

## ON 90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ILMENY STATE RESERVE

Elena N. Matvienko

*IRAS Fersman Mineralogical Museum, RAS, Moscow, mineral@fmm.ru*

Ilmeny State Reserve of the Urals Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences was found 90 years ago, on May 14, 1920. At first it was formed as a mineralogical Reserve and later it received a status of a complex Reserve and became a nucleus of the research center of the Academy of Sciences in the South Urals. It is the only mineralogical Reserve in Russia. The International Meeting "Science, Nature and the Society" was dedicated to the anniversary and took place in Miass on May 10–13, 2010. It gathered geologists and biologists in a friendly and creative atmosphere. P.M. Valizer, the director of the Ilmeny Reserve, opened the meeting with the speech on the state of the reserve area and its meaning to the Urals. Academician N.P. Yushkin (Institute of Geology, Komi Science Centre of the Urals Branch of the RAS, Syktyvkar) was among those who congratulated the staff of the Reserve. He presented very interesting report named "Bio-mineral Evolution". Academician V.A. Koroteyev from the Institute of Geology and Geochemistry of the Urals Branch of the RAS (Ekaterinburg) highly esteemed the fundamental mineralogical research carried out in the Ilmeny Reserve. Ten new minerals out of the eighteen were discovered there during the period 1965–2005 by the local scientists. Models of mineral formation, theories of pegmatite formation and metamorphism and other hypotheses were developed on the material obtained in the Ilmeny Reserve. Contemporary world-class studies on mineral classification among individual mineral groups and creation of mineral registers are carried out in the Reserve. V.G. Korinevskiy, E.P. Makagonov, S.N. Nikandrov, V.A. Popov, V.I. Popova, the well known mineralogists from the Ilmeny and other scientists participated in the section "Precambrian Polimetamorphic Complexes of the Southern Urals". Excursions on the territory of the Ilmeny mineralogical Reserve and at the Museum of Natural Science were organized for the con-

ference participants. The Museum is one of the five biggest geological-mineralogical museums in Russia and represents a large education center receiving 60 thousands of visitors annually. Exposition dedicated to the history of studies of the Ilmeny Reserve was remodeled to the anniversary and gained a special attention as well as new exhibitions of crystals, technogenic minerals and new minerals found in the Ilmeny during 20<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Separate division of the new mineral exhibition was dedicated to their discoverers, the well known mineralogists from the Ilmeny: B.A. Makarochkin, A.G. Bazhenov, V.O. Polyakov, B.V. Chesnokov and other mineralogists from the Ilmeny, who carry on the studies today. Museum community found interesting the work of the section "Science and Education: Ways of Interaction".

E.N. Matvienko, PhD in Geosciences and Mineralogy congratulated the colleagues from the Ilmeny on the anniversary from the name of the staff of the Fersman Mineralogical Museum of the RAS. Her presentation was dedicated to minerals from the Ilmeny in the collection of the Fersman Mineralogical Museum and to their discoverers. The history of the Mineralogical Museum of the RAS was tightly connected with the studies of the Ilmeny starting from the visit of academician P.S. Pallas, who was the head of the Mineralogical Cabinet in the *Kunstkamera*. He was the first to publish data on the Ilmeny Mountains. Academician V.M. Severgin, one of the founders of the Russian mineralogical science and another head of the Cabinet, was first to publish materials on minerals from the Ilmeny in his fundamental works in Russian. Academicians V.I. Vernadsky and A.E. Fersman directed the recreation of mineralogical collection of the Academy of Sciences and were originators of the idea of creation of the Ilmeny Reserve and research center of the Academy of Sciences in the Southern Urals. Joined activities of radium and complex expe-

ditions of the Academy of Sciences and the Museum during many years pulled together the staff of the Mineralogical Museum and the one of the Ilmeny Reserve. The Ilmeny had its special place in the work of V.I. Kryzhanovsky who organized extensive exploration of the Ural Mountains mine after mine and delivering of specimens of minerals he discovered to the Museum. He lead evacuation of the Museum from Moscow to the Ilmeny during the World War II when the most valuable specimens were moved to the Urals. Professor G.P. Barsanov, the director of the Mineralogical Museum of the USSR Academy of Sciences, recovered from his battle injury in the Ilmeny and actively participated in studies of mineralogy of the area. Barsanov made the studies a subject for many of his publications including his degree thesis. The list of people

from the Mineralogical Museum of the Academy of Sciences who studied the Ilmeny and its minerals as well as scientists from the Ilmeny itself is very long. Strong scientific ties between the institutions are still well maintained. Fersman Mineralogical Museum of the RAS has more than 5000 samples from the Ilmeny.

Efforts of the scientists on keeping mineral and biological diversity of the Reserve intact and scientific work are well known and esteemed. The Reserve is popular within a wide public that brings to it a cultural significance along with the scientific.

We wish a fruitful work to the colleagues in the Ilmeny. V.I. Kryzhanovsky, an authoritative investigator of the Ilmeny, stated: "Has study of the Ilmeny accomplished? Of course not... It is to be continued".