



Editorial

Mineralogy and petrology of alkaline rocks and carbonatites: Celebrating the life and work of Gregory Yu. Ivanyuk (1966–2019)

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This issue of *Mineralogical Magazine* is dedicated to the memory of Gregory (Grisha) Yu. Ivanyuk (1966–2019), an internationally acclaimed mineralogist, an accomplished artist and photographer, and a tireless explorer of the Kola wilderness (Fig. 1). Grisha passed away suddenly on July 7, 2019, during a field excursion to Mt. Eveslogchorr in the Khibiny (also known as Khibina) alkaline complex, Kola Peninsula, Russia. This was the very place where he started his mineralogical studies of the region back in 1988. At the time of his untimely death, he was bursting with energy, plans and ideas. None of us who knew him could expect such a sudden and unjust disruption of this singularly dynamic life and research career.

Gregory was born on February 23, 1966, in Perm, a city with a 300-year history of mineral exploration which is also the name-sake of the Permian Period and stratigraphic system. In 1983, he enrolled at the Faculty of Geology in Leningrad State University (LGU, now St. Petersburg State University), where he majored in Mineralogy. During these formative years, Gregory became first exposed to, and fell in love with, alkaline rocks and carbonatites, particularly after his trip to the Murun charoite deposit in Siberia. This interest was fermented by his research supervisors, Professor Andrei G. Bulakh (1933–2020) and Dr. Mikhail D. Evdokimov (1940–2011), whose scientific interests included the mineralogy and petrology of world-famous alkaline intrusions in the Kola Peninsula, northern Karelia and East Siberia. Not surprisingly, Gregory's first peer-reviewed publication was a study of Murun pyroxenes, beautifully illustrated with his own hand drawings (Ivanyuk and Evdokimov, 1991).

Gregory graduated in 1988, back in the days when university graduates were expected to 'work off' their free education for three years at an assigned place of employment, sometimes quite remote from one's home or Alma Mater. Gregory was fortunate enough to land a job at the Geological Institute of the Kola Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences in Apatity, a medium-sized town of scientists and miners in the foothills of the world-famous Khibiny mountains. Located in the heart of the Kola

Peninsula in the western part of the Russian Arctic, the Khibiny and nearby Lovozero tundras are probably the oldest known and best-studied alkaline intrusions in the world. At the institute, Gregory's PhD work was supervised by Professor Pavel M. Goryainov (1937–2019), who immediately recognised the exceptional talent and dynamic personality of his new student. Their productive research collaboration grew into a long-time friendship, which ended only with Goryainov's demise on February 23 of 2019, on Gregory's birthday and just a few months before his own passing. In 1992, Gregory defended his PhD dissertation, on 'Magnetite of Banded Iron Formations of the Kola Peninsula'.

Just one year after his move to Apatity, Gregory married a fellow LGU graduate and mineralogist, Ayya Bazai. Over 30-plus years of their happy marriage (and scientific collaboration!), they have had welcomed into this world daughters Viya and Polina, son Mikhail and three grandchildren: Aglaya, Lizaveta and Ostap (Fig. 2). Gregory's son-in-law, Dr Taras Panikorovskii is one of the contributing authors in the present issue.

Gregory's scientific career progressed rapidly, fuelled by his determination, vitality and inquisitive mind. Beyond traditional mineralogy, his research interests expanded into the field of self-organising mineral systems, a topic he would come to explore in great depth together with his former PhD supervisor Pavel Goryainov. Gregory quickly rose through the academic ranks to become first Head of the Laboratory of Self-Organisation in Mineral Systems (2003) and then Vice-President of the entire Kola Science Centre (2017) of the Russian Academy of Sciences (KSC RAS). In 2004, Gregory defended his DSc dissertation (equivalent to Habilitation) focused on the 'Mineralogy and Petrology of Banded Iron Formation Deposits in the Kola Peninsula'. Ivanyuk and Goryainov's 'self-organisation' team published two books on this expansive subject (Goryainov and Ivanyuk, 2001; Bazai *et al.*, 2009), which were highly appraised by the Nobel laureate and one of the fathers of non-equilibrium thermodynamics Ilya Prigogine, who even wrote a letter to the Russian Foundation for Fundamental Research, urging them to provide additional financial support to Ivanyuk and Goryainov's efforts. It is noteworthy here that Gregory's interests in Kola rocks were not purely theoretical and he made a lasting contribution to our understanding of mineral deposits as diverse as iron formations, phoscorites and apatite ores, particularly in his latter years and in collaboration with his younger colleagues (Ivanyuk

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Fig. 1. Gregory enjoying a sunny day of fieldwork on the slope of Mt. Ninchurt, Lovozero Mts. (2018).



