

## WONDERFUL DRAWINGS OF MINERALS BY VICTOR SLYOTOV AND VLADIMIR MAKARENKO

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In eightieth years of the last century I had friendly contacts with a small group of active and talented young men, amateurs of minerals, friends of Victor Arnol'dovich Slyotov. I has «grandiloquently» addressed to one of them:

Be a person in great and small,  
While the fire in soul burns.  
And my advice: grow as crystal!  
Don't split in spherulite!

Life tectonic faults, «vpuki and vypuki» (Russian substitutions of terms «synclines» and «anticlines»); it is attributed to Vera A. Varsanof'eva) of long-awaited democracy dispersed this interesting group. One of them, philosopher by nature, has got this degree in the area of Mineralogy and flew away to London, where he had a job at a petrol station. Another guy deals with the physics of minerals. The third guy gifted geologist and mathematician is unfortunately far from mineralogy now.

Life of Victor Slyotov developed otherwise. After graduating from the Geological department of the Lomonosov MSU, as early as «pere-stroika» began, he was crippled by bandits for refusal to sign a self-slander. Bandits were just punished, but Victor obtained physical inability for all remained life. But love to stones and habit to work were stronger than circumstances, and he began to fulfil his old idea: to draw minerals.

In 2004 V.A. Slyotov was awarded to honorary title of laureate of the international premium «Philanthropist» for prominent achievements of invalids in culture and art (special premium «For novelty and originality in creation»). Project «Mineral Drawings» obtained its first recognition! Originality of ideas and quality of their artistic performance in albums «Mineral Drawings» have amazed the jury. In 2001-2004 three such albums were published, two later with subheading «Ontogeny of minerals in drawings». Drawings are interesting not only for artists but also for mineralogists, however, we shall note that all three albums of drawings by V. Slyotov and V. Makarenko are not a regular scientific work: they are unsystematic both in selection of mineralogical objects and in order of arrangement of drawings. This is certainly art approach: the object is interested for creator — both as artist with aesthetic point of view and

mineralogist with scientific point of view. However one recollects H. Heine: «Nightingales sing without rules, only when desire». But scientific part in drawings is more than essential.

Science and art have different cognitive potentials, and their unity in obtaining universal general information about environment and world of stones is especially valuable. Artistic image of mineralogical object, which is created by specialist understanding a point of fact, has an extra significance for interpretation of mineral genesis and first of all for revelation of the way of growth, dissolution, and recrystallization of minerals in druses and concretions, i.e. the questions insignificantly known and in essence raised by V. Slyotov.

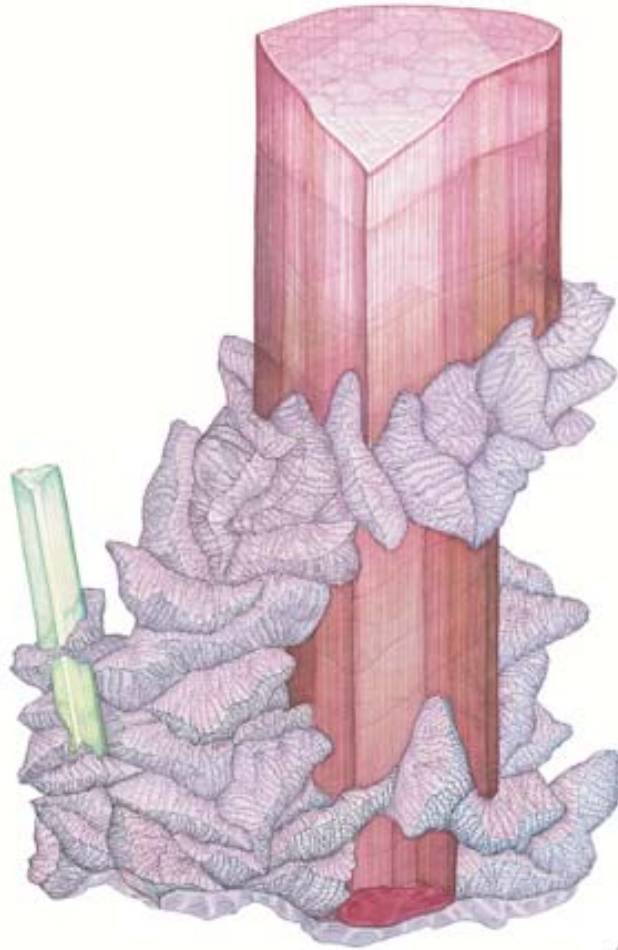
Detailed images of morphology, especially the surface of crystals and spherulites, which are drawn during study of minerals under binocular (stereomicroscope), give the «rich food» for genetic mineralogy and first of all minerals ontogeny, that studies development of mineral individ and aggregates, their «life». Mechanism of formations and development of germs of crystals and spherulites, their further growth and subsequent mineralogical events: dissolution, recrystallization, regeneration, etc. And all that by features recorded on the minerals. Victor Slyotov entirely follows to the ideas of founder of mineral ontogeny, professor D.P. Grigor'ev who encouraged mineralogists to study and understand stones as true source of main and different mineralogical information and aesthetic beauty.

