



**GEOLOGISCHE AUSSTELLUNG IM NEUEN GEBÄUDE DER HAUPTBIBLIOTHEK DER MOSKAUER  
LOMONOSOV STAATSUNIVERSITÄT (anlässlich des 250. Jahrestags der Gründung der staatlichen  
Lomonosov Universität in Moskau)**

**GEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION IN THE NEW BUILDING OF THE MAIN LIBRARY OF THE LOMONOSOV  
UNIVERSITY AT MOSCOW (for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lomonosov State University, Moscow)**

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Mit 8 Abbildungen / with 8 figures

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**Schlüsselwörter:** Lomonosov Universität – 250 Jahre, Michail V. Lomonosov (1711–1765), Universitätsgeschichte, Russland, Ausstellung (Mineralogie), Sammlung (Mineralogie), Bibliotheksneubau

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**Zusammenfassung**

2005 beging die Staatliche Moskauer LOMONOSOV Universität (MSU) ihr 250-jähriges Gründungsjubiläum. Am 25. Jänner 1755 unterschrieb die Kaiserin Elisabeta Petrovna (1709–1761), Tochter von Peter dem Grossen (Peter I.), die Gründungsurkunde der ersten Russischen Universität. Der berühmte Mineraloge Michail V. Lomonosov (1711–1765) gehörte zu den Gründern dieser Universität.

Zum Jubiläum wurde ein neues Gebäude (geplant vom Stararchitekten Gleb N. Zitovich), in welchem die Hauptbibliothek untergebracht ist, errichtet. Es enthält mehrere Lesesäle, Platz für 5 Millionen Bände und ein Museum über die MSU-Geschichte.

Commendatore Primo Rovis, ein berühmter italienischer Sammler, Star und Kunstmäzen übergab anlässlich des Jubiläums dem erdwissenschaftlichen Museum zwei einzigartige mineralogische und paläontologische Sammlungen, die von zwei Industriellen aus dem Ural stammen. Er setzte damit eine alte Tradition fort, das MSU zu unterstützen.

Jetzt ist die mineralogische Sammlung in einer Dauerausstellung im erdwissenschaftlichen Museum zu bewundern, sie beinhaltet Material aus der ganzen Welt, fast 2 m große Amethystgeoden und Achate aus Brasilien, Lapislazuli aus Afghanistan, beinahe 10 kg schwere brasilianische schwarze Turmaline, gewaltig große versteinerte Hölzer (*Sequoia*) aus Arizona sowie unzählige weitere Schätze.

Die Autorin dieses Vortrages hat am Tag des Jubiläums, dem 25. Jänner 2005 mit zahlreicher Prominenz, darunter der Präsident der Russischen Föderation, Vladimir V. Putin, und dem Moskauer Bürgermeister, die Eröffnung der geologischen Ausstellung abhalten können. Professor h.c. Primo Rovis hat dem Präsidenten Putin eine wunderschöne Achatgeode zum Geschenk gemacht.

## **Geological Exhibition, Lomonosov State University, Moscow**

In 2005, the Lomonosov State University in Moscow celebrated the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding. On January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1755, Empress Elizabeth (1709–1761), the daughter of Emperor Peter the Great (Peter the 1<sup>st</sup>), signed the decree of the founding of the first Russian university. The outstanding Russian scientist of encyclopaedic knowledge and poet, Michail V. Lomonosov (1711–1765), and the prominent state official and patron of art, Ivan I. Shuvalov (1727–1797), were the founders of the University (Figs 1, 2). Michail V. Lomonosov and Ivan I. Shuvalov are therefore the national pride of Russia.



Fig. 1: Michail V. Lomonosov (1711–1765), the scientist-encyclopaedist, the founder of Moscow University.



Fig. 2: Ivan I. Shuvalov (1727–1797), the founder and the first Curator of Moscow University.



Fig. 3: The Rector at the Lomonosov Moscow State University is the well-known scientist-mathematician, academician Victor A. Sadovnichii.



Fig. 4: Commendatore Primo Rovis, a famous Italian collector, prominent public man and patron of the arts.

During 250 years of its history, the Lomonosov University (MSU) has served the Nation. At present, the MSU is the largest classical university of Russia and a valuable institute of cultural heritage. The university includes 28 faculties, 10 research institutes, 40.000 students and a unique team of professors, teachers and research scientists – 9.000 of them with candidate and doctoral degrees (Lomonosov Moscow State University, 2005). The rector of the Moscow State University – a member of the Russian Academy of Science – Victor A. Sadovnichii, is a well-known mathematician (Fig. 3).

The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MSU has been inscribed onto the list of Memorial Dates of UNESCO for 2004–2005. About 500 events have been devoted to the jubilee of the University. For the celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> jubilee, a new building of the Main Library – University's Intellectual Center – was built (the main architect was Gleb N. Zitovich). The new building contains many reading rooms, a repository (5 million volumes) and a Museum of the History of the MSU.

