

NEW HISTORICAL HALL IN THE "SHTUFNOI KABINET" MUSEUM

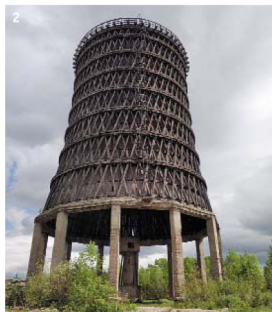
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1. Monument "250-year history of the Development of the North Urals" (2008); in the back – the famous bell tower of the Peter and Paul Cathedral, Severouralsk. Photo: Larisa I. Levitskaya, 2021.

2. Shukhov hyperboloid tower. This wooden water-cooling tower was built according to the project of Vladimir G. Shukhov for the thermal power station of the Severouralsk bauxite mine in 1948 (it has been operated until 1967). Severouralsk. Photo: Larisa I. Levitskaya, 2021.



In the "Shtufnoi Kabinet" Mineralogical Museum in Severouralsk a new, third, Historical Hall was opened on May 29, 2021. The hall is dedicated to the mining history of the northern Sverdlovsk region. Mikhail Tsyganko, the organizer of the museum, and his associates present artifacts, documents, achievements, and important events of the glorious era of the area known long ago as the Bogoslovsky Mining District. But the mining history of Severouralsk and surrounding areas is by no means over: mines and pits are still in operation; and goldminers continue their work on the rivers of the northern Urals.

The opening ceremony was very cordial and friendly. The guests congratulated the organizers for an important event for the museum and for mineral amateurs. Gifts were given. The most impressive in size was a gift from colleagues from the Fedorov Geological Museum (Krasnoturinsk) – a sucker-rod pump from the Maslovsky mine of the early 20th century (Fig. 9).

The historical collection of the museum is formed on the basis of a scrupulous historiographic scientific work: Mikhail Tsyganko studied documents, articles and books of scientists who visited this region, and puzzled out the places of ancient pits, mines, and factories. Then he, with his three sons and associates went on searching expeditions. Sometimes he succeeded in finding objects for the museum – an old mining tool, a button of a mining engineer, or a coal signet, for example – raw-material accounting mark in the metallurgical industry. One of the recent expeditions found evidence that the industrial development of the eastern slope of the Urals did not start at the beginning of the 18th century, but a hundred years earlier – in 1600-ies. According to the documents, that was when the saltworks were supposed to supply Siberia with salt were opened at the Koshkay salt spring located where the Negla River flows into Sosva River. They were operated only five years because the business turned out to be very difficult. Mikhail Tsyganko's team went to Kokshay, where they boiled salt out from brine; now this salt is an exhibit of the museum (Fig. 11).

The exposition is also replenished with gifts from colleagues, for example, Oleg V. Klimov, the chief engineer of the Ural-Nord prospectors' artel, handed over to the museum: a wedge-pick and a bizarrely curved hack-rabble, which were found in an old alluvial gold mine. Vitaly A. Meshkov, a veteran of geological exploration, presented a two-volume book "Nonmetallic Mineral Resources (Nerudnye Iskopaemye)" (Leningrad, 1926) from the library of Nikolay A. Karzhavin, a geologist who discovered the "Krasnaya Shapochka" bauxite deposit, with a dedication from his colleague.

Some of the exhibits were purchased from online auctions. Among them is a double-labeled dish which is in a display case dedicated to Alexander A. Auerbach who governed the Bogoslovsky Mining District for 15 years. He founded the Nadezhdinsky Metallurgical Plant, as well he created the infrastructure around it, and his grandfather, Andrei Ya. Auerbach, managed the manufacture of faience and porcelain, which were also widely-known in both capitals. The hall also presents documents: pay sheets circulating in the



Figs 9–10: during the opening of the historical hall, Photo: Larisa I. Levitskaya.

9. Yuriy V. Gunger presents a sucker-rod pump from the Maslovsky mine of the early 20th century, a gift from the Fedorov Geological Museum (Krasnoturinsk) colleagues.

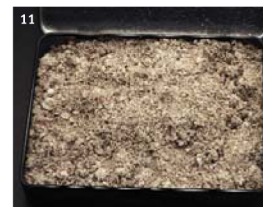
10. Mikhail V. Tsyganko guides a tour of Historical Hall for museum guests.

11–12. Recent museum acquisitions.

Photo: Mikhail V. Tsyganko.

11. Salt from the Koshay salt springs on the Negla River. N. Urals, Russia.

12. Coal Signet. N. Urals, Russia.



Sevolozhsky brothers' mining estates, shares and coupons of the Bogoslovsky Mining Society and, finally, the infamous "Ural francs" from the difficult of the economy in the 1990s (they served as a surrogate for money, a kind of in-house currency during the crisis of non-payments).

All exhibits there are placed in thematic showcases or in compositions from the miners lives. They are carefully attributed by explanatory texts. Is it worth saying how useful, exciting, and important this work is for all museum visitors, and especially for local children and young people who are happy to join in this important work.

It is impossible to tell in a short note about all the exhibits of the Historical Hall of the museum because behind every exhibit there are fascinating stories, events, people, minerals, and discoveries. The articles on the mineralogical collection of the "Shtufnoi Kabinet" have already been published in the *Mineralogical Almanac* (Tsyganko, 2015, 2017, 2019a, b).

Many interesting facts, photos, and reports about expeditions have been published by M. Tsyganko on the website "Zolotoi Kamen" <https://zolotoy-kamen.ru/> (in Russian).

Among recent museum acquisitions, I would like to note the wonderful blue halite from the Verkhnekamsky deposit (Ivanov *et al.*, 2021), aggregates of staurolite crystals in the shale from the Krasnovishersky District of the Perm Krai, orthite-allanite specimens from the historical Verkhotur'aya quarries, etc. The showcase dedicated to minerals discovered in the Northern Urals has been replenished with twenty exhibits over the past two years.

We wish Mikhail Tsyganko new achievements, discoveries, and travels!

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