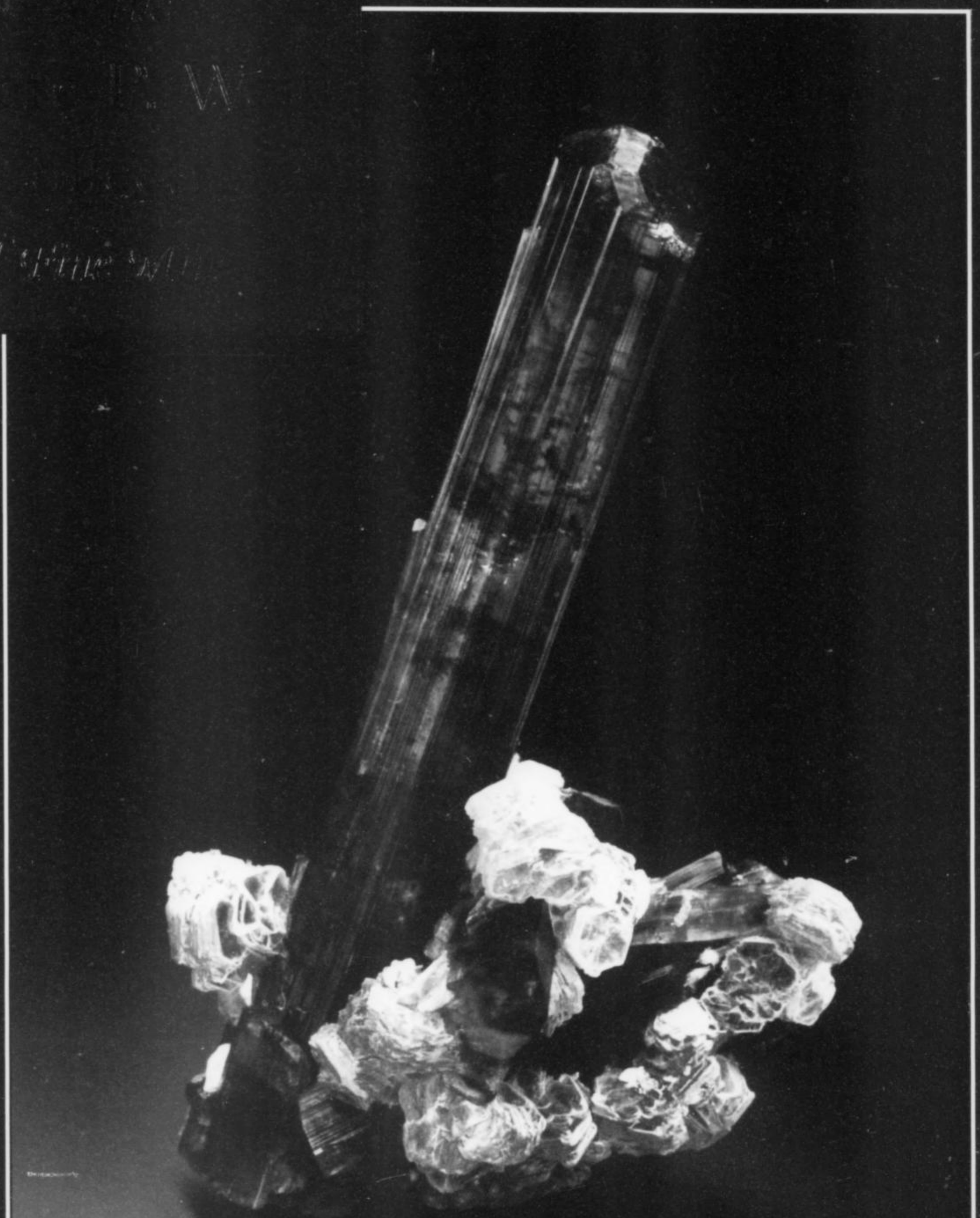

The

Marc P. Weill Collection

of Fine Minerals

by

Daniel Trinchillo

With Photographs by

Jeffrey A. Scovil

and

Harold & Erica Van Pelt

A Supplement to:

The Mineralogical Record
January-February 2008

Front Cover:
Elbaite crystal, 9.1 cm,
from the Jonas mine,
Itatiaia, Minas Gerais, Brazil

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All specimen photographs by Jeffrey A. Scovil
except pages 34-top, 35-bottom and 63-top,
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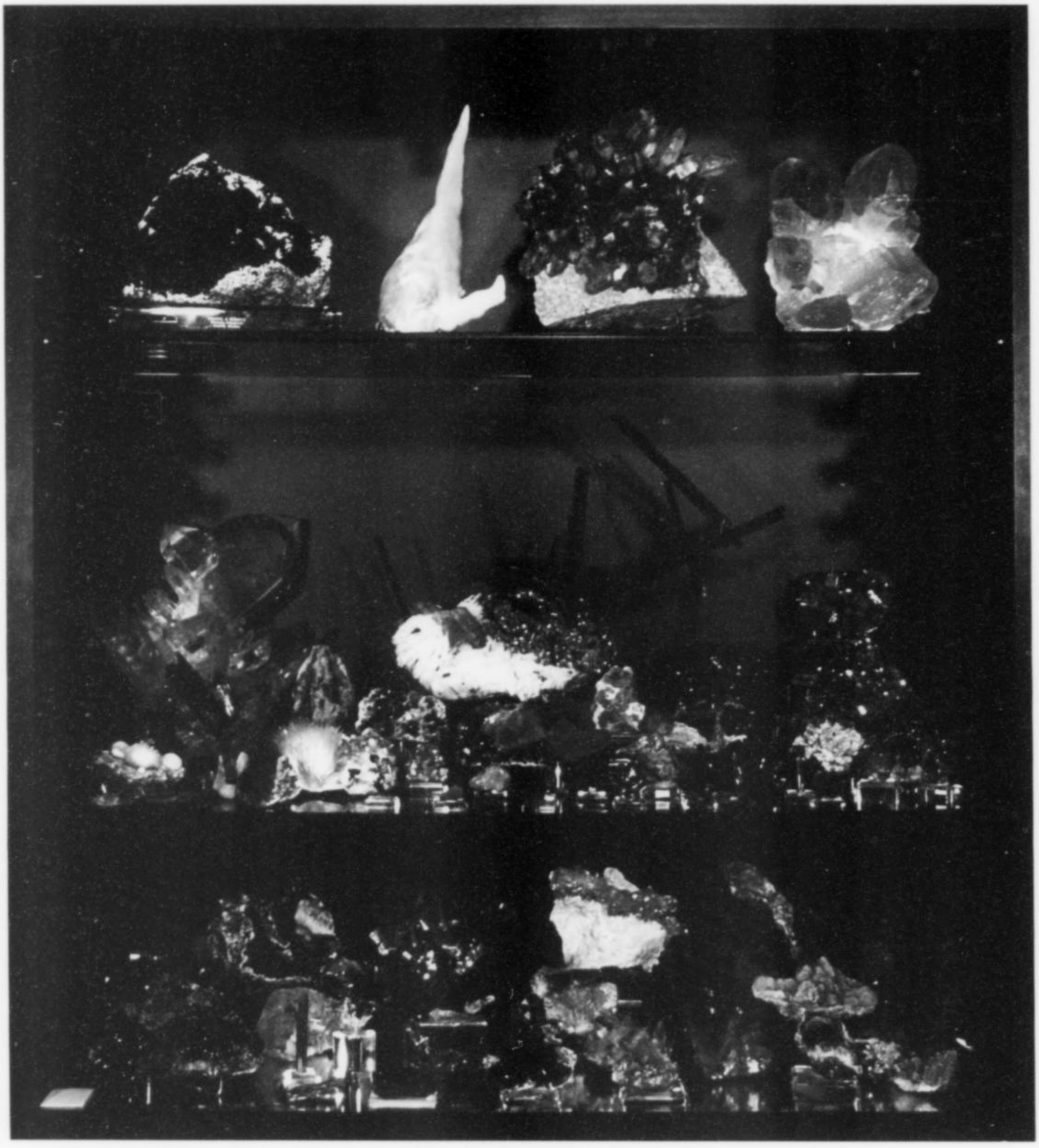


Part of the Marc P. Weill Collection.

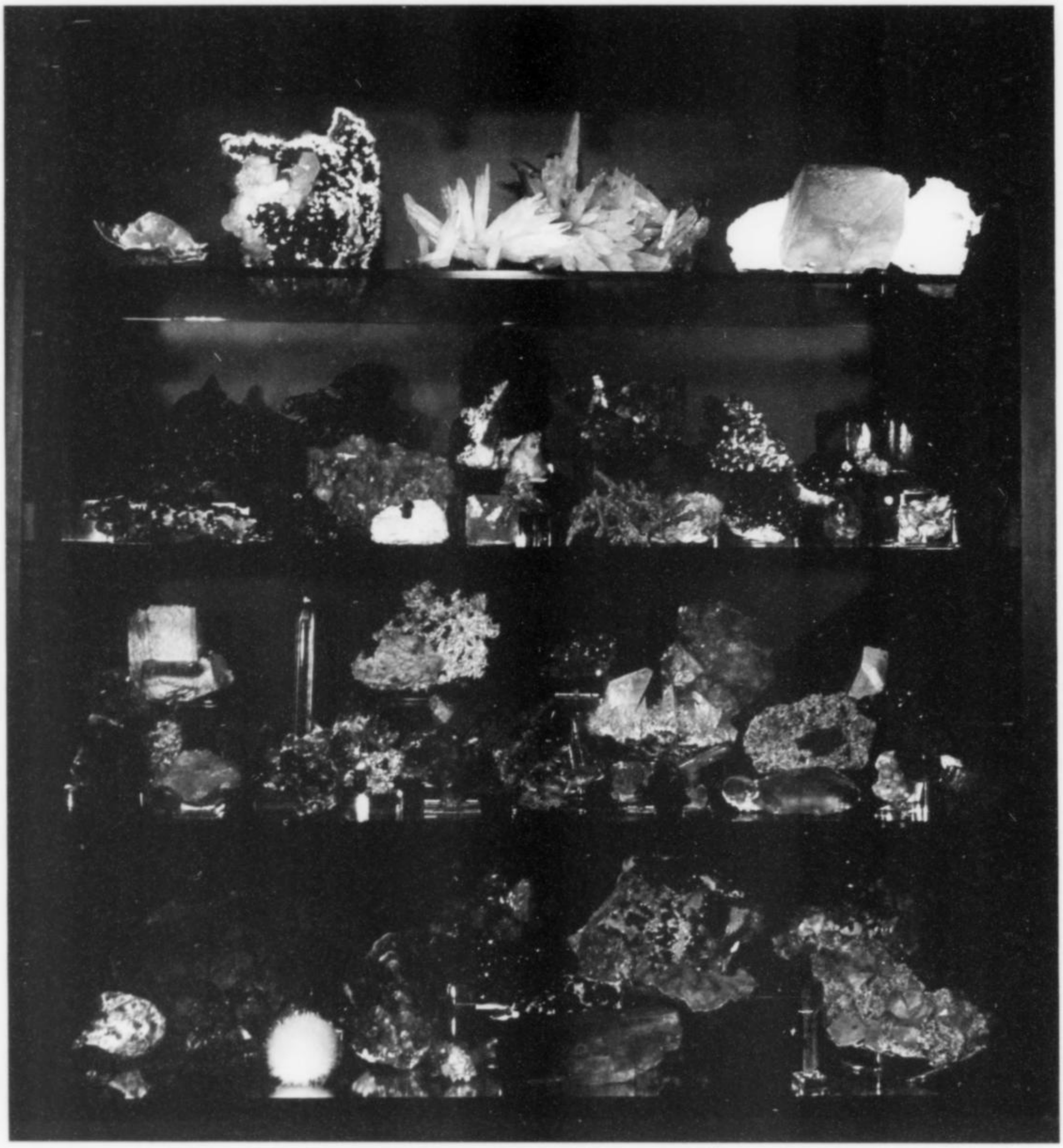
Introduction

This catalog, depicting beautifully some of the highlights of the Marc P. Weill collection of fine mineral specimens, provides what is destined to be a historically valuable documentation of one of the best private collections of minerals of the early 21st century. By their very nature, private collections tend to remain private and are not generally accessible to most other collectors, researchers and museum curators. An illustrated catalog such as this bridges that gap, broadening the knowledge base of the worldwide collector community, and recording the kinds of high-quality specimens that an elite collector could acquire in his time period. It is particularly interesting because only one of the specimens in this catalog (the bournonite—arguably Weill's "signature specimen") has been widely published, and so the rest are new to the eyes of most collectors. As you look through the photos be sure to note the specimen sizes; many are considerably larger than one might guess.

As the specimens here elegantly demonstrate, we are living in a remarkable time period for the collector—a "Golden Age" of mineral collecting. In fact, it is the second such "Golden Age"; the first took place in the late 19th century when wealthy connoisseurs like William S. Vaux (1811–1882), Clarence S. Bement (1843–1923) and Washington Roebling (1837–1926) built fabulous personal collections which ultimately were deposited in public museums. The second began following World War II, spurred by intensive mining worldwide combined with a new awareness of the value of mineral specimens. In the 1940s through the 1970s plentiful minerals from places like the Ojuela mine in Mexico, the pegmatite mines of Minas Gerais, Brazil and the unique metalliferous deposit at Tsumeb, South-West Africa inspired a new generation of mineral collectors to take up the chase. More recently, the flood of extraordinary specimens from Pakistan and China, fueled by increasing specimen prices, has stocked the cabinets of connoisseurs with mineralogical beauty formerly undreamed of.

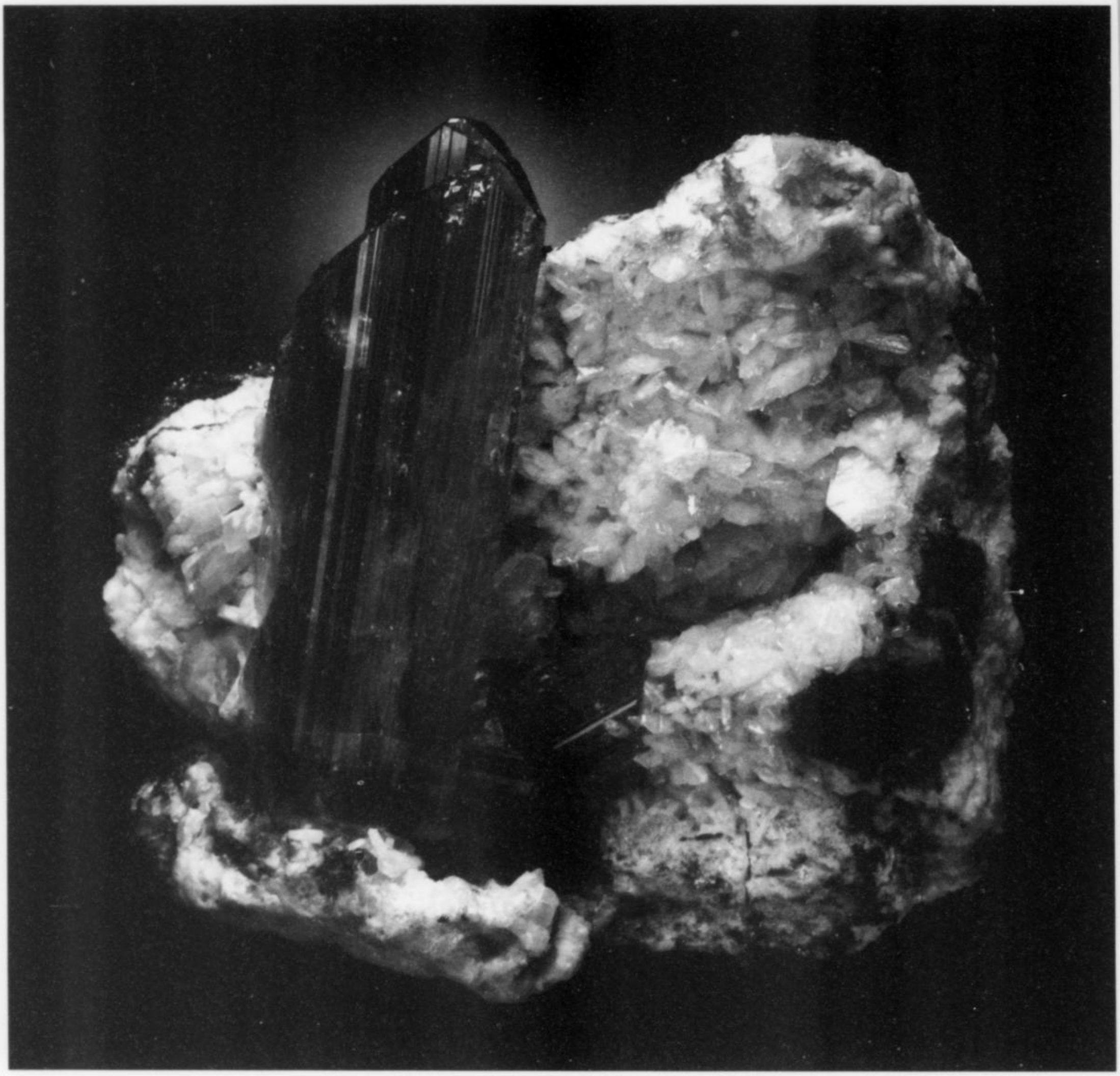
The catalog of the Marc Weill collection joins a handful of other publications as the essential references to modern world-class collection building. The other works include Paul Desautels' *The Mineral Kingdom* (1968), Peter Bancroft's *Gem & Crystal Treasures* (1984), Wendell Wilson and Joel Bartsch's *Masterpieces of the Mineral World* (2004), Wendell Wilson's *The Joseph A. Freilich Collection* (2000), Steven Smale's *The Smale Collection* (2006) and Wayne Thompson's *Ikons, Classics and Contemporary Masterpieces of Mineralogy* (2007). With extraordinary generosity, Marc Weill has presented this catalog as a gift to the subscribers of the *Mineralogical Record*, sharing his treasures with the community of collectors. It would not have been possible, however, without the photographic skills of Jeffrey Scovil and Harold and Erica Van Pelt. A confluence of factors—a well-funded connoisseur collector, having the benefit of guidance from a world-class specimen dealer such as Daniel Trinchillo, and the curatorial assistance of another expert, Dennis Tanjeloff, plus the photographic skills of two of the world's leading mineral photographers—is required to yield a book such as this. We can be grateful that the time is right for such a beneficent collaboration.

Wendell E. Wilson



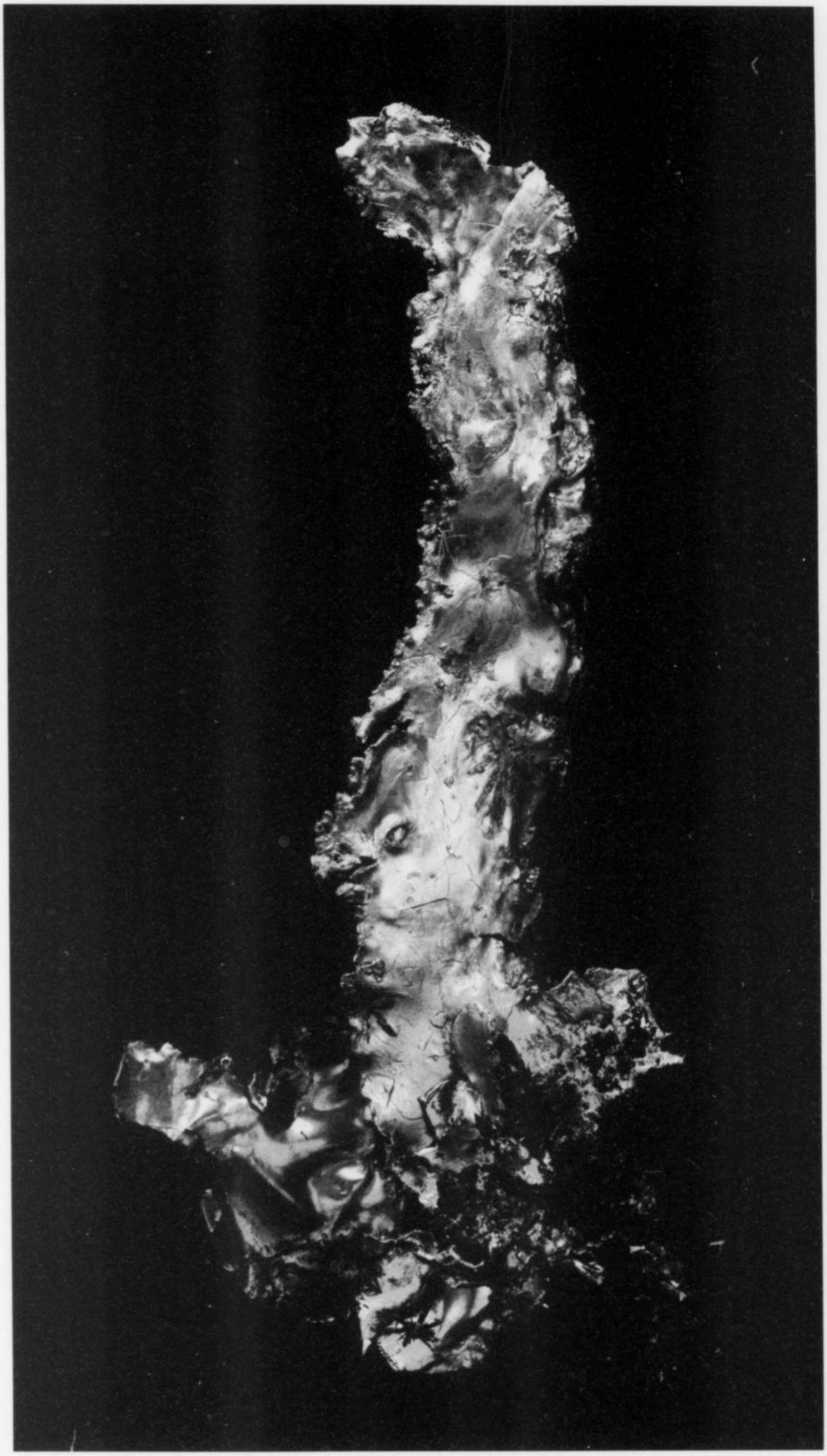
Part of the Marc P. Weill Collection.

Highlights
from the
Marc P. Weill Collection



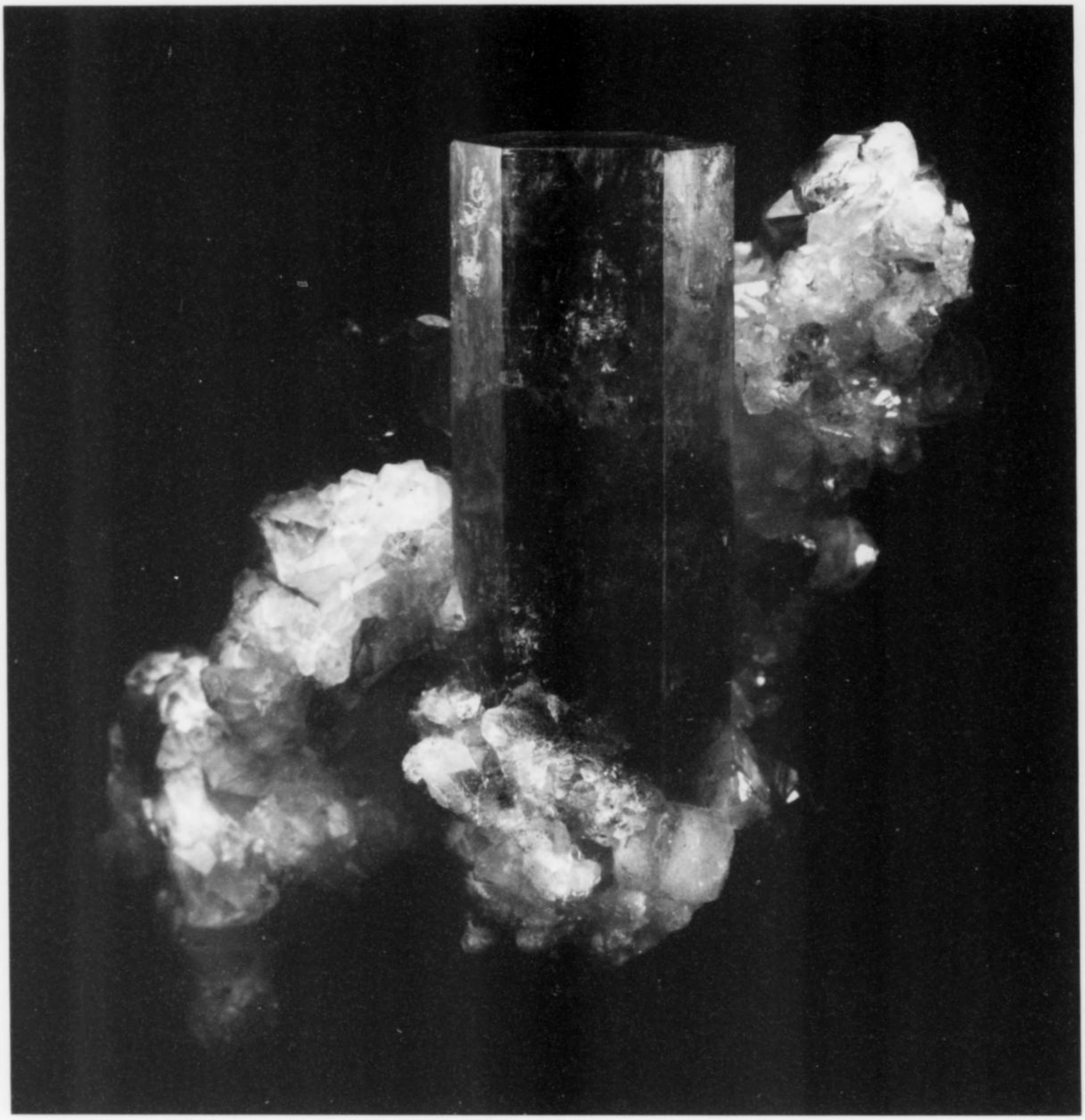
Euclase

13.8 cm, Gachala mine, Guavio-Guateque Mining District, Boyacá Department, Colombia. Saying that large and fine euclase specimens are rare is an understatement. Few collectors will ever have the option of owning one. Pierre Vuillet brought the specimen out of Colombia and it was then worked on by Markus Walter, who brought it to the attention of Dennis Tanjeloff and Daniel Trinchillo at the Tucson show. None of us had ever seen *matrix* euclase crystals before, except for a few other small pieces that had turned up at the same show. This specimen is a giant compared to the others. The main crystal stands over 10 cm tall, and is set off by a small pink fluorapatite crystal and the finely crystallized white calcite crystal matrix. It was purchased during the 2006 Tucson Show, in the parking lot of Daisy Mae's Steakhouse. In Tucson, good minerals may turn up anywhere, anytime.



Gold

22.8 cm, Red Ledge mine, Washington District, Nevada County, California. A fine crystallized gold specimen is a quintessential part of any elite mineral collection. The Marc Weill collection has several but the one shown here is his favorite. In "leaf gold" such as this, each thin sheet actually consists of a single spinel-law twin that is flattened parallel to the twin plane. The Red Ledge mine is one of the most famous leaf gold occurrences in the California "Mother Lode."



Emerald

(Beryl), 6.5 cm, Cosquez mine, Muzo, Vasquez-Yacopi Mining District, Boyacá Department, Colombia. Colombia is the foremost producer of quality emeralds in the world. The Cosquez mine, reaching depths of over 2,000 meters, is still in operation today and has produced hundreds of millions of dollars in emeralds. However, fine emerald crystal specimens are quite rare, because 99% of all gem-grade emeralds found are cut into gemstones. This crystal stands over 5 cm tall and is nearly 2.5 cm wide. It was pictured on the cover of the *ExtraLapis* issue no. 21 (2001) on emeralds. Brought out of Colombia by José Vesga in 1998 and sold to Daniel Trinchillo and Marcus Budil, who sold it to Marc Weill in 2004.

Sperrylite

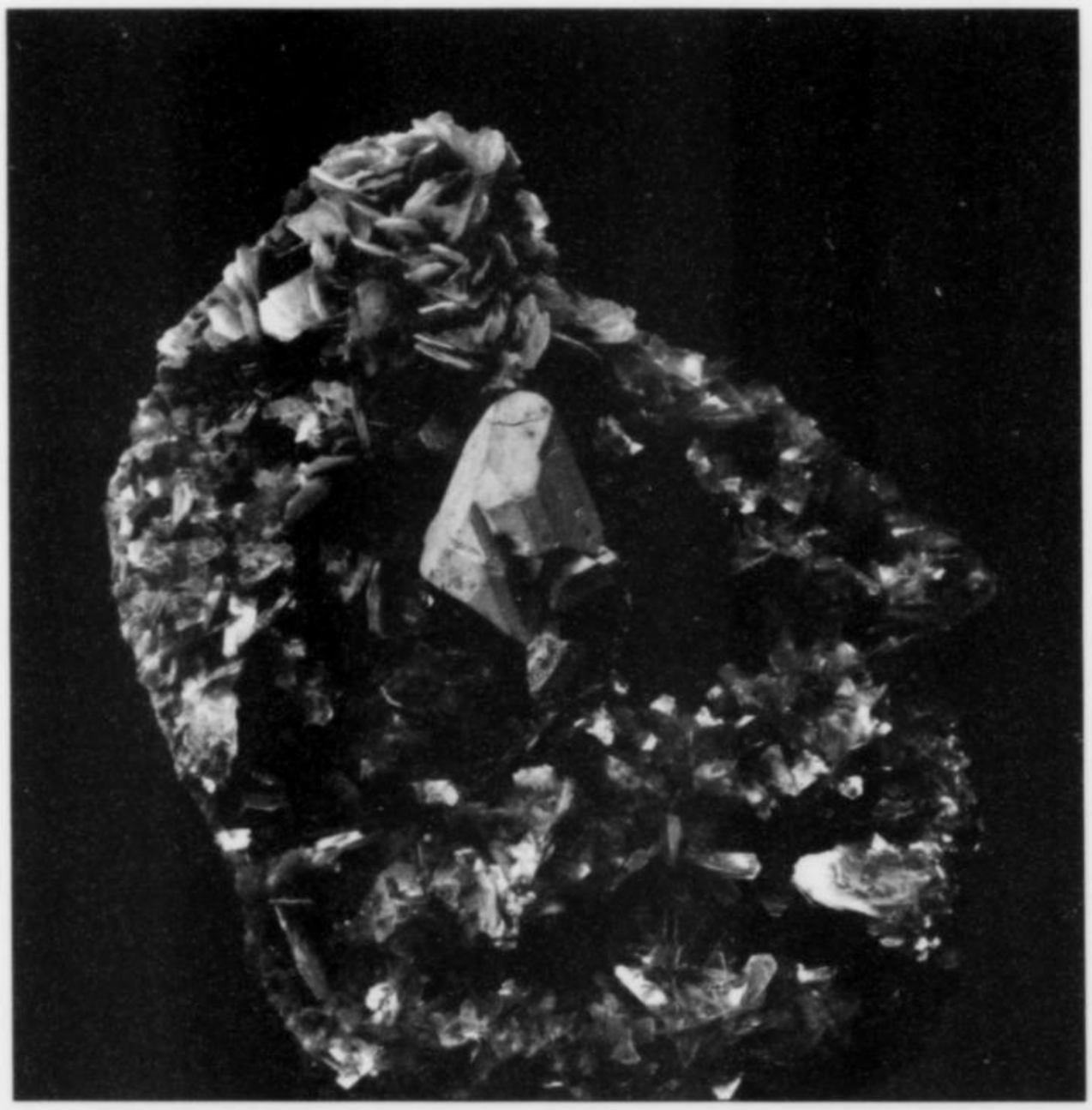
4.8 cm, Oktyabr'skoye mine, Noril'sk, Krasnoyarsk Territory, Eastern Siberia, Russia. Fine crystals of sperrylite are exceedingly rare. Most of the best crystals known have come from this locality, and must be carefully worked out of enclosing copper and iron sulfides. The superb crystal shown here is exceptionally large for the locality. Ex. Sandor Fuss collection, purchased from Stuart Wilensky in 2005.

Calcite

with Stibnite, 13.2 cm, Dachang (Qinglong) Sb-Au deposit, Qinglong County, Qianxi'nan Autonomous Prefecture, Guizhou Province, China

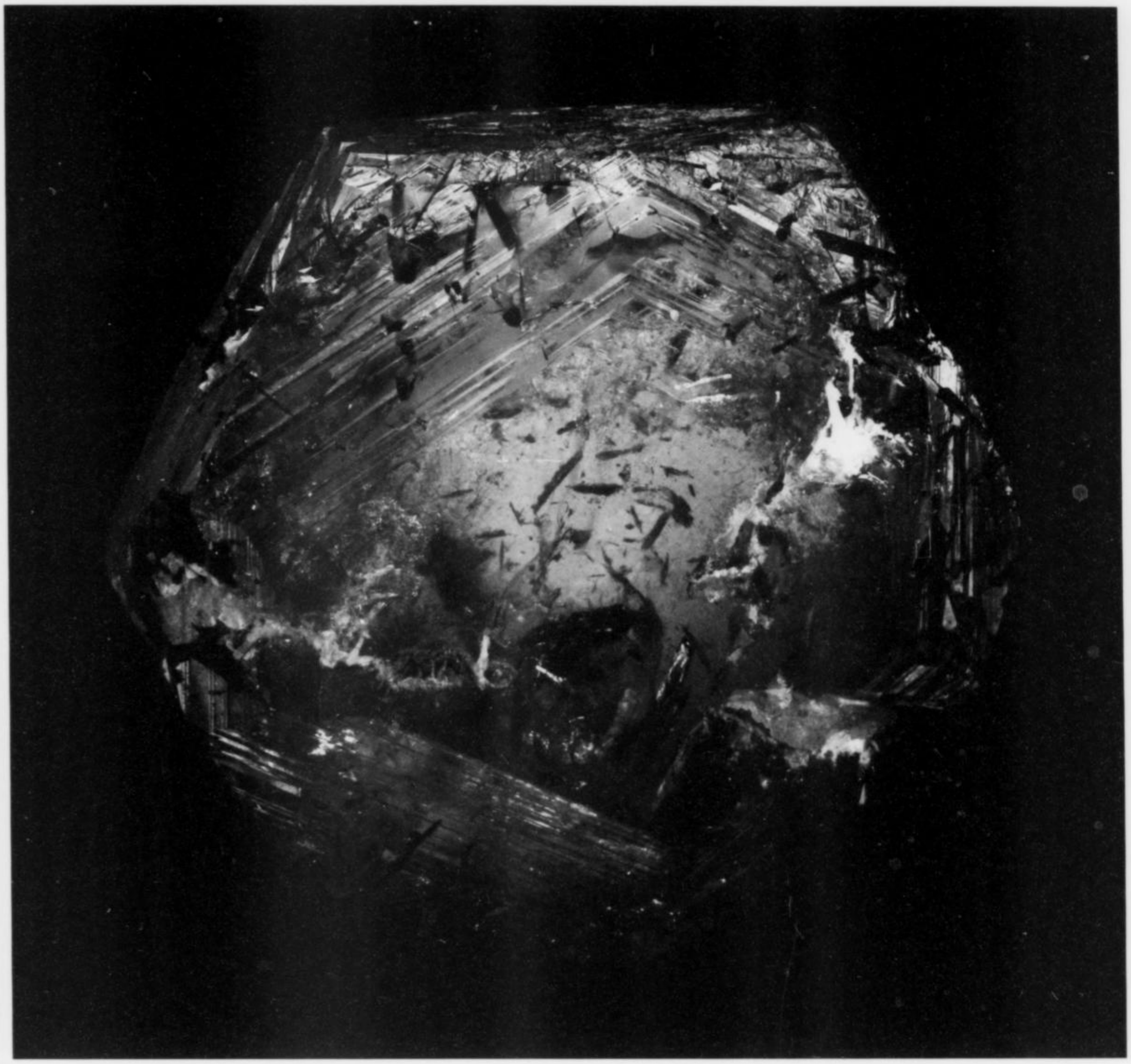
Këwhile

10.3 cm, Mt. Xuebaoding, Pingwu County, Mianyang Prefecture, Sichuan Province, China



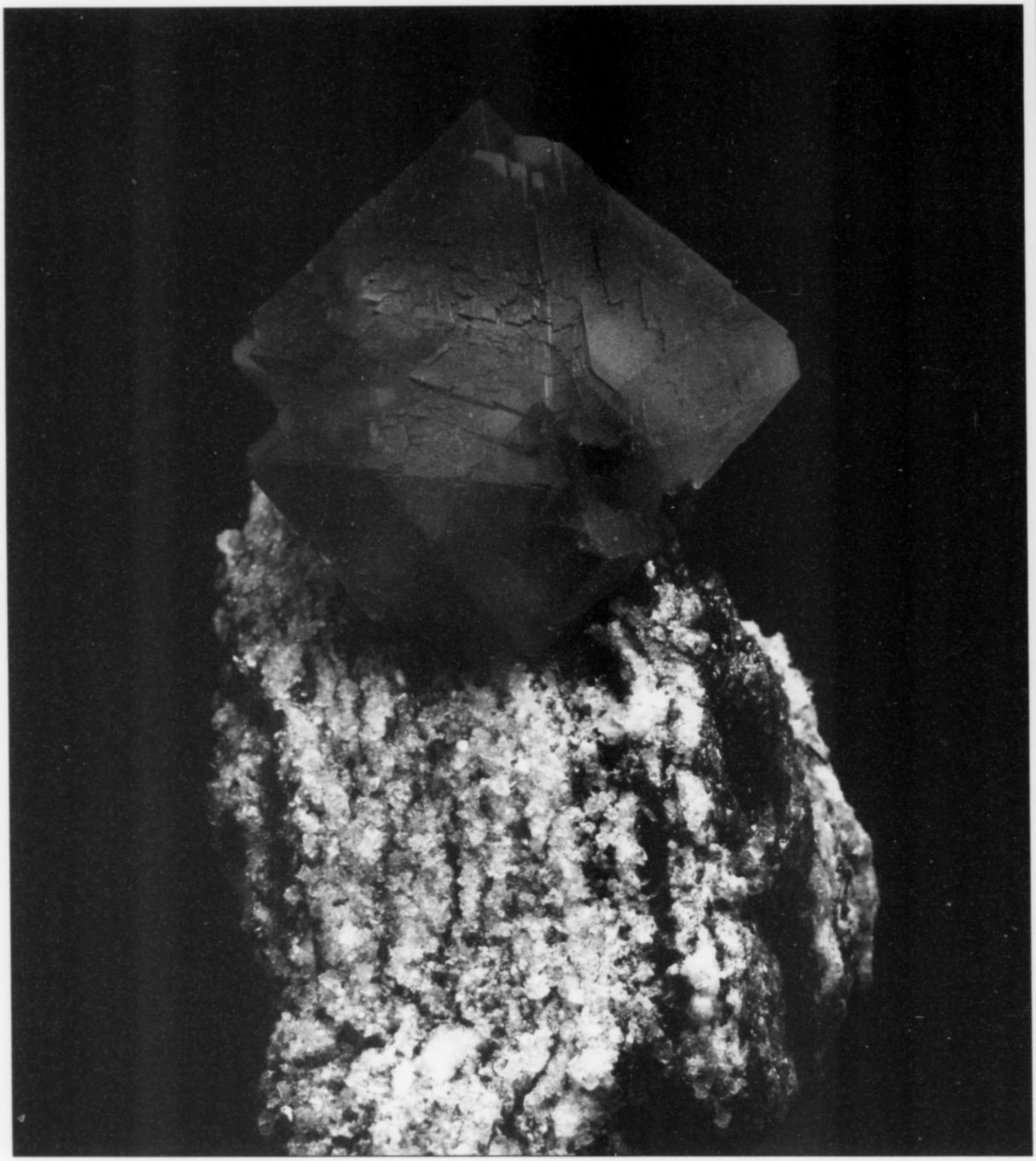
Aquamarine

(Beryl), 20.2 cm, Mt. Xuebaoding, Pingwu County, Mianyang Prefecture, Sichuan Province, China



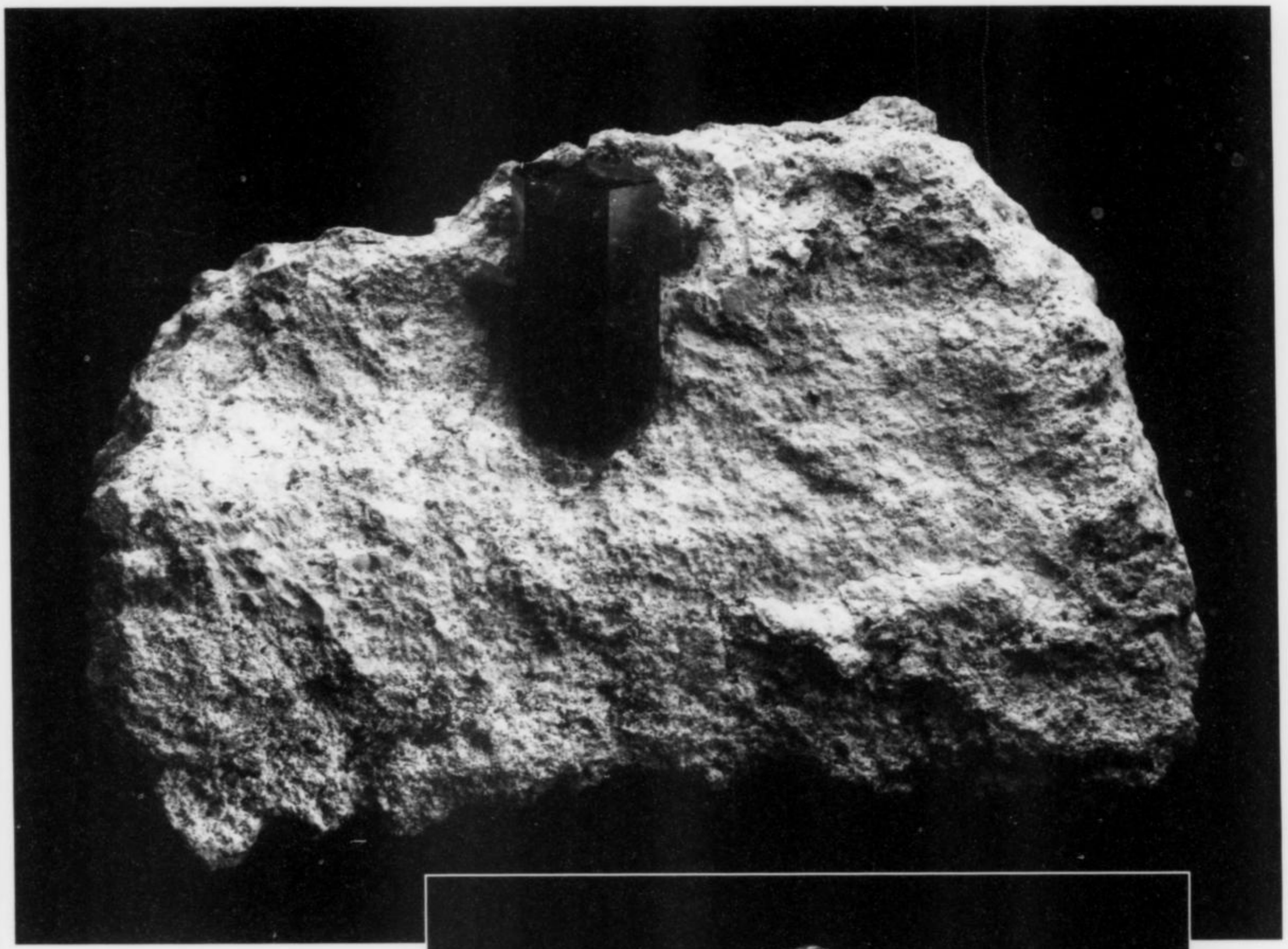
Morganite

(Beryl), 14 cm, Urucum mine, Córrego do Urucum pegmatite, Galiléia, Doce River Valley, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Morganite (pink beryl) is perhaps the most difficult of the beryl varieties to find in specimens of world-class quality. This crystal was acquired by Dr. Ed David from Keith Proctor in 2001; Proctor had obtained it from the collection of M. Muse, Paris, France. Robert Lavinsky acquired it along with the rest of Ed David's collection in 2005 and sold it to Marc Weill. It has a wonderful rich pink color, good transparency, large size and attractive form. It is also a relatively complete crystal, which is unusual for the locality, where crystals are most often found partially embedded in matrix.



