



A Glorious Jubilee

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO MIKHAIL MALEEV!

On August 21, 2021, Mikhail Maleev, our good friend, a brilliant specialist in mineralogy, a passionate collector with seven decades of experience, an outstanding organizer of science and museum business in Bulgaria, a bright public figure, a humanist, a wonderful person, turned 80. We asked the hero of the day to tell on the pages of the Mineralogical Almanac about himself, about the moments of his life and about the thoughts that he would like to share with our readers today. As a preface to this article, we publish a brief biographical note about our author.

Mikhail Naidenov Maleev was born on August 21, 1941, in Sofia. In 1959, he graduated from the Russian School in Prague and in the same year he entered the Faculty of Geology at Lomonosov Moscow State University, where he chose without hesitation the Department of Mineralogy. After graduating in 1965, Mikhail Maleev started the post-graduate study at the same Department of Mineralogy. In 1966–1968, under the guidance of Professor Georgiy Barsanov, he worked on his PhD thesis on ‘Properties and genesis of whiskers (filamentary crystals) and their aggregates.’ After successful completion of the dissertation in 1968, he returned to Sofia, where he actively started teaching and research work in mineralogy. In 1969–1985, Maleev was an assistant professor and then an associate professor at the Department of Mineralogy and Crystallography at the St. Kliment Ohridski University in Sofia. Along with this, in 1977, he founded and headed the Laboratory of Experimental and Technical Mineralogy at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS). The work of the laboratory was so productive that, in 1984, BAS established on its basis an Institute of Applied Mineralogy (now Institute of Mineralogy and Crystallography ‘Acad. Ivan Kostov’ BAS), and Maleev became its first director. He headed the Institute until 1991, and simultaneously, in 1987–1989, he served

Photos 1–6 on page 38:
Mikhail N. Maleev at the International Symposium “Mineral Diversity – Research and Preservation, Sofia, 21st century.”

(1) 2013; (2) and (3) 2011;

(4) with Viktor Grishin,

(5) with Igor Pekov,

(6) with Svetlana Nenasheva, 2015.

Photo: Eugene A. Vlasov and Dmitriy A. Varlamov.

7. Mikhail N. Maleev with Nina V. Skorobogatova in the VIMS Museum.

From archive of Nina V. Skorobogatova.

8. A representative specimen with **maleevite** $Ba[B_2Si_2O_8]$, a mineral named after Mikhail Maleev, on display at the *Earth and Man* National Museum in Sofia. Photo: Alexander A. Evseev.





9. Graduate students (1965) with professors and teachers of the Department of Mineralogy, Lomonosov Moscow State University.

as a First Deputy Chairman of the Association of Metallurgy and Mineral Materials of the Government of Bulgaria.

In the mid-1980s, one of the most important tasks for Maleev was to organize a new public museum in Sofia, dedicated primarily to minerals and their role in human life, economy, and culture. As a result, in 1986, Maleev established and headed the *Earth and Man* National Museum as its actual organizer. He donated to the museum most of his personal mineralogical collection, one of the best in Bulgaria. Maleev served as director of the museum until 2012. During this period, in addition to natural science and an educational role, the museum became an important general cultural center in Bulgaria, which was greatly promoted by the social activities of its leader. One of its important aspects was the Sofia Initiative for the Preservation of Mineral Diversity. Under such auspices and under the chairmanship of Maleev, ten International Symposias on ‘*Mineral Diversity – Research and Preservation*’ were successfully held from 2000 to 2019. During the last ten years, Maleev retired from leadership and organizational activi-



10. Mikhail Maleev, President of the 10th International Symposium ‘*Mineral Diversity - Research and Preservation*’ in Sofia with the participants of the symposium. October 2019. Photo: Eugene A. Vlasov

ties, mainly focusing on scientific research, working at the museum and at home with his thematic collections, which he started to assemble since the early 1950s.

Mikhail Maleev is a long-standing and sincere friend of Russia, who is deeply concerned about her problems and is firmly convinced that they will be successfully resolved. In turn, Russian mineralogists and geologists, museum workers and collectors have considered him a full member of their brotherhood for more than half a century. Maleev is an honorary member of the Russian Mineralogical Society. We join the congratulations of friends and colleagues and wish the dear hero of the day good health, continued good luck, a cheerful working mood and, of course, to fulfill and succeed the many plans.

Happy anniversary, Mikhail!

*Editorial Board
of the Mineralogical Almanac*