noun Region, Morocco.
Specimen: *Spirifer Minerals*.