Fluorite

8.7 cm, Cava Falcioni, Beura, Ossola Valley, Verbano-Cusio-Ossola Province, Piedmont, Italy. The most coveted specimens of fluorite are octahedral crystals with a deep pink to red color. This variety of fluorite comes from only a few localities in the world, and less than 50 superb examples are known from all of these localities combined. The specimen pictured here is the finest known example from a little-known locality. It was originally purchased from a local miner by Franco Bartolucci of Villadossola in 1982. He sold it in 1983 to Ulrich Burchard, a prominent European collector, in whose possession it remained as one of his most prized specimens until he sold his collection in 2005.

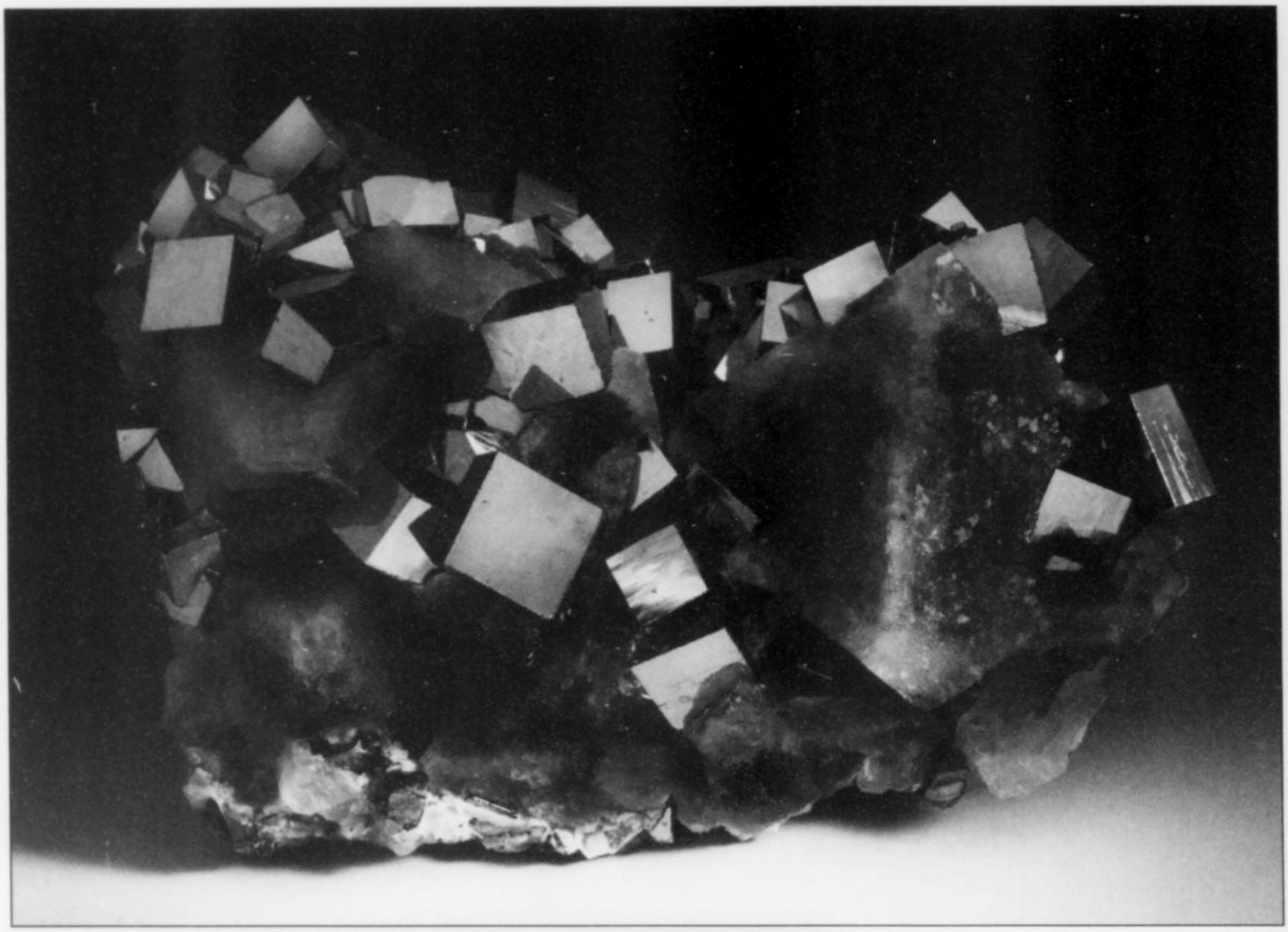


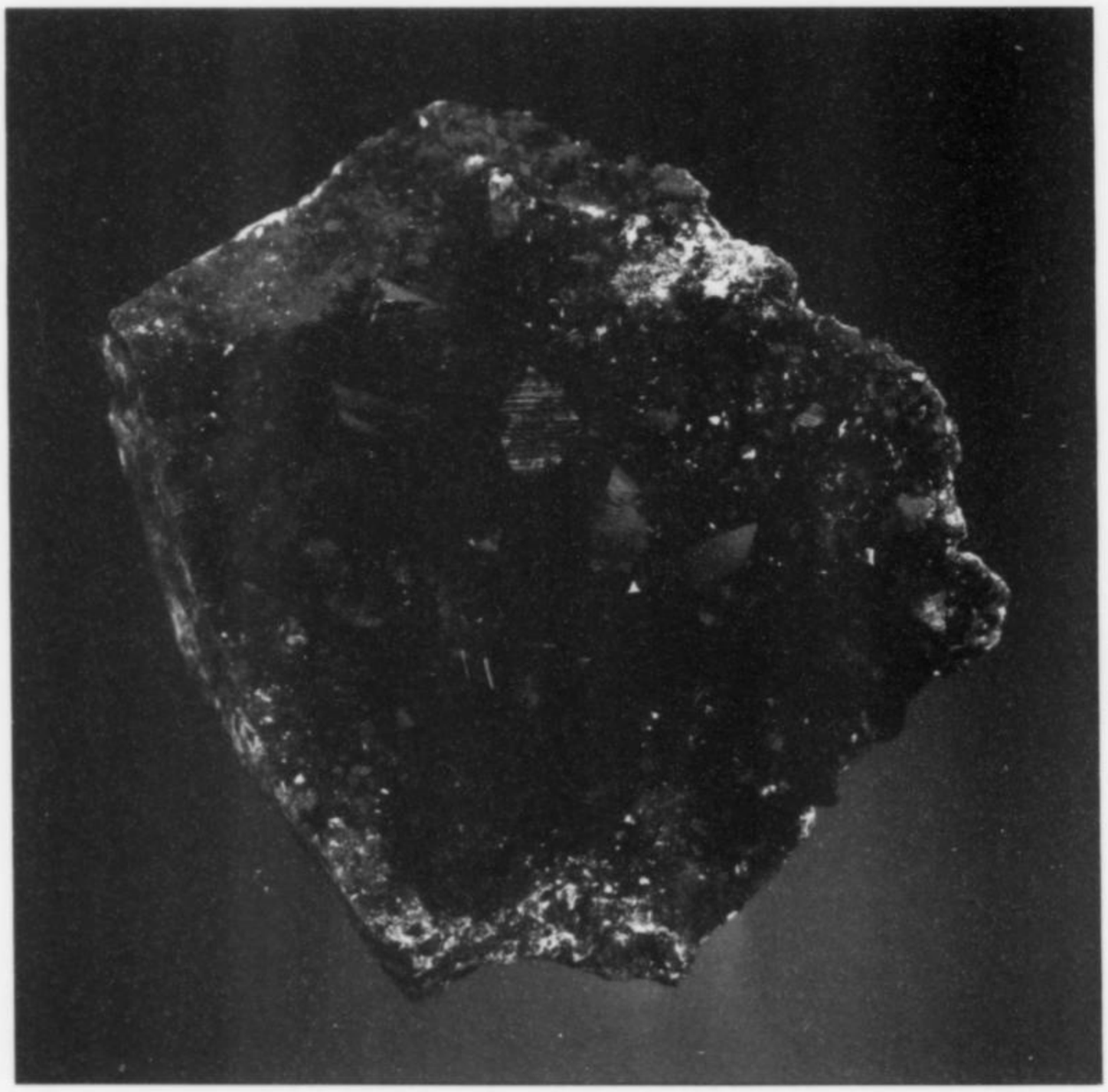
Beryl

9.6 cm, Violet claims, Wah Wah Mountains, Beaver County, Utah. Deep red gem-grade beryl occurs only at this locality. Ex. Ed David Collection, sold to Marc Weill by Robert Lavinsky.

Hydroxyl-herderite

7.8 cm, Xanda mine, Virgem da Lapa, Minas Gerais, Brazil. In 1976 around 20 superb crystals of lustrous, lavender hydroxyl-herderite were found in Brazil, virtually redefining the species for collectors. This is one of them. Ex. Sandor Fuss collection, Purchased from Stuart Wilensky at the Springfield Show, 2005.





Pyrite

27.1 cm, Pasto Bueno District, Pallasca Province, Ancash Department, Peru. Very rarely a common species like pyrite transcends its stereotype and rises to the world-class level. Countless tons of pyrite specimens have come out of Peru, but the truly elite examples can be counted on one hand—this being one of them. It was originally in Stuart Wilensky's personal collection, and was then sold to Bruce Oreck, from whom Marc acquired it in 2006.

Kämmererite

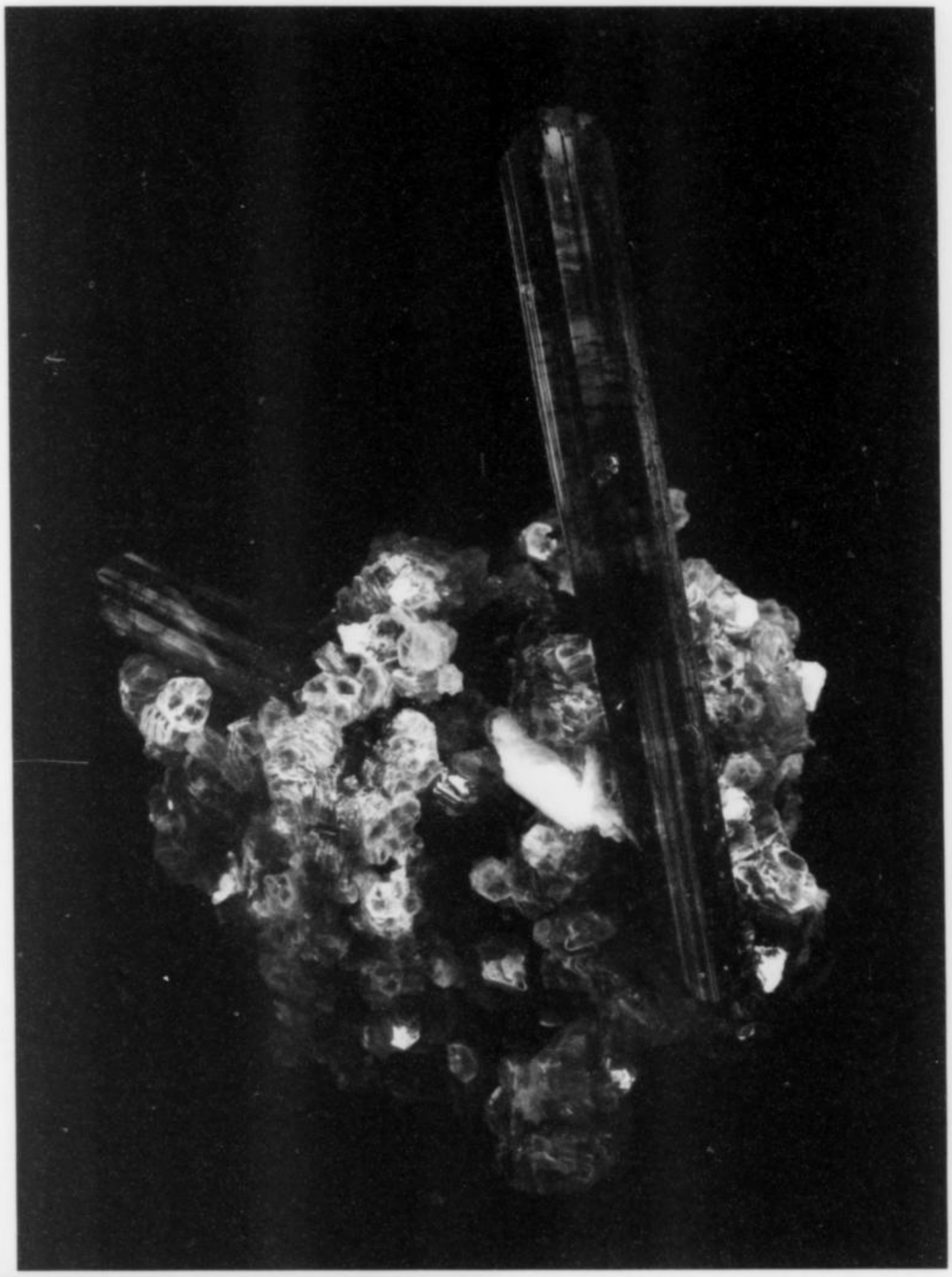
(Clinochlore), 5.2 cm, Kop Krom mine, Kop Daglari, Erzurum Province, Eastern Anatolia Region, Turkey. Only one locality produces high-quality clinochlore containing enough chromium to turn the crystals cherry-red to purple. This specimen is one of the finest examples known; it was purchased at the Munich Show in 2006.

Barite

12.6 cm, Frizington, West Cumberland Iron Field, Cumbria, England. This incredible barite is one of the great classics of the Marc Weill collection. It has large size, with an attractive color, and it comes from the most renowned location for blue barite in the world. Such a large and aesthetic cluster would be unusual in any species, but the mine has been closed for nearly a century, and for a fine specimen to have survived all those years undamaged is very rare.

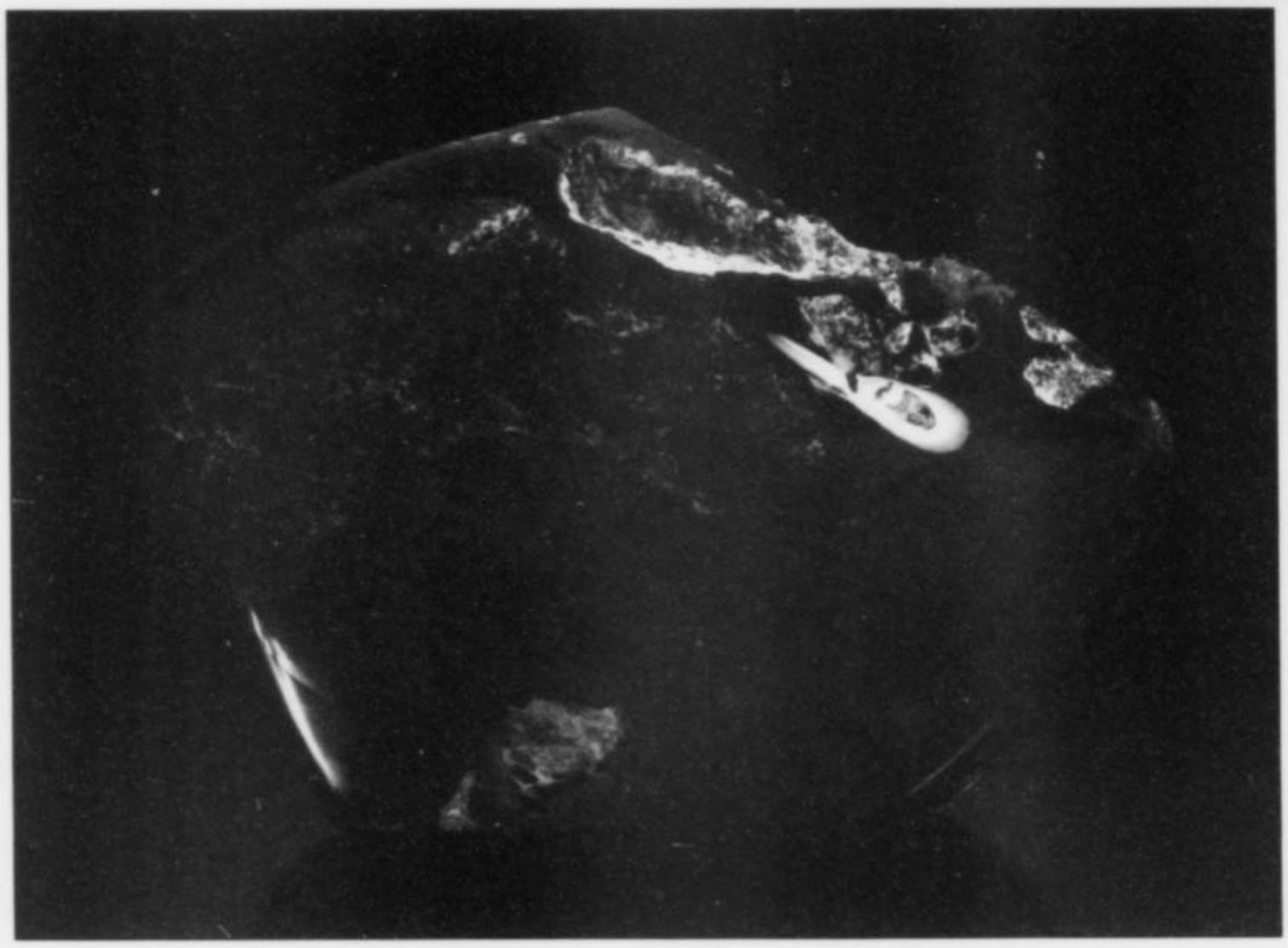
Kunzite

(Spodumene), two views of the same crystal, 29.8 cm, Nuristan, Afghanistan. Kunzite, the pink variety of spodumene, is one of the two gemstone varieties of the species. The other is a chromium-colored green variety called hiddenite. Kunzite was first found in California and was named after Tiffany's gem expert, George F. Kunz (1856–1932). This specimen was acquired in 2006 from Astro Gallery of Gems.



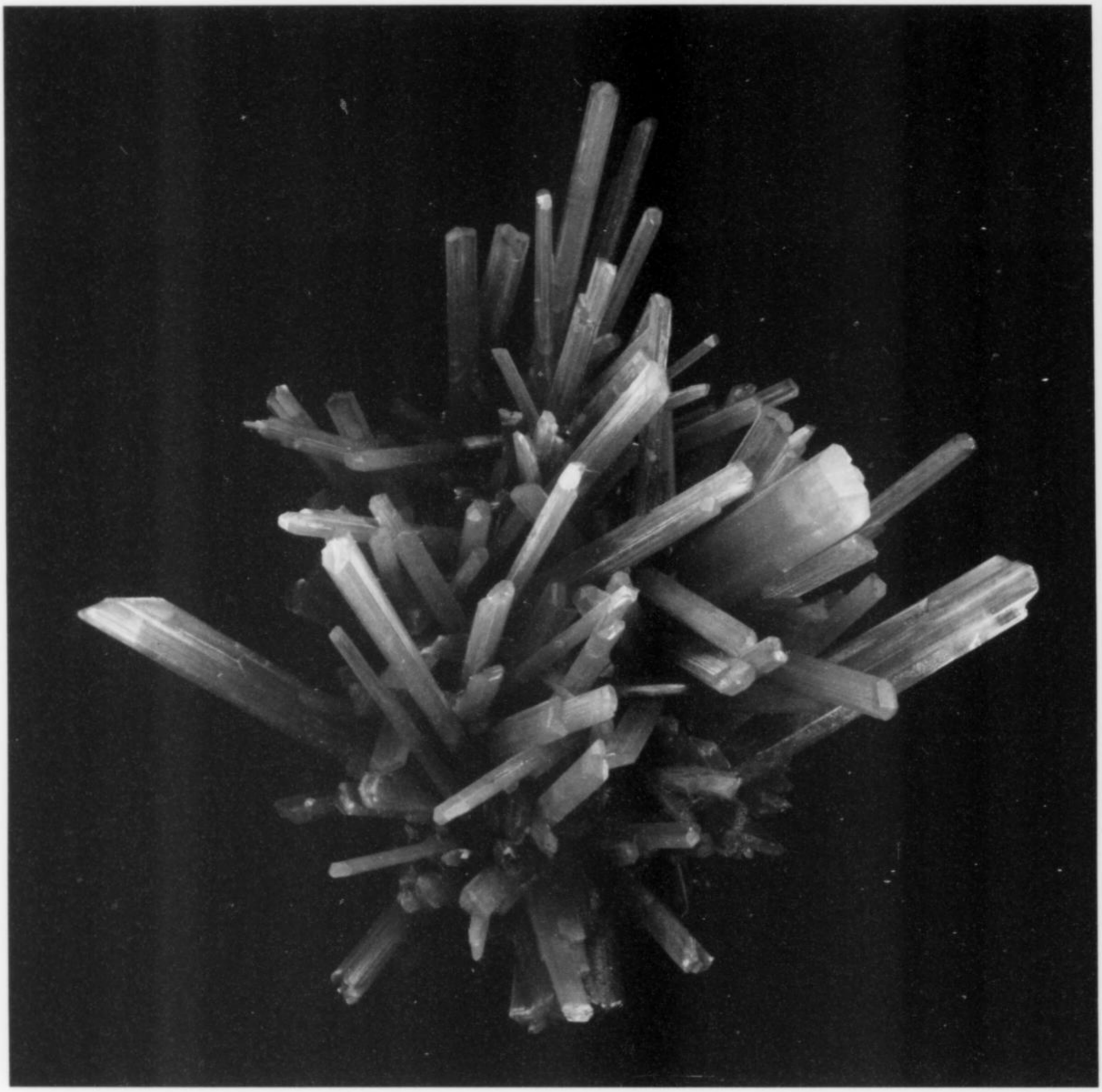
Tourmaline

(Elbaite), 12.6 cm, Jonas mine, Itatiaia District, Conselheiro Pena, Minas Gerais, Brazil. The Jonas mine is the site of the single greatest tourmaline discovery in history. Tons of lustrous, gem-grade, cranberry-red crystals to over a meter long were removed from a single pocket in 1978.



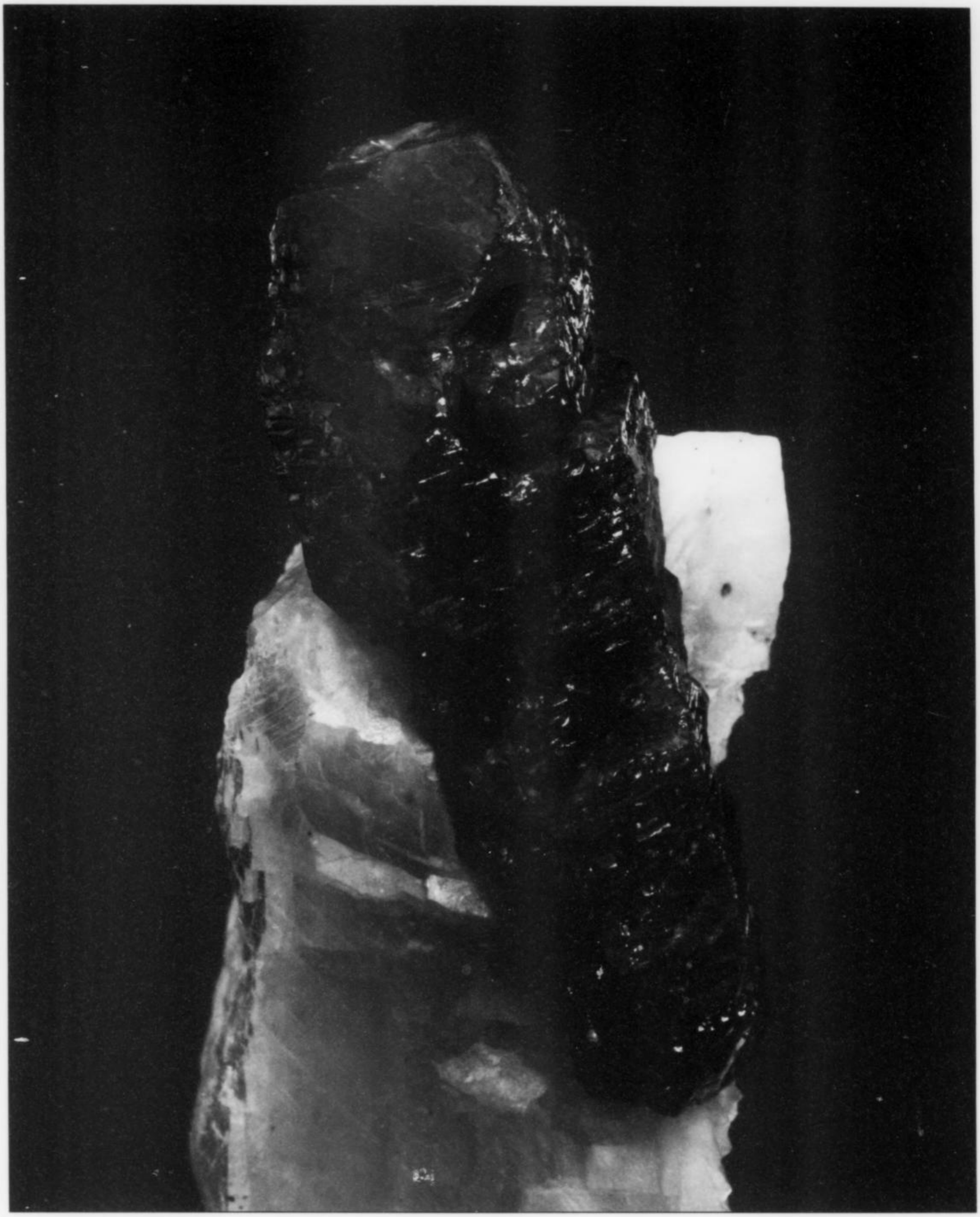
Opal

8 cm, Lightning Ridge, Finch County, New South Wales, Australia



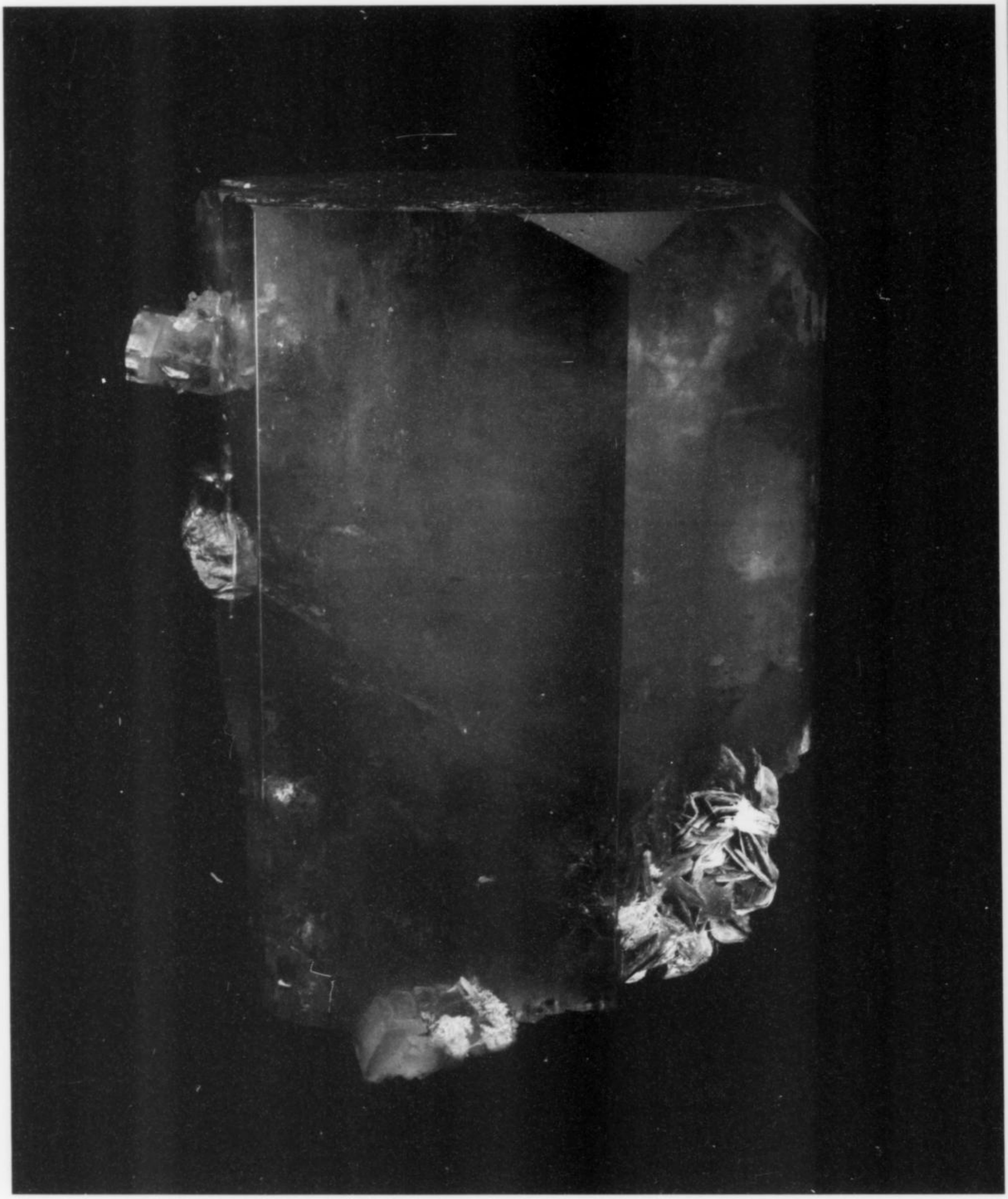
Gypsum

21.1 cm, Naica, Municipio de Saucillo, Chihuahua, Mexico. This gypsum cluster is the epitome of an aesthetic mineral specimen. The long slender crystals that seem to explode from the central point in every direction with just the right amount of space between them, as well as wonderful balance, make this a masterpiece. It isn't the most valuable specimen in Marc Weill's collection, but he enjoys it as much as any of his higher-value pieces. Acquired from the Daniel Trinchillo Sr. collection.



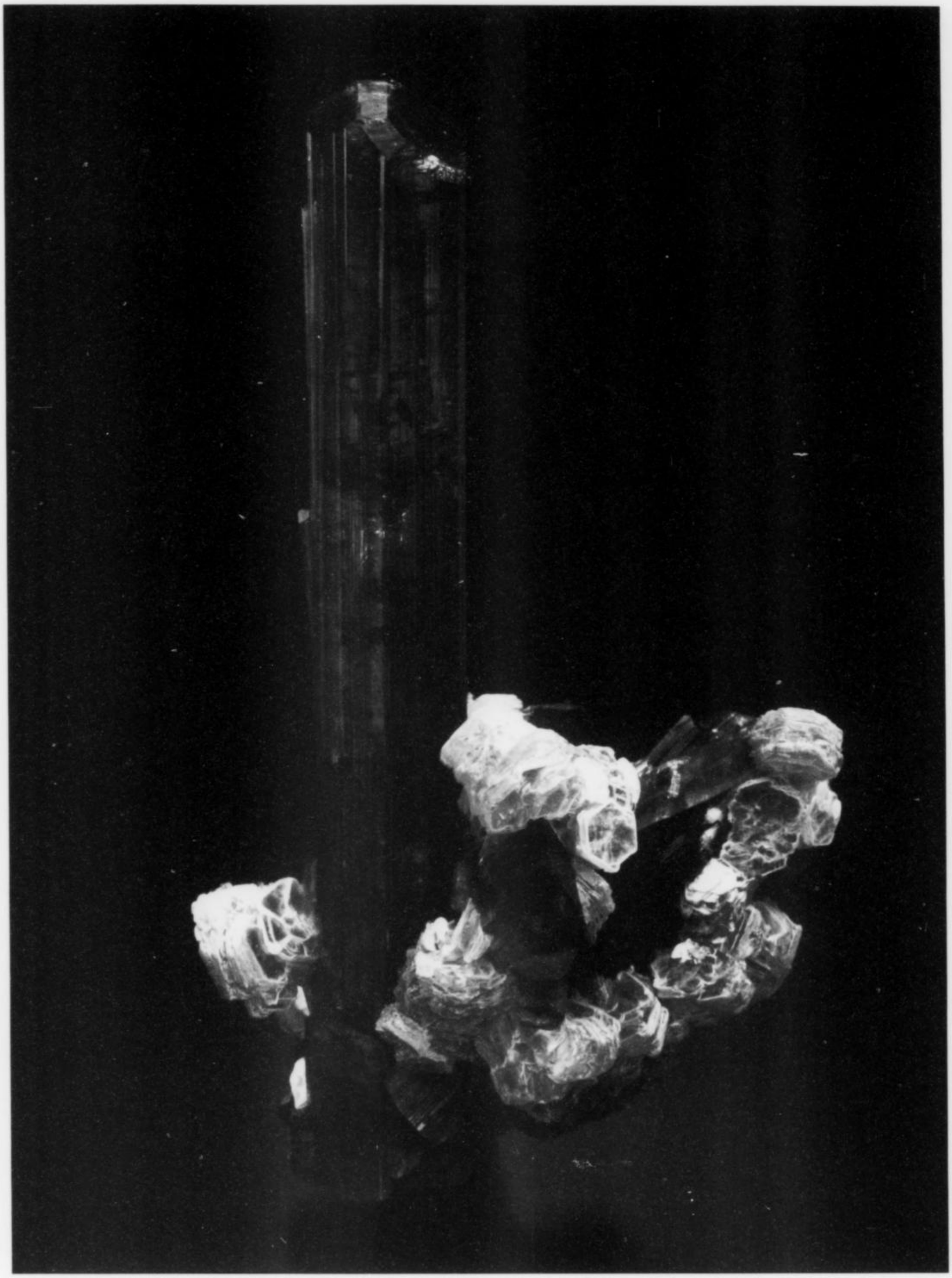
Ruby

(Corundum), 8 cm, Mogok, Sagaing District, Mandalay Division, Myanmar (Burma). High-quality ruby crystals are exceedingly rare and extremely valuable; consequently they are usually faceted as gemstones. The finest cut stones as well as the best specimens have come almost exclusively from Burma. The Mogok Stone Tract has produced incredible gems and specimens for hundreds of years. This unusually large crystal is from the William Larson collection.



