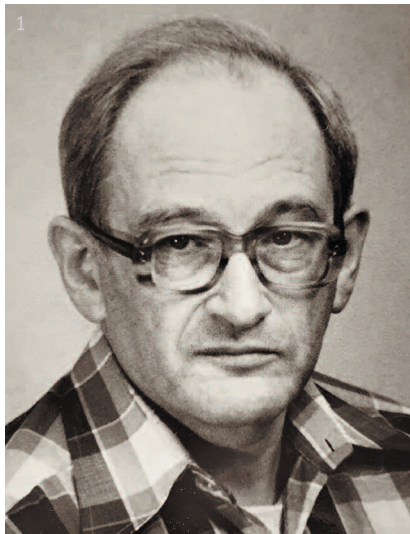


MEMORIAL OF BORIS Z. KANTOR

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1. Boris Z. Kantor
(April 06, 1930 – July 30, 2022).

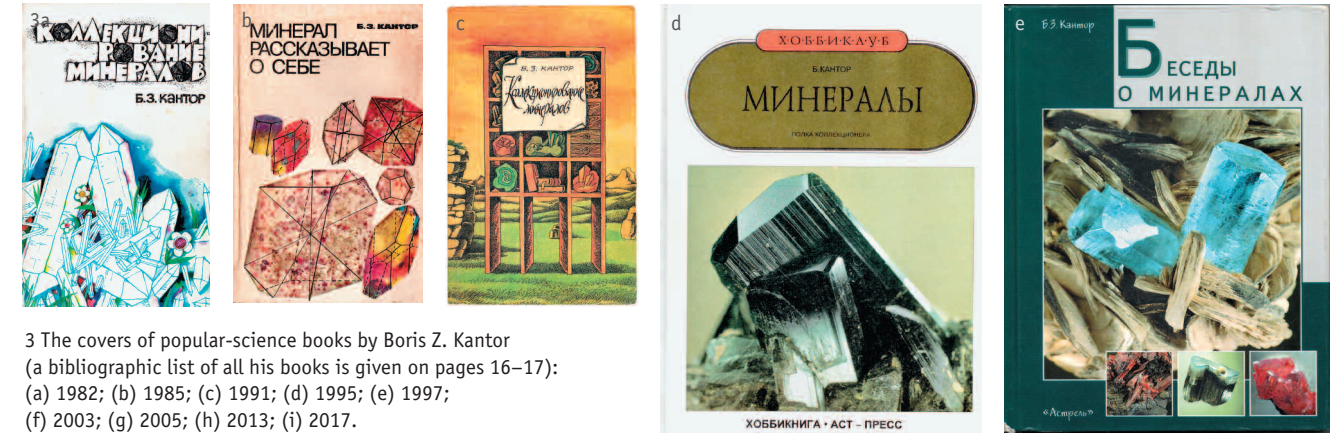
2. Cover of tenth popular-science book by
Boris Z. Kantor. It was published in 2022.



Boris Zinovievich Kantor, a remarkable person, interesting, brilliant, and talented in many aspects personality, an ardent mineralogist enthusiast, and a tireless enthusiastic popular exponent of mineralogical knowledge, who awakened and cherished love in minerals in many people, passed away on July 30, 2022. His long life was full and active, and he had managed to do a lot during it. Nowadays Boris Z. Kantor is worthily known as a patriarch among mineral amateurs and collectors nationwide, and as a patriarch and mentor, because it was largely his popular books and papers (the first of which was published more than four decades ago) that helped educating several generations of national mineral collectors. Boris Kantor is the author (the only one) of ten popular books aimed at a broad readership and more than one hundred fifty papers devoted to minerals, their "life" in nature, and to the history of mineralogy and mineral collecting¹. He has set an unusual record: he prepared (very rapidly) and published his last book in the age of 90 (Fig. 2)! Through his very last life months, Boris actively cooperated with the *Mineralogical Almanac* as both an author and an editor, as well as a translator and photographer. Although he lately often scolded that "his head is no more as good as has been before", we had many chances to make sure that his mind was still as brilliant as before and his creativity lasted to his last gasp.

It is no exaggeration to say that the *Mineralogical Almanac* has become the dominant point of application of his efforts and the main field where he tried to implement his creative concepts and ideas over the past two decades. He always referred to himself as an enthusiastic amateur mineralogist, but the absence of formal training in mineralogy and geology has not prevented him from becoming a true professional in the ontogeny of minerals, as is obvious from his publications. This is not to mention his professionalism in artistic photography and the scientific photography of minerals, which will be mentioned in more detail below. In the *Mineralogical Almanac* Boris Z. Kantor irremovably edited and wrote to "The Column of an Ontogenist" and thus played a very important role in the mineralogical education of the readership: he described and explained, using his scientifically precise language that was at the same time clear and readily understandable for the reader, how some features of minerals discernible by the naked eye can tell the story of the mineral itself, about circumstances under which the

¹ See below for a list of B.Z. Kantor's selected papers and books, on pages 16–17.



3 The covers of popular-science books by Boris Z. Kantor
(a bibliographic list of all his books is given on pages 16–17):
(a) 1982; (b) 1985; (c) 1991; (d) 1995; (e) 1997;
(f) 2003; (g) 2005; (h) 2013; (i) 2017.



crystals or their aggregates grew, and what happened with them over their long lifetime. A very important research avenue of mineralogy is the ontogeny of minerals. This area of knowledge flourished in the USSR in the second half of the 20th century and is now obviously in wane and cries out for new publications, and this deficit was largely counterbalanced by B.Z. Kantor's publications in the *Mineralogical Almanac*. His papers were always well illustrated with several brilliant photographs, he had shot by himself, and with his own explanatory drawings. Moreover, the *Mineralogical Almanac* published on a systematic basis B.Z. Kantor's reviews of literature on minerals and on their deposits and occurrences, numerous papers he edited (at this he sometimes strongly polemicized with colleagues), papers by national authors he translated into English and international ones translated by him into Russian to publish then in the *Mineralogical Almanac*. He also actively participated in discussions of the editorial board. B.Z. Kantor's demise is a terrible and irreparable loss for the *Mineralogical Almanac*.

Boris Z. Kantor had remained an enthusiastic mineral amateur and collector until his very last days, and was one of the oldest national mineral collectors, in both age and experience of collecting. He recalled that he first became interested in minerals and started to collect them, thus compiling a small mineral collection, as far back as the 1930s, when he was a first-form schoolboy, but shortly afterward abandoned his hobby for three decades but returned to it "more seriously" in 1967. B.Z. Kantor's unbroken collecting record was thus 55 years. He recalled that his most active years as a mineral collector were the 1970s and 1980s, when he systematically tripped to various localities across the Soviet Union to collect mineral specimens *in situ*, sometimes at then actively operated opencast mines (the regulations then were very different in this respect, as well as in many others). The geography of his "mineralogical" trips spanned the Urals, Karelia, Volga region, Crimea, Northern Caucasus, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, and of course, many localities in central Russia, first and foremost, in the Moscow region. He actively exchanges mineral