

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

THE 130th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIAN MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

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On January 19, 1947, the Russian Mineralogical Society, the oldest of the existing mineralogical societies in the world, will celebrate its 130th anniversary.

The Russian Mineralogical Society was founded at the very beginning of 1817. In Russia that was the time of the growing interest in minerals and ores. The XVIII century witnessed the discovery of many famous Ural and Siberian mineral deposits whose specimens may be seen in the largest mineralogical museums. In Petersburg and Moscow, in both state and private museums, may be found excellent mineralogical collections from Russia; also in western Europe and North America.

As early as 1815 there was formed a group of naturalists who devoted their leisure time to the study of minerals and exchanged their ideas concerning the geology and mineralogy of Russia. The Mineralogical Society originated with the above group. On January 19, 1817, 33 members of the group adopted the constitution of the new Society, thus laying the foundation for its official existence. L. J. PANSNER, Doctor of philosophy, astronomy and mineralogy, and Professor at the Pedagogical Institute and at the University of Petersburg, was elected the first President of the Society.

The newly formed Mineralogical Society thus came into existence and from the very beginning enlisted eminent Russian and foreign scientists. BEAUMONT, BERZELIUS, DANA, DAUBREE, HALL, HUMBOLDT, LYELL, MURCHISON, ROSE, VERNEUIL, and others were affiliated with the Petersburg Mineralogical Society.

During the first decennary its members succeeded in amassing considerable data on the mineralogy and geology of Russia.

By the time of its 50th anniversary the Mineralogical Society had been widely recognized in the scientific world. To commemorate the 50th anniversary there was published a special volume, "Memoires of the Russian Mineralogical Society," which contained a number of historical papers (Series 2, v. II, 1867), and a comprehensive "Symposium devoted to the 50th anniversary." The jubilee celebration is described in the *Memoires of the Russian Mineralogical Society*, vol. III, pp. 303-410, 1868.

The activity of the Society became especially fruitful in the years that followed. During that flourishing period we find the names of N. J. KOKSHAROV, P. V. EREMEYEV, F. N. CHERNYSHEV and A. P. KARPINSKY—the Presidents and Secretaries of the Society.

Extensive mineralogical and geological investigations carried on throughout the vast areas of Russia, were the results of the society's activity during this period.

In the succeeding years the Mineralogical Society sent its members to numerous places to prepare geological maps, investigate ore deposits and collect samples for mineralogical study. The expeditions of the Society embraced the entire Russian territory, from the shores of the Baltic Sea to Turkestan and to the north-eastern extremities of Siberia. The preparation of the general geologic map of Russia was initiated by the members of the Society.

On January 19, 1917, the Russian Mineralogical Society celebrated its 100th anniversary. Because of war-time conditions it was not possible to carry out the full program of the jubilee celebration. The monumental summarizing work on the progress of petrography in Russia by F. U. LEVENSON-LESSING and the history of the geologic investigations of Siberia by V. A. OBRUCHEV, written specially for the jubilee, were published considerably

later. A. P. GUERASIMOV's paper "The 100th Anniversary of the mineralogical Society" was devoted to the jubilee and was published in the "*Geological Herald*," vol. III, pp. 9-27, 1917.

The 125th anniversary on January 19, 1942, coincided again with the war. In besieged Leningrad under the fire of German high-calibre guns there was held a modest jubilee meeting attended by the members of the Society. The jubilee address delivered by D. P. GRIGORIEV, the secretary of the Society, is published in "Memoires of the Russian Mineralogical Society," vol. LXXI, No. 1-2, pp. 1-8.

After the victorious end of World War II the Russian Mineralogical Society is going to celebrate its 130th anniversary on January 19, 1947.

Numerous investigations were carried out by the Society during the 130 years of its existence. These are represented by the publications of the Society.

The first volume of its publications appeared in 1830 under the title of "*Transactions*"; the second volume was published in 1842. The activity of the Society increased greatly since that time. In addition to the annual publication of "*Transactions*," 27 volumes of "Materials on the Geology of Russia" were published within the period from 1863 to 1916. The "*Memoires*" of the Russian Mineralogical Society have been issued since 1866.* Its 75th volume makes its appearance in 1946. There are four annual numbers of the Memoirs aggregating from 600 to 800 pages. Besides this the Society has published scores of books and other publications.

All told the Mineralogical Society has published more than 120 volumes that contain important data on the mineralogy, geology and ore deposits of the U.S.S.R., as well as of foreign countries such as the U.S.A., England, Africa, India, Germany, Iran, Ireland, Italy, New Caledonia, China, Manchuria, Scandinavia, Ceylon, Japan, and others.

After the recent war the work of the Russian Mineralogical Society is again in full progress. Besides the usual meetings of the members and the annual meeting on January 19, "Fedorov sessions" are held in memory of E. S. FEDOROV, the greatest of all Russian crystallographers. Every year the Society awards an honorary testimonial for the most outstanding work on geology and mineralogy. The Society possesses a large library containing valuable collections of rare editions of the XVIII and early XIX centuries.

In conclusion of this brief review we shall cite the words of S. S. KUTORGA who was the President of the Society in 1845: "It is not ambition that makes us recall all our achievements but the wish to contemplate the excellent future of our Society and to support each other for the advancement of Science!"

* Written in Russian but each article contained an English, German, or French summary.