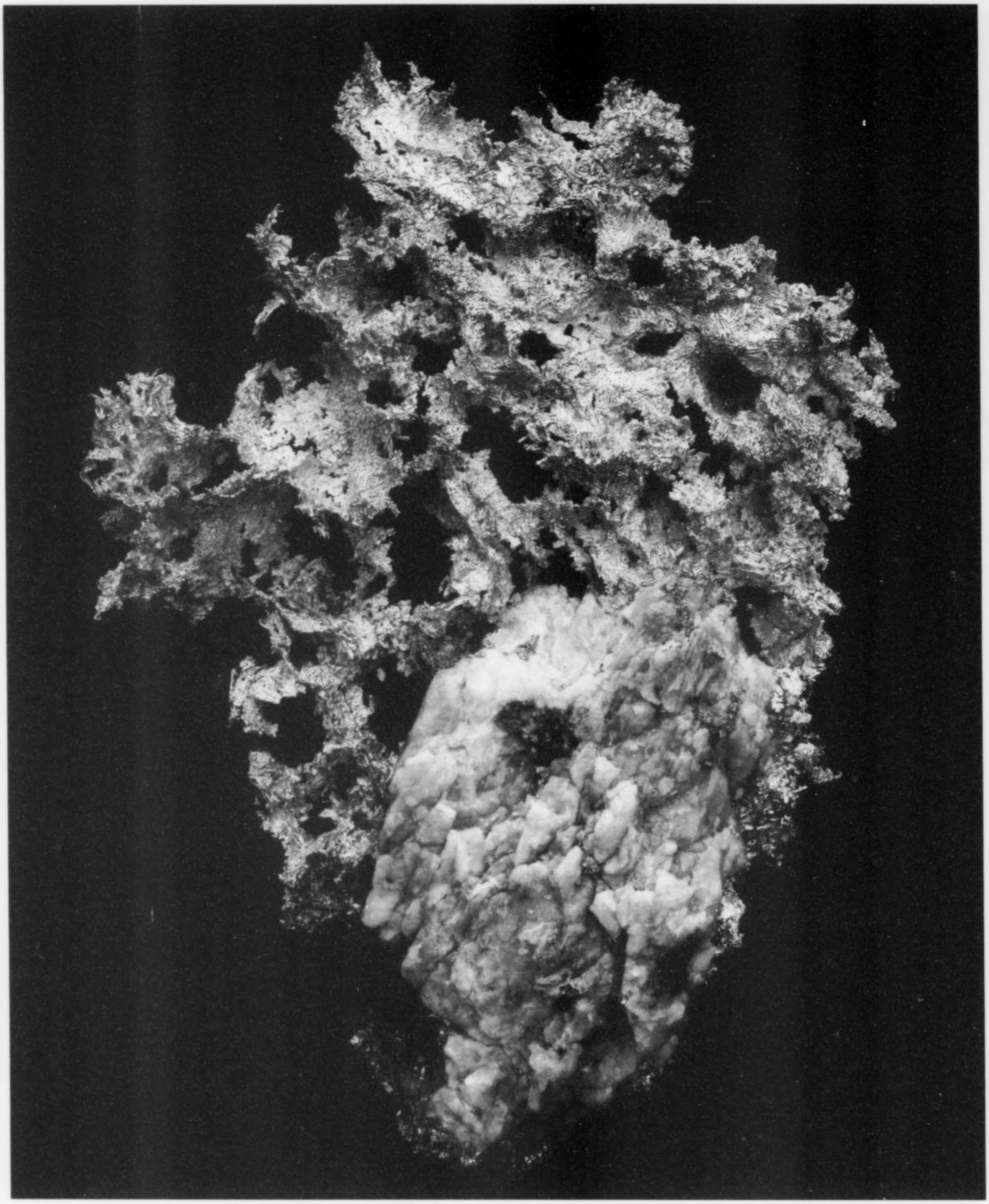
Aquamarine

(Beryl), 17.5 cm, Nagar, Northern Territories, Pakistan. This giant aquamarine crystal is one of the first important pieces Marc Weill acquired at the Tucson Show in 2003. It is large and weighs over 5 pounds, but the absolute perfection coupled with size and color make it a dramatic and highly desirable specimen. Purchased from Marcus Budil.



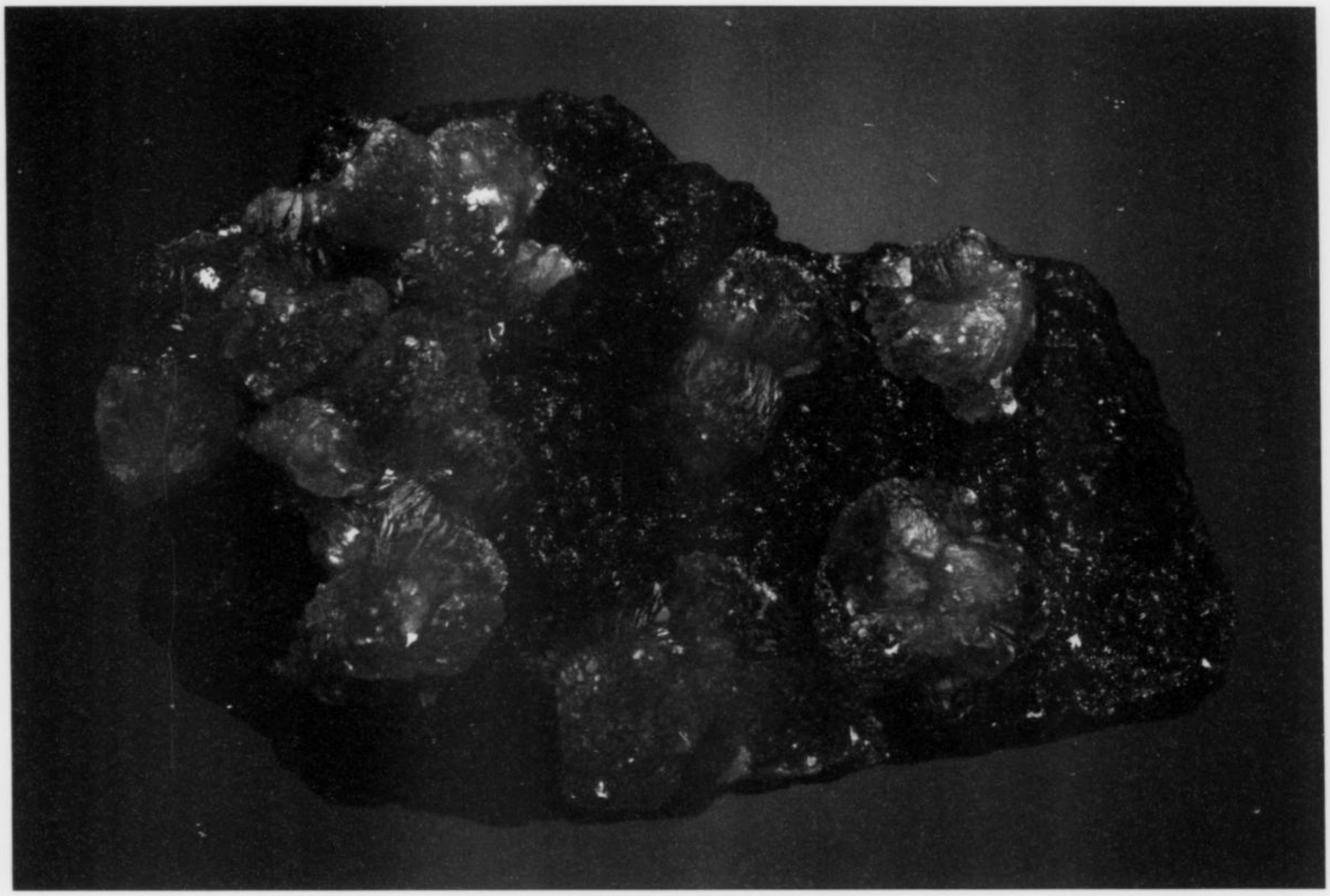
Tourmaline

(Elbaite), 9.1 cm, Jonas mine, Itatiaia, Minas Gerais, Brazil. The Jonas mine yielded the single greatest pocket of tourmaline crystals in history—a one-time find in 1978. Ex. Eric Asselborn collection to Wayne Thompson in 2001 to Daniel Trinchillo to Stuart Wilensky, to Irv Brown to Stuart Wilensky to Marc Weill in 2006.



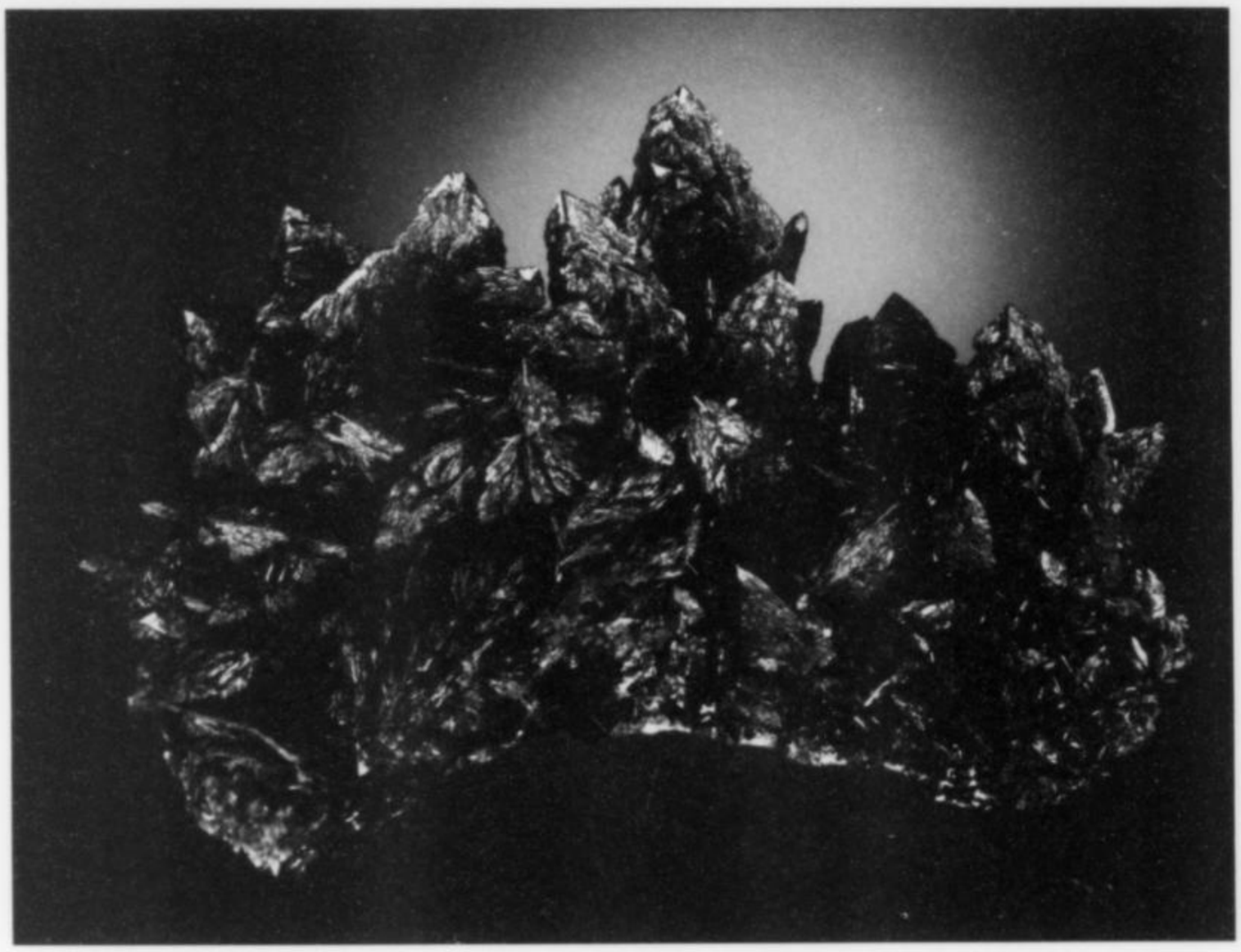
Gold

22.2 cm, DeMaria mine, Placer County, California. Over 20 cm in height, this giant gold specimen is simply stunning. The rich yellow color reflects from the hundreds of crystal faces, making the piece come to life. The DeMaria mine is located on the same vein as the famous Eagle's Nest gold mine. Acquired from Astro Gallery of Gems in 2005.



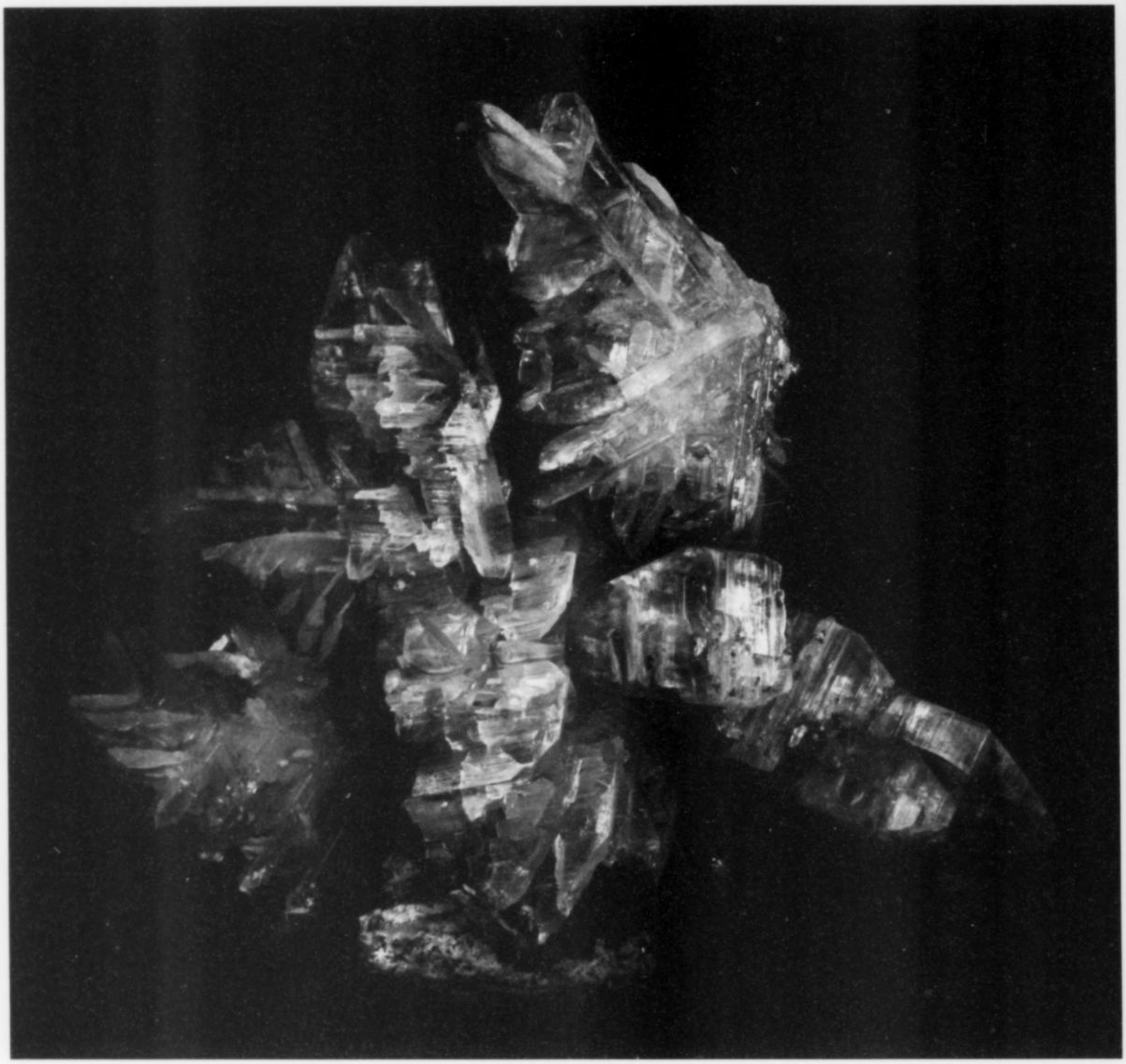
Rhodochrosite

13.2 cm, N'Chwaning mine, Kalahari manganese field, Northern Cape Province, South Africa. The N'Chwaning mine is most famous for some of the finest known rhodochrosite specimens. The crystal habit shown here is reminiscent of wheat sheaves. The dazzling red color of the rhodochrosite on contrasting, brilliant black manganese oxides makes this specimen stunning. Ex. Robert Lavinsky specimen.



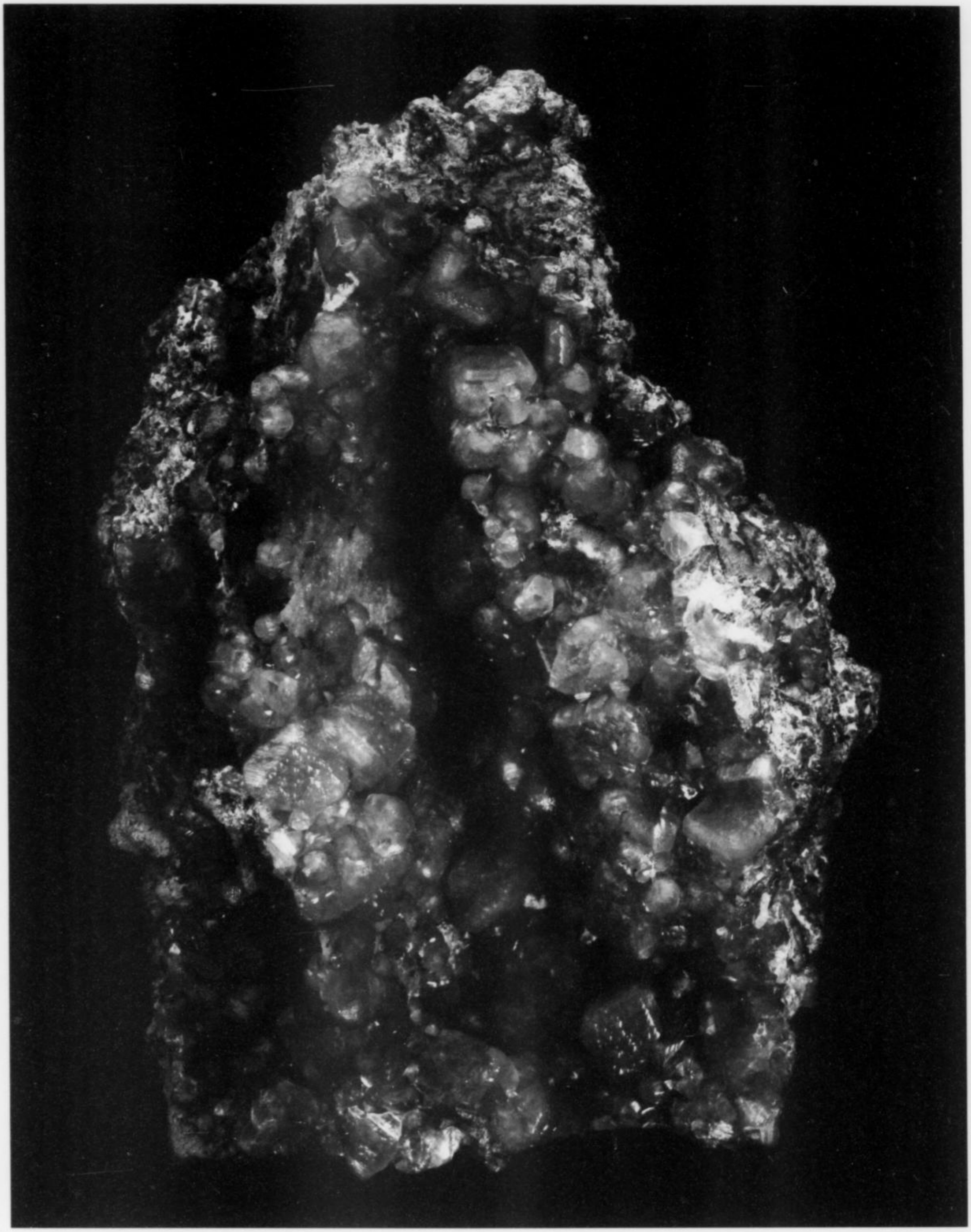
Descloizite

15.4 cm, Berg Aukas, Grootfontein District, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia



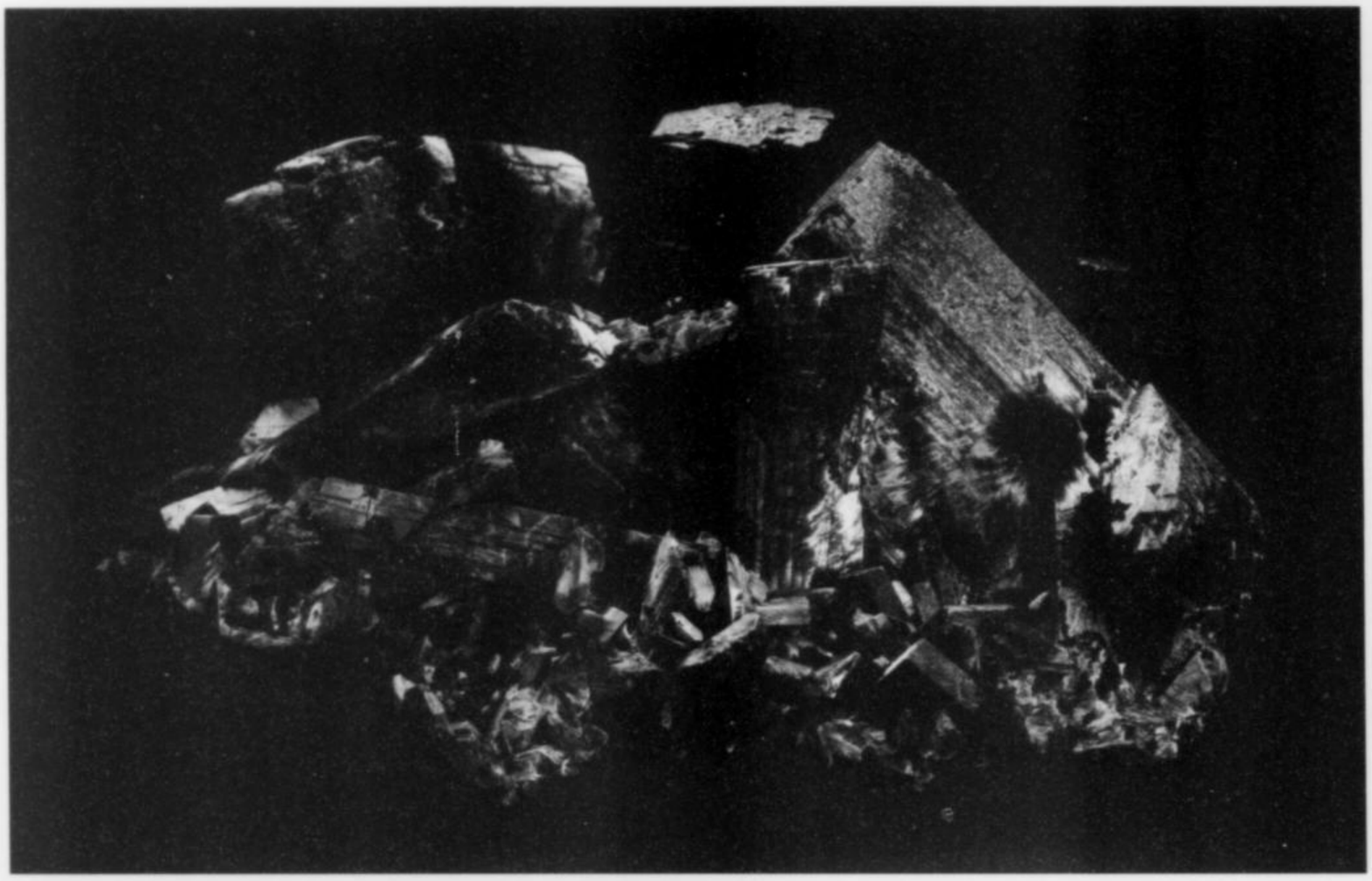
Cerussite

21.3 cm, Tsumeb mine, Tsumeb, Namibia. Cerussite specimens have long been a "must" in important mineral collections. The most coveted examples of the species come from the Kombat and Tsumeb mines in Namibia but are incredibly hard to find on the specimen market; the tight security at the Kombat mine precluded much specimen recovery work, and the Tsumeb mine has been closed for many years. Cerussite sometimes occurs in reticulated clusters of twinned crystals resembling a snowflake. Any collector would be fortunate to own a complete "snowflake" of cerussite. The Marc Weill collection includes the superb example pictured here, with five giant, interlocking snowflakes! No other museum or collector possesses a cerussite like this! Ex. Paul Heisse collection, purchased by Russell Behnke and sold to Daniel Trinchillo Sr., who sold it to Marc Weill in 2004.



Smithsonite

18.9 cm, Tsumeb mine, Tsumeb, Namibia. The rarest color of Namibian smithsonite is a rich cobaltian pink. The awesome group pictured is among the finest in the world. Ex. Ed David Collection, via Rob Lavinsky.

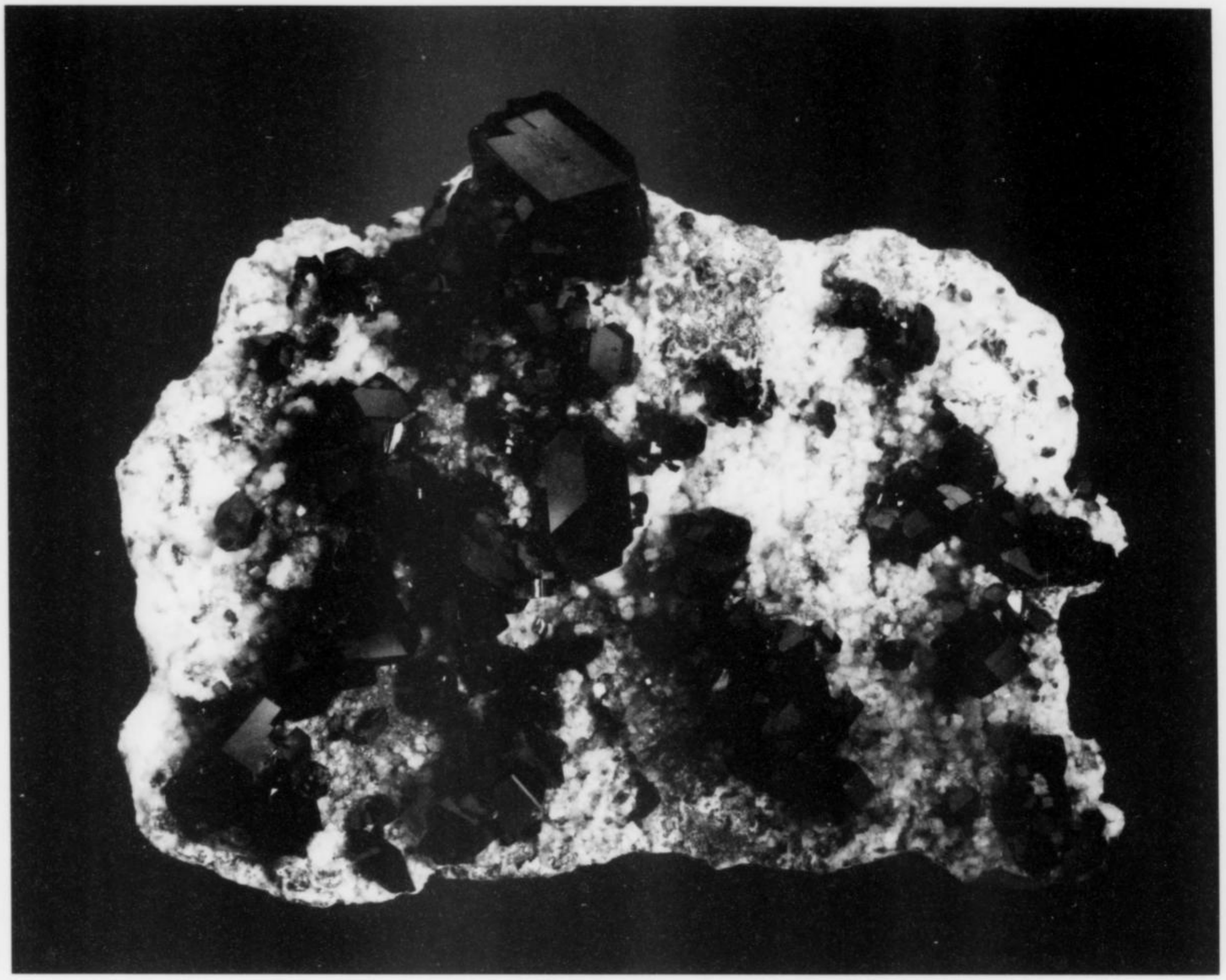


Malachite

pseudomorph after Azurite, 10.4 cm, Tsumeb mine, Tsumeb, Namibia. Occasionally, because of changing chemical conditions in the earth, a mineral is replaced by a different species while retaining its original crystal shape, thus creating a pseudomorph. Those from the Tsumeb mine are among the most renowned. In the specimen shown here, azurite crystals have been completely replaced by green malachite. Ex. Sandor Fuss collection, purchased from Stuart Wilensky in 2005.

Mimetite

crystals to 2.6 cm, Tsumeb mine, Tsumeb, Namibia. Several areas around the world have produced mimetite but great specimens have been found in only four localities. The most famous and sought after are the specimens from the Tsumeb mine in Namibia, which are considered to be the finest in the world.

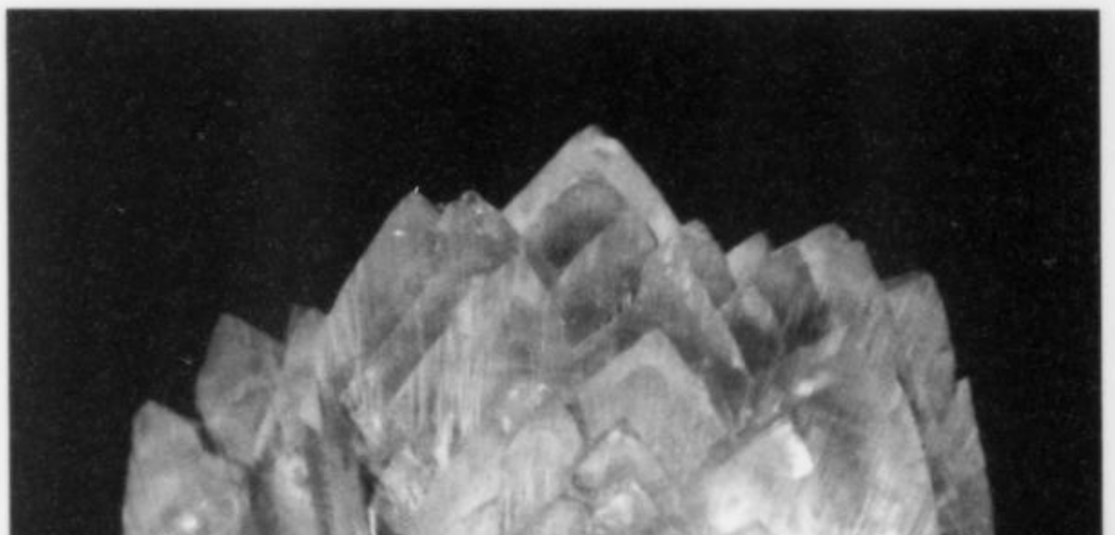


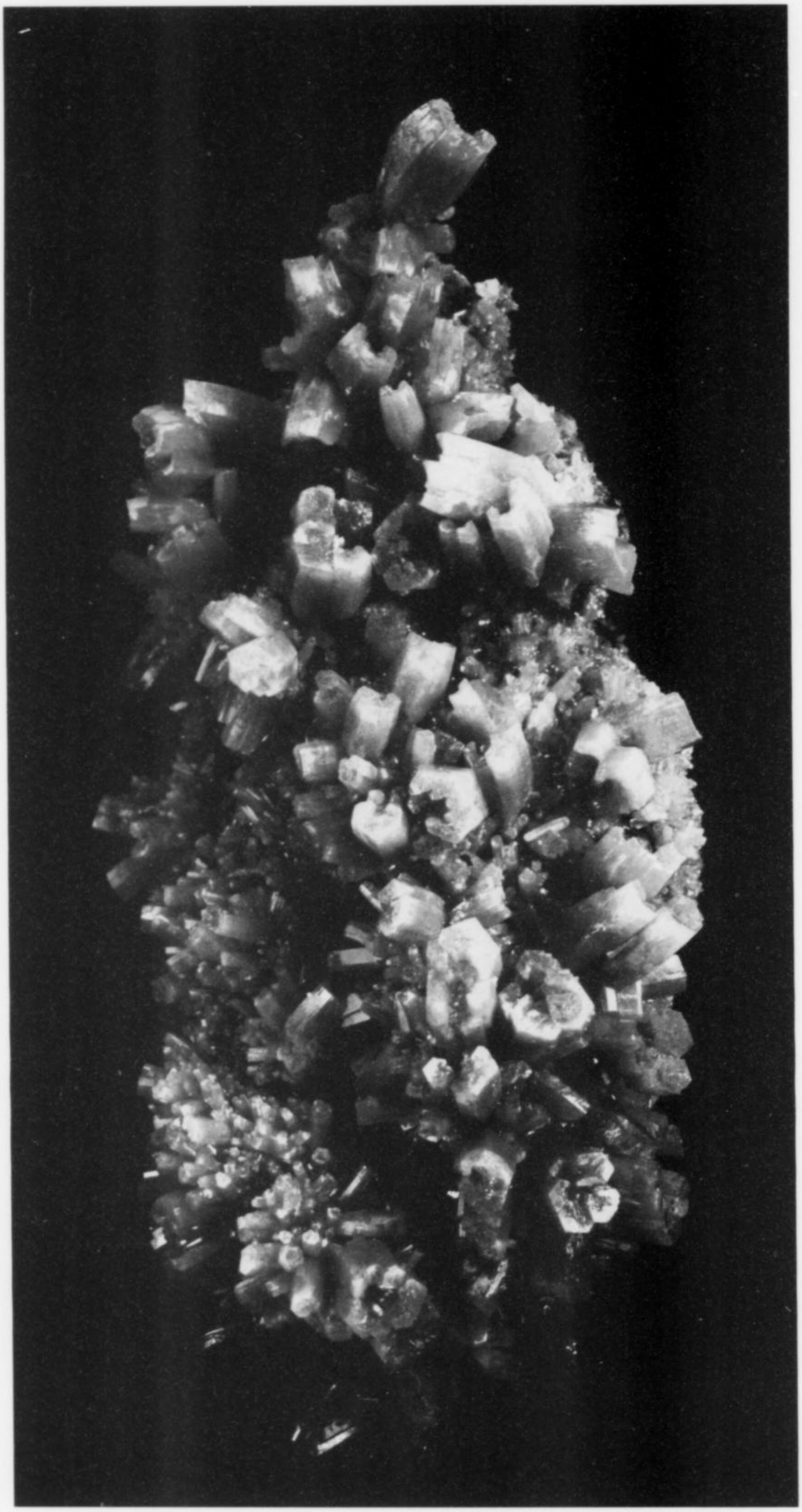
Dioptase

11.2 cm, Tsumeb mine, Tsumeb, Namibia. Dioptase from Tsumeb is the standard against which all other dioptase specimens are measured. The Tsumeb mine has produced the largest dioptase crystals, with the deepest color and best luster. This piece comes from an early find in 1971. The deep green rhombohedral crystals are speckled with white calcites and small crystals of apple-green Smithsonite. Ex. Sandor Fuss collection; purchased from Stuart Wilensky.

