

Mineral Observer

Mineral News from Russia and Beyond

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The heading paper of the issue is by Vasily N. Orlov "Platinum Nuggets from the Diamond Fund of the Russian Federation: Witnesses of History" where the author describes in detail the platinum nuggets displayed in the Diamond Fund, and reveals the history of their discovery. The historical subject is carried on by Rupert Hochleitner in his article "The Duke Leuchtenberg Collection in the Mineralogical State Collection, Munich".

In the "Ontogeny" column Boris Z. Kantor in his paper "The Habit Change: Inquiries into the Past, Conjectures for the Future" tells the readers how to reconstruct the previous life of a mineral and to predict its future according to the change in crystal habit.. In the column "Mineral Travel" we go to western Georgia, Lukhumi, where the splendid specimens of realgar and orpiment are discovered at the antimony deposit.

The exhibition stand in this issue we granted to Will Larson displaying "Minerals of Japan" and Stuart Wilensky with "Mineral Masterpieces of Mexico". Traditionally we publish show reports from mineral shows "Tucson-2010", "Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines-2010" and "The World of Stone" in St.-Petersburg.

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Front Cover Photo **Platinum** nugget. 15.1 x 11.3 x 6.5 cm, 4 760.4 g. The Diamond Fund of the Russian Federation, No 12. Photo: Michael Leybov.

Title Page Photo **Emerald** cluster, 41 x 20 x 18 cm. Ural Emerald Mines, Urals, Russia. The Duke Leuchtenberg Collection, Museum "Reich der Kristalle", No 18205, Munich. Photo: Michael Leybov.

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