

BOOKS REVIEW

The Grandmasters of Mineral Photography, Mineralogical Almanac, special issue, M., 2004. — 136 p., 117 colour and 13 b/w photos, in soft cover. In English.

Do you pay attention, how do you admire the beautiful mineral? You look it first from the one side, then from the other, differently bring it to the light: you involuntarily form its general image in your mind.

All that is beyond the limits of photographic craft. All remained to a photomaster is only to choose one perspective and one light decision. But if he profoundly knows minerals and is able to intelligently deal with these poor graphic means, then he will be able to carry to spectator the image of a natural aesthetic masterpiece, although deprived of volume, but with expressiveness and informativeness. Moreover, a photomaster has also the magic ability to create the masterpieces from «useless» small crystals, which did not deserve their own places in the collection and even were thrown out in a dustbin, the good-for-nothing waste. Complex of the talent, art taste, command of photographer technique, and special knowledge allows to notice in the mineral that deserves the choice and to express this on a photo beautifully, expressively, and without formalistic exaggerations. And if one also succeeded in catching a «raisin», peculiar to every subject, then it is already an art.

Fourteen authors of the album, published to the 50th Anniversary of the international Tucson Shows, are the modern photographers of minerals from Russia, the USA, France, Italy, Germany, and Japan. All them, Roberto Appiani, Nelly Barriand, Louis-Domenique Bayle, Rainer Bode, Michail Bogomolov, Hidemichi Hori, Terry Huising, Mikhail Leybov, Olaf Medenbach, Harold and Erica Van Pelt, Jeffrey Scovill, Stefan Weiss, Wendell Wilson, are experienced and knowing mineralogists. Their names and photos are known to the readers by books and periodical issues: *World of Stones* and *Mineralogical Almanac*, *Lapis* and *Rock & Minerals*, *Mineralogical Record* and *Mineralien Welt...* Each author is represented by nine works and the brief biographical information.

Among 117 photoworks published in this gift album there are the best ones and quite disputable. It will be interesting to the reader to determine his preferences, to appreciate the creative styles of different masters, to thing under edifying examples of solution of uneasy graphic problems.

Boris Kantor

Chukanov, N.V., Minerals of the Kerch Iron-Ore Basin in Eastern Crimea. Editor I. Pekov. Mineralogical Almanac, vol. 8, M: 2005. — 112 p., 147 colour photos, 49 figures and b/w photos, 84 references. In English.

This volume acquaints with the history of study of Kerchian ores and minerals, the geology of the Crimea and iron-ore basin, the types of iron ores and fossilized fauna, the mud volcanism of the Azov-Black Sea basin

etc. The main part is devoted to the detailed illustrated description of minerals of Kerchian iron ores, which since the end of the 1960th have attracted the soviet collectors and, with an appearance of the specimens abroad, have created them the agiotage popularity in the western collectors' world. The book contains the description of 160 mineral species of the Kerch Peninsula. The author devoted to their study, in the beginning as a collector and then as a scientist, the numerous field collections and observations, laboratory studies and bibliographical investigations.

Nikita V. Chukanov is a fancier and naturalist, connoisseur, expert and successful collector of minerals, and simultaneously persistent and thorough researcher, always carrying the work to significant conclusions. These qualities have supplied him with success in the scientific field; the discovery of several new minerals in short time is an evidence of that. At the Kerchian deposits he succeeded not only in obtaining a new data and in bringing in a system the mineralogy of Kerchian phosphates but also in standing a point in the old problem of «kerchinites»: to prove they are not, as was supposed, the proper minerals, but the peculiar mixtures of vivianite with a product of its oxidation, santabarbarite.

The abundance of good photoillustrations (Mikhail Leibov) helps the reader to compose the notion about diversity of minerals of the Kerch Peninsula.

Along with the mineralogy of iron ores, the book includes the interesting information on mud volcanoes of the Kerch Peninsula.

The history of discoveries of the minerals reminds the reader about two cases of publications delays, which were the reason of a loss of the official priority by the native science. These are anapaite of A. Zaks (published in 1902) instead tamanite of S.P. Popov (the first findings in 1899, publication in 1903) and santabarbarite of G. Pratesi (2003) instead oxykerchinite of S.P. Popov (1938).

As an example of morphologically original findings of the author, one can note the sheaf-like crystals of anapaite. The mention at the same place (p. 75) about anapaite crystals to 20 cm in size is unfortunately considered as a misprint.

The latest data obtained by N.V. Chukanov represents the doubtless interest for specialists-mineralogists. The book will be useful also for «advanced» amateurs and collectors interesting in minerals of the Kerch Peninsula.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to keep in translation the good Russian language distinguishing the texts of Nikita V. Chukanov. English translation is not without misprints and errors (in particular, incorrect use of terms «druse», «drusy»), nevertheless that does not trouble the comprehension by the English-language reader. At the same time, it would be necessary to note this book deserves the publication in Russian, since it is interesting for our specialists and fanciers.