Smithsonite

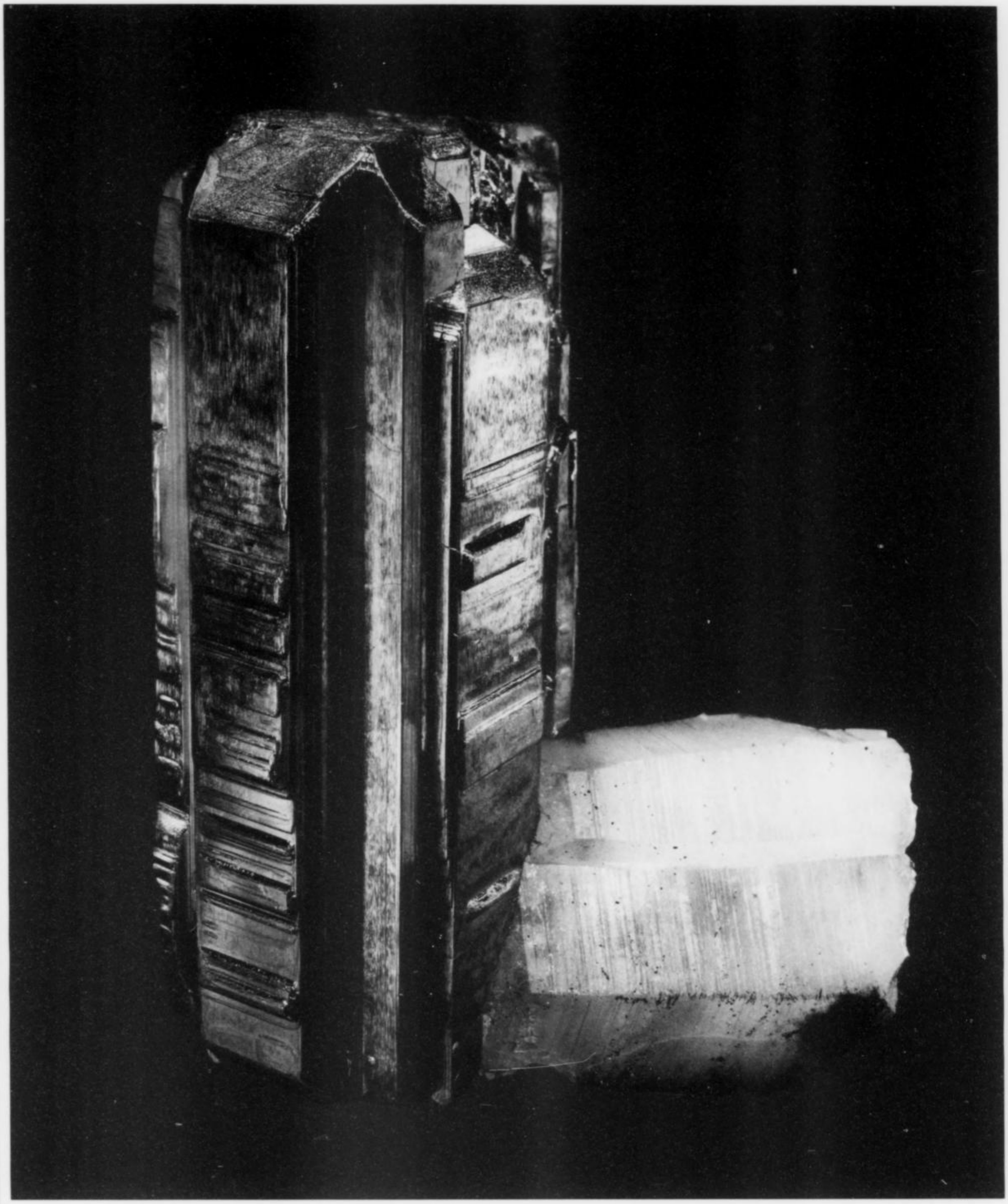
3.7 cm, Tsumeb mine, Tsumeb, Namibia





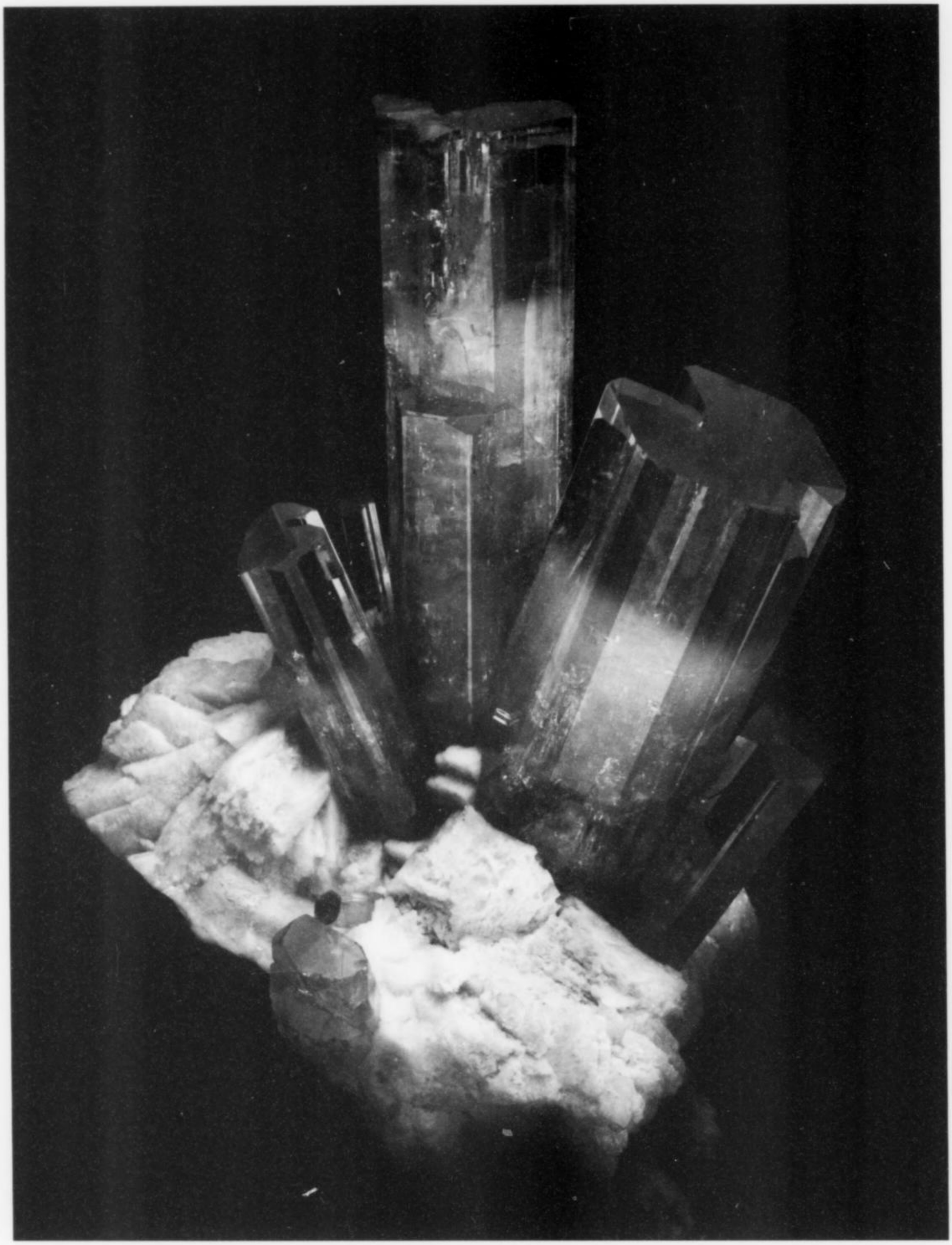
Pyromorphite

17.1 cm, Bunker Hill mine, Kellogg, Couer d'Alene district, Shoshone County, Idaho. The Bunker Hill mine has produced many of the finest pyromorphite specimens ever discovered. With beautiful luster and large isolated crystals, this specimen is the *pièce de résistance* of all pyromorphites. Ex. Wayne Sorensen collection; sold by Daniel Trinchillo to Marc Weill at the Denver Show in 2005.



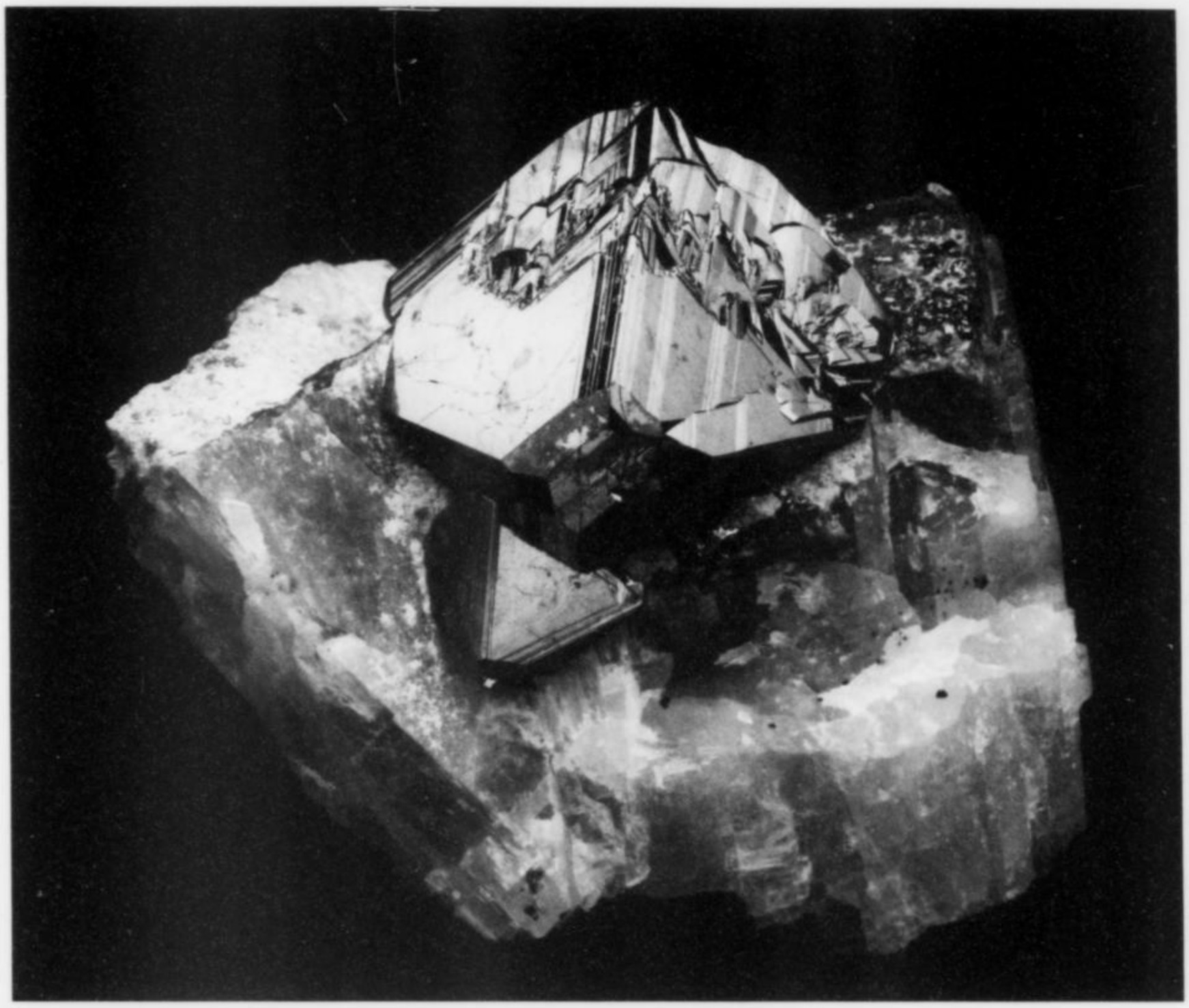
Bournonite

with Quartz, 10.5 cm, from the Yaogangxian mine, Hunan Province, China. Until recently the finest examples of bournonite were those found at the Herodsfoot mine in England over a hundred years ago. The Chinese specimen shown here totally eclipses all other bournonite specimens in world, weighing in at over a pound! It is definitely one of the finest specimens in Marc Weill's collection—his "signature specimen."



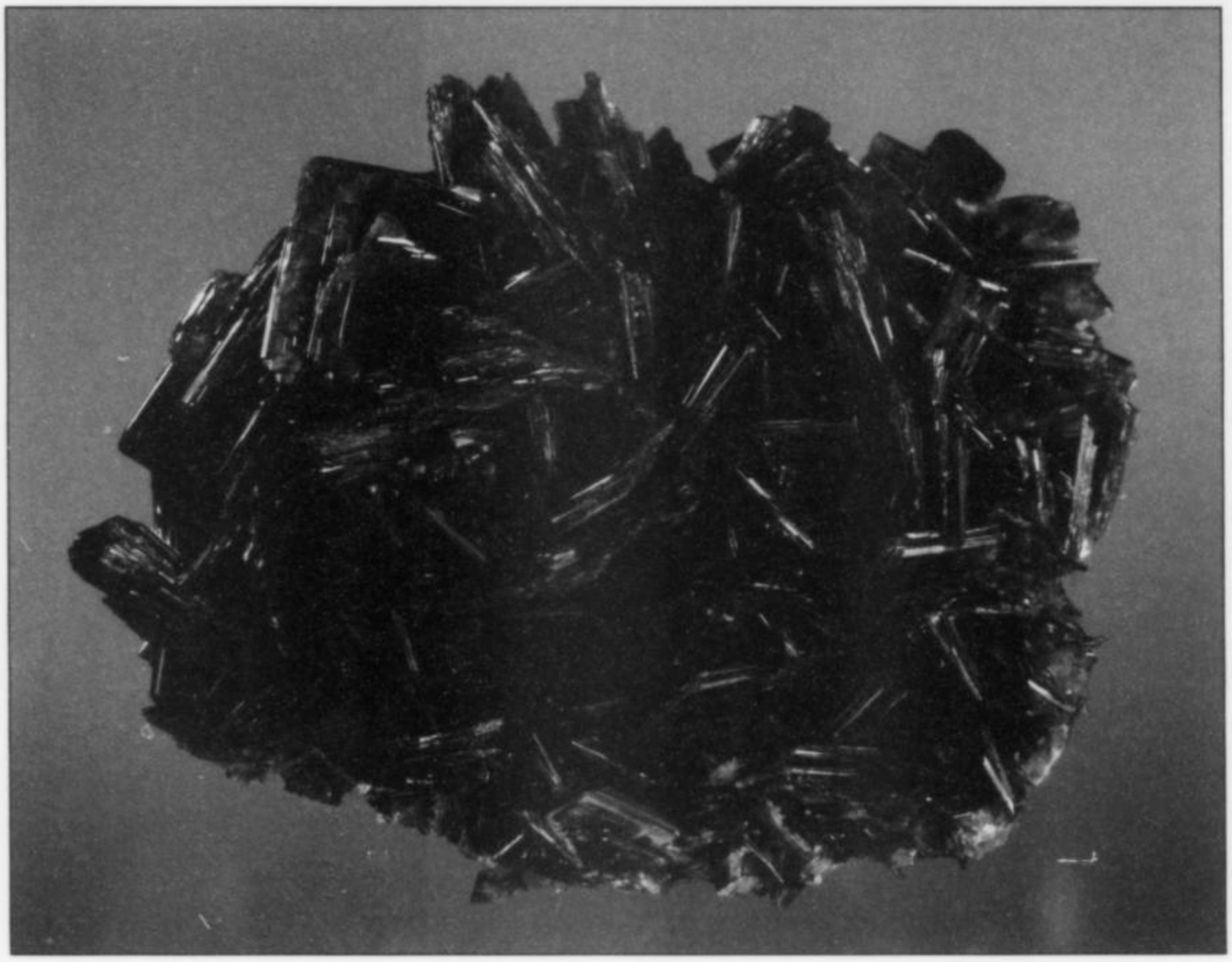
Aquamarine

(Beryl), 18.3 cm, Haramosh Mountains, Northern Areas, Pakistan. This shockingly aesthetic aquamarine has a deep blue color and superb sculptural composition, with mirror-smooth luster. It is one of the finest mineral specimens in any collection in the world. Acquired from Astro Gallery of Gems in 2006.



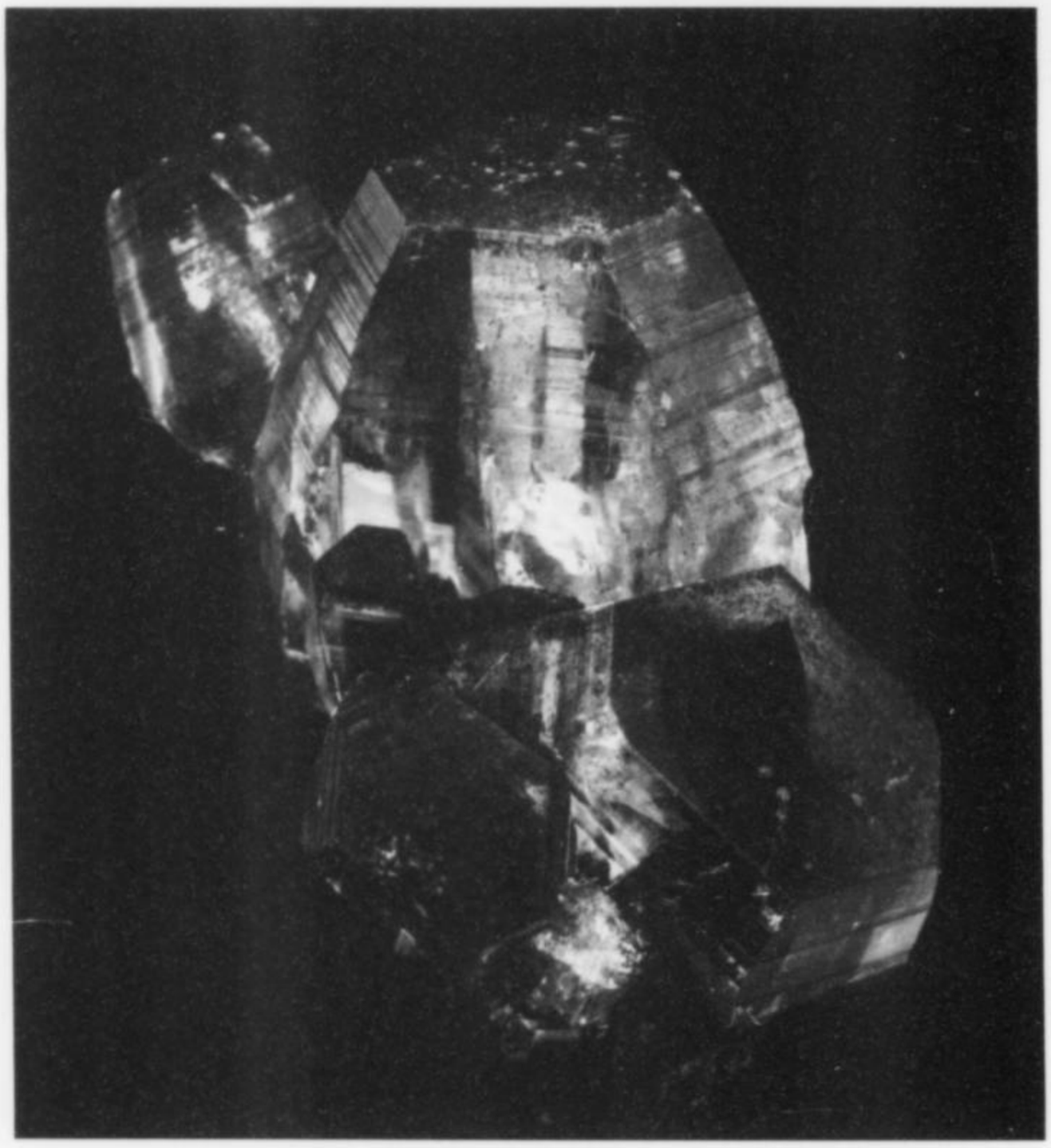
Carrollite

10.2 cm, Kamoto Fond mine, Kolwezi, Katanga, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The cobalt mines of the "Katanga Crescent" have yielded the world's finest examples of carrollite. Most crystals are under 3 cm, and the vast majority come out damaged, but the magnificent matrix specimen shown here is exceptionally large and perfect.



Metatorbernite

5.9 cm, Musonoi mine, Kolwezi, Katanga, Republic of the Congo. Torbernite and its slightly dehydrated equivalent, metatorbernite, reach their finest development at the famous Musonoi uranium mine in the Congo.

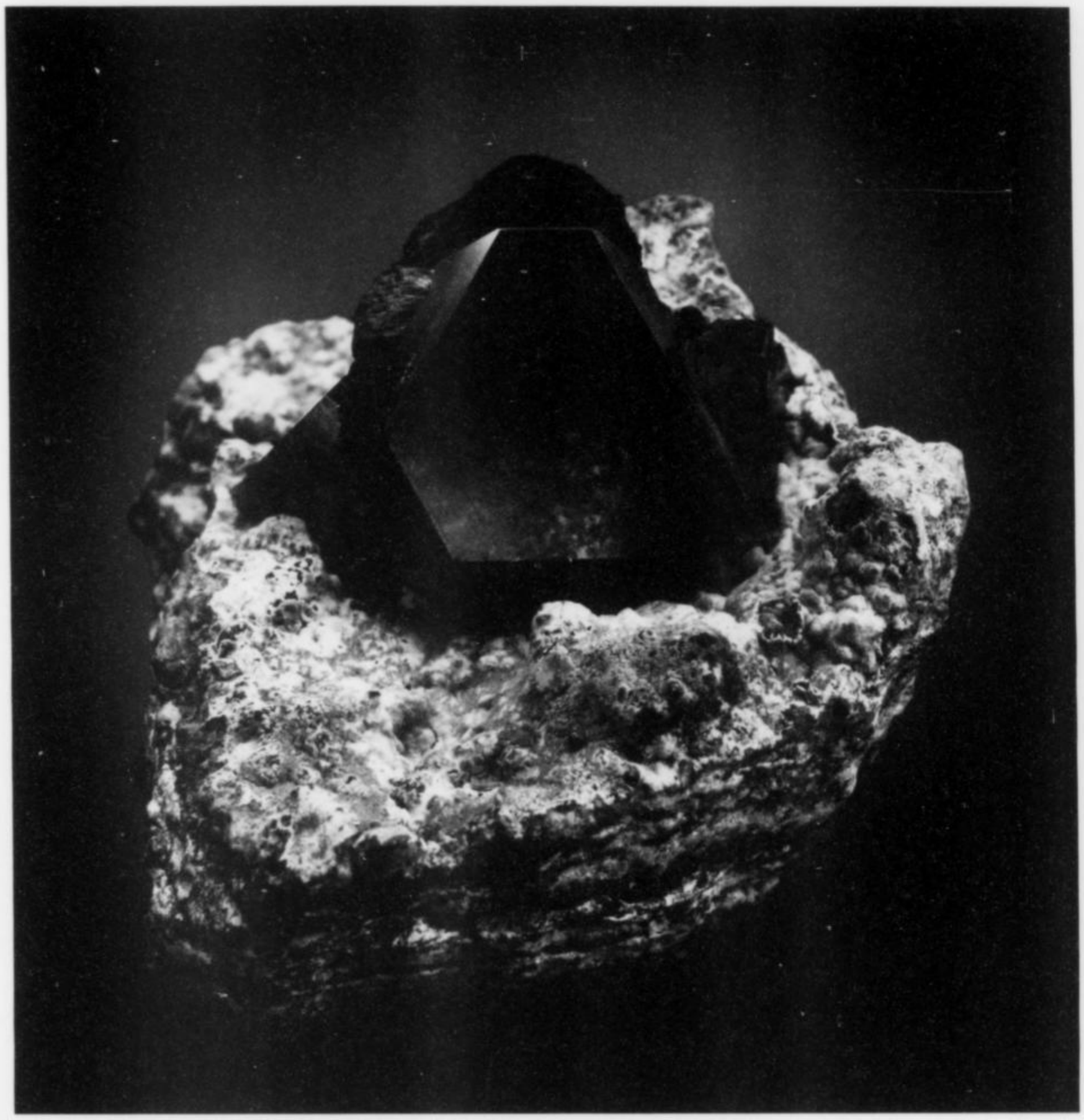


Rhodochrosite

7.7 cm, N'Chwaning mine, near Kuruman, Kalahari Manganese Field, Northern Cape Province, South Africa. The stunning beauty and impact of rhodochrosite from the Sweet Home mine in the United States is only rivaled by one other mining area in the world, the Kalahari Manganese Field in South Africa. The deeply colored scalenohedral crystals shown here are quite different from the slightly paler colored rhombohedrons from Colorado. Ex. Dennis Tanjeloff collection.

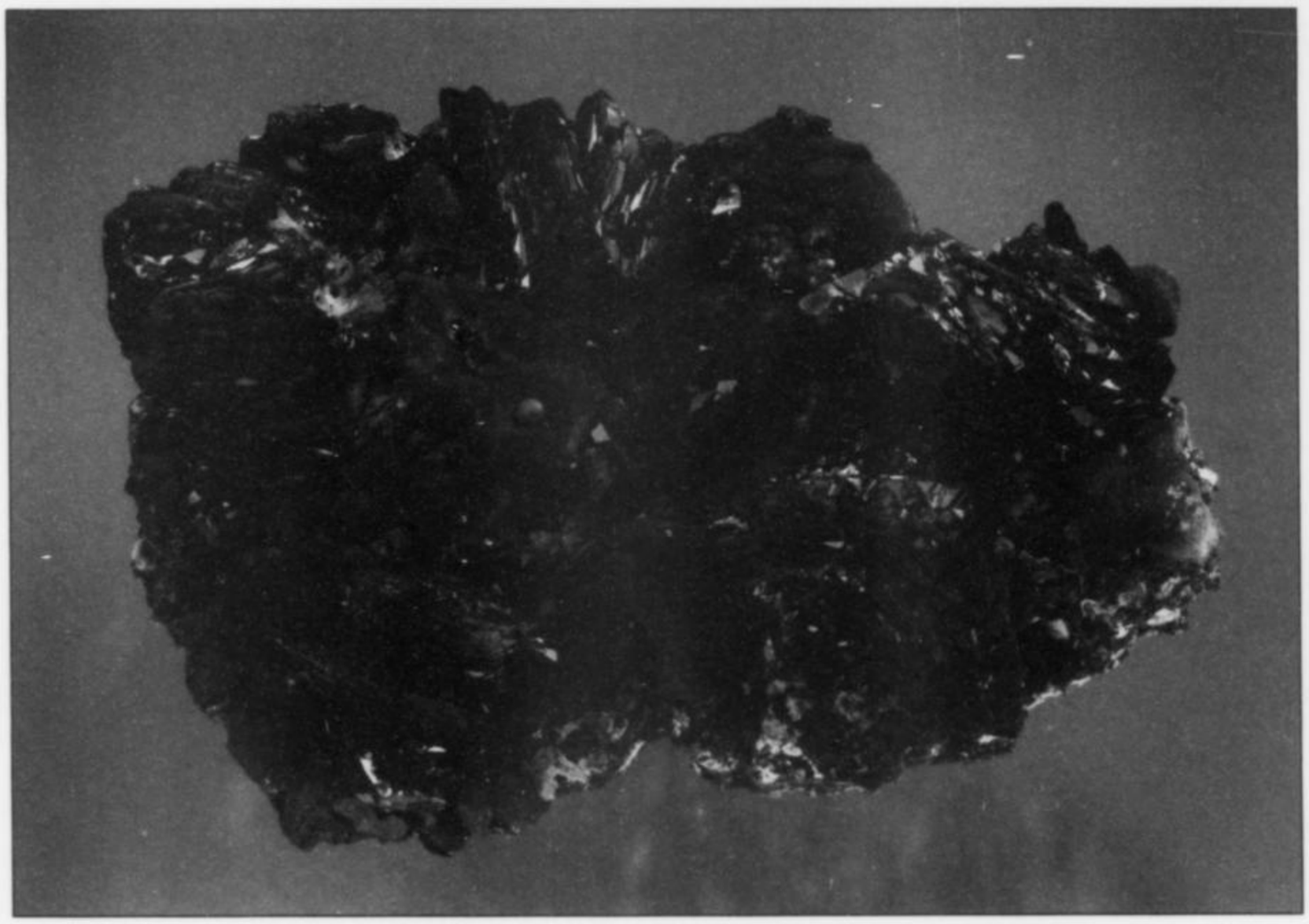
Ettringite

4.5 cm, N'Chwaning mine, Kalahari manganese field, Northern Cape Province, South Africa. The finest examples of ettringite are found in manganese deposits in South Africa. Most such crystals are prismatic; the ones shown here are unusual in being aesthetically tapered.



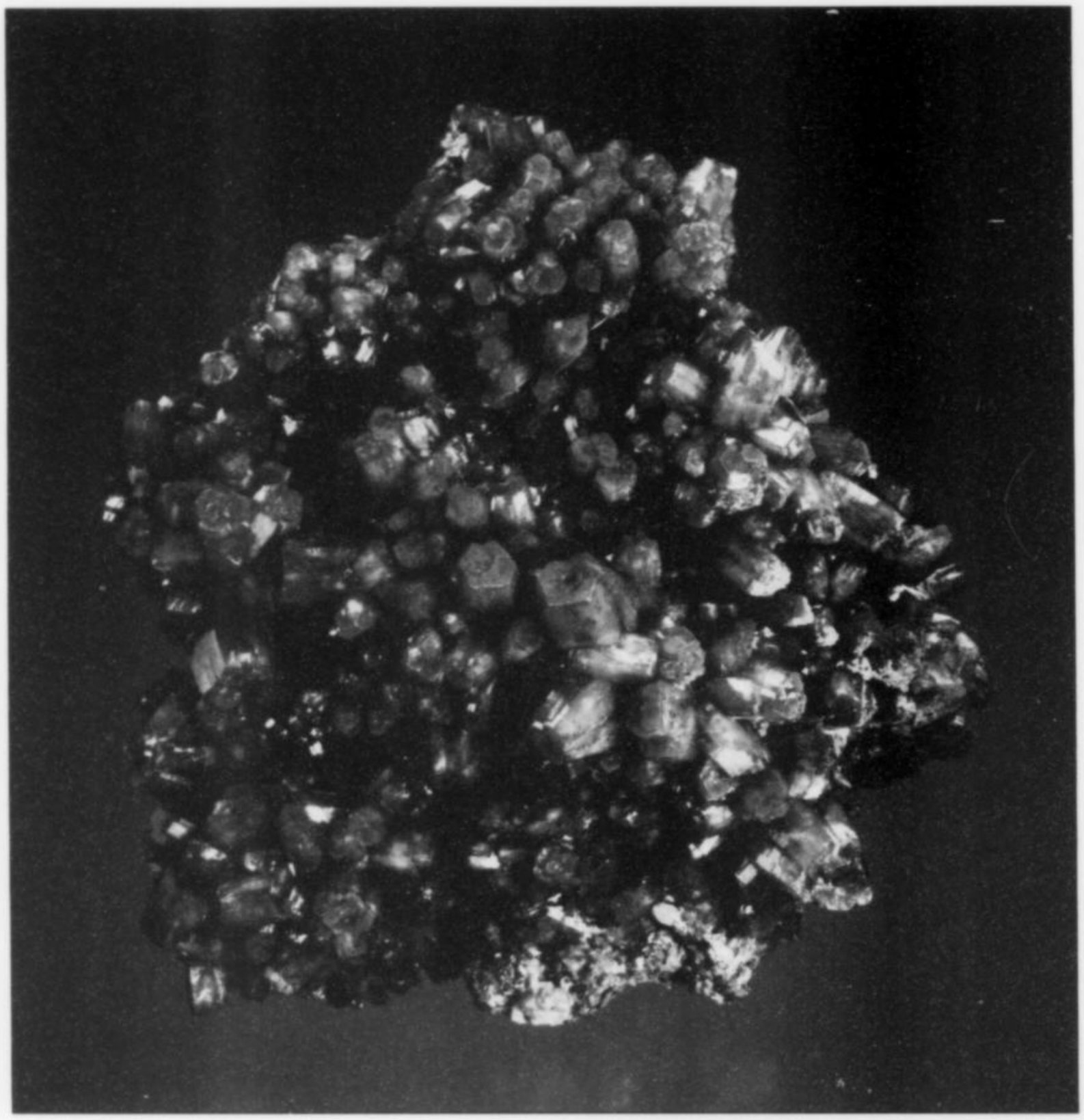
Cuprite

4.6 cm crystal, Mashamba West mine, Kolwezi, Katanga, Republic of the Congo. The greatest discovery of cuprite crystals in Africa took place at this mine in 1983, yielding huge, sharp crystals like the one shown here. Ex Sandor Fuss collection; sold to Stuart Wilensky, who sold it to Marc Weill in 2005.



Azurite

9.5 cm, Copper Queen mine, Queen Hill, Bisbee, Warren District, Mule Mountains, Cochise County, Arizona. Bisbee azurites are among the most coveted in the world. This matrix piece, found in the late 1800's, is a perfect example. Acquired from Ulrich Burchard, a prominent European collector, who owned it for over 30 years. A hand-painted illustration of this piece appears in Eberhard Equit's *The World's Mineral Masterpieces.*

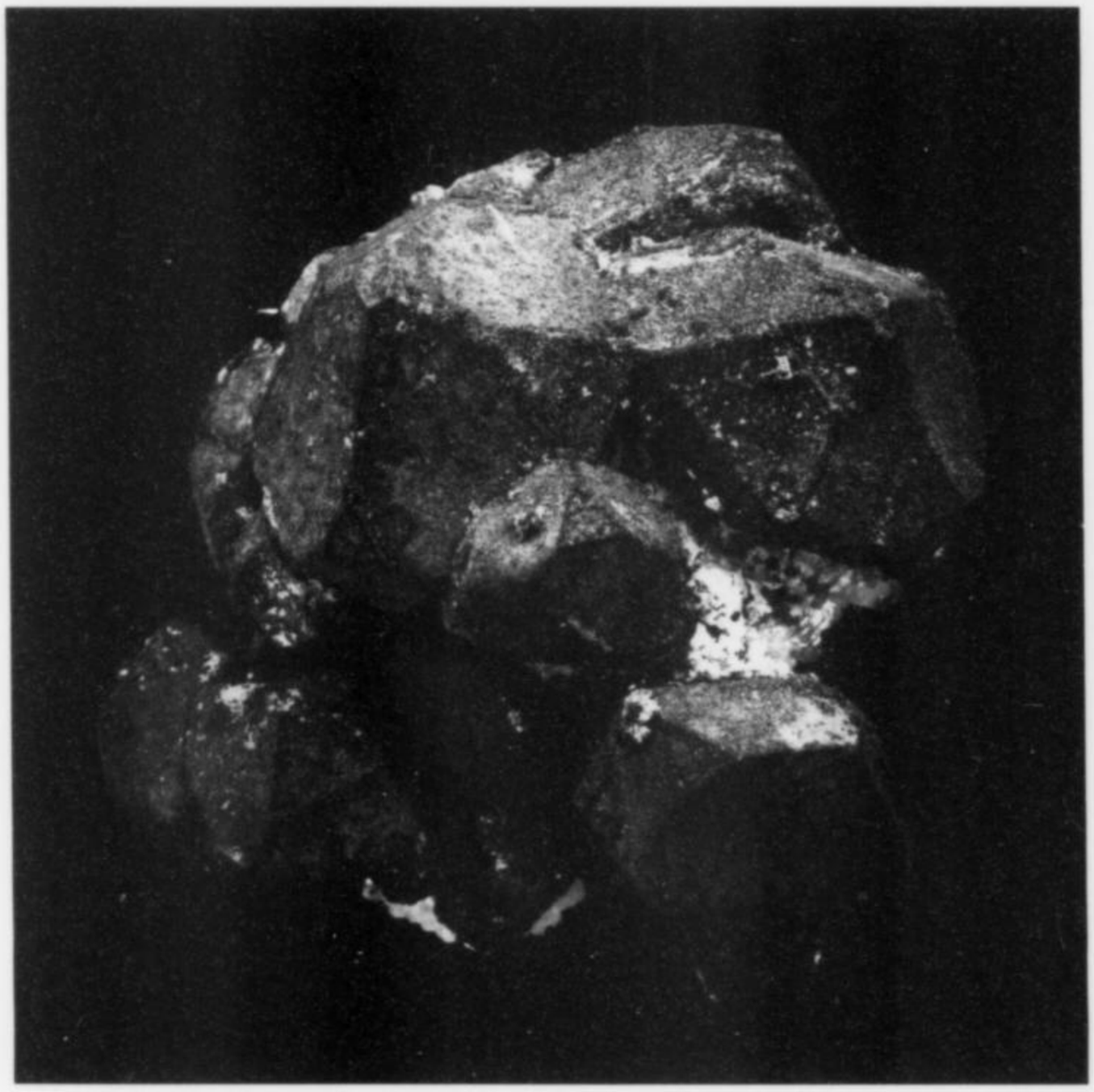


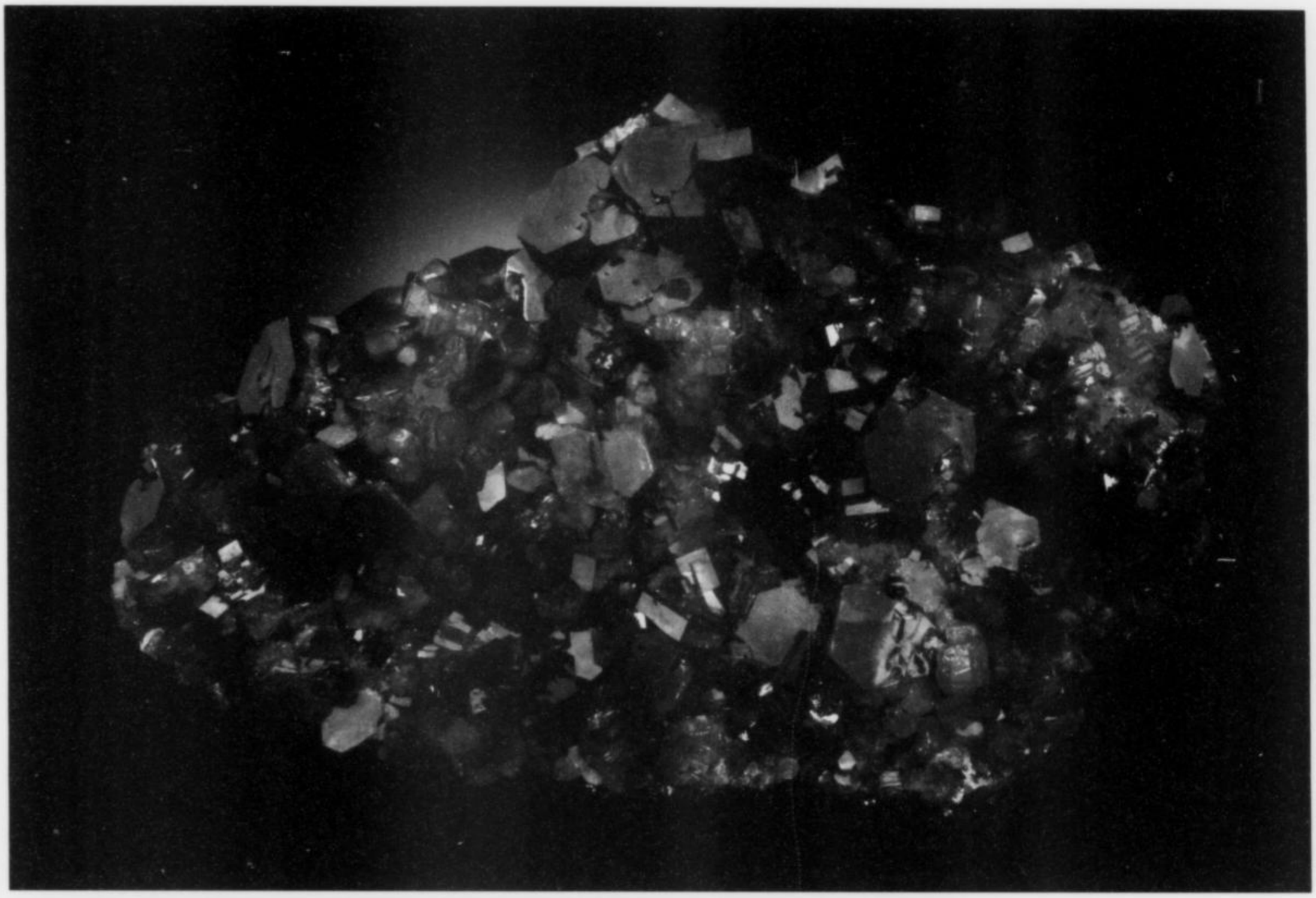
Pyromorphite

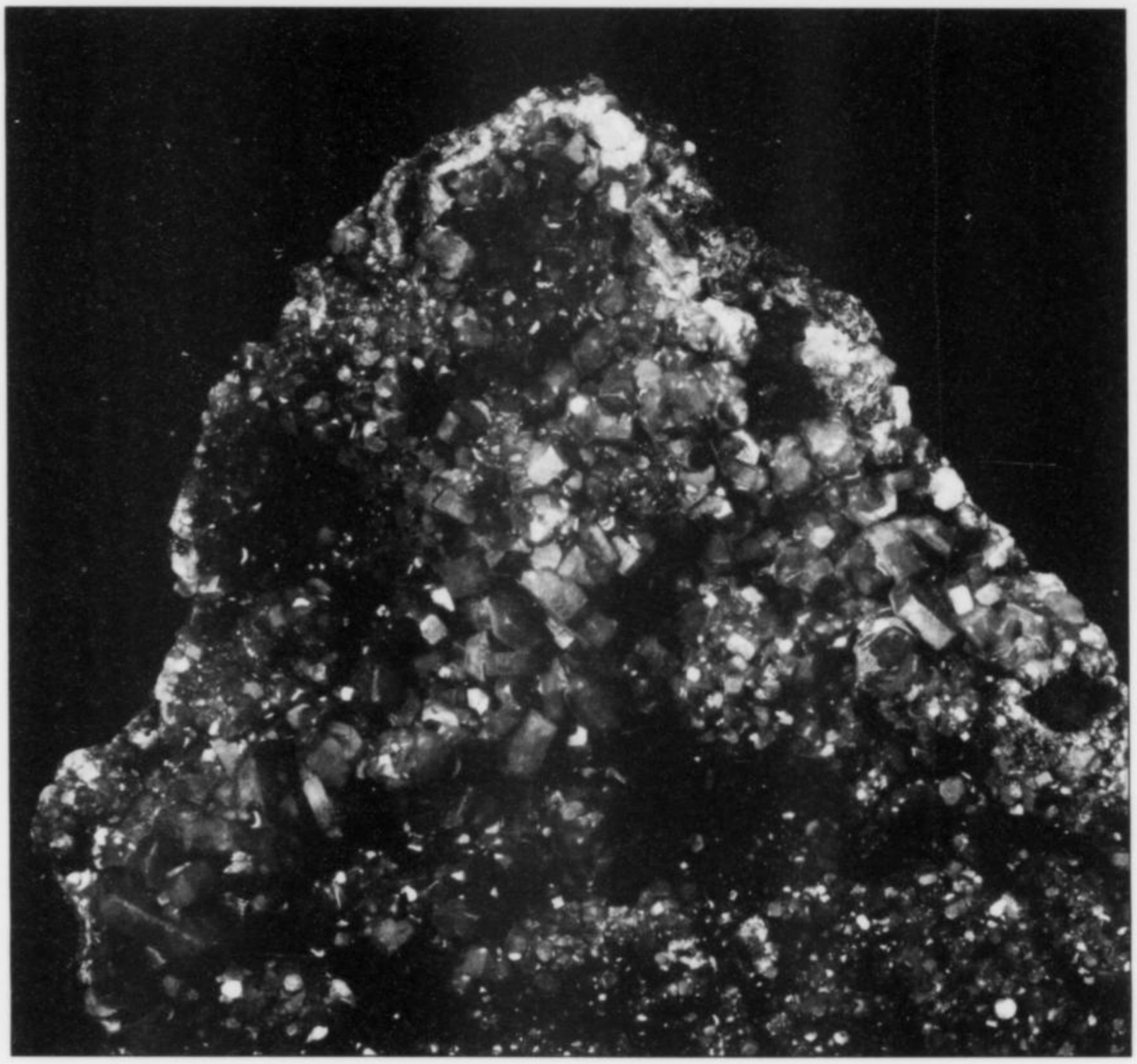
8.6 cm, Bunker Hill mine, Kellogg, Couer d'Alene District, Shoshone County, Idaho. The Bunker Hill mine has produced many of the finest quality pyromorphite specimens ever discovered. With beautiful luster and large, well-formed crystals, this specimen is a superb example.