The famous Italian collector, prominent public man and patron of art, commendatore Primo Rovis, has presented two unique geological collections to the Earth Science Museum of Moscow State University. The collection was also presented at our jubilee. Commendatore Primo Rovis has continued a fine Russian tradition – to support Moscow State University. In 1755, Prokopi, Nikita and Grigori, brothers of the Ural industrialist Demidov, presented a rich mineralogical collection of more than 6.000 specimens. Princess Ekaterina Dashkova, the first president of the Russian Academy of Science (1744–1810), presented a mineralogical collection of 15.000 specimens and a considerable library, and Piotr Demidov presented a cabinet of natural history in 1803 (among others).

Many honourable guests from all over the world have participated in the celebration of the anniversary. Collector and patron of art Primo Rovis has been among them (Fig. 4).

Commendatore Primo Rovis is well-known for his diverse activity in his native country and in other countries. During his life, P. Rovis was infatuated with mineralogy and collected mineralogical and palaeontological specimens. In 1992, Rovis opened a museum-office ("Ipanema Rovis") in Trieste. The basis of the collection is minerals from famous deposits of North and South America. Many specimens of his collection are very rare. The author of



Fig. 5: Geode of agate – cut (42 x 22 x 40 cm).



Fig. 7: Stromatolitic algae , 30 x 25 x 7(Bolivia).



Fig. 6: Two amethyst geodes with large, transparent, dark violet crystals (185 cm and 188 cm in high; 157 kg and 210 kg in weight, respectively), in centre – amethyst geode with gypsum crystals.



Fig. 8: Fountain – pink Quartz (Bahia, Brazil).

this article visited his museum ("Ipanema Rovis") several times and with admiration looked over its richness, variety and beautifully arranged exposition. Undoubtedly, this museum is a pearl of Trieste. At present the geological collection of commenda-

tore P. Rovis includes more than 40.000 specimens. The image of his collection is shown in the book "Arte di Dio" (2000), in English translation – "Art of God". The introduction was written by the famous Italian critic of art, Vittorio Sgarbi.

During one of the memorable days, MSU Rector academician Victor A. Sadovnischii presented a MSU diploma of Honoured Professor to commendatore Primo Rovis.

Primo Rovis' collections comprise mineralogical and palaeontological specimens. One collection includes 46 specimens and weighs more than 500 kg.

Minerals are represented by agates of various forms and colour, admirable amethyst geodes from Brazil, and decorative green stones from Italy (Arno River). A specimen that excites special admiration is a petrified tree, more precisely, a transverse section of a petrified tree (174 x 125 cm, weight 215 kg) that looks like a pictorial panel created by nature.

Palaeontological specimens are represented by the nautiloid *Orthoceras* from Morocco and stromatolitic algae.

Nowadays, the mineralogical collection is displayed as a permanent exhibition (the author is T.K. Ivanova) in a museum study hall devoted to the processes of mineral formation. This collection is used by students of the geological faculty of the MSU and other high school institutions.

Another collection includes 42 specimens and weighs more than 1.000 kg. Among them are very beautiful minerals such as geodes of amethyst and sections of agate geodes (Fig. 5). Two amethyst geodes with large, transparent dark violet crystals (185 cm and 188 cm high, weighing 157 kg and 210 kg) excite special admiration (Fig. 6). These specimens are from the famous deposits of Brazil (state Rio Grande do Sul).

The deposits of agates and amethyst geodes are connected with the Middle and Lower Cretaceous trap formation, which occupies a large area ( $1.2 \times 10^5 \text{ km}^2$ ) in the drainage basin of the Paraná river (Brazil). The formation is 650 -1500 m thick (Cordani and Vandoros 1967).

The genesis and the peculiarities of agate structures from different deposits of the world were described by Russian scientists in the book "Agates" (Godovikov, Ripinen and Motorin, 1987).

One cannot be indifferent to the excellent samples of "landscape stones" from Italy, the lapis lazuli from Afghanistan, black tourmaline (9.9 kg) from Brazil, and a petrified tree (longitudinal section of a sequoia with the size 141 x 57 cm and 198 x 83 cm, weighing 70 and 178 kg) from Arizona (USA).

Wonderful, well-preserved palaeontological specimens are represented by green, brown (from Boli-

via; Fig. 7) and red stromatolitic algae (from Minnesota, USA), which are of "honourable age" – 1-2 billion years and more, and "young" representatives – trilobites from Morocco with an age of 510 million years. The largest palaeontological specimen contains red stromatolitic algae measuring 112 x 80 cm and weighing 80 kg.

Besides, the collection includes hand-made things of art like the fountain, which is made of pink quartz (Fig. 8).

The specimens of the second collection are displayed in the exhibition devoted to the 250th Anniversary of the MSU. The opening of the exhibition, including the geological exhibition (author T.K. Ivanova), took place in the MSU History Museum located in the New Library Building on the memorable day – January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

The President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir V. Putin, academician Victor A. Sadovnichi, MSU Rector, the Mayor of Moscow Yuri M. Luzhkov, MSU Honoured Professor P. Rovis, Members of Russian Government, the director of MSU History Museum Alexander S. Orlov, and MSU employees participated in the opening of the exhibition.

MSU Honoured Professor, commendatore Primo Rovis, has presented the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir V. Putin, a very beautiful specimen of a Brazilian agate geode.

Today many people from Russia and foreign countries visit the Museum of History at Moscow State University.

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