Fig. 2. Ivanyuk family gathering on 2016 New Year's Eve: Mikhail (front centre), Gregory, Ayya with grandson Ostap, Viya and Taras (from left to right), Polina with Aglaya (back).

et al., 2016, 2018a, b; Kalashnikov *et al.*, 2016, 2017; Mikhailova *et al.*, 2016, 2017, 2018).

At the KSC RAS, Gregory was also a key member of a dynamic research team whose primary focus was the detailed characterisation of new and poorly understood mineral species, most of which were collected on the snow-patched slopes of Khibiny, on the



Fig. 3. Fieldtrip to granites and pegmatites in Western Keivy, Kola (2012): Yuliya Mikhailova (front center), Ekaterina Fomina, Viktor Yakovenchuk, Taras Panikorovskii, Gregory Ivanyuk and Yakov Pakhomovsky (from left to right).

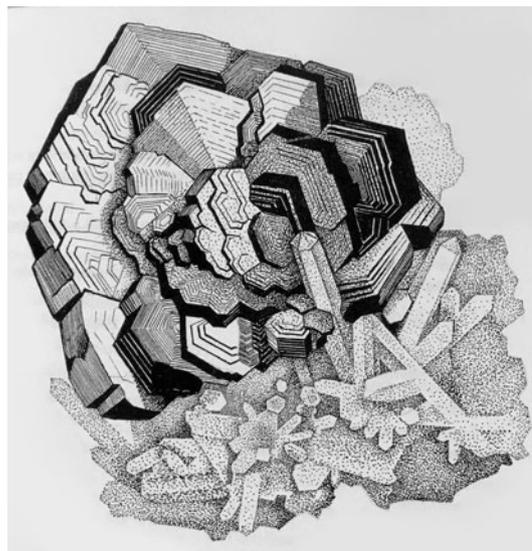


Fig. 4. Ink drawing of pyrrhotite and quartz crystal druse from the Dal'negorsk deposit, Far East.

rocky Lovozero plateau, or elsewhere in Kola by themselves using old maps and field records, or oftentimes just 'going by the hunch' (Fig. 3). All members of their team, including Yuriy P. Men'shikov (1934–2013), Viktor N. Yakovenchuk, Sergey N. Britvin (presently at St. Petersburg State University) and Yakov A. Pakhomovsky, are remarkable rockhounds and outdoor enthusiasts who reinvestigated numerous 'lost' mineral localities and put a great many new ones on the Kola map. As was always the case with Gregory, their long collaboration was extremely productive, leading to the discovery of 22 new minerals and the publication of splendidly illustrated and meticulously detailed volumes on the mineralogy of the Khibiny and Kovdor alkaline complexes (Yakovenchuk *et al.*, 1999, 2005; Ivanyuk *et al.*, 2002). Gregory was also an outstanding photographer and sketch artist (Fig. 4); his unique vision of light and form is amply showcased in the above monographs, in a poetic pictorial on Khibiny



Fig. 5. Gregory Ivanyuk as newly elected Vice-President of the Kola Science Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences (2018).

(Ryabkov *et al.*, 1998), as well as in Robinson's profile article in *Rocks and Minerals* (2010).

In 2017, Gregory was appointed Vice-President of the KSC RAS (Fig. 5), a unique structure that encompasses ten institutes covering the complete range of polar research, from geology, mining and metallurgy to the history of the Barents Sea region, environmental stewardship and the well-being of indigenous peoples in the Arctic. Gregory's organisational skills, scientific reputation and benevolence made him a highly respected administrator by all KSC RAS staff. There were no signs of trouble that led to Grisha's unexpected demise on the sunny and windy day of July 7, 2019. However, his name lives on in not just one, but a whole family of titanosilicate minerals (Yakovenchuk *et al.*, 2009), and his torch has been picked up by Gregory's students and younger colleagues.