Subtitle «Ontogeny of minerals in drawings» on the second issue clearly determines mineralogical tendency, in which mineralogist and artist Victor Slyotov and his student and co-author, artist Vladimir Makarenko work.

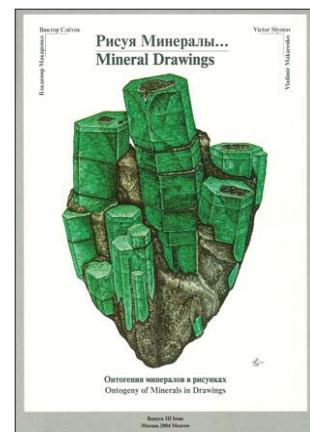
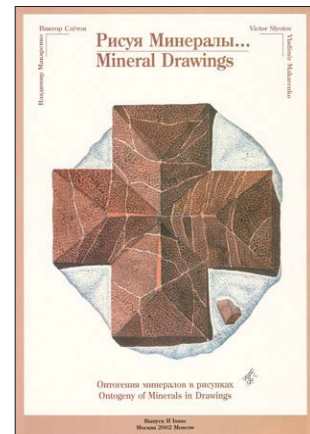
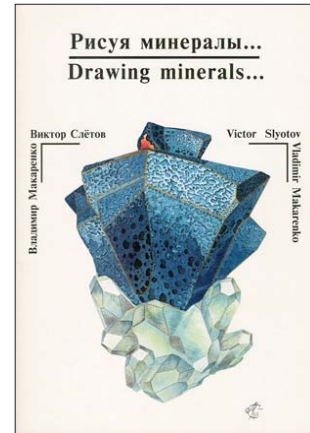
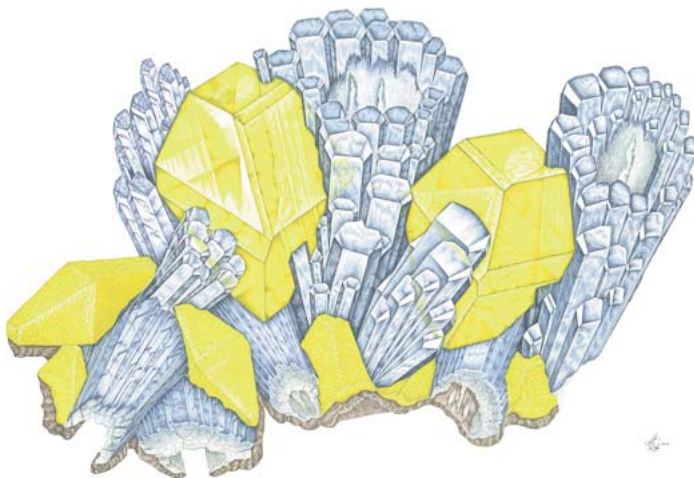
Many graphic (white-black) drawings are made by authors with such accuracy and detailed elaboration (minuteness) that they do not demand explanations of specialists who can estimate novelty and scientific value of good and in many respects unique factual material.

Examples of plastic deformations of antimonite crystals by growing in them thin-grained aggregate of partly crystallized quartz grains are wonderful (Fig. 12, 13, N. 1). Many colour drawings (water-colour) made by V. Slyotov together with V. Makarenko are very informative and

