

International Scientific Conference "Fersman Days" and its youth session "Fersmaniada" devoted to the 125th anniversary of academician Alexander E. Fersman

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On the 10–12th November 2008 International scientific conference "Fersman Days" devoted to the 125th anniversary of academician Alexander Fersman, organized by Fersman Mineralogical Museum RAS and IGEM RAS supported by Russian Geological Society and Russian Mineralogical Society took place in Moscow. The conference was hosted by Fersman Mineralogical Museum RAS and IGEM RAS — the scientific institutions that showed allegiance to principles founded by academician Alexander Fersman, an outstanding Russian scientist and public figure.

At the conference the problems of development trends of academician Alexander Fersman's ideas, their urgency in the modern science, importance and timeliness of his discoveries within Kola Peninsula, Ural Mountains and Middle Asia investigations were discussed, and also particular questions of mineralogy and geochemistry of natural and men-caused processes were considered.

At the Fersman Mineralogical museum the new exhibition "Amusing mineralogy in stones" using Alexander Fersman own mineral collection and archive materials was put on display. For the first time within the conference the youth session "Fersmaniada" was organized.

Delegates from many cities and regions of Russia took part in the meeting, they came from Moscow, Miass, Apatity, Chita, Vladivostok, Murzinka. Young mineralogists arrived from Apatity, Rybinsk, Arkhangelsk, Perm, Moscow, Orsk and Energetik town (Orsk region). International delegates came from Bulgaria and Ukraine.

The first day of a conference was consecrated to plenary lectures by outstanding scientists from Russia and foreign countries and was held in the IGEM RAS. Peculiar attention was concentrated on the talks by academician Vladislav S. Urusov on "the natural selection of the mineral species", professor Igor V. Pekov on the unusual new minerals and pro-

fessor Ernst M. Spiridonov on the pegmatites problems.

The second day was held in the Fersman Mineralogical Museum RAS and was devoted to particular questions of mineralogy such as agate genesis (lecturer — professor Mikhail N. Maleev), aesthetic crystallochemistry (lecturer — professor Alexander P. Khomyakov), mineralogy of Darai-Pioz alkaline complex (lecturer — Leonid A. Pautov).

On the third day the youth session "Fersmaniada" supported by Russian Geological Society (RosGeo) took place at the Fersman Mineralogical Museum. The auditorium listened to twelve talks by young geologists and mineralogists who reported about their own and team results. The most interesting topics were represented by schoolchildren from Apatity, Perm, Orsk and Bogotol.

As a result young scientists got first, second and third awards. The first award was granted to Nina Sinitsina paper on the educational "Fersman Route" in Apatity region. The second award was shared between Pavel Maerkov from Bogotol, Olesya Vidsheva and Angelina Dolganova from Orsk. The third award shared between Ekaterina Sentsova, Vladlena Syrvacheva from Perm and Tatiana Gatalova, Elizaveta Kramkova from Energetik town. Besides, all the young participants were awarded with RosGeo diploma and Fersman museum certificates.

Also, the abstracts of the conference published comprised ones of professional and young mineralogists in one magazine.

The conference united different people together, both mineralogists, museum professionals and young geologists who became interested in science recently. Everybody were united with the passion to mineralogy and academitian Alexander Fersman heritage. The fact the youth session was well-attended revealed the genuine interest of the young generation in the Earth sciences and hopefully will help revive professional specialists in the industry.