

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS AT THE FERSMAN MINERALOGICAL MUSEUM, RAS

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**Specimens:** Fersman Mineralogical  
Museum, RAS.

**Photo:** Michael B. Leybov.

**M**etaphorically speaking, a museum can be envisioned as a “living” organism. At its core, the “heart” of the museum is its collection. The dedicated staff breathe life into it by preserving and expanding this collection. The museum building serves as the outer shell, designed to create optimal conditions for the preservation and display of its treasures. A museum can truly be considered alive only when its collection is regularly growing, when the staff actively work to update exhibitions and, equally importantly, to preserve and study the exhibits — traditionally referred to as “specimens” in geological and mineralogical museums. The Fersman Mineralogical Museum of the Russian Academy of Sciences exemplifies this concept of a “living” museum.

As Victor I. Stepanov aptly stated, “collectors are the soil on which museums grow” (Evseev, 1998), and our Museum is no exception. Over the past quarter-century, the primary source of replenishing the museum collection has been the generous donations from enthusiasts, collectors, and mineralogists. In contrast, a significantly smaller portion of new acquisitions comes from the Museum’s own field collections, purchases, and specimens obtained through exchanges or the sorting of older working materials.

A special highlight among the new acquisitions is two remarkable collections from the Kamenushinskoe copper deposit in the Kemerovo region and from the Kovdor alkaline-ultramafic massif on the Kola Peninsula, donated to the Museum by collector Oleg S. Bartenev between 2017 and 2021.

The collection from the Kamenushinskoe deposit features fifteen stunning pieces of azurite and malachite, most of which are proudly displayed in a dedicated showcase in the central passage of the exhibition hall, directly across from the historical specimens of Ural malachite and adjacent to the famous malachite vase. The crown jewel of this collection is a large, kidney-shaped piece of plush malachite (approximately 40 x 30 cm) in exceptional condition, which graced the cover of a recent issue of the “Mineralogical Almanac” (vol. 26, issue 1, 2021).

From the Kovdor massif, Oleg S. Bartenev donated approximately forty exceptional mineral specimens classical for the site, including magnetite (*Fig. 2*), phlogopite, fluorapatite, forsterite (*Fig. 3*), and quintinite. Notably, he also provided rare magnesium

1. The main entrance to the Fersman Mineralogical Museum, Russian Academy of Sciences. Photo: Ludmila A. Cheshko, 2018.

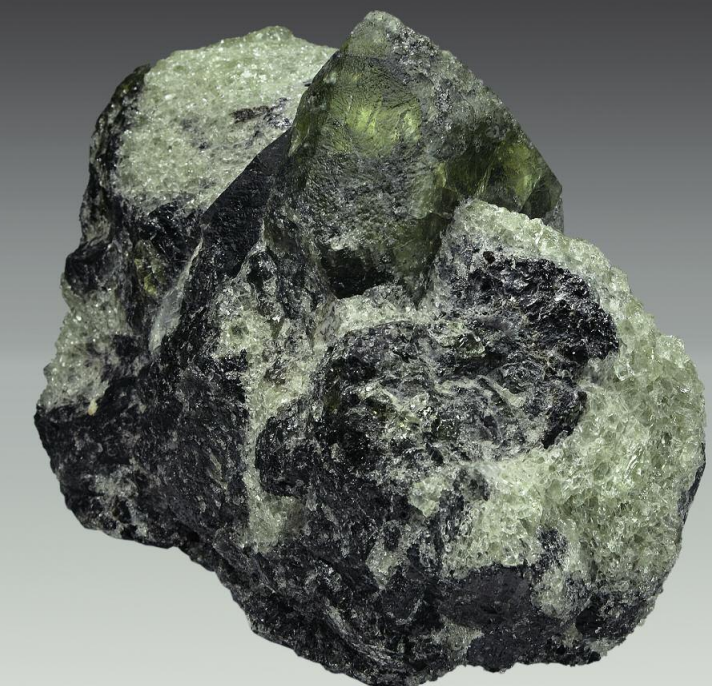


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2. **Magnetite**, a druse of crystals up to 3 cm with **phlogopite**, **forsterite** and **calcite**. 23 x 16 cm. Zhelezhnyi (Iron) mine, Kovdor massif, Kola Peninsula, Russia. FMM #96364, donated by Oleg S. Bartenev, 2018.

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3. **Forsterite**, crystal 6 x 6 x 3 cm in granular **fluorapatite**. 15 x 12 cm. Phlogopite quarry, Kovdor massif, Kola Peninsula, Russia. FMM #96898, donated by Oleg S. Bartenev, 2019.