Malachite

on Cuprite, 7.4 cm, Onganja mine, Seeis, Windhoek District, Khomas Region, Namibia. Malachite-coated cuprite crystals found at the Onganja mine in 1976 are considered classics. Many of the specimens were soaked in acid to remove the Malachite coating and reveal the dark red cuprite, but most collectors did not accept these as natural specimens and they were rejected by the market. The few that escaped the acid bath became the coveted examples.





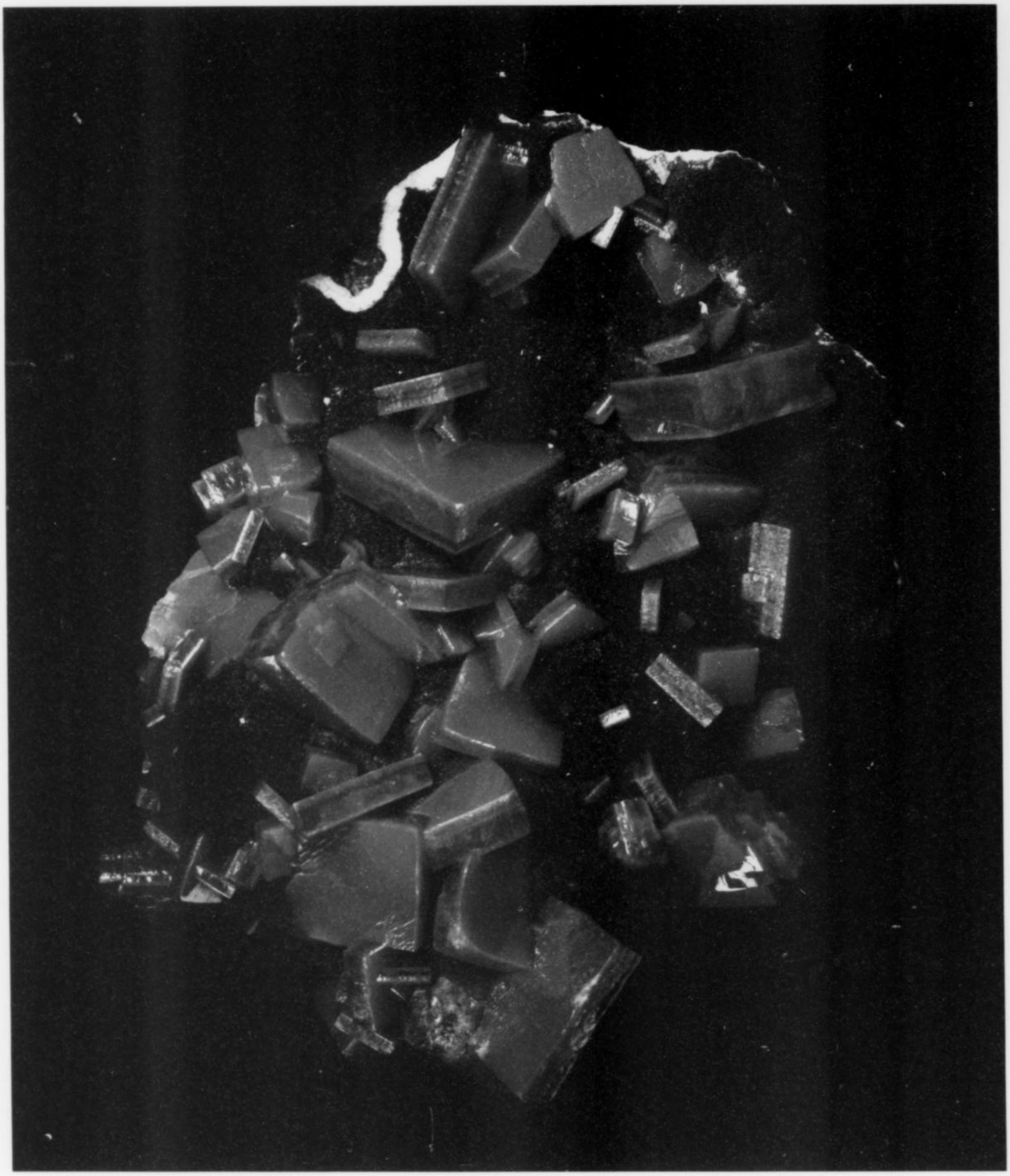


Mimetite

12.2 cm, Pingtouling mine, Liannan County, Quingyuan Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. In 2003 a historic pocket of gorgeous orange mimetite in sharp, brilliantly lustrous crystals was collected from a small, quickly exhausted mine in China. The best specimens sold almost immediately, and within a short time were gone from the market. Shown here is one of the finest examples. Ex. Andrew Pagliero specimen.

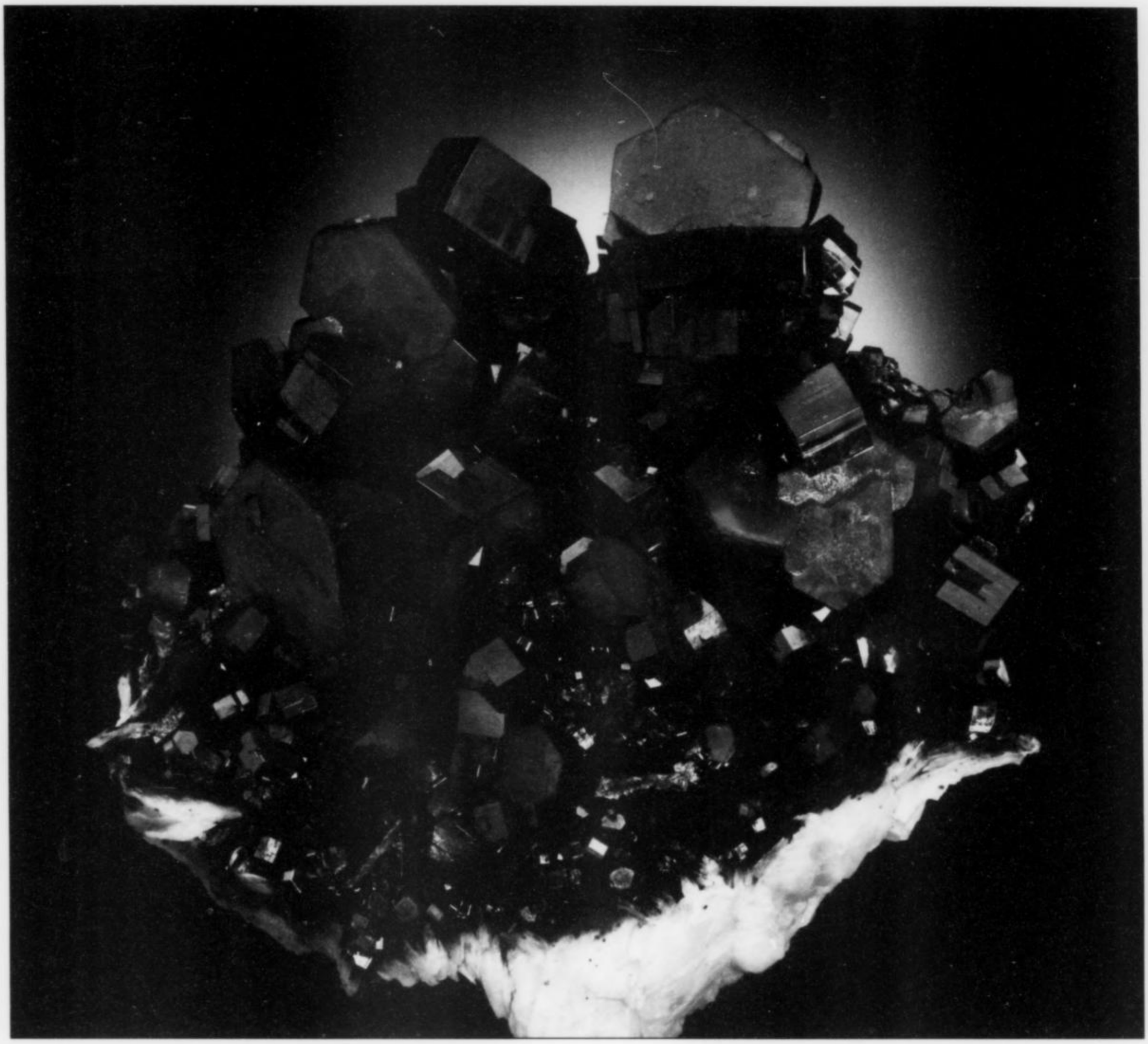
Mimetite

18.6 cm, Elura (Endeavor) mine, Booroondarra, Cobar, Robinson County, New South Wales, Australia



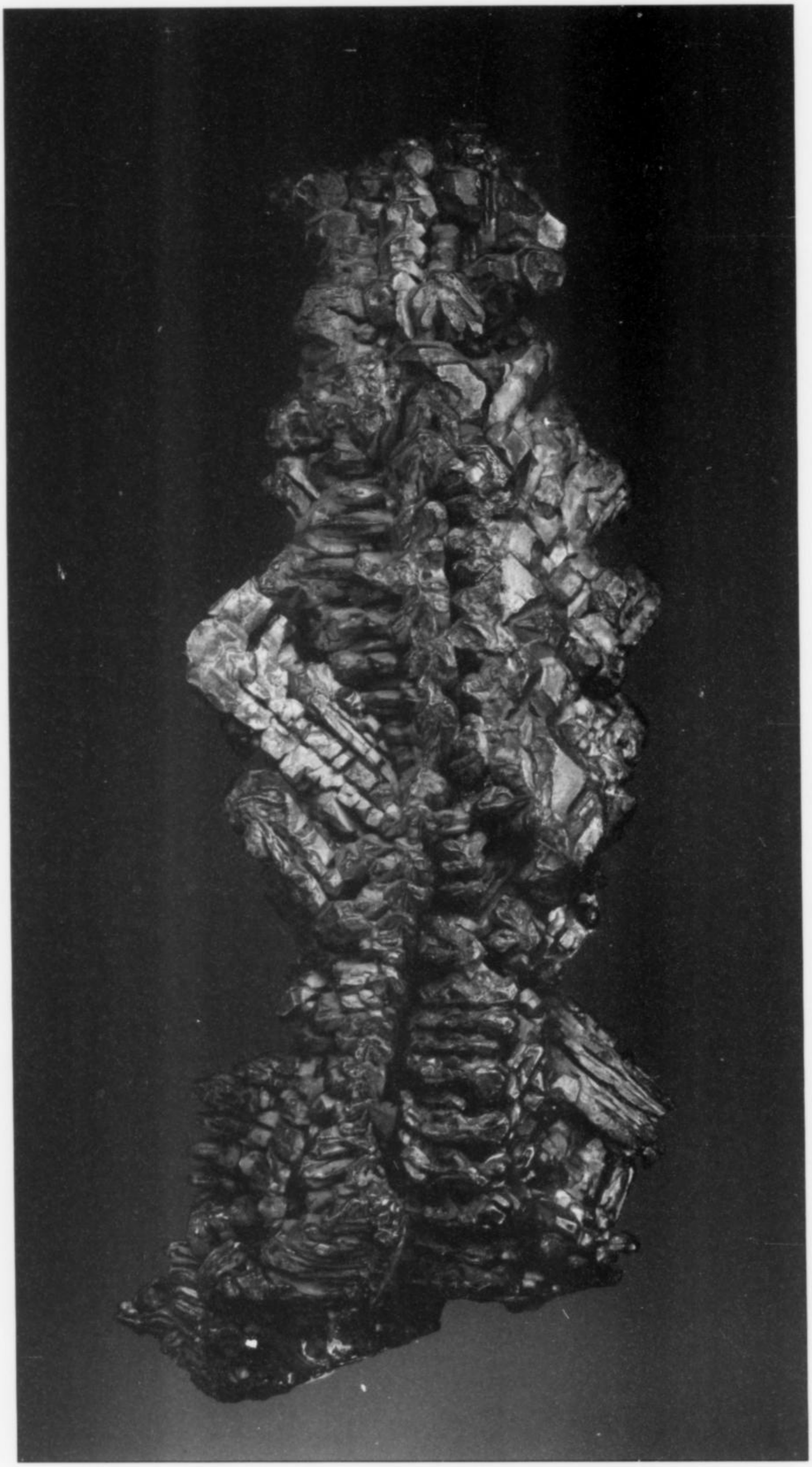
Wulfenite

12.7 cm, Erupción-Ahumada Mine, Los Lamentos Mountains, Municipio de Ahumada, Chihuahua, Mexico. Fine examples of wulfenite from Los Lamentos are always an important component of any elite mineral collection. Although specimens were quite numerous when they were being mined, fine examples were actually very rare. Very few specimens have the deep color, aesthetic crystal distribution and fine condition of the one shown here.



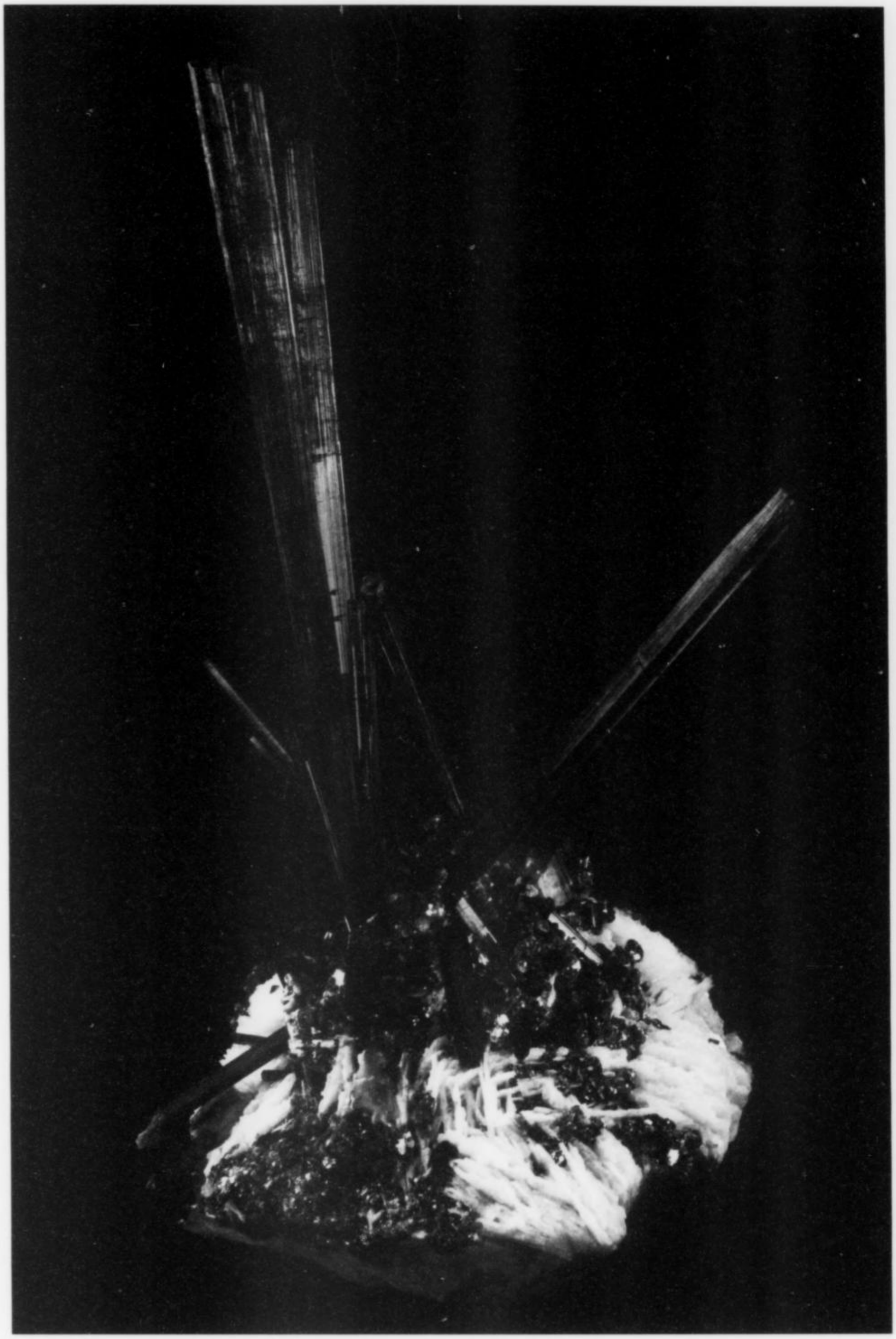
Vanadinite

9.6 cm, Mibladen, Khénifra Province, Meknès-Tafilalet Region, Morocco. The Mibladen-Midelt district has produced the world's finest vanadinite specimens, with large, sharp, deeply colored crystals in highly attractive groupings on contrasting matrix of white barite or orange-brown limonite. Many thousands of fine specimens have been found over the last several decades, and most collections have a reasonably fine example, but truly great pieces are nevertheless rare. The one shown here is among the finest in the world. Acquired from the Daniel Trinchillo collection in 2003.



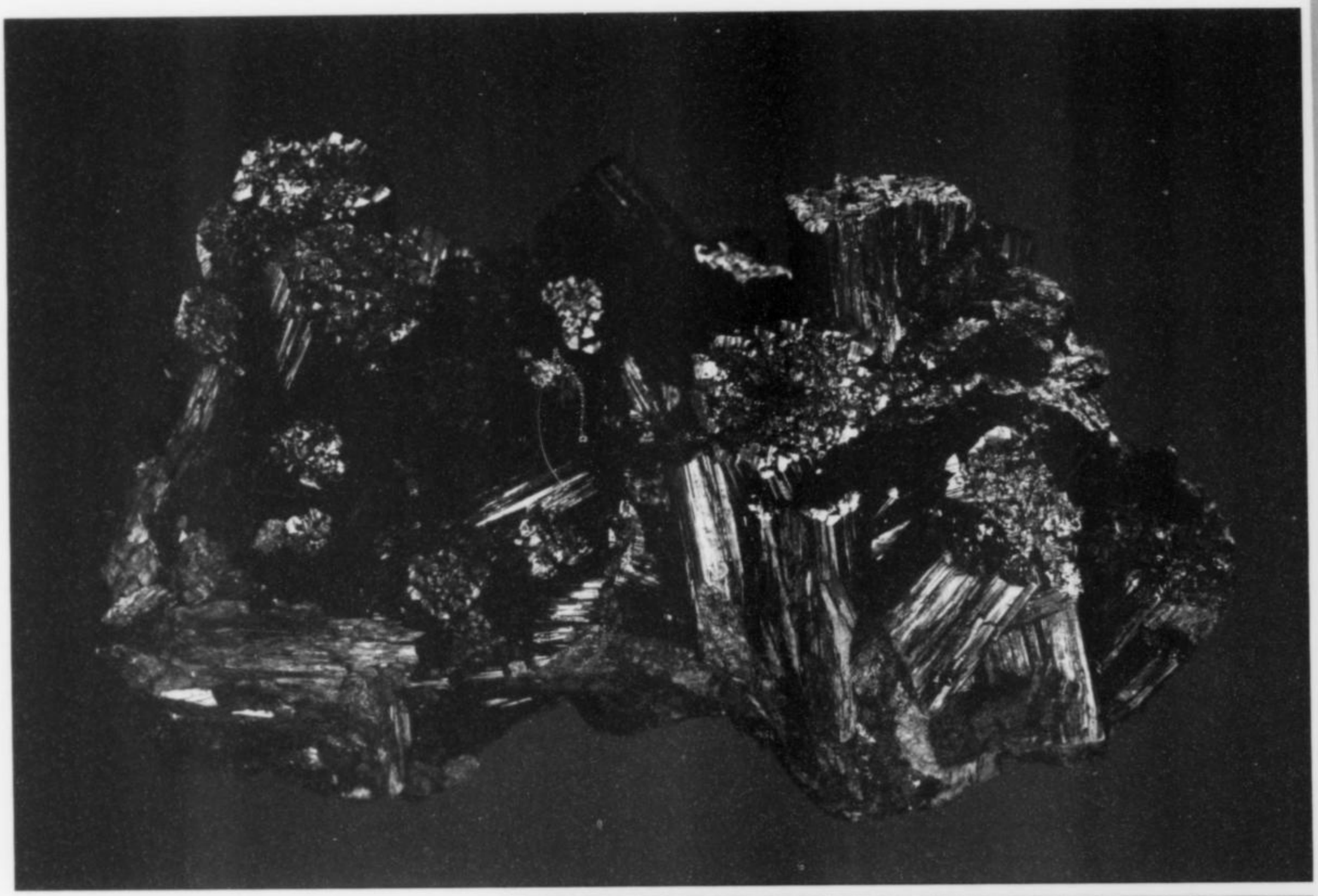
Copper

17.8 cm, Chino mine, Grant County, New Mexico. Wonderfully crystallized copper specimens were found by Stan Esbenshade at the Chino mine in 2001. Using a metal detector, he located a boulder that was virtually solid copper crystals. Specimens were on the market for only a very short time. After careful cleaning and trimming, the entire find was wholesaled to other dealers at the 2002 Tucson Show. The specimen shown here is probably one of the two or three best pieces recovered. Ed David acquired it at the show from mineral dealer Dave Bunk; it was later sold for Ed by Robert Lavinsky.



Tourmaline

(Elbaite), 61 cm, Pederneira mine, São José da Safira, Minas Gerais, Brazil. The finest specimens of green tourmaline in the world have come from the Pederneira mine. Standing two feet tall, this is one of the two largest fine specimens of tourmaline ever found there—a true masterpiece. Daniel Trinchillo helped acquired the piece for Marc directly from the mine in 2005.

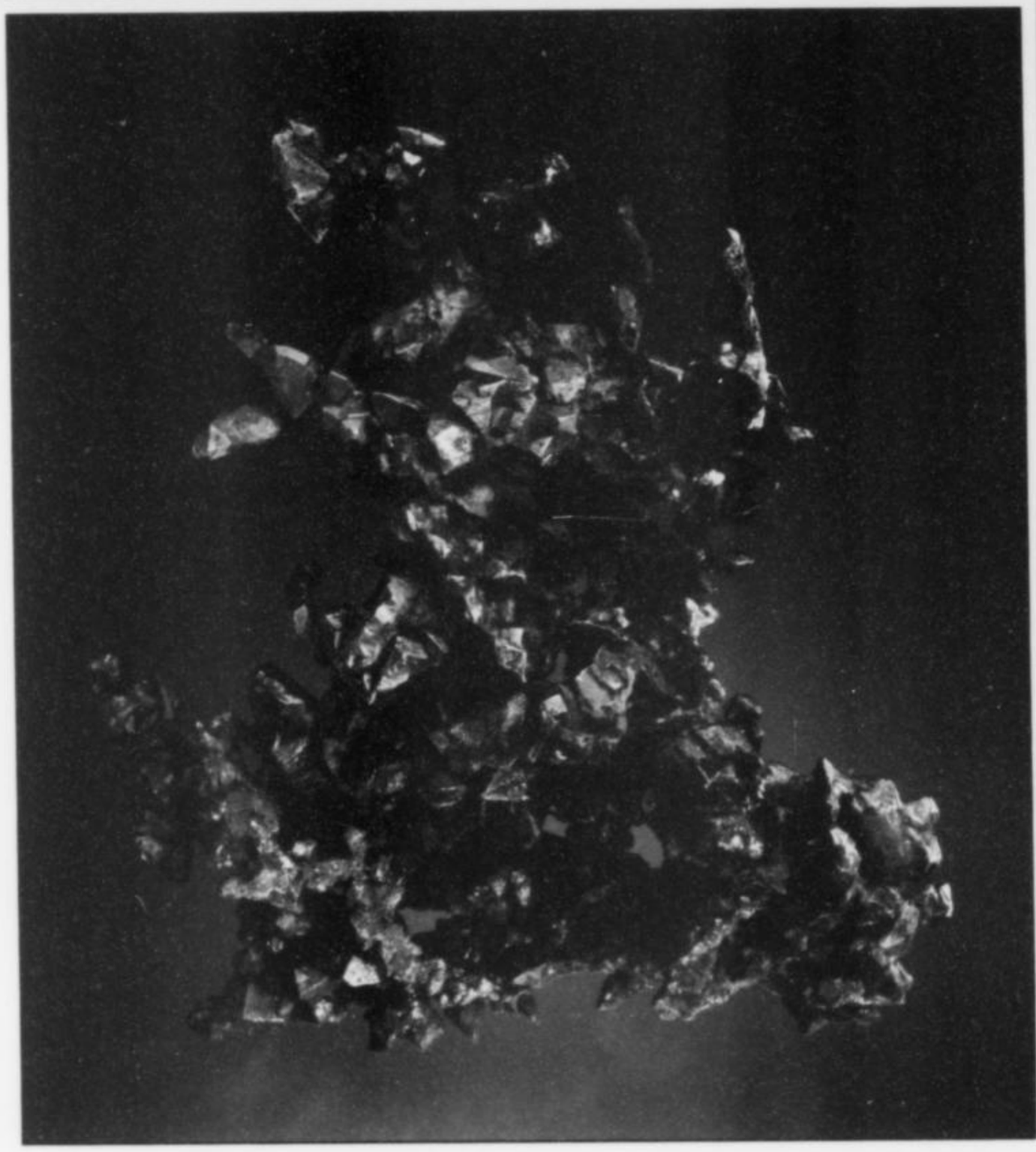


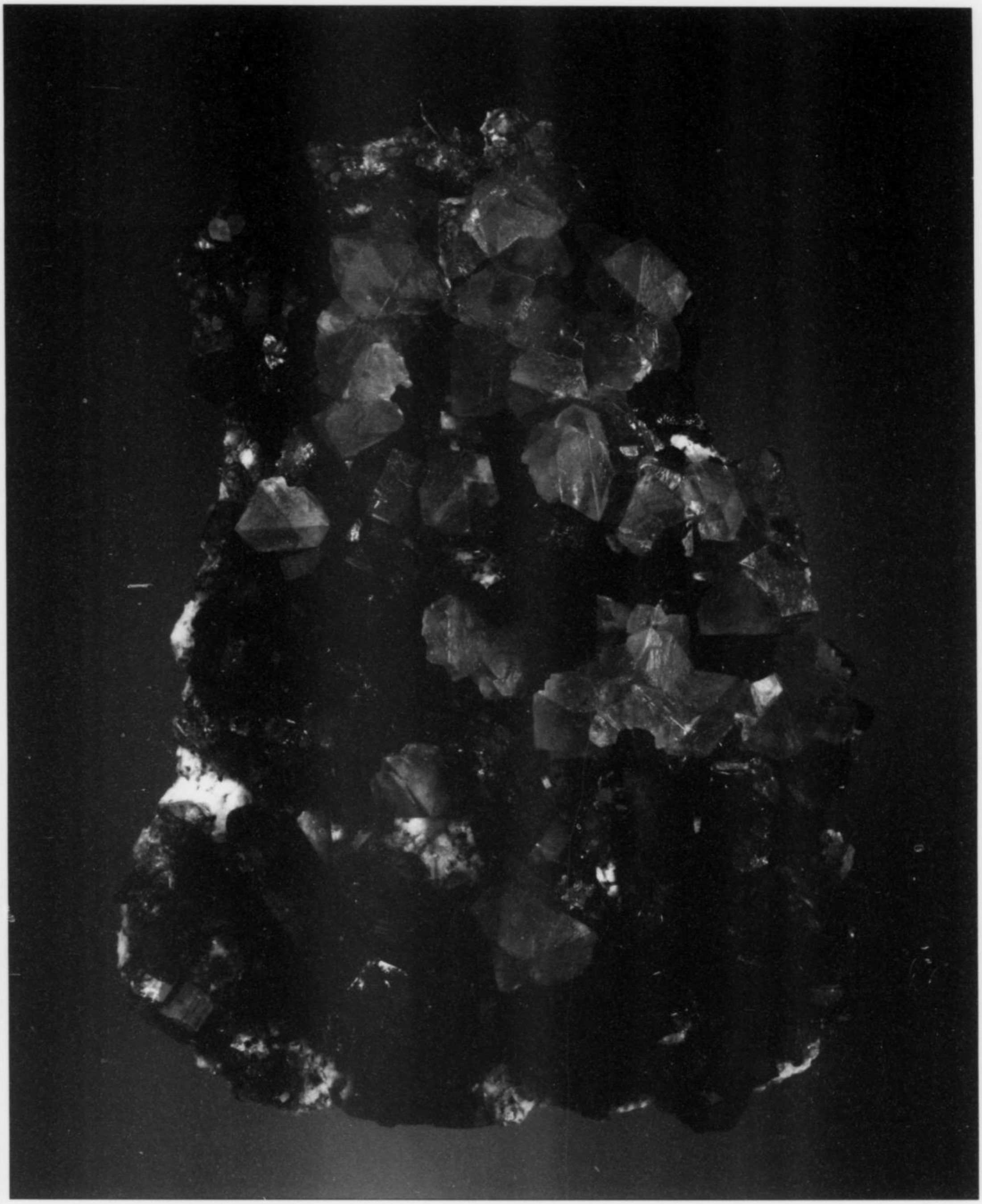
Manganite

11 cm, Ilfeld, Nordhausen, Harz Mountains, Thuringia, Germany. The world's finest specimens of manganite were found long ago in the Ilfeld mining district and today are coveted as old European classics.

Copper

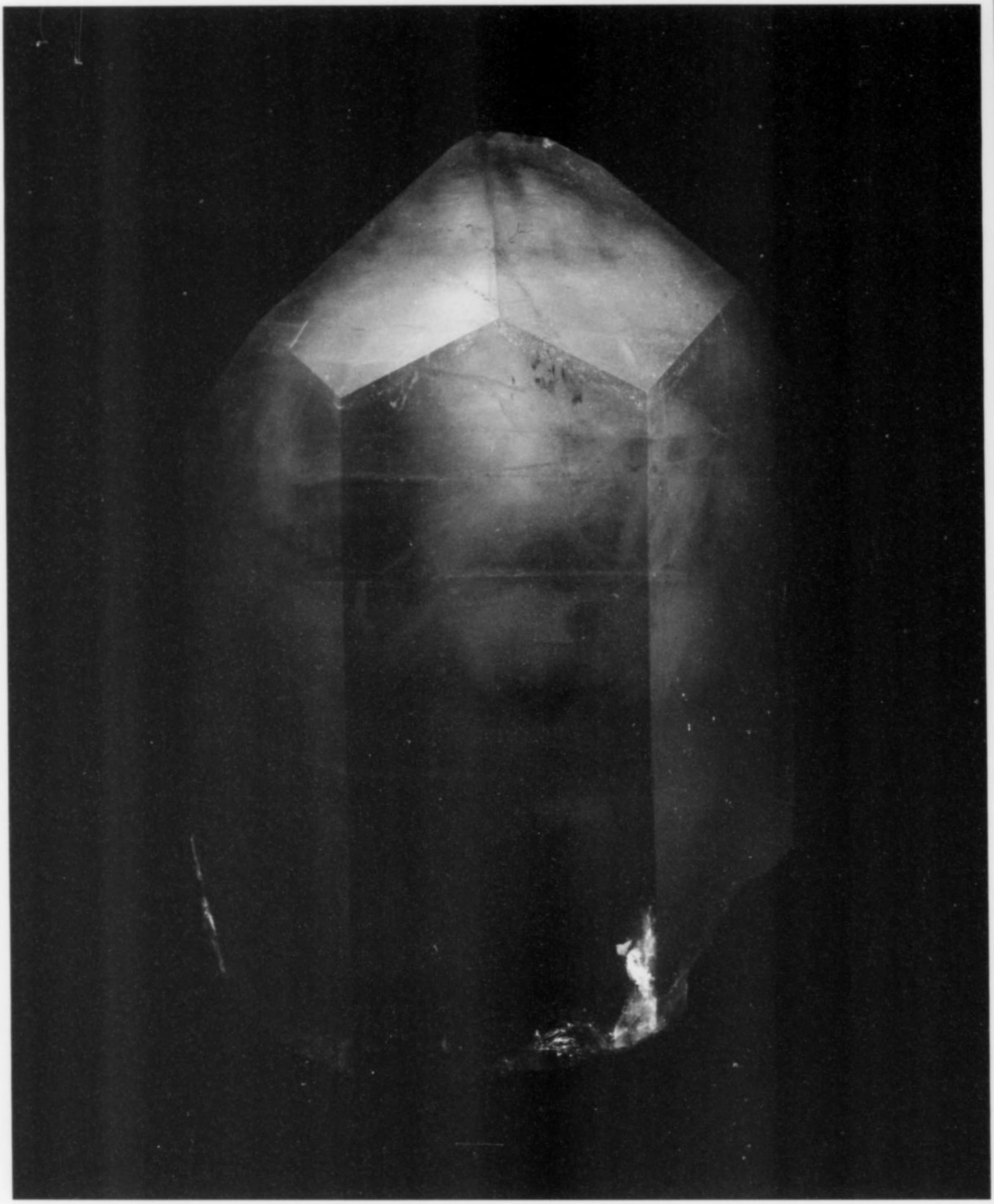
13 cm, Wolverine mine, Houghton County, Michigan. The mines of the Michigan Copper Country were among the first in America to come to the notice of early mineral collectors. Countless tons of pure copper and silver were mined there since the mid-1800's, but fine specimens were always rare, and were often preserved as trophies and mementoes by miners and mine captains. The remarkable crystal group shown here is a prime example.