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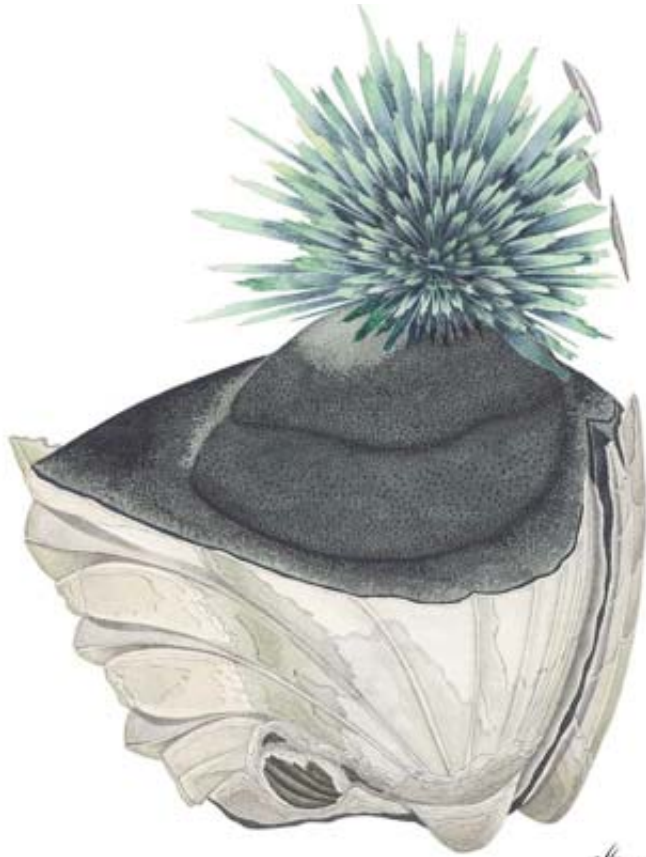
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**Fig. a.** Tourmaline with asymmetrical spherocrystals of lepidolite, 3 cm. The Borshchovochnyi range, Eastern Zabaikalie, Russia

**Fig. b.** Crystals of sulphur of two generations and intergrowths of celestine with features of recrystallization. 1.5 cm. Shor-Su, Uzbekistan

c



**Fig. c.** Vivianite in shell. 3.5 cm.  
Kerch, Crimea, Ukraine

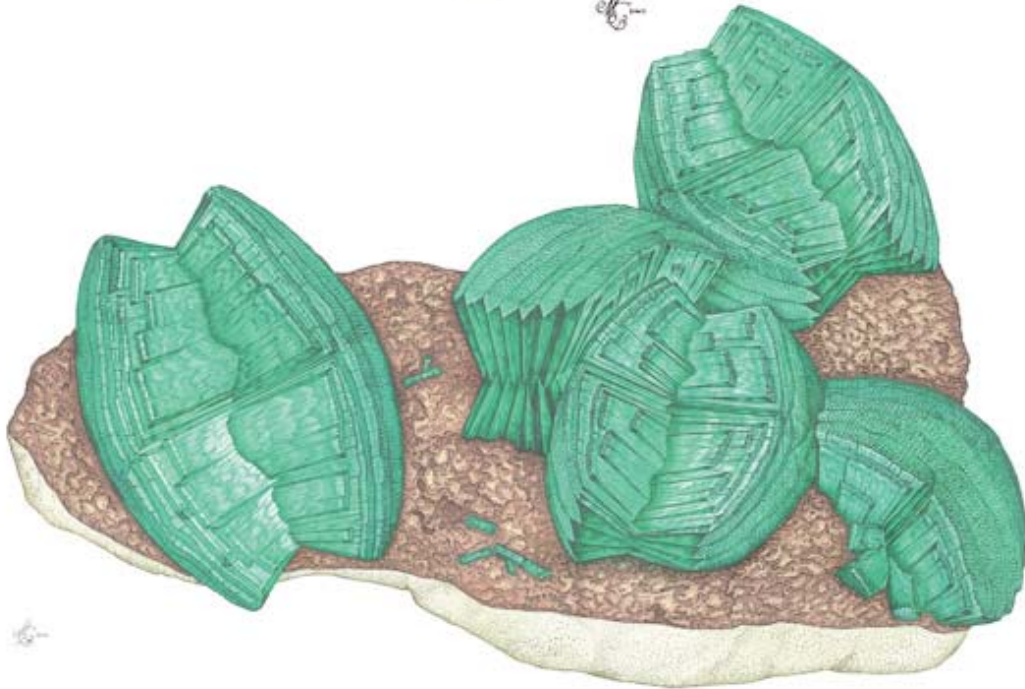
**Fig. d.** Malachite, splitting of «sheaves» of tabular crystals twinned on the [100], on quartzite. 4 cm. Kazakhstan

**Fig. e.** Cave calcite, «anomalous crystallites». 7 cm. Kyrgyzia

**Fig. f.** Crystallite dendrite of cave calcite with trillings. 7.5 cm. Kyrgyzia

**Fig. g.** Gypsum anholites. 12 cm. Tajikistan

d





e



f



g