Boris Kantor

Pekov I.V., Podlesnyi A.S. Kukisvumchorr Deposit: Mineralogy of the Alkaline Pegmatites and Hydrothermalites. Mineralogical Almanac, vol. 7. M.: — 164 p., 121 colour photos, 225 b/w photos, schemes, drawings of crystals, 164 references.

«Kukisvumchorr Deposit» is the result of collaboration of the famous mineralogist with the well-known collector, whose collection is most representative for this deposit. The volume is devoted to 75-anniversary of the Kirovskii apatite mine in Khibiny, the first in Russia mine works beyond the Polar Circle.

The Kukisvumchorr deposit worked by the Kirovskii mine is a unique mineralogical object: on its territory 212 mineral species are noted, including 19 minerals discovered here (among them 6 by I.V. Pekov, and 11 ones were found for the first time in the collection of A.S. Podlesnyi), at that 39 mineral species are known in Khibiny only here. Pegmatite-hydrothermal complex of the deposit is strongly unusual even at the background of the unique alkaline Khibiny massif. It abounds in large cavities that gave the world best specimens of tens of minerals. Remarkable mineralogical finds of the Kukisvumchorr deposit are noted as a Appendix on pages 127-128.

Along with the questions of distribution, genetic conditions, assemblages and morphology of minerals of the deposit, including the data of original goniometric measurements and electron microprobe studies, the book contains the geological-petrological essay, history of study and developing, characteristic of pegmatites and hydrothermalites, geochemical and genetic peculiarities of the late mineralization. With particular interest and emotion, the reader will read 26 pages of «History of study and developing», which almost entirely consists of expressive quotations, documents, and archival photos.

Boris Kantor

Evseev A.A. Atlas of the World for Mineralogist. M.: Fersman Mineralogical Museum RAS; 2004. — 284 p., 275 maps-schemes. In Russian.

This edition, first in its class, has included the colossal volume of information accumulated by the author during the process of thirty-years topomineralogical investigations. In addition to author's card index, keeping the information about more than 100 thousands of occurrences of minerals, the numerous literature, information from Internet, data on mineralogical collections of museums, private communications were used.

The mineral kingdom is divided into 275 geographical regions, for each of them there is a map-scheme with indication of mineral occurrences, qualities of specimens, references, and also about mineralogical museums located in the region. The points of type localities are marked. The *Atlas* is a handbook, which is necessary to have at hand to each specialist and amateurs of minerals, desiring to widen his mineralogical range of interests. Although the

Atlas is announced «for educational purposes», undoubtedly, it will become a handbook of scientists and museum collaborators.

The *Atlas* of A.A. Evseev will keep its absolute value as a source of information about historical findings and state of topomineralogical information at the moment of publication. At the same time, the essence of the work intends the constant renewal: collectors and museum collaborators do not sit without business and every day bring new, sometimes sensational findings. The present edition is an excellent initiative, corresponding to time, and it is necessary to wish the author to continue the work and have a possibility of reediting of the *Atlas*, when new information will be received. Possibly, it will be necessary to prepare simultaneously the more expensive edition, illustrated by photos of classic and new findings.

Boris Kantor

Pekov I.V., The Lovozero Massif: History of Study, Pegmatites, Minerals. M.: Association Ecost, 2001. — 464 p., 146 colour photos, 188 b/w photos, 109 figures, 501 references, hard cover.

«*The Lovozero massif is an astonishing phenomenon of nature*» (after Editor, academician Liya N. Kogarko); it more than a century attracts attention of Russian and world scientists. This is one of the largest plutons in the world, which is practically entirely composed by the extremely alkaline rocks. In them 340 mineral species are noted, a half of which are rare and rarest minerals. Here 73 new minerals have been discovered, including 23 mineral species, known only here.

The detailed mineralogical summaries include the minerals descriptions, accompanied by colour illustrations, drawings of crystals, history of discovery, data on chemical composition. The cadastre of mineral species gives a notion about reliability of present information. In the list of minerals, discovered in the Lovozero massif, the authors and data of discoveries, the places of the first findings, and the origin of names are indicated. There is a summary of crystals-giants etc. Also the issue «History of study and developing» is interesting, where the large volume of archival and published materials and photodocuments are collected and systematized, the estimation of a role of well-known researches is given.

The author succeeded in making his intention: «...by character of exposition, he has created the scientific-popular book and, by correctness and validity of given data, strictness of the reference system, the scientific book, taking into account the experience of foreign editions of such type». «The Lovozero Massif» is simultaneously both a handbook and a book for reading; it is interesting and informative both for the professional-mineralogist and for the amateur, collector, and also the reader who is not indifferent to history of science.

Boris Kantor