The current issue is a collection of articles that reflect on Gregory's scientific interests and, in some cases, build on his contributions to what we know about alkaline rocks and their spectacular minerals.

The issue opens with a geochronological study of carbonatites and jacupirangite from the Guli complex in Polar Siberia, where Reguir *et al.* (2021) provide new U–Pb constraints for temporal relations between alkaline-carbonatitic magmatism and flood basalts. They present an improved methodology for the radiometric age determination of perovskite using a non-matrix-matched standard and reach an intriguing conclusion that the Guli complex may have taken longer to form than previously recognised. The paper by Mitchell and Dawson (2021) discusses the applicability of the alteration model, originally proposed for gregorite- and nyerereite-bearing natrocarbonatites from the active Oldoinyo Lengai volcano, to carbonatites at the extinct Kerimasi and Tinderet volcanoes in East Africa. These authors suggest that

calcite phenocrysts in these lavas cannot be pseudomorphs after nyerereite or gregoryite.

Six papers in this issue are focused on petrologically and economically important minerals in carbonatites and alkaline rocks. The contribution by Sitnikova *et al.* (2021) describes the occurrence of burbankite and other rare earth element (REE) phases in carbonatites at Lofdal, Namibia. This locality is known as a potential source of Y and heavy rare earths; however Sitnikova *et al.* emphasise the importance of light-REE mineralisation. Burbankite is considered a primary magmatic constituent of calcite carbonatites, which was replaced at late hydrothermal stages by a complex assemblage of Ba–Sr–REE minerals. Le Bras *et al.* (2021) applied micro-focus X-ray computed tomography to investigate sulfide-rich phoscorites and carbonatites from the Phalaborwa complex, South Africa. Their data show that three-dimensional textural analysis is effective for the characterisation of magma flow and understanding of the processes that control sulfide mineralisation (bornite, chalcopyrite, cubanite and vallerite) in phoscorites and carbonatites.

Pyrochlore-group minerals are the focus of the following four papers. Zaitsev *et al.* (2021) describe the internal zoning, composition and crystal structure of pyrochlore from the Kerimasi carbonatites. The mineral is characterised by exceptionally well-preserved oscillatory- and sector-type zoning, contains elevated levels of U and Zr and all minerals, including the U-rich types, are crystalline. This locality is a rare example of carbonatites where pyrochlore lacks low-temperature alteration and metamictisation. The paper by Viladkar and Sorokhtina (2021) describes pyrochlore from the Amba Dongar carbonatites in India. The authors discuss compositional evolution from primary magmatic to diverse late-stage hydrothermal minerals and compare new data with published data for pyrochlore from other Indian carbonatites. Two papers by Dey *et al.* (2021a, b) report the paragenesis and compositional variation of different pyrochlore populations in albitites, dolomite and silicate-rich carbonatites from the Sevattur carbonatite complex, India. These contributions record complex crystallisation histories of the Sevattur rocks under magmatic and hydrothermal conditions. All four papers also discuss the nomenclature of pyrochlore group and explore the strengths and weaknesses of the classification schemes proposed by Hogarth (1977) and Atencio *et al.* (2010).

The issue concludes with three mineralogical crystallography papers. Panikorovskii *et al.* (2021) report the results of a structural and compositional study of ivanyukite-group minerals. These minerals are based on a heteropolyhedral framework of pharmacosiderite topology and possess unique cation-exchange properties, which make them highly promising for applications in nuclear waste disposal. The paper by Krivovichev *et al.* (2021) presents a crystal-structure analysis and description of nikmelnikovite, the first trigonal member of the garnet supergroup discovered recently at Kovdor, one of Gregory's favourite places of work and contemplation. The authors compare the crystal structure of nikmelnikovite with the ideal cubic garnet structure to demonstrate their crystal-chemical relations. Finally, Zubkova *et al.* (2021) provide interesting data on a previously unknown, hydrated variety of the microporous zirconosilicate elpidite from Khibiny. They demonstrate exceptional flexibility of the octahedral–tetrahedral framework of elpidite, which allows for different hydration states of its interstitial constituents.

We hope that the present collection of articles will serve as a worthy tribute to the outstanding scientist, luminous person and faithful friend Gregory Ivanyuk, and will move our younger readers to look to alkaline rocks for inspiration.

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