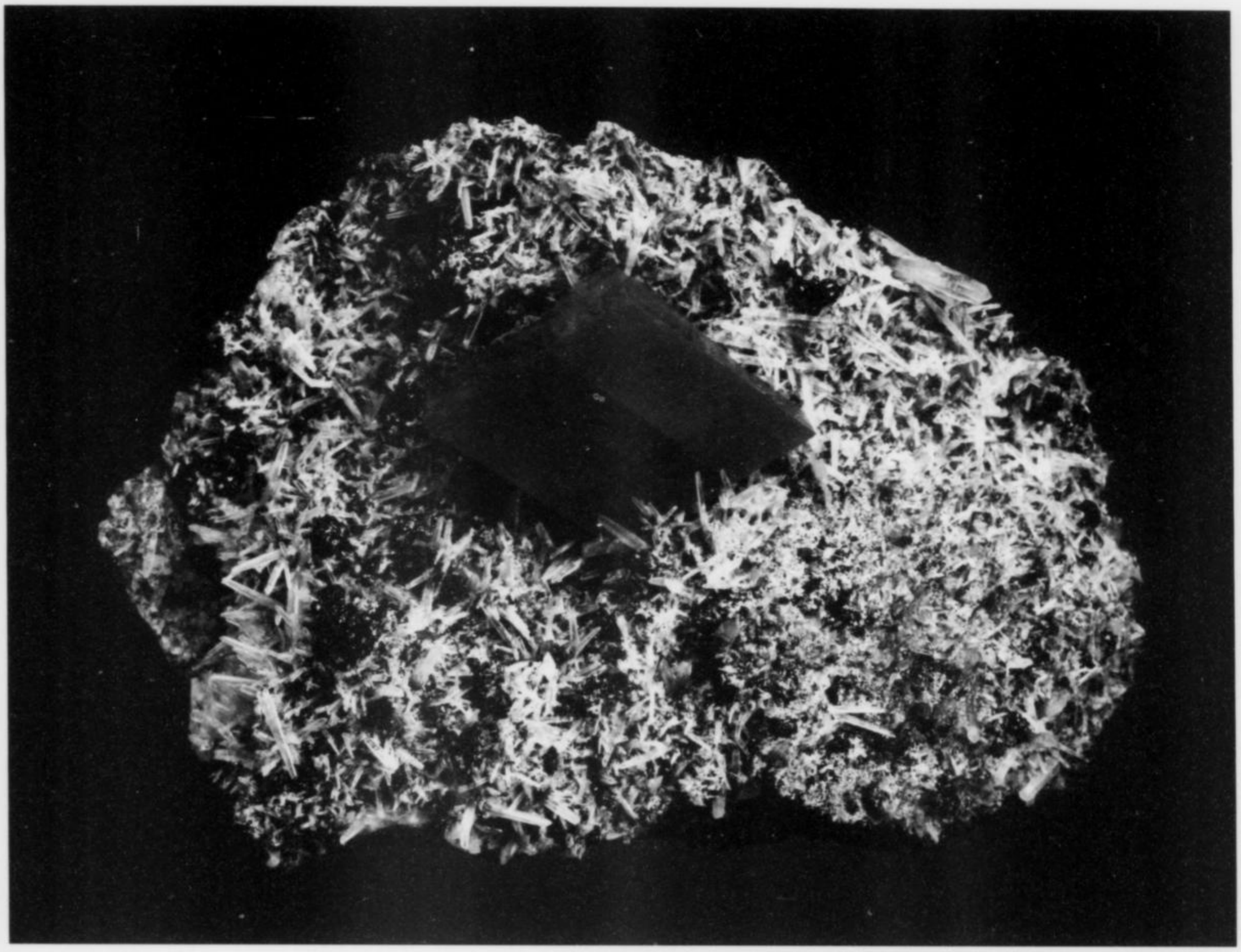
Fluorite

17.1 cm, Mont Blanc, Chamonix, Haute-Savoie, France. Pink octahedral fluorite on smoky quartz is one of the true treasures of the Alps, and has been highly sought after by local specimen miners (called *Strahlers*), and by collectors worldwide, for generations. Ex. Ed David collection, sold to Marc Weill by Robert Lavinsky.



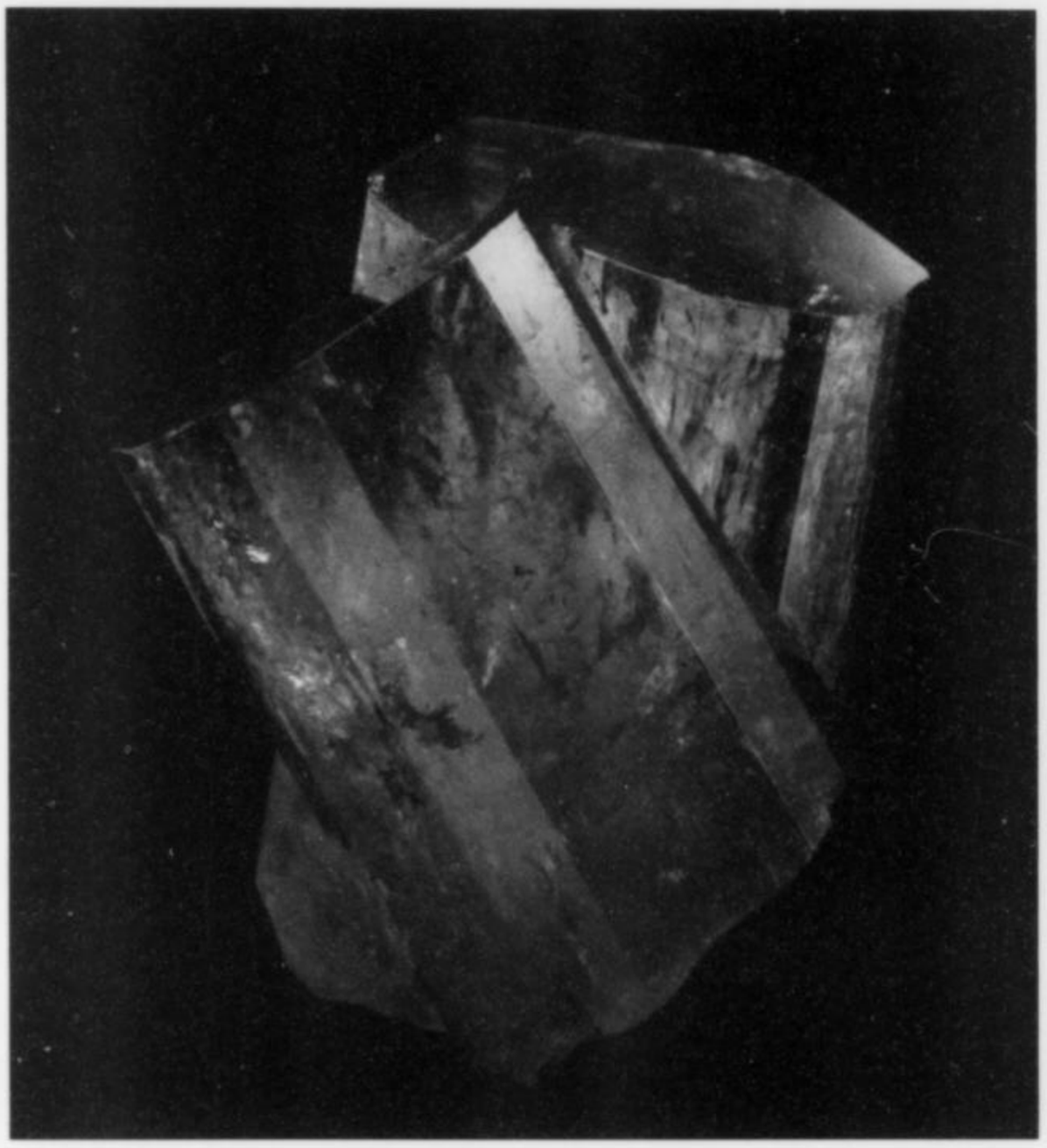
Aquamarine

(Beryl), 15.4 cm, Gilgit District, Northern Areas, Pakistan. Aquamarine crystals from the Northern Areas, Pakistan are among the finest in the world because of their perfect form. The specimen pictured here is one-of-a-kind—no other example from Pakistan is known to have this pyramidal termination. It was mined in 2005 and purchased from Herbert Obodda.



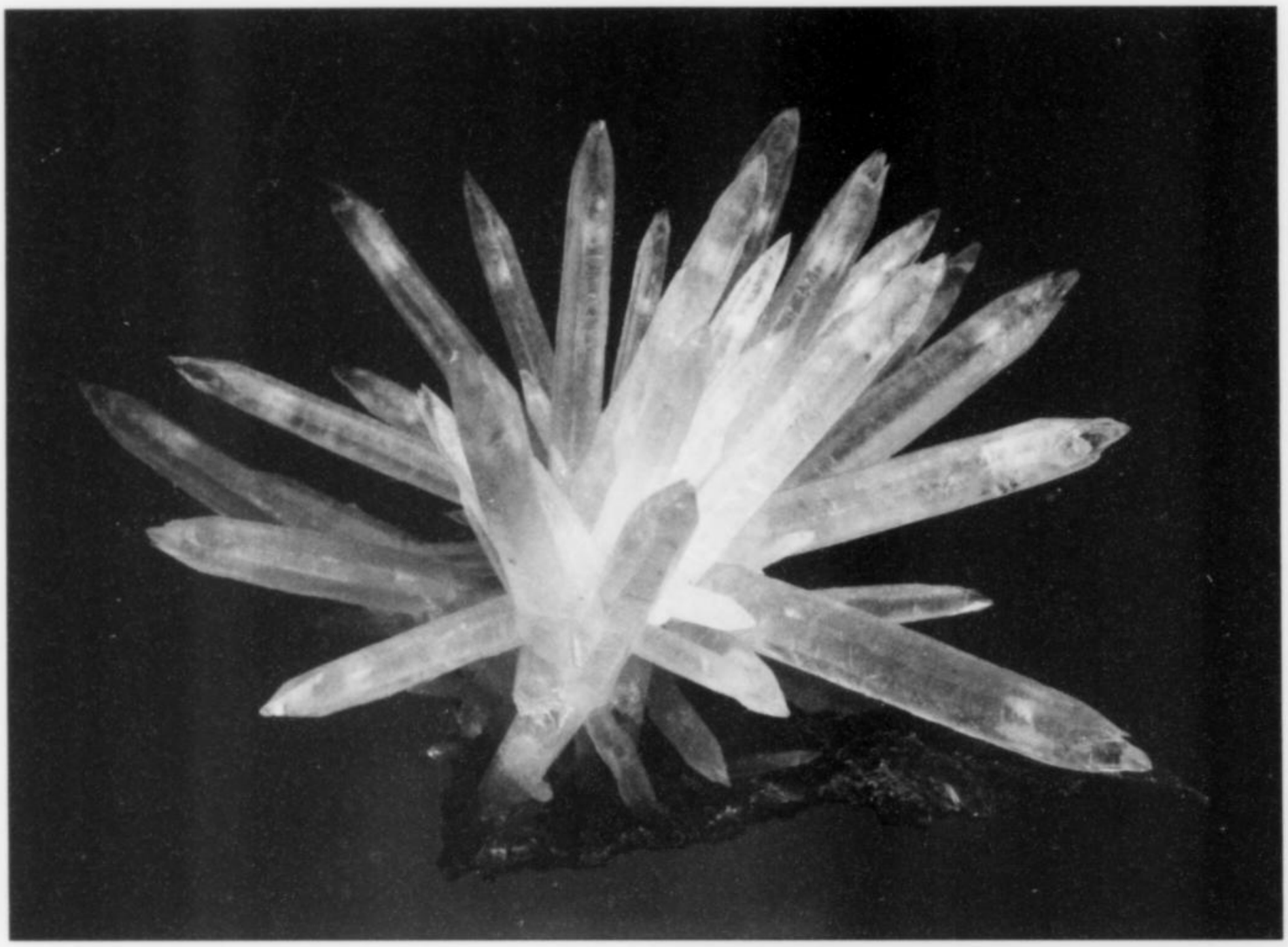
Rhodochrosite

18.2 cm, Sweet Home mine, Mount Bross, Alma District, Park County, Colorado. The Sweet Home mine has produced what many collectors consider to be the finest rhodochrosite specimens in the world, in razor-sharp, highly lustrous crystals to many centimeters in size. The single 7-cm crystal on drusy quartz shown here is a superb example, mined by *Collector's Edge Minerals*.



Emerald

(Beryl), 4 cm, Cosquez mine, Muzo, Vasquez-Yacopi Mining District, Boyacá Department, Colombia. Beautiful emerald crystals are rare in any collection. But a double crystal such as this is virtually unheard of. This superb miniature is free of damage, and has a brilliant luster and deep emerald-green color. Such fine gem crystals are usually faceted rather than being saved as specimens. Ex. Dennis Tanjeloff specimen, purchased in Tucson 2007.

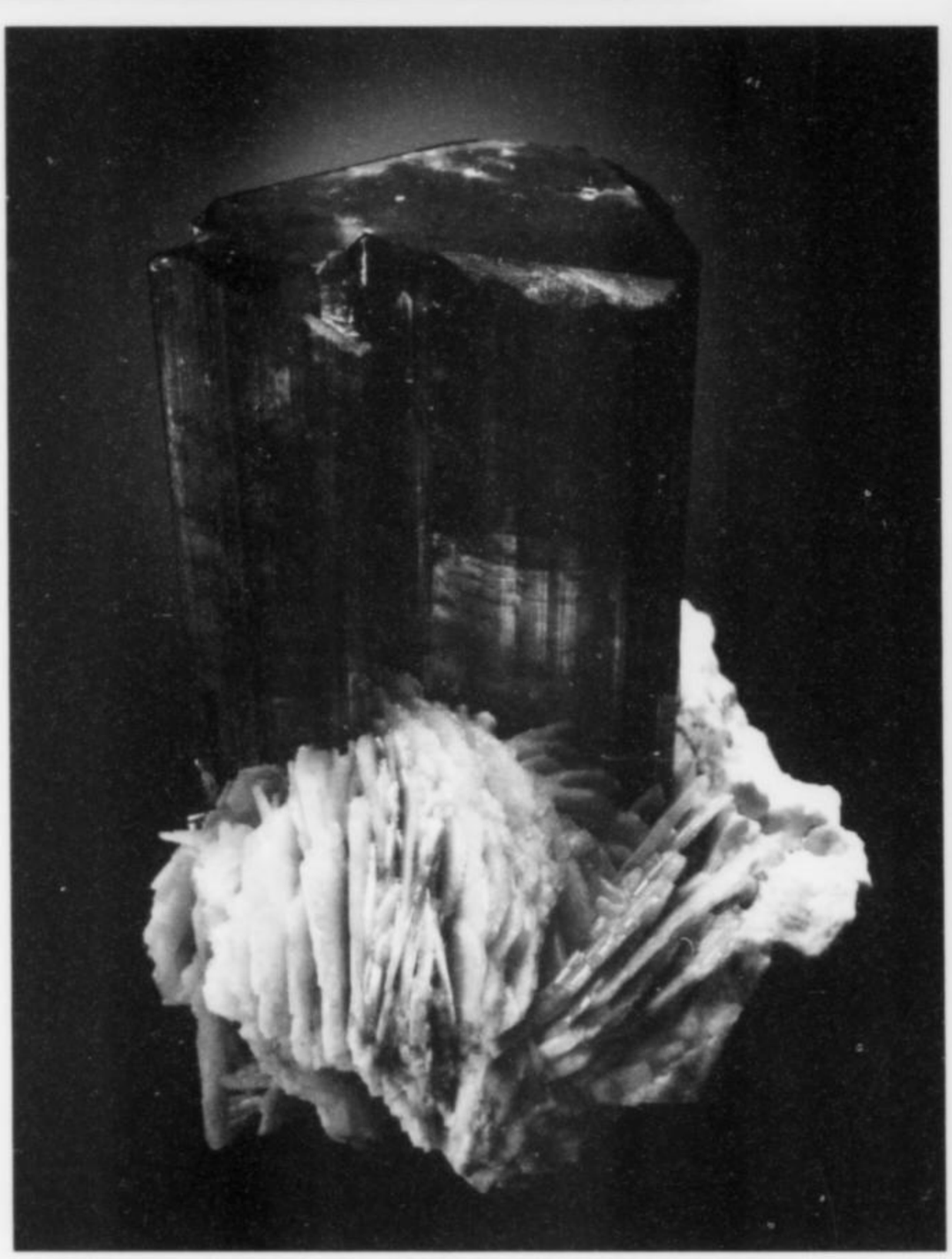


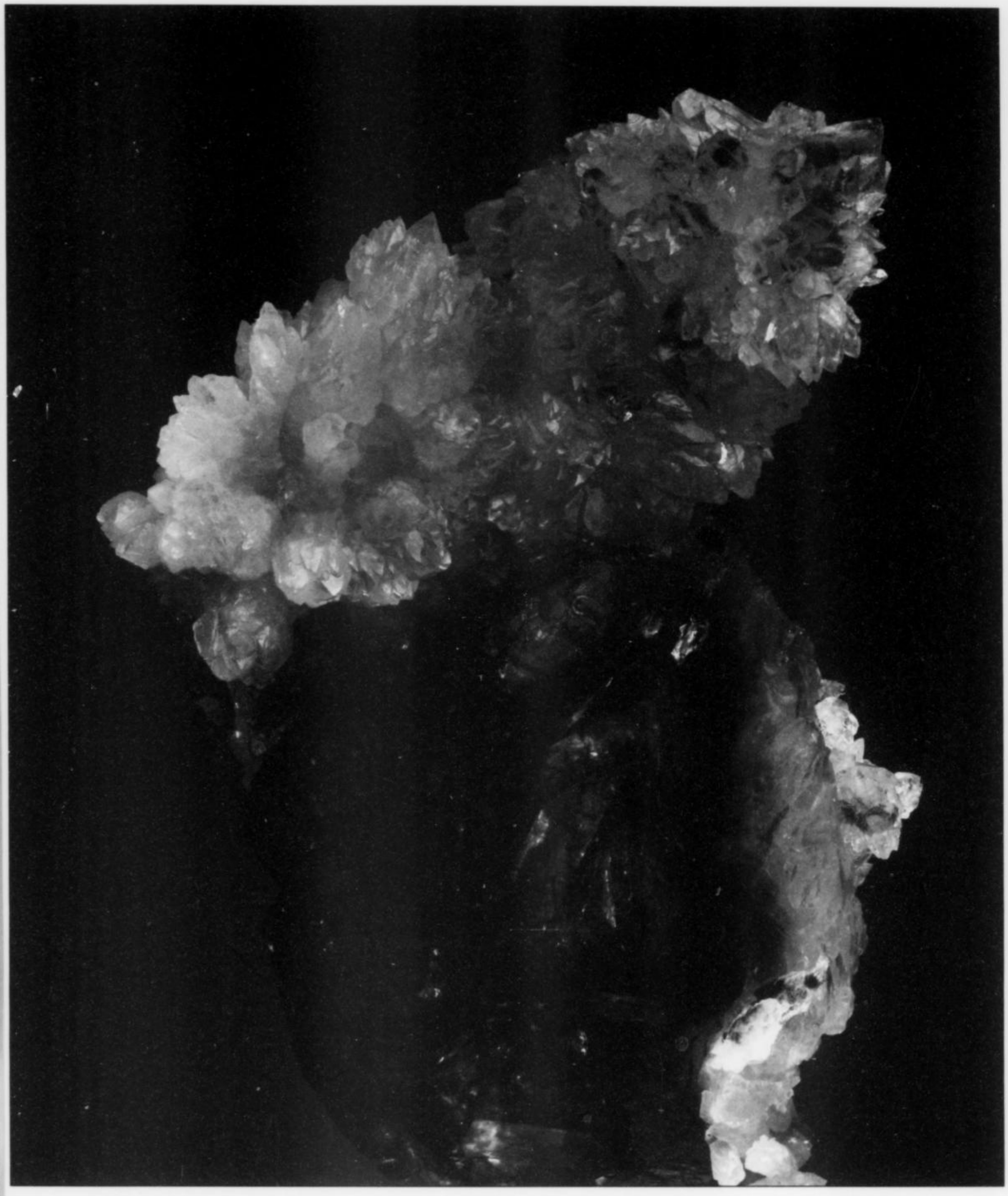
Calcite

13.4 cm, Irai, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Thousands of calcites have been produced from the Irai mine but no other specimen approaches the aesthetic composition of this example, with its bright white crystals over three inches in length radiating from a central point on the matrix. Ex. Daniel Trinchillo Sr. specimen, obtained in Tucson in 1997 and sold to Marc Weill in 2005.

Tourmaline

(Elbaite), 10.7 cm, Darra-i-Pech, Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan. Blue elbaite ("indicolite") is among the rarest of all the tourmaline colors, and has been prized by collectors for centuries. Most of the finest specimens have come from Brazil, but this one is from Afghanistan. Ex Stuart Wilensky personal collection.





Quartz

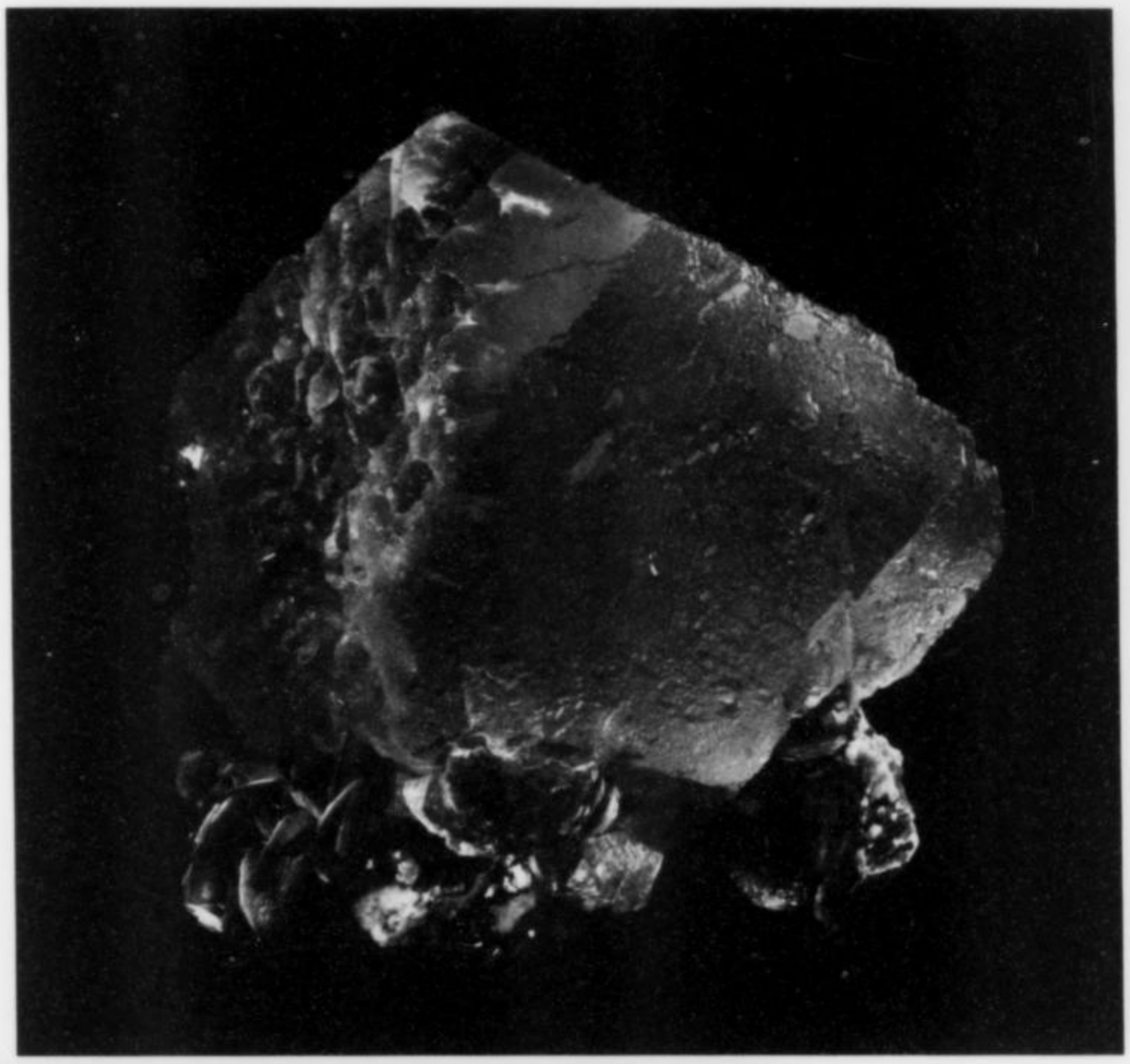
15.4 cm, Berilo Branco mine, Sapucaia do Norte, Galiléia, Rio Doce Valley, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Rose quartz is among the most beautiful color varieties of this common mineral, and fine crystal specimens are decidedly uncommon. In fact, they were virtually unknown until the first major discovery took place at a small, obscure pegmatite in Brazil in 1959. The specimen shown here is from that mine, and is among the finest to be preserved. Ex. Ed David collection, purchased via Robert Lavinsky.

Rhodochrosite

14.2 cm, Sweet Home mine (Mini-King raise), Mount Bross, Alma District, Park County, Colorado. The famous Sweet Home mine near Alma, Colorado has produced what many collectors consider to be the finest rhodochrosite specimens in the world. The large (to 1½ inches), sharp, lustrous, luscious red crystals on the specimen shown here are remarkable enough, but the combination with gemmy purple fluorite crystals makes for a truly extravagant and shockingly beautiful specimen, one of the finest ever recovered. A Sweet Home rhodochrosite is essential for an elite collection; the blazing color tends to dominate any showcase. Mined by *Collector's Edge Minerals* in 2003; ex Stuart Wilensky, personal collection.

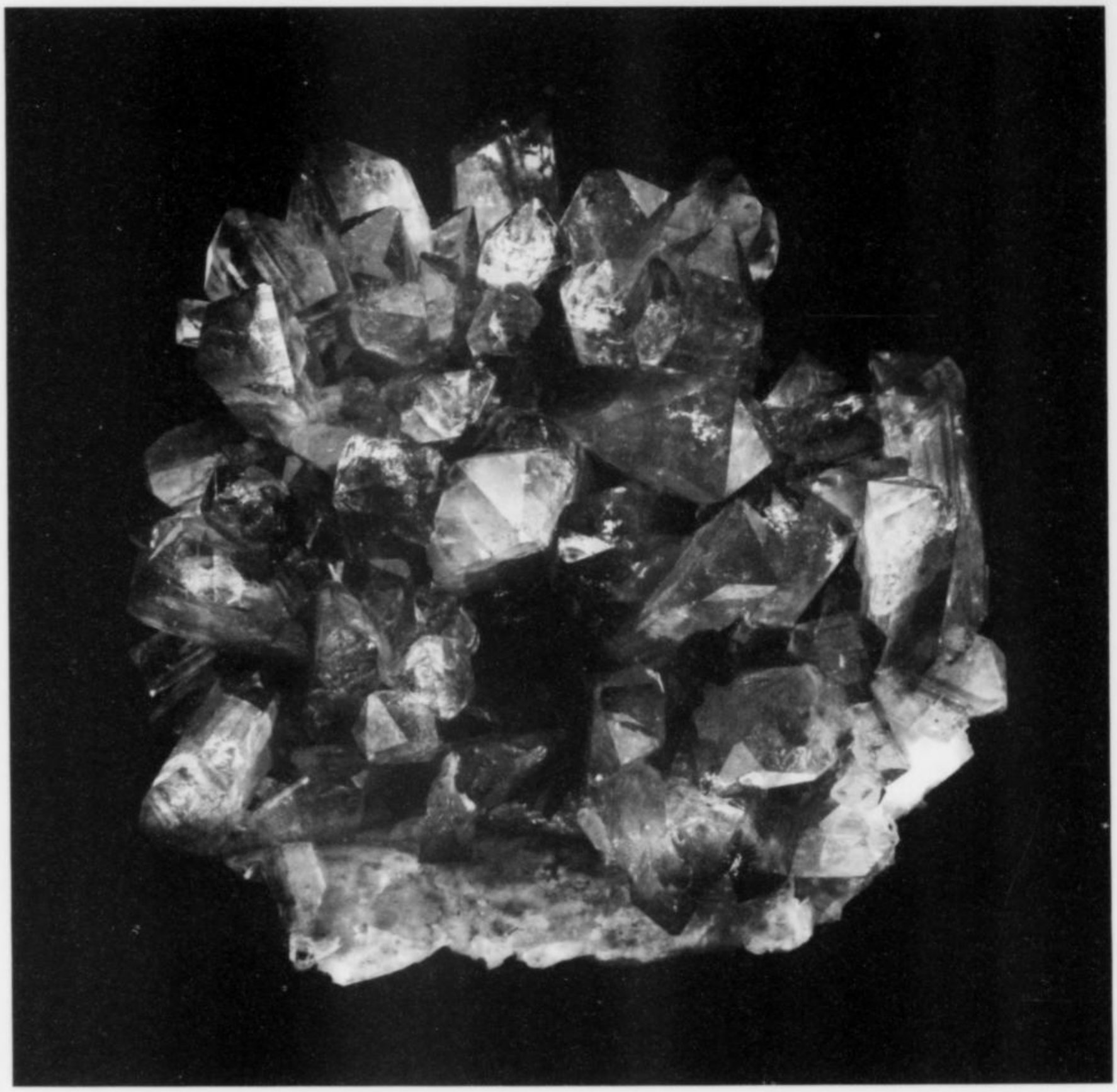
Fluorite

17 cm, Chumar Bakhoor, Hunza Valley, Gilgit District, Northern Areas, Pakistan. This extraordinary crystal, measuring over seven inches, is from a 2006 discovery of what many consider to be the world's finest specimens of fluorite (certainly of pink fluorite!). Ex Robert Lavinsky specimen.



Brazilianite

10.6 cm, Marcel Telirio mine, Divino das Laranjeiras, Minas Gerais, Brazil. The Telirio mine has been a known producer of brazilianite since at least the early 1980's, but a few years ago the "mother lode" was struck there, yielding hundreds of highly aesthetic specimens. The four-inch specimen shown here is undamaged and extremely rich in beautiful crystals.

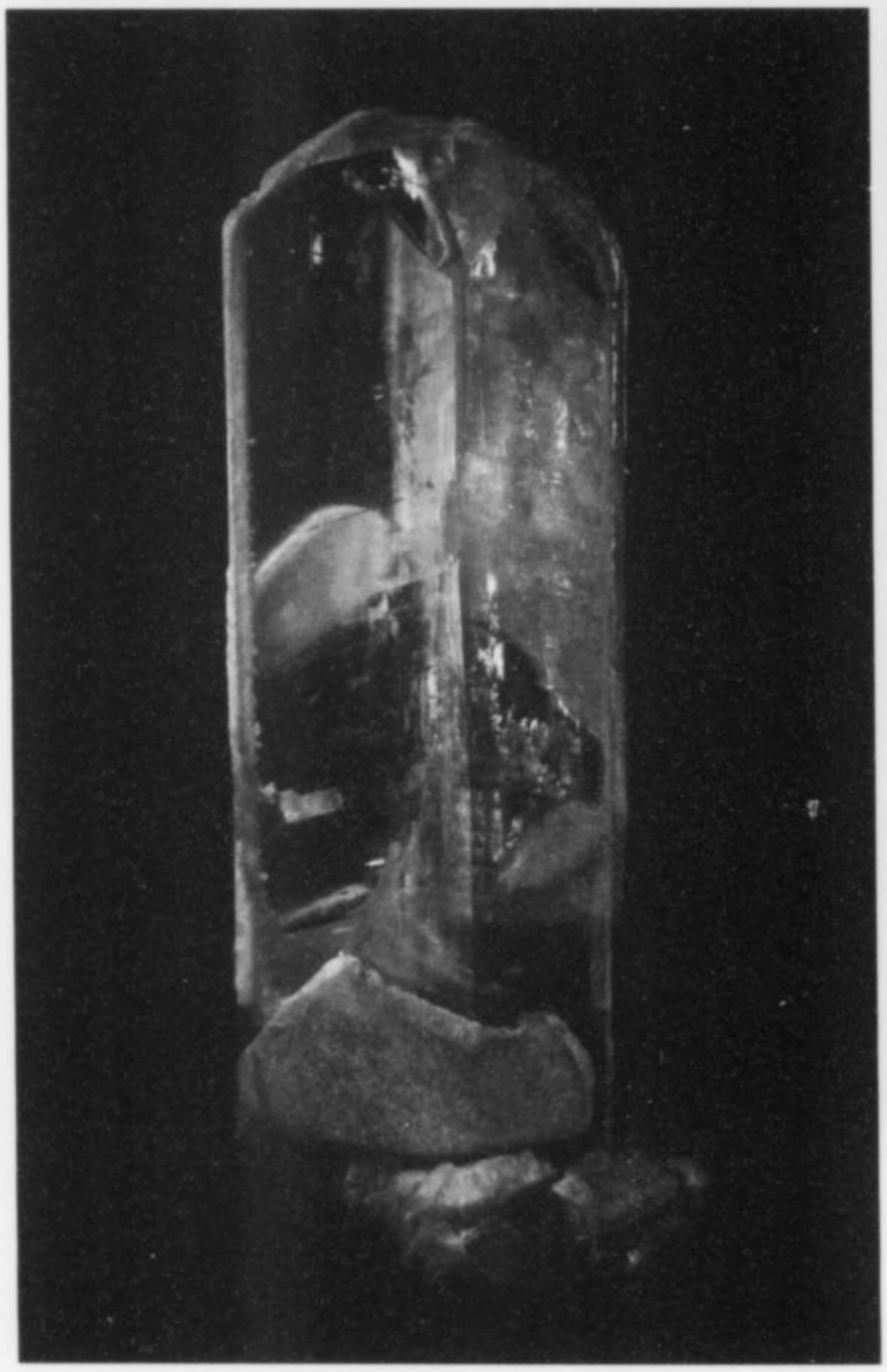


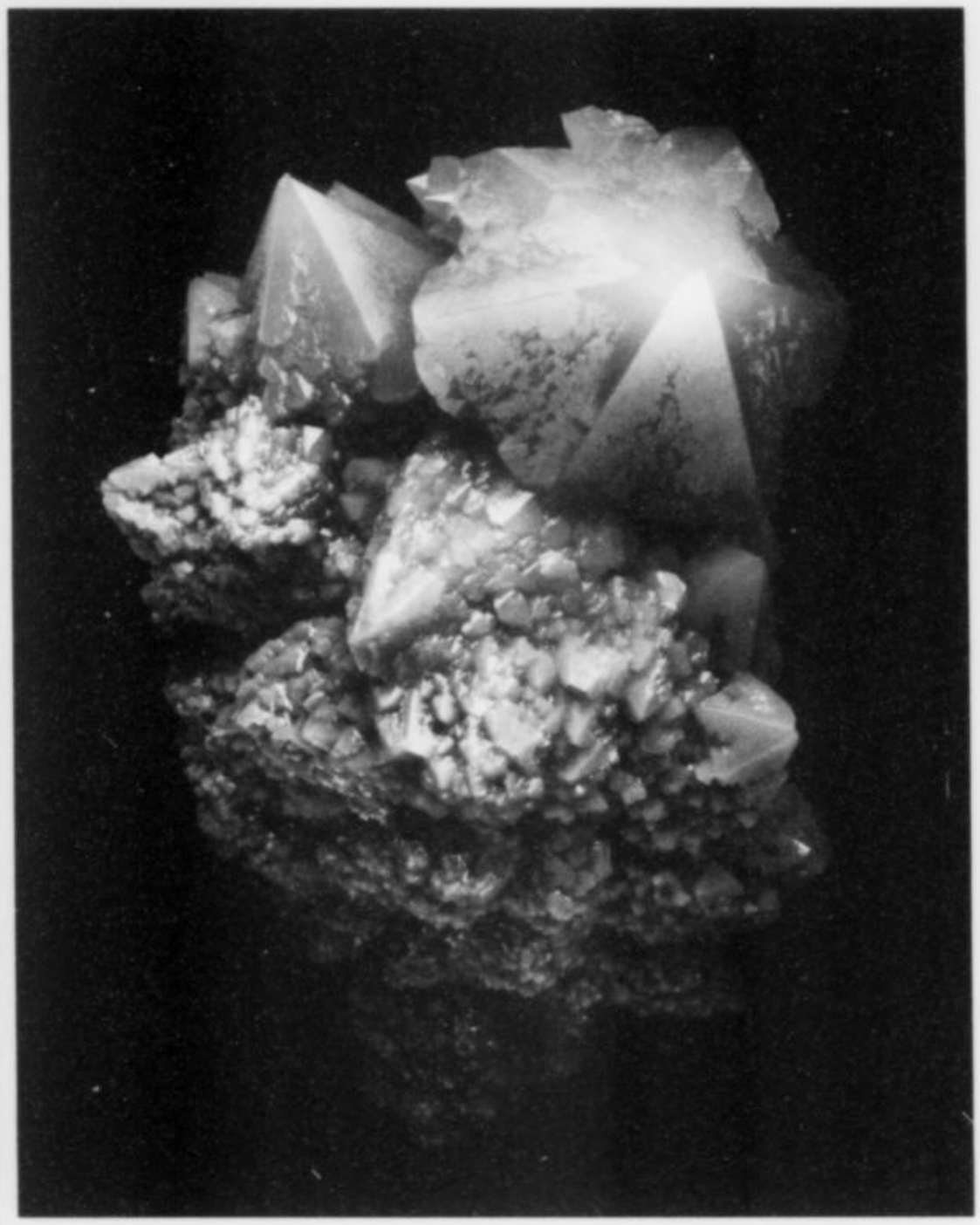
Scheelite

with fluorite, 17.8 cm, Dongshan mine, Linwu County, Chenzhou Prefecture, Hunan Province, China

Quartz

13.3 cm, Dalnegorsk, Primorskiy Kray, Far Eastern Region, Russia



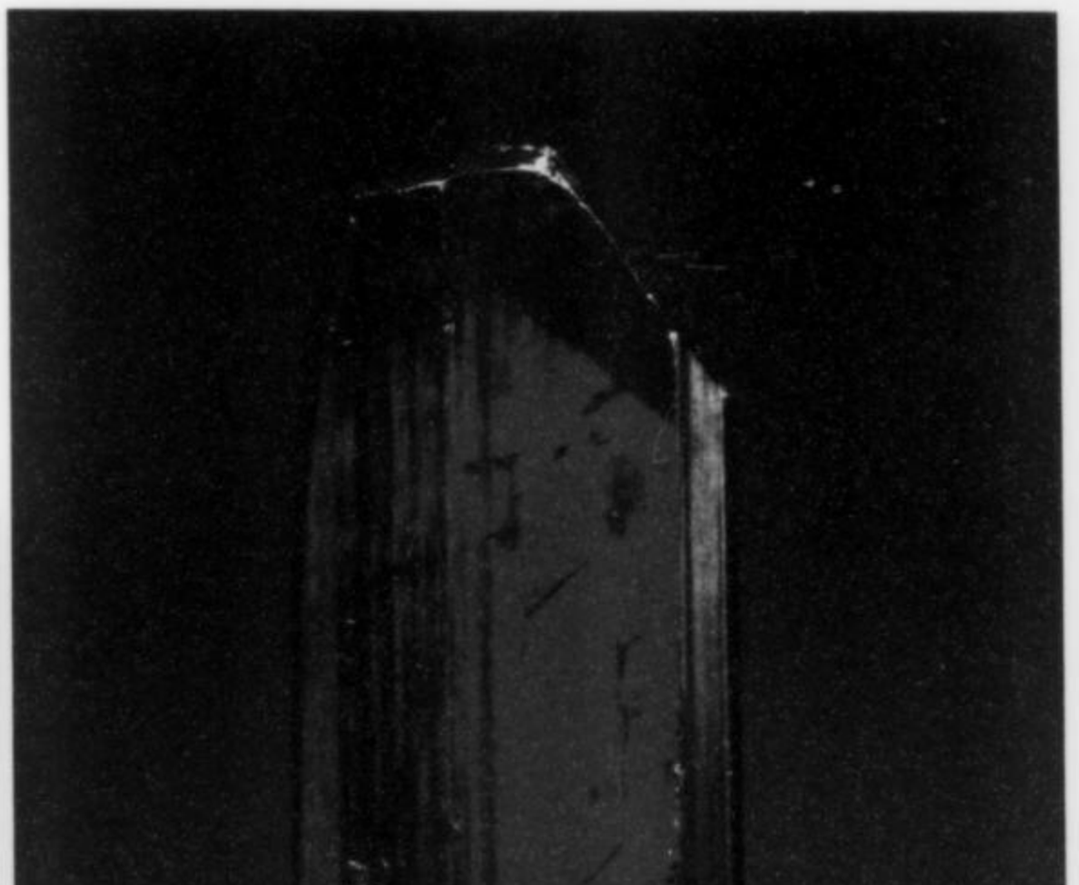


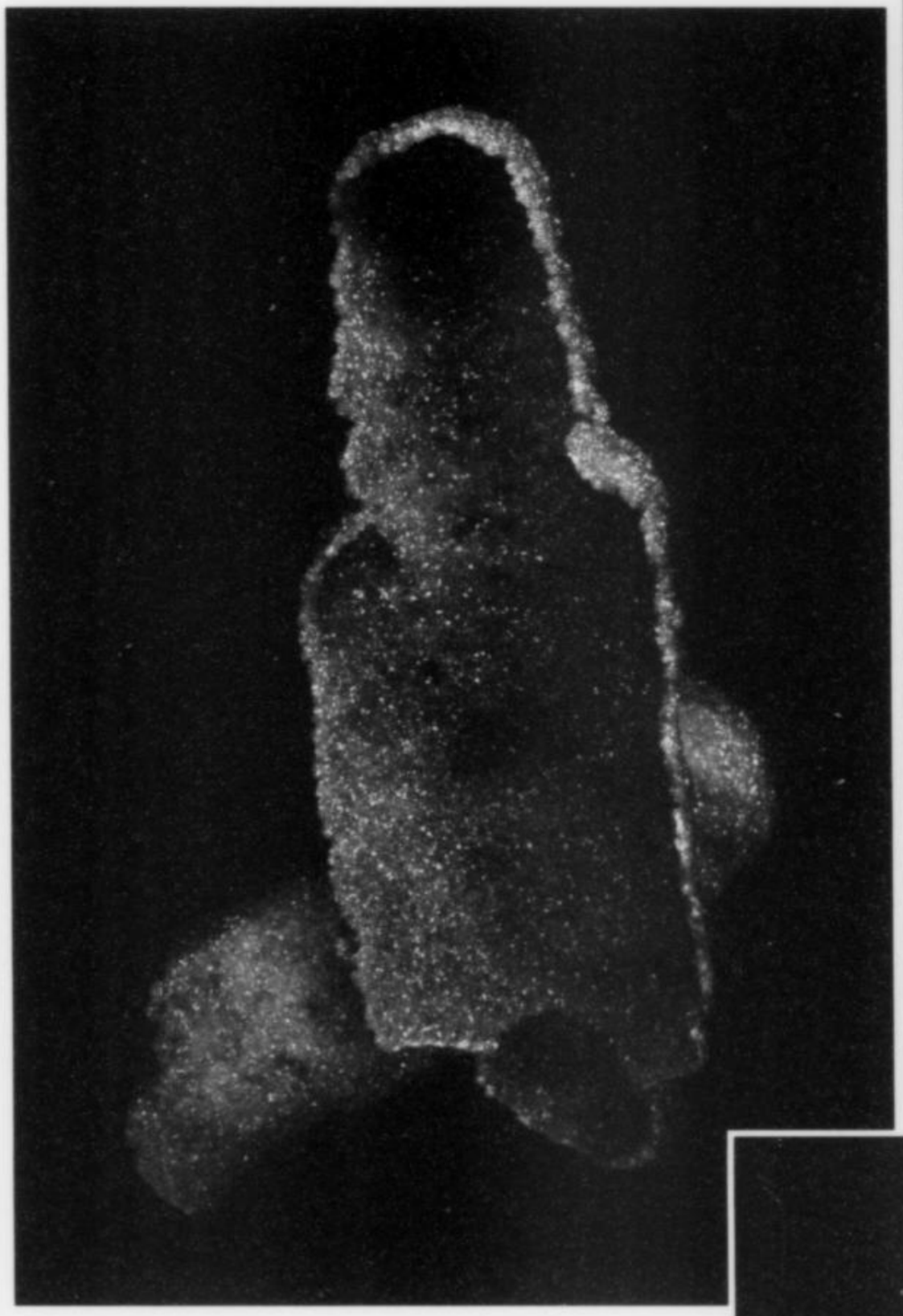
Calcite

29 cm (nearly a foot tall), Verchniy mine, Dalnegorsk, Primorskiy Kray, Far Eastern Region, Russia

Realgar

12 cm, Shimen mine, Jiepaiyu, Shimen County, Changde Prefecture, Hunan Province, China. The Shimen arsenic mine has produced the world's finest crystals and crystal clusters of ruby-red realgar. The crystal shown here, at nearly 5 inches, is among the largest and finest known.



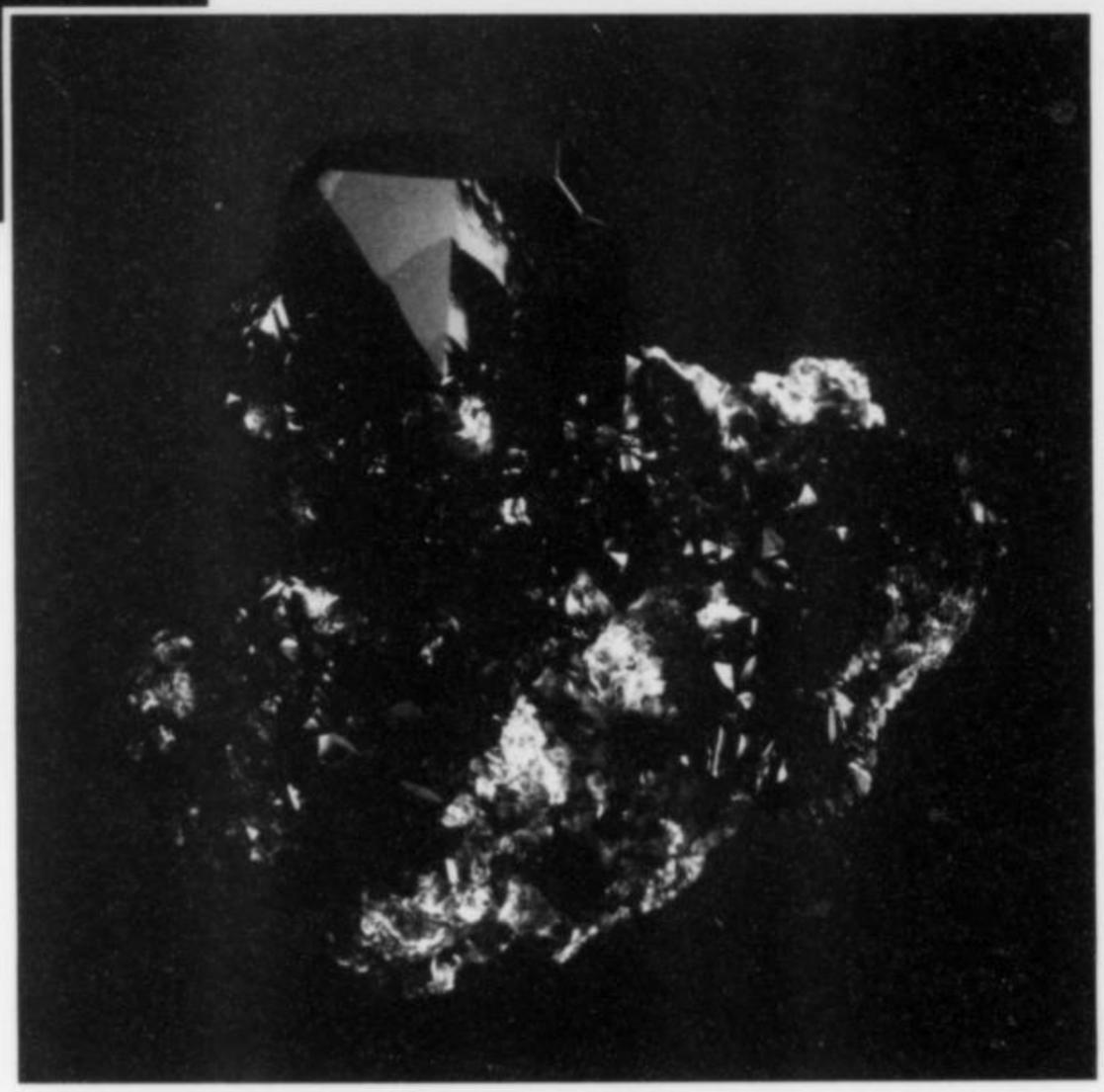


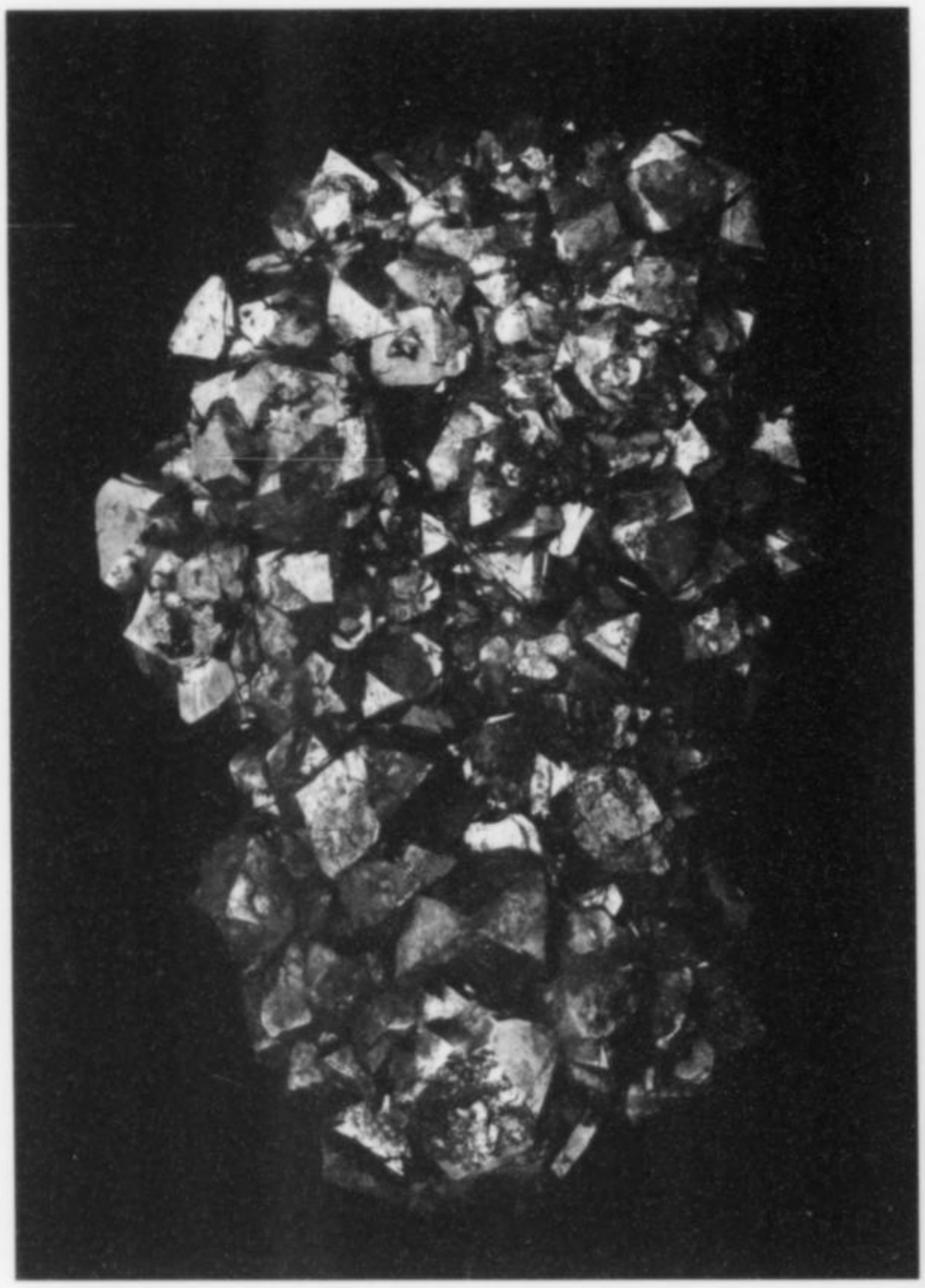
Smithsonite

16.6 cm, Tsumeb mine, Tsumeb, Namibia

Cassiterite

7.5 cm, Mt. Xuebaoding, Pingwu County, Mianyang Prefecture, Sichuan Province, China. The finest and largest cassiterite crystals come from high in the mountains of Sichaun Province, China. Steve Smale purchased this piece in China, for his personal collection, and later traded it to Daniel Trinchillo, who kept it in his personal collection until it was purchased by Marc Weill in 2004.



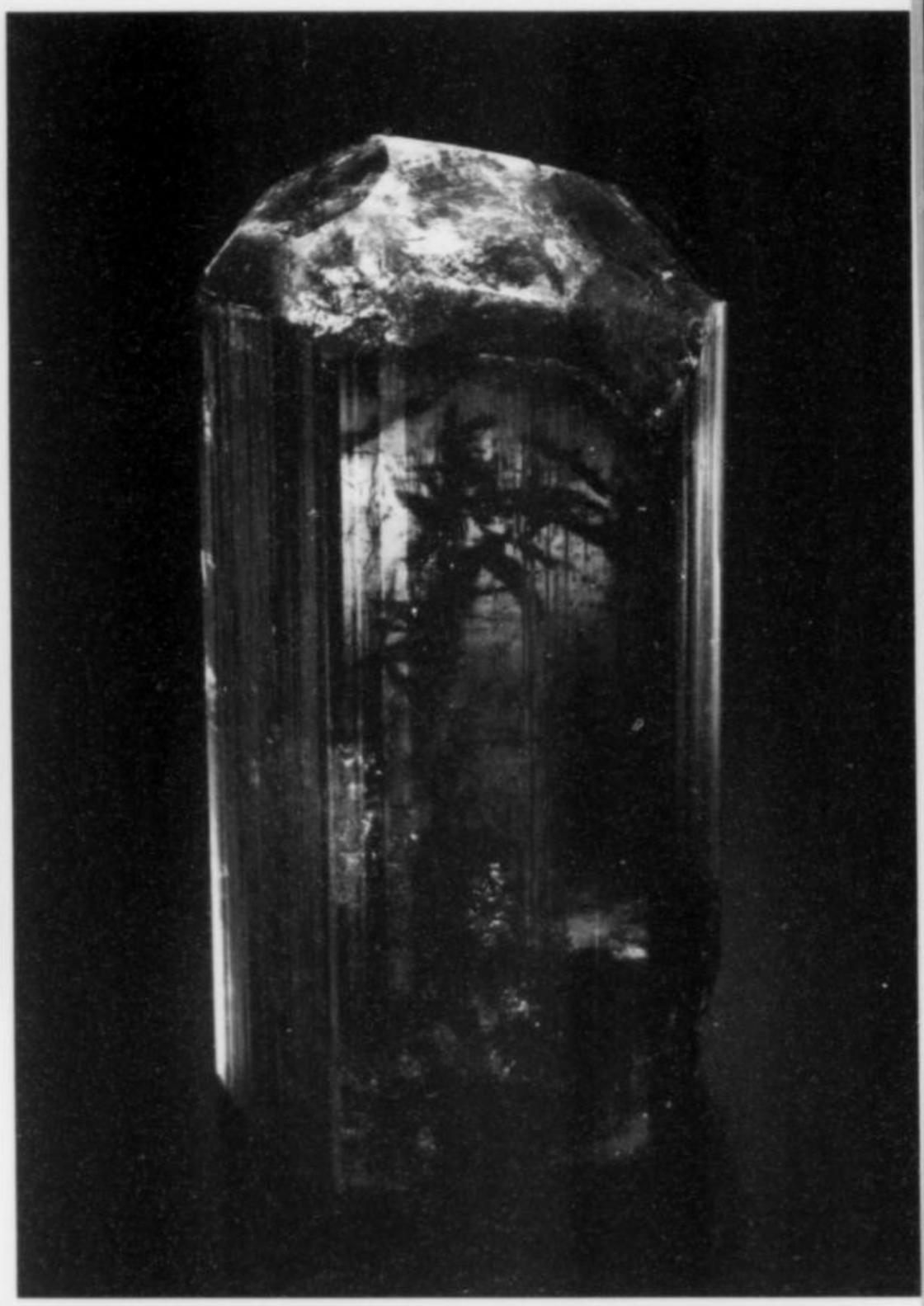


Skutterudite

14.8 cm, Bou Azzer District, Tazenakht, Ouarzazate Province, Souss-Massa-Draâ Region, Morocco

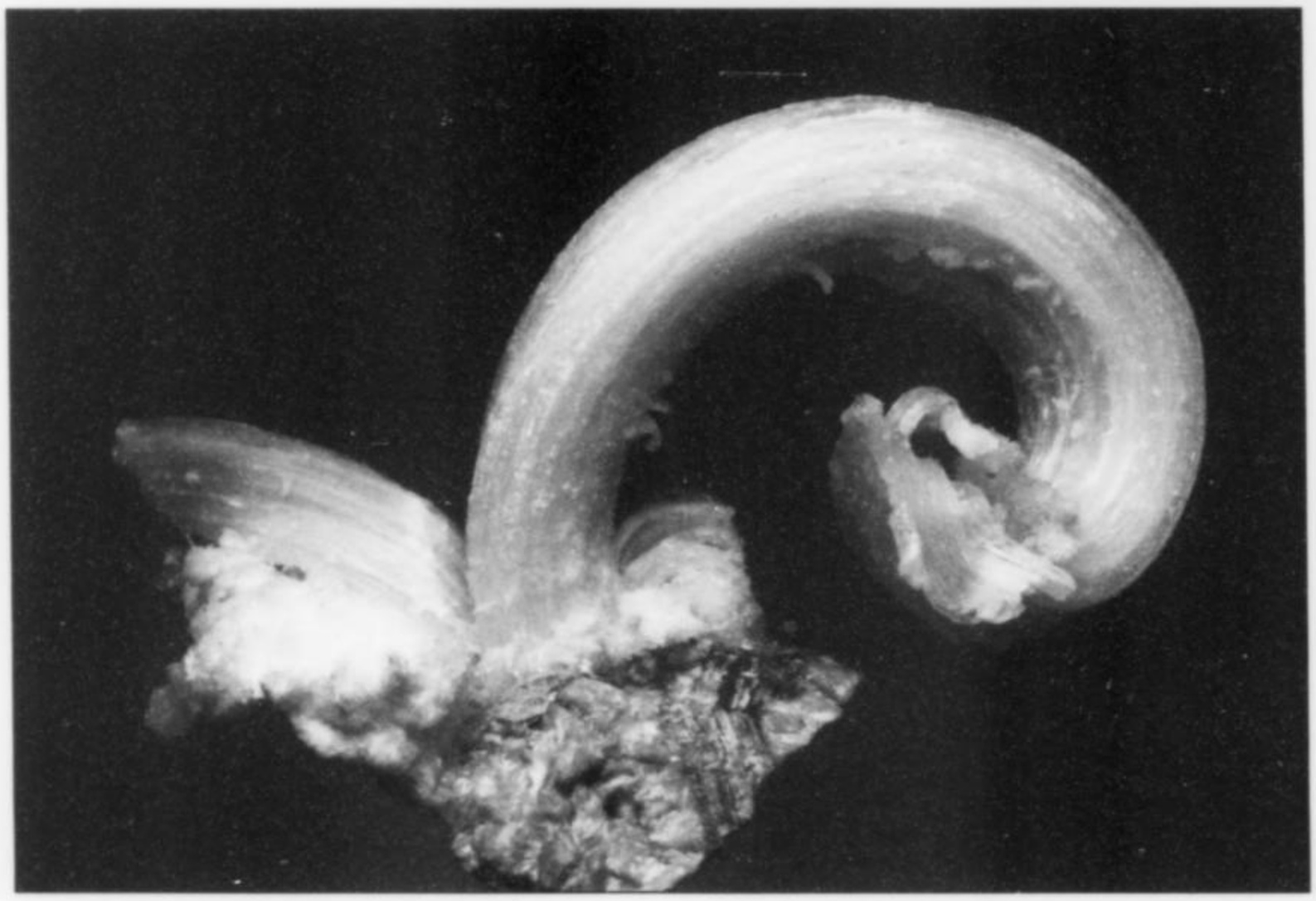
Tourmaline

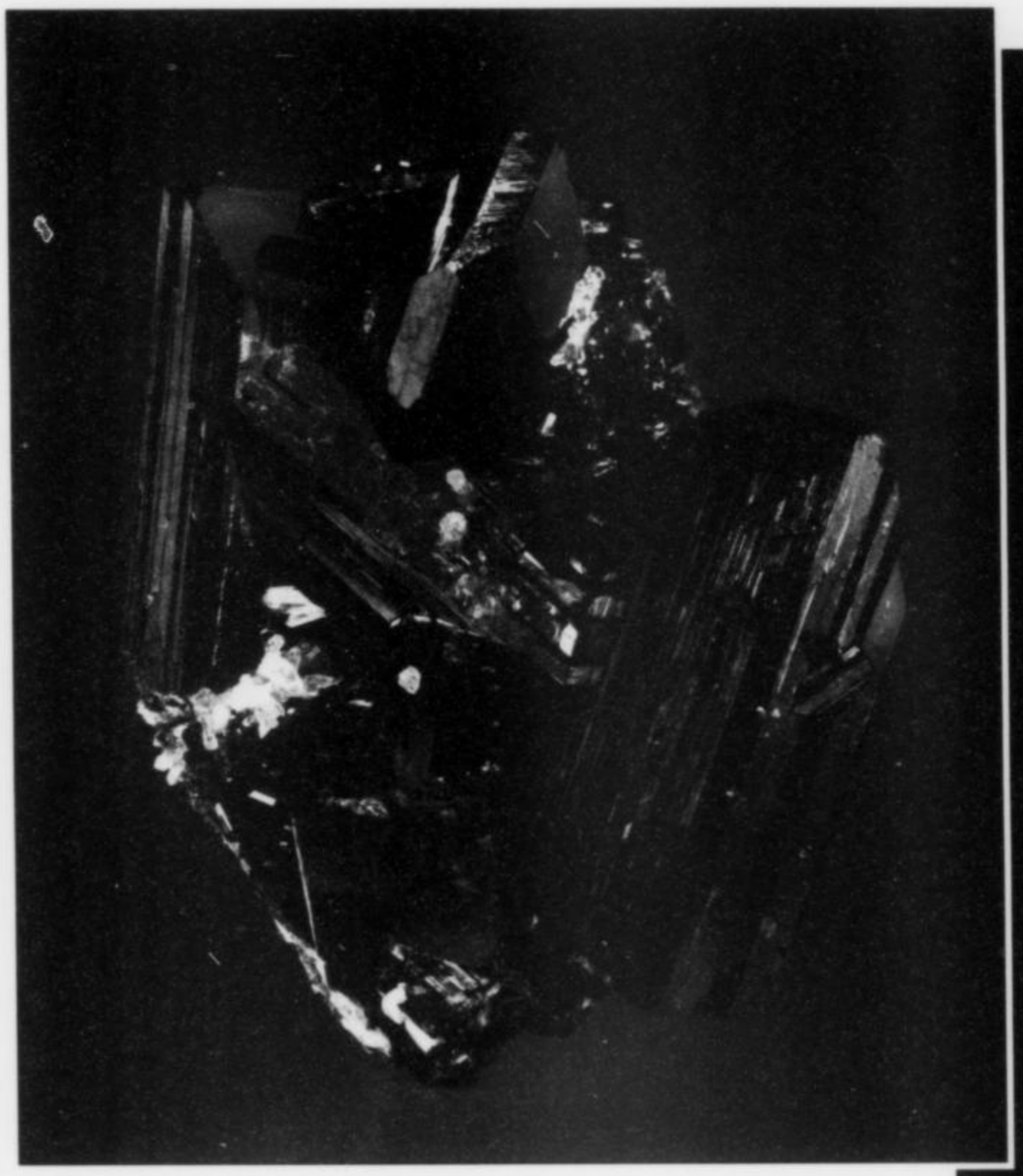
(Elbaite), 9.2 cm, Barra de Salinas, Coronel Murta, Minas Gerais, Brazil



Gypsum

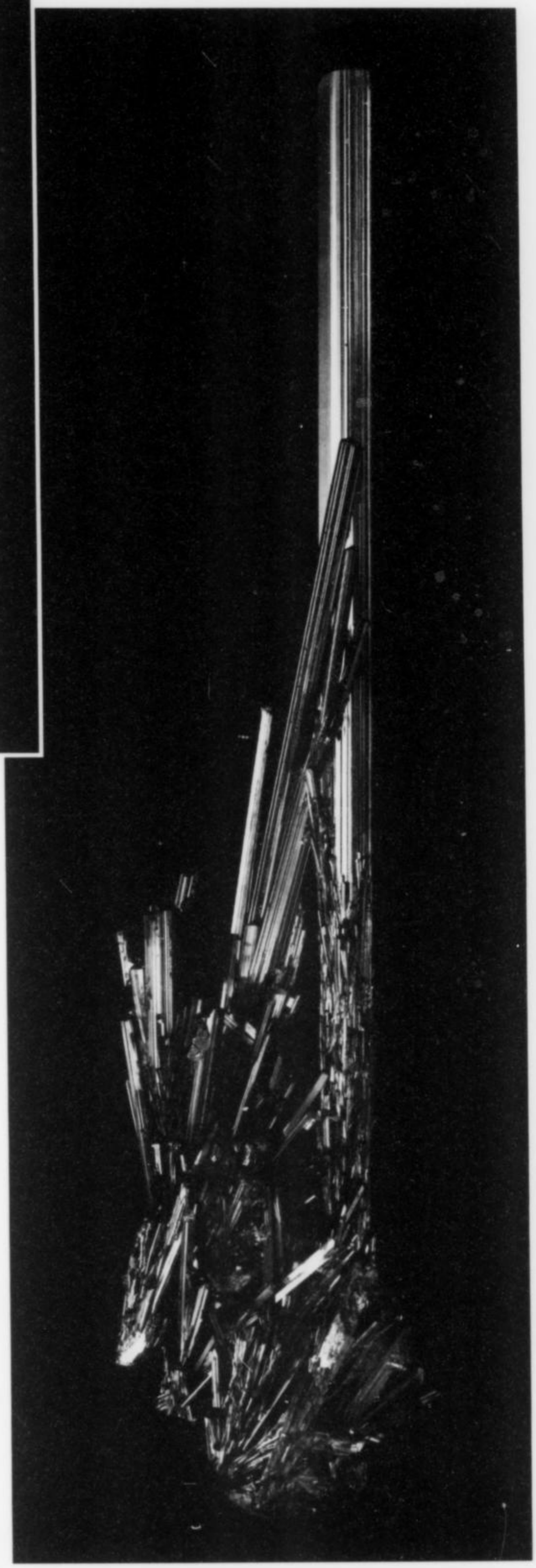
18.8 cm, Khoukhet mine, Khénifra Province, Meknès-Tafilalet Region, Morocco





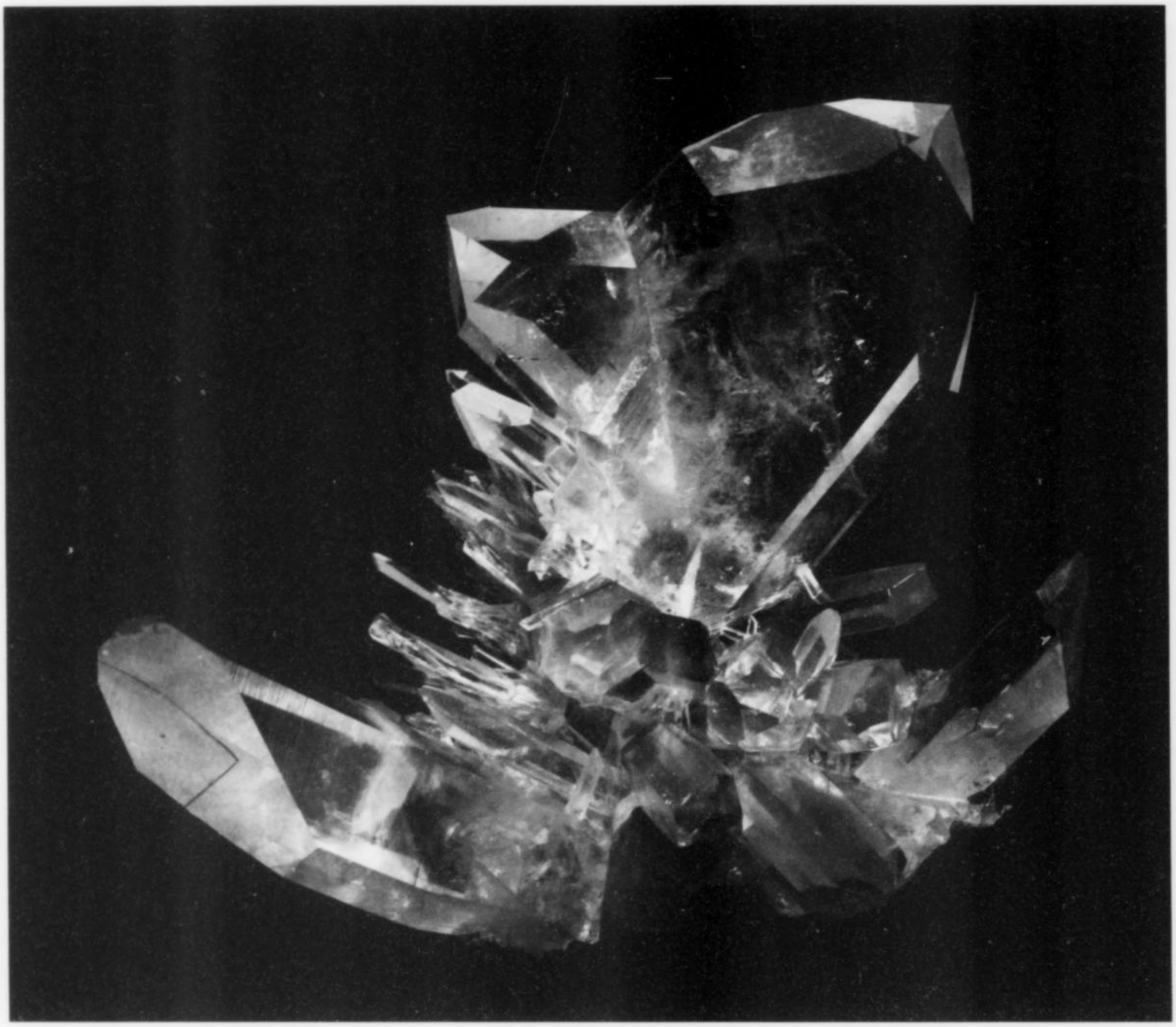
Epidote

13.2 cm, Green Monster Mountain, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska. Epidote crystals from Prince of Wales Island were first discovered shortly after mining began there in 1902, but the climate and steep terrain are so inhospitable that little collecting was done there. Expeditions to collect specimens were mounted in 1935 and 1967, with some success. Eventually the productive area was developed as a patented claim. Today it is being mined for specimens during the summer months, but production is always sporadic and very limited, so fine specimens are always scarce and in high demand. The 5-inch specimen shown here is a superb example.



Stibnite

71.7 cm, Wuling (Wuning) mine, Qingjiang, Wuning County, Jiujiang Prefecture, Jiangxi Province, China. A fabulous pocket of stibnite crystals was discovered in an antimony mine in Wuning, China in 2004. This giant specimen, over two feet long, is incredible to behold, and is one of the finest pieces in the Marc Weill collection. It is razor-sharp with mirror-bright luster. It was purchased in China in 2004 from Andrew Pagliero, with the help of Marcus Budil and Daniel Trinchillo.

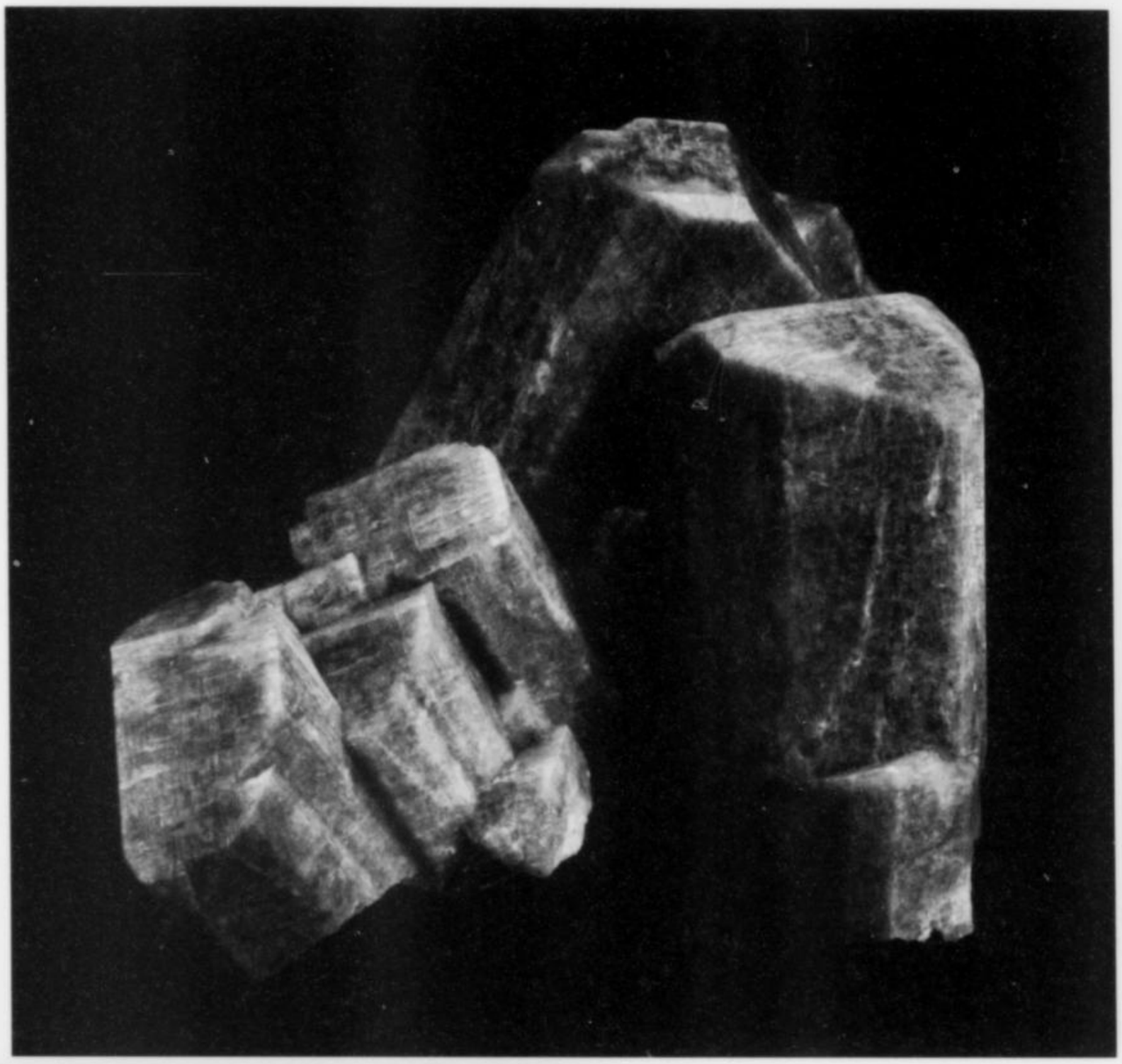


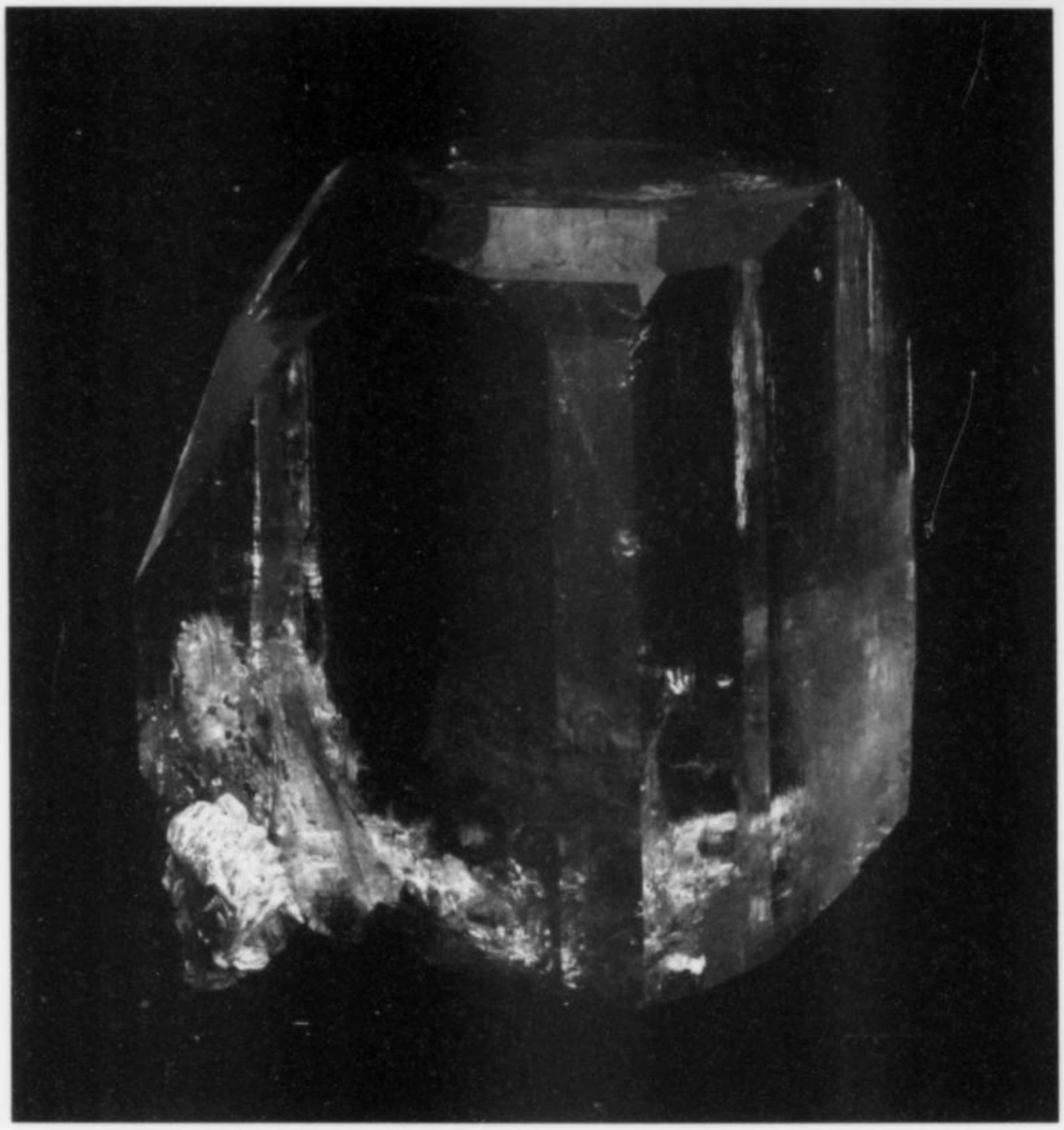
Quartz

26.7 cm, McEarl pocket, Coleman mine, Garland County, Arkansas. Butterfly-shaped Japan-law quartz twins are a rarity among quartz specimens, especially in Arkansas where some of the most pristinely beautiful quartz in America is found. The Marc Weill collection includes an unprecedented example, with a twinned crystal over 10 inches tall. It has a brilliant luster and is perched above a beautiful cluster of untwinned quartz crystals. It is a true masterpiece! Ex. Jimmy and Terri Coleman collection, purchased in 2000 by Daniel Trinchillo and sold to Marc Weill in 2003.

Amazonite

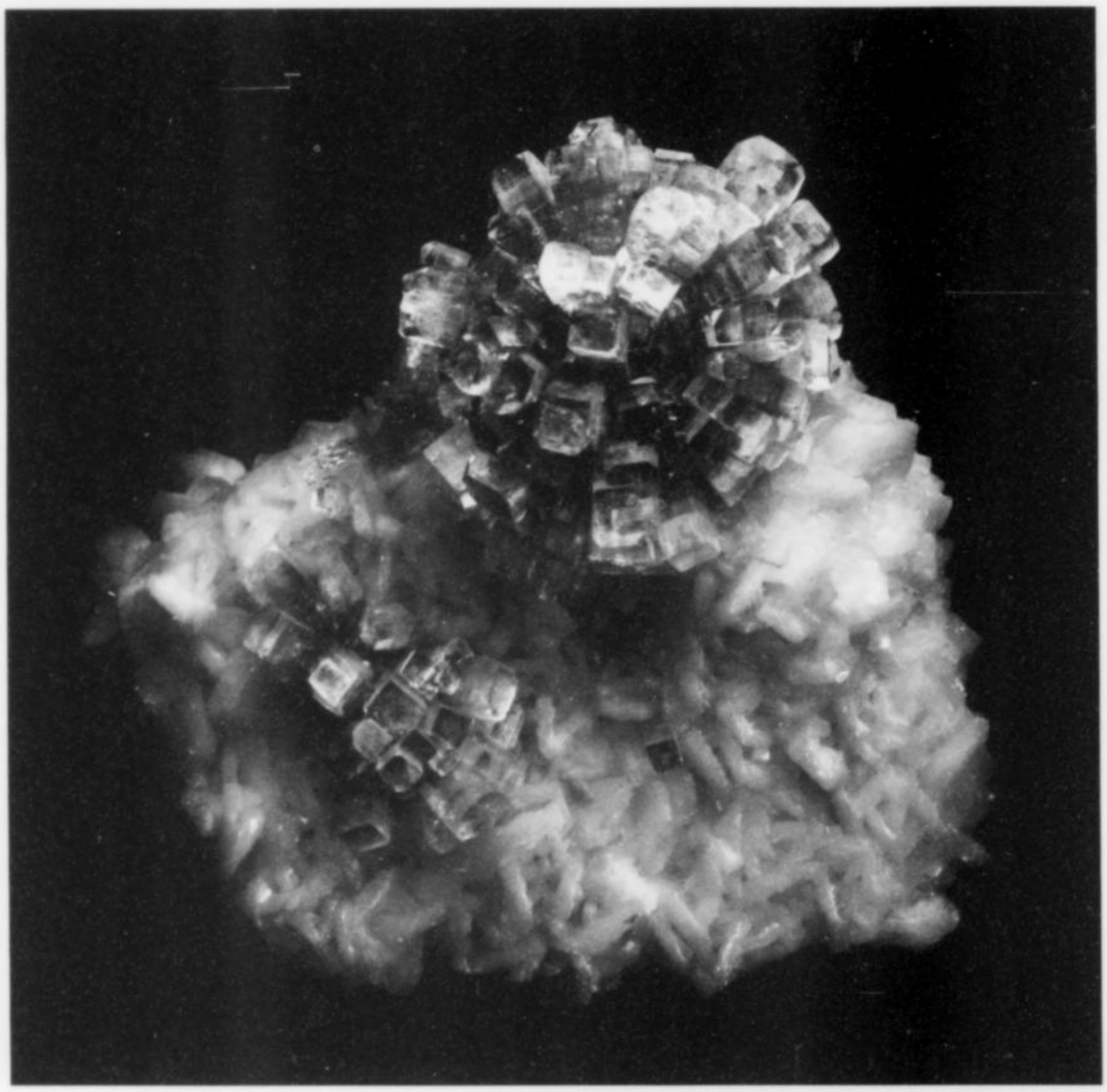
(Microcline), 10.5 cm, Two Point claim, Teller County, Colorado. Beautiful blue-green Colorado amazonite has long been a favorite among collectors; fine specimens were first collected there by one of the first American mineral dealers, A. E. Foote, in the early 1870's. In modern times some of the finest specimens were recovered from the Tree Root Pocket at the Two Point claim by *Collector's Edge Minerals* in 1997; shown here is one of them.





Topaz

9.4 cm, Mogok, Sagaing District, Mandalay Division, Burma. This optically flawless topaz is the epitome of perfection. It displays all the characteristics of a fine mineral specimen at the highest possible level. The crystal faces are incredibly sharp, it has a mirror-bright luster and enormous size (nearly four inches), coupled with a rich sherry color. Ex William Larson collection; sold to Marc Weill at the Denver Show in 2006.

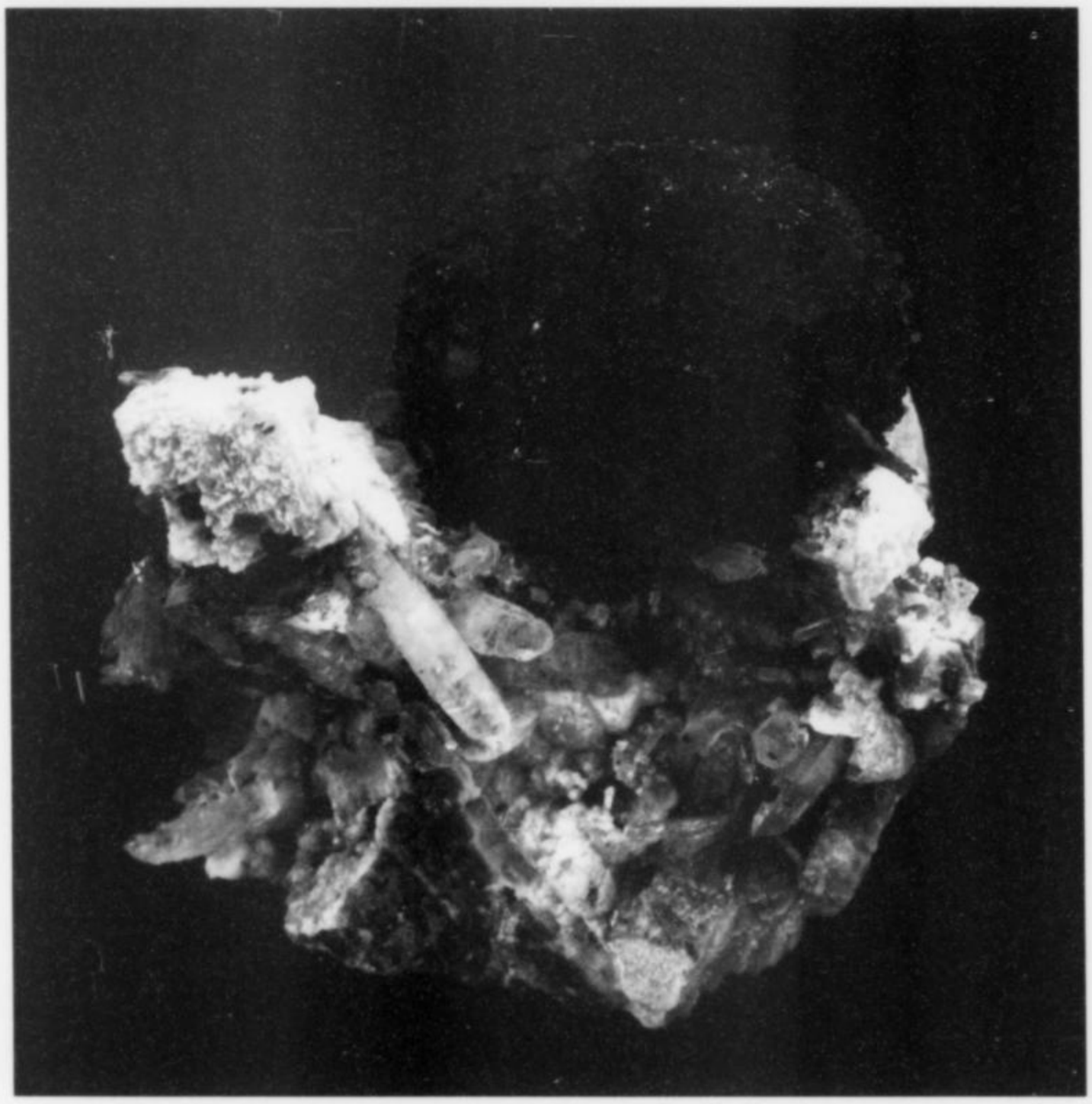


Fluor-apophyllite

16 cm, Rahuri, Ahmadnagar District, Maharashtra, India. This remarkable specimen was discovered in a cave that was found by well diggers. The specimens from the Rahuri cavern are unique among Indian fluorapophyllite and are instantly recognizable. The specimen shown here has superb aesthetics, with a large and a small cluster perched on a heulandite crystal matrix.

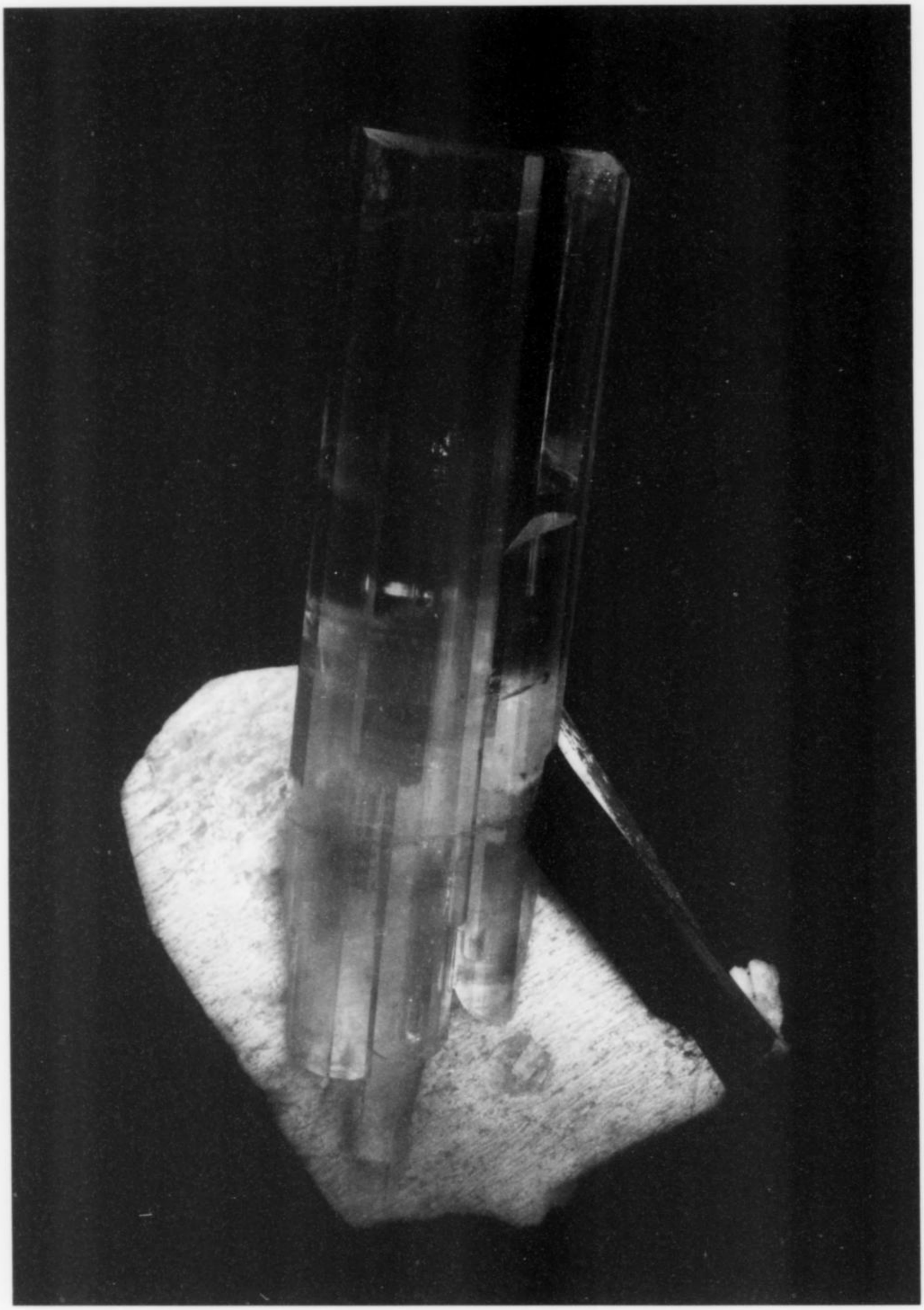
Inesite

6.7 cm, Fengjiashan mine, Daye County, Huangshi Prefecture, Hubei Province, China. Gorgeous deep pink to rose-red inesite from the Fengjiashan mine is the finest in the world; large spherical crystal clusters like the one shown here are extremely rare, and are the most sought after.



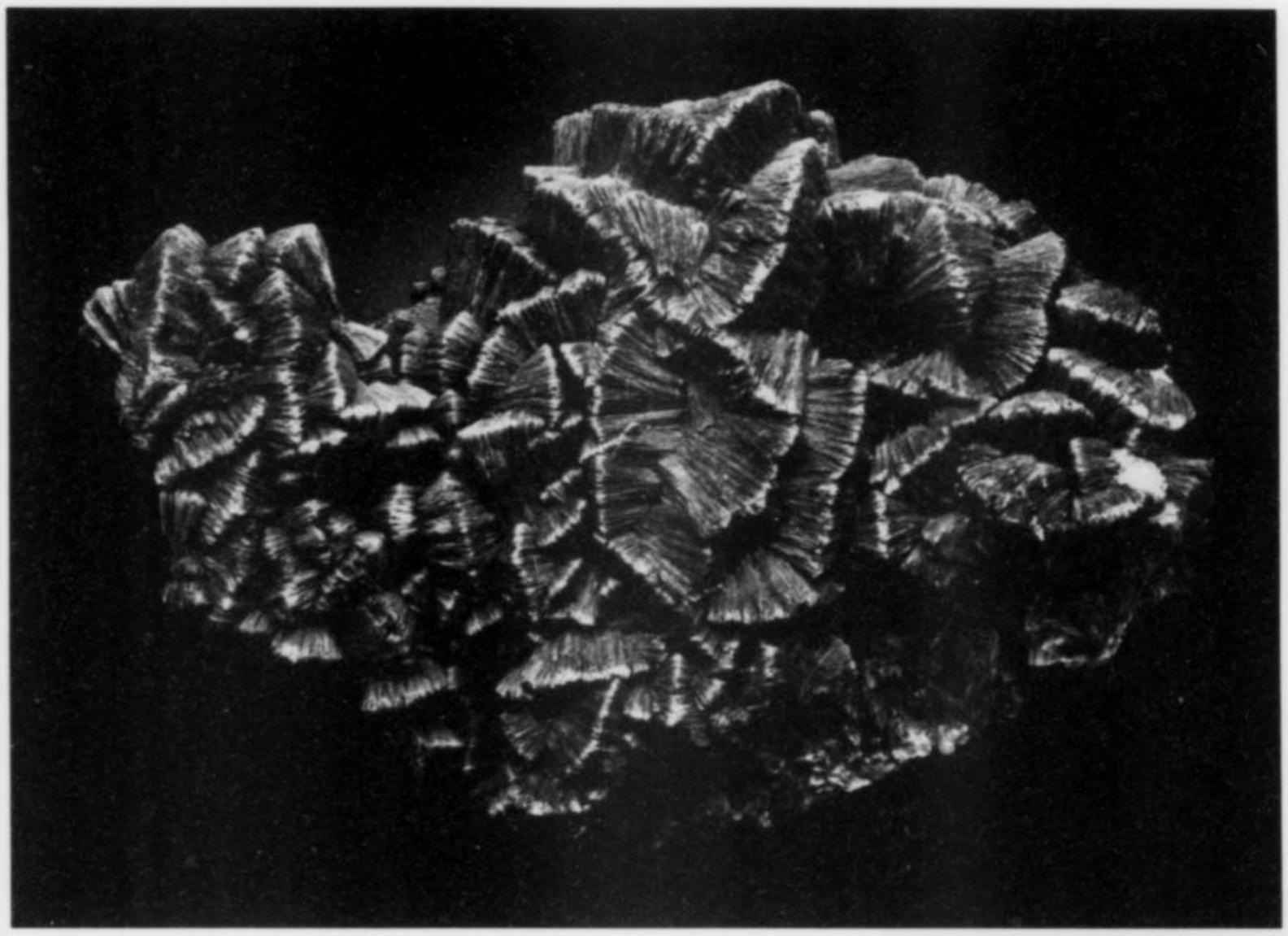
Mesolite

with fluorapophyllite, 16.3 cm, the Pashan Hills near Pune (Poona), Maharashtra, India. The burst of white gemmy needles of mesolite seems to explode from the green apophyllite crystals below. On a scale of one to ten for compositional aesthetics, this specimen scores an eleven. The combination of the strikingly different crystal habits and the two contrasting colors is exquisitely attractive. This specimen was probably collected in the 1970's. Ex Daniel Trinchillo Sr. collection, purchased by Marc Weill in 2004.



Aquamarine

(Beryl) with Schorl, 20 cm, Gilgit District, Northern Areas, Pakistan. The finest aquamarine specimens are found in the Northern Areas, Pakistan, where crystals reach enormous size and a high degree of perfection, with intense color and contrasting crystallized matrix. The Marc Weill collection has several crystals from this area, but the one shown here is the finest of all—over six inches tall, perched on a sharp white crystal of feldspar with a small schorl crystal. Marcus Budil specimen, found in 2004.

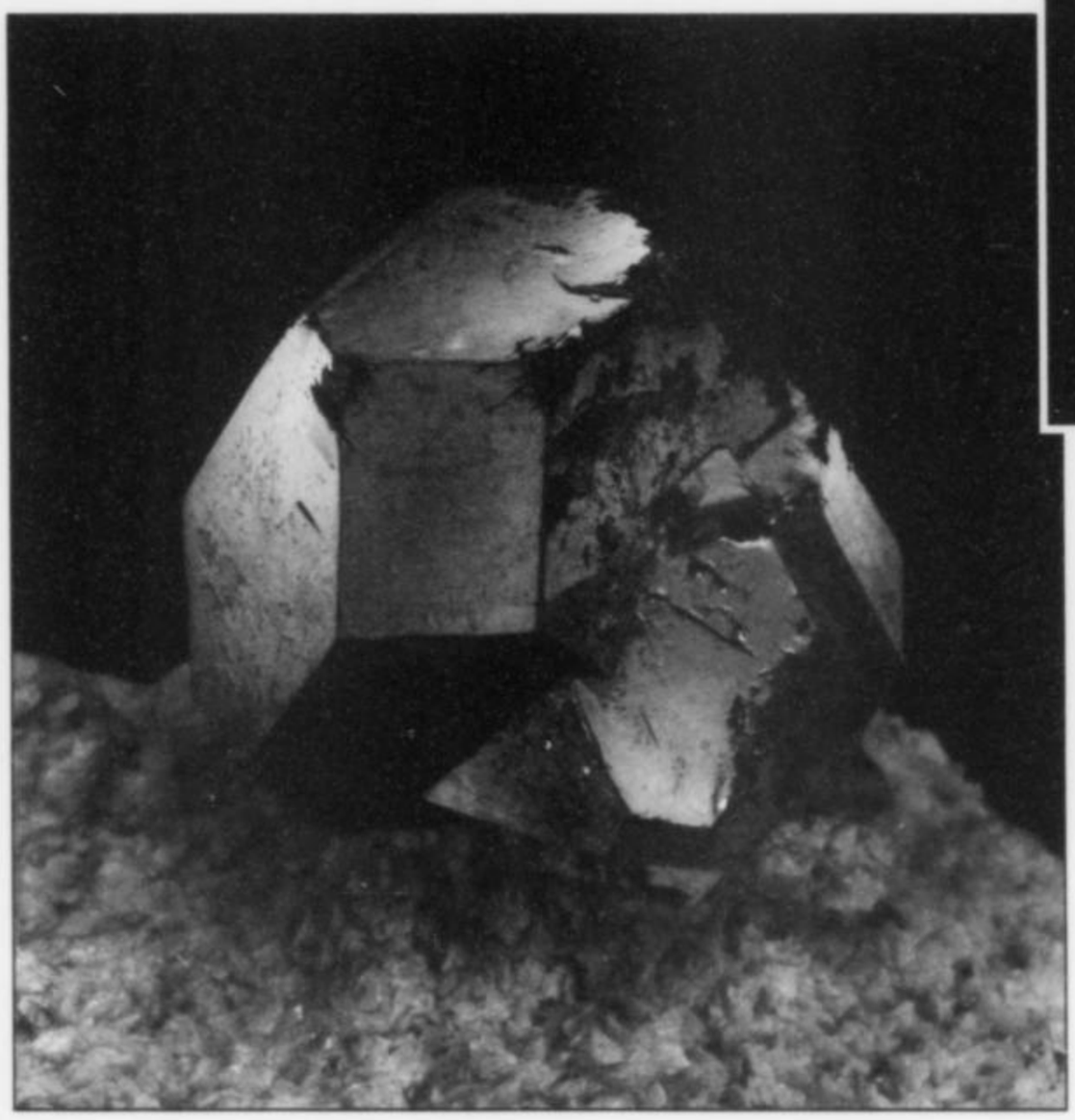


Meta-autunite

15.2 cm, Daybreak mine,
Mount Kit Carson,
Spokane County,
Washington

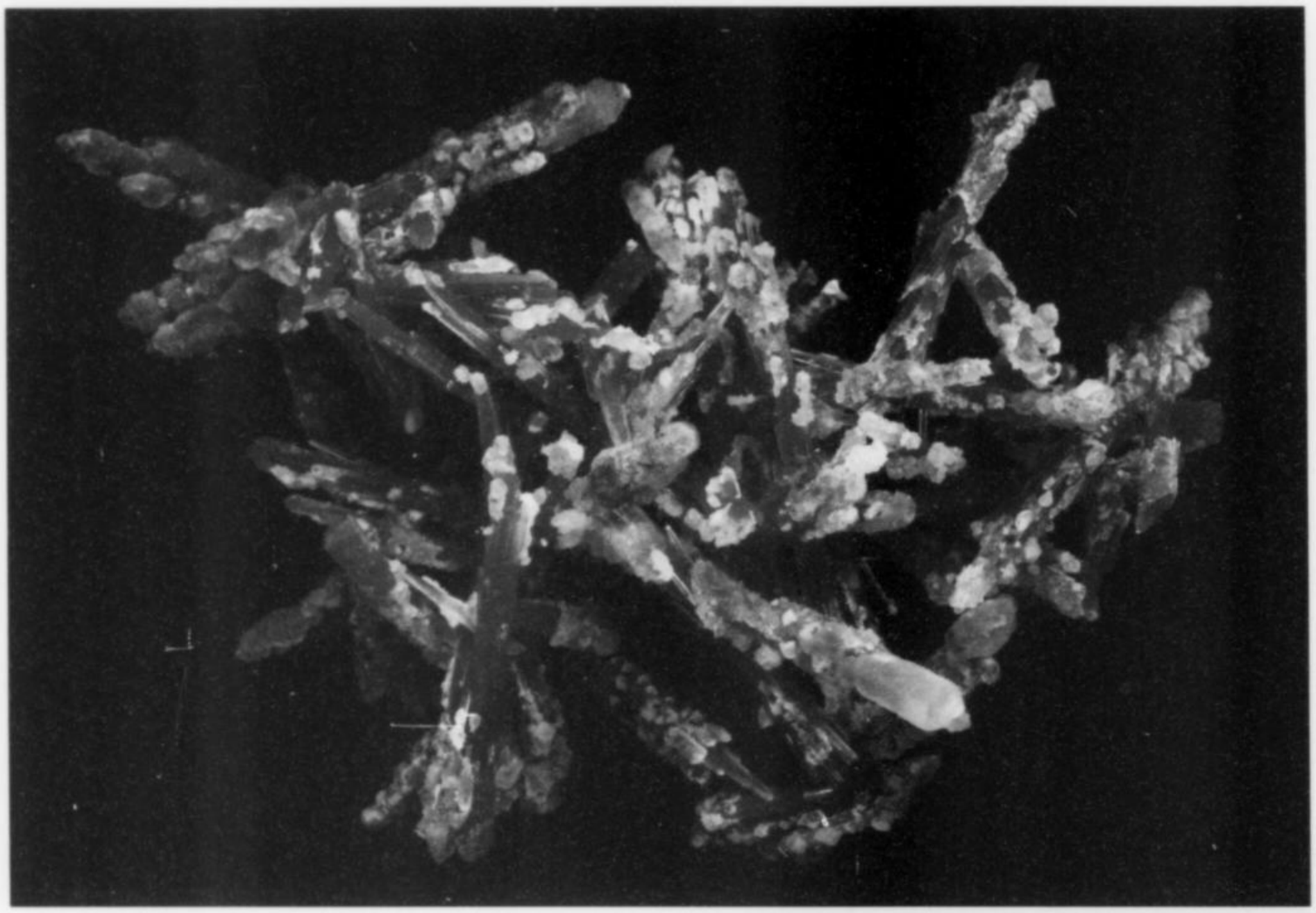
Galena

3 cm crystal, Neudorf mines,
Neudorf, Harzgerode, Harz
Mountains, Saxony-Anhalt,
Germany



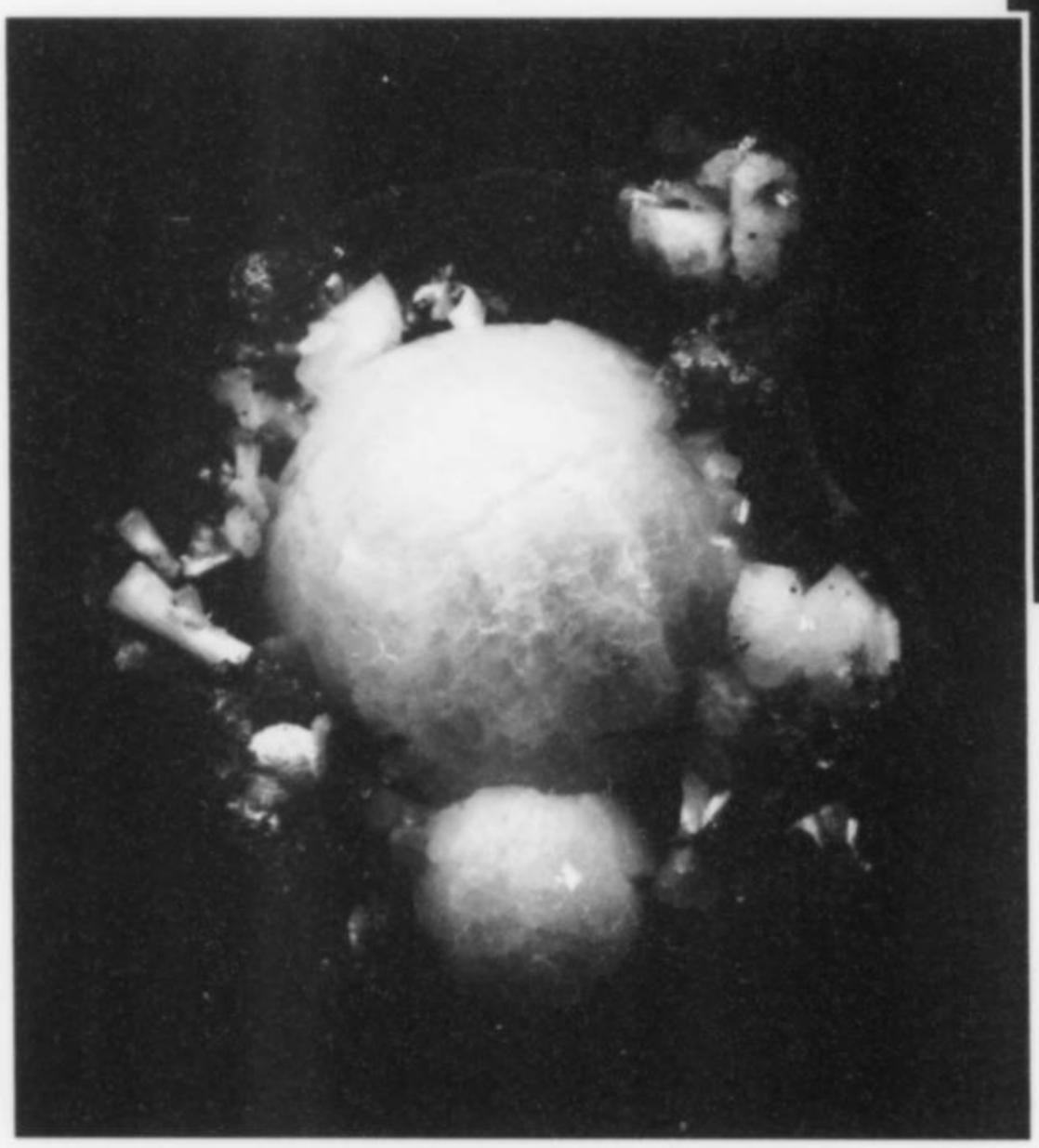
Phenakite

5.08 cm, Mogok, Sagaing
District, Mandalay Division,
Burma



Quartz

17.3 cm, Dalnegorsk,
Primorskiy Kray, Far
Eastern Region, Russia



Wolframite

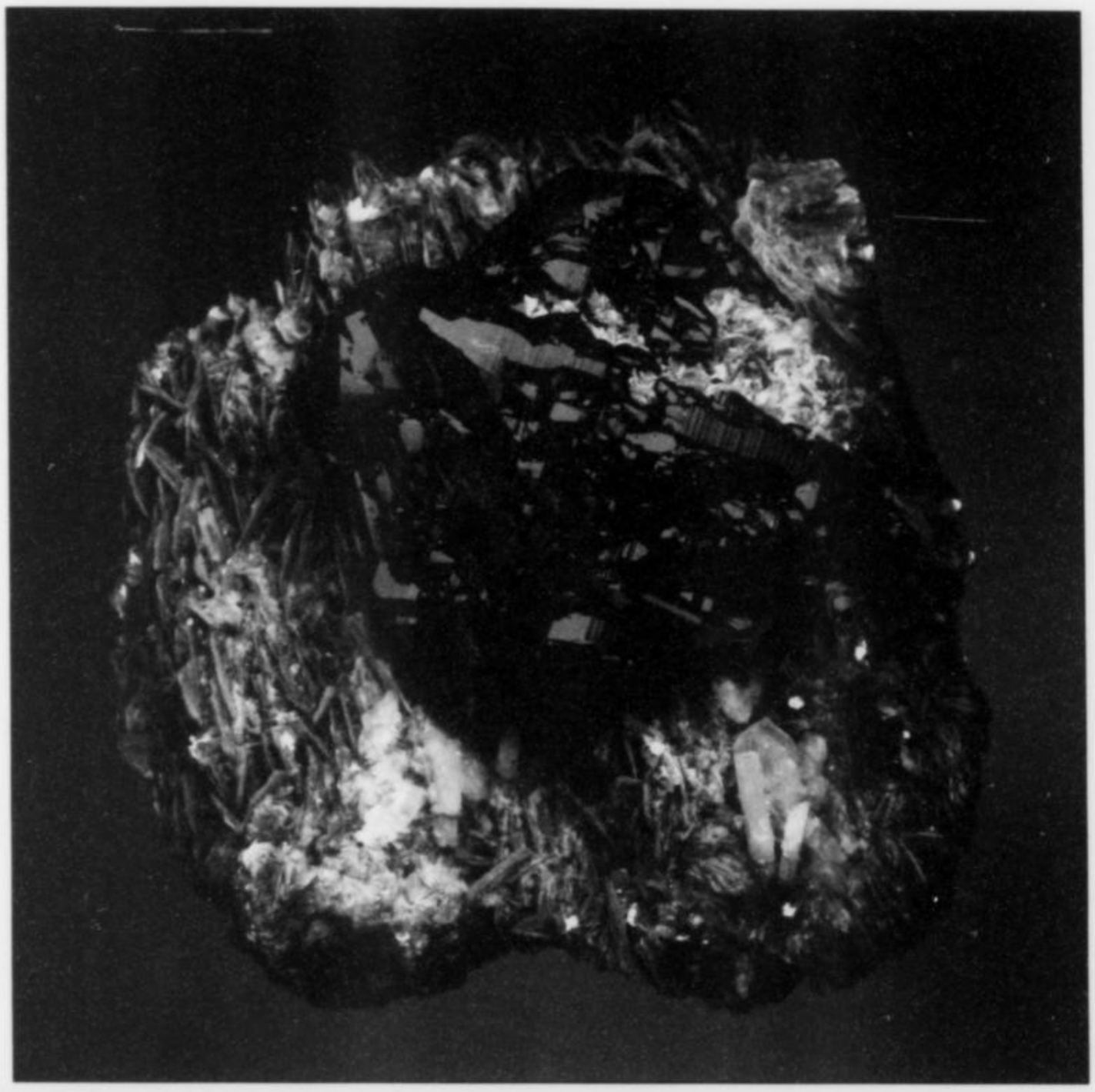
12.4 cm, Yaogangxian
mine, Yizhang County,
Chenzhou Prefecture,
Hunan Province, China

Stellerite

19.1 cm, Ahmednagar
District, Maharashtra, India

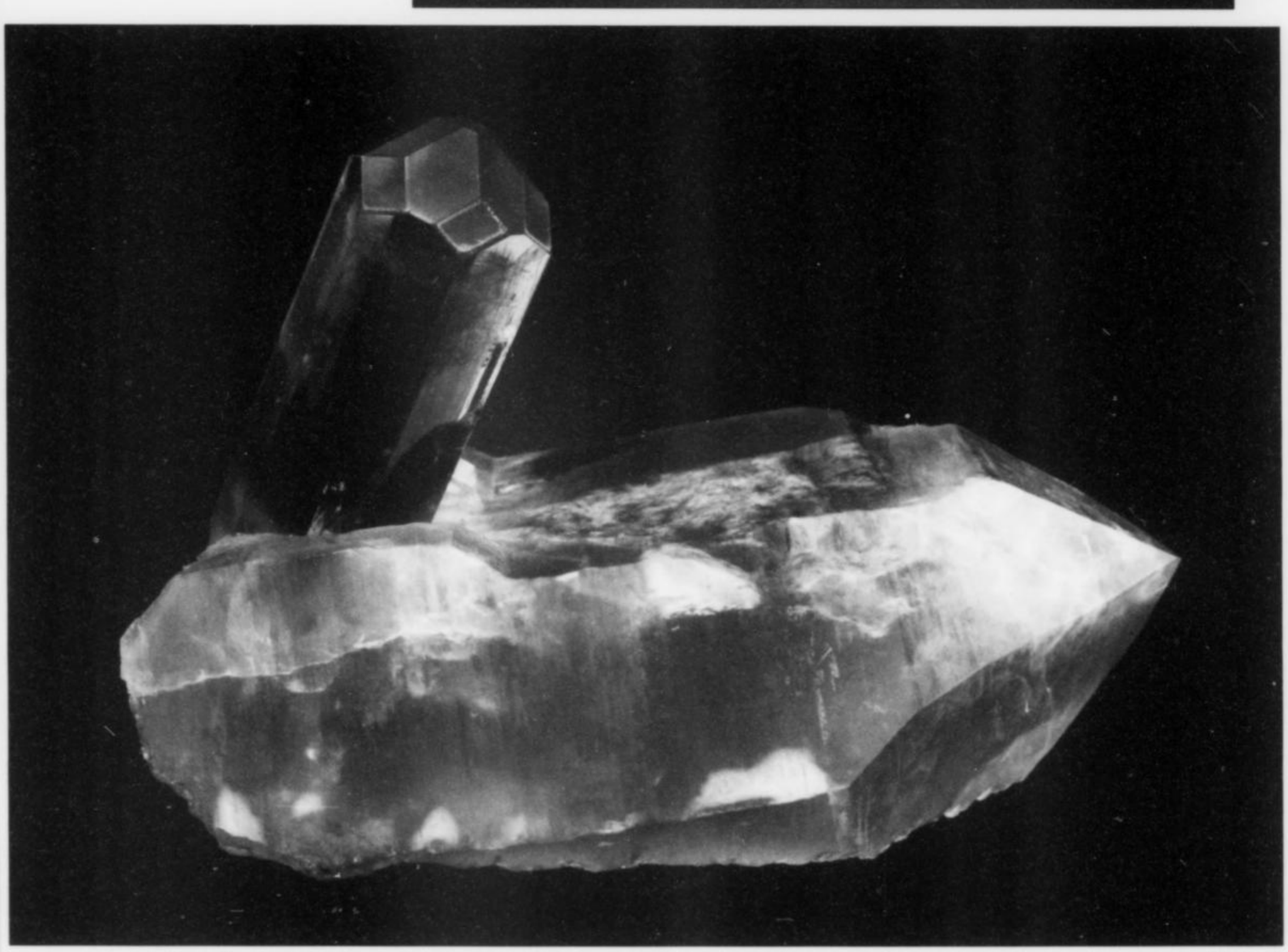
Cassiterite

