

Peter Lyckberg:

Peter Lyckberg was born 1962 in Göteborg, Sweden, a district rich in pegmatite with various mineralisations which Peter started to study already as a child. At the age of 8 he found his first great pocket in a pegmatite and found plumbomicrolite, a mineral new to Sweden. In the coming years he found, explored many unknown mineral and gem carrying pegmatite and mineral deposits, first in Scandinavia, then on all continents. He studied gem rough from India, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Russia, California, Maine and African countries in early years (pre teen) and later worldwide material. He started his first subscription to a gemmological journal in 1972 (Lapidary Journal) followed shortly by many others.

In 1973 at the young age of 11 he participated in the first field geologist courses at the University of Göteborg and within a few years visited and explored many of the Swedish mines in production for iron, silver, tungsten, zinc, lead, feldspar and also worked at the Swedish Geological Survey with bedrock mapping of Tjörn Island and the Göta Älv Valley as well as soil mapping of Stenungsön by the age of 15. At age 13 he also was consultant for the Swedish Geological Survey regarding 40 ancient deposits of silver, gold, Mn deposits in Dalsland and Värmland countries which he had spent summers locating in the deep forests. Here drilling, mining and publishing later took place based on his original exploration and information. In 1977 and 1981 he published his first reports on pegmatite deposits and had found giant topaz crystals to 80 kg, large beryl and schorl tourmaline crystals to 3 m long in Sweden. For some years he specialized in rare minerals and REE minerals. He built his own faceting machine and learned to facet self collected gems.

His Civil engineering studies at the Chalmers University of Technology included research work during some years at the Yxsjöberg Scheelite-Cu deposit, and extensive studies of the Malmberget Magnetite deposit in N Sweden where some unique pockets of gem quality golden calcite was discovered and documented.

His geological studies continued in various parts of the world including the gem deposits of California, Maine, Minas Gerais and NE Brazil, Namibia, Madagascar, Norway, Finland, Ukraine, Russia, Pakistan. In total around 2500 developed mines and quarries were visited and many more deposits yet to be developed. Peter has been an active lecturer since 1985 leading many field expeditions and he has been a long time member of the editorial board of several mineralogical journals including Mineralien Welt. His lectures have been conducted primarily in Swedish, Norwegian, English, German, French and Russian languages.

He has published articles and contributed chapters to books on many deposits and finds including the Karelia Beryl Mine in Finland where flawless gem beryl to 1.6 kg and carving-facet grade to 9 kg were found, minerals of Morocco, alpine cleft at Stenungsund, Sweden, the Paprok tourmaline Mine in Afghanistan, Chumar Bakhoor, Pakistan, the Volodarsk, Ukraine beryl-topaz deposit with huge quantities of gem material produced as well as the classic gem deposits of Murzinka, Urals, Russia and the Thai Sapphire deposits.

In 1992 Peter was the first non Soviet scientist since the Russian revolution in 1917 to visit, photograph and study the classic Emerald-alexandrite deposits at Tokovaya-Izumrud near As best and the gem pegmatite and amethyst veins around Alabashka-Mursinka in the Urals, Russia and he worked with the Yakutsk Diamond mines in Siberia.

He was the first non local to explore the high altitude mines in the Haramosh Mountains, Pakistan where aquamarine and topaz is mined. Peter was also the first and last non Soviet scientist to study the Volodarsk deposits, Ukraine in situ underground. As gem expert and sales manager for the Ad-Lib goldsmith and cutting group he promoted exclusive custom made jewellery. He has been a consultant in the study and development-mining of many gem deposits and in engineering fields. For the past 15 years he is an inspector at the European Commission, General Directorate for Energy and is an independent researcher in gem deposits. During the years he has been an advisor to institutions, companies, journals, museums, independent miners and collectors all over the world.

Peter is married with Nadia (who is an economist and gem cutter) and has a daughter and a son. In his spare time he enjoys the mountains and the ocean, particularly alpine skiing, snorkelling, windsurfing, sailing, and exploring new countries, culture. He has a lifelong interest in science, travelling, numismatics, architecture, photography, anthropology and music, besides geology-mineralogy-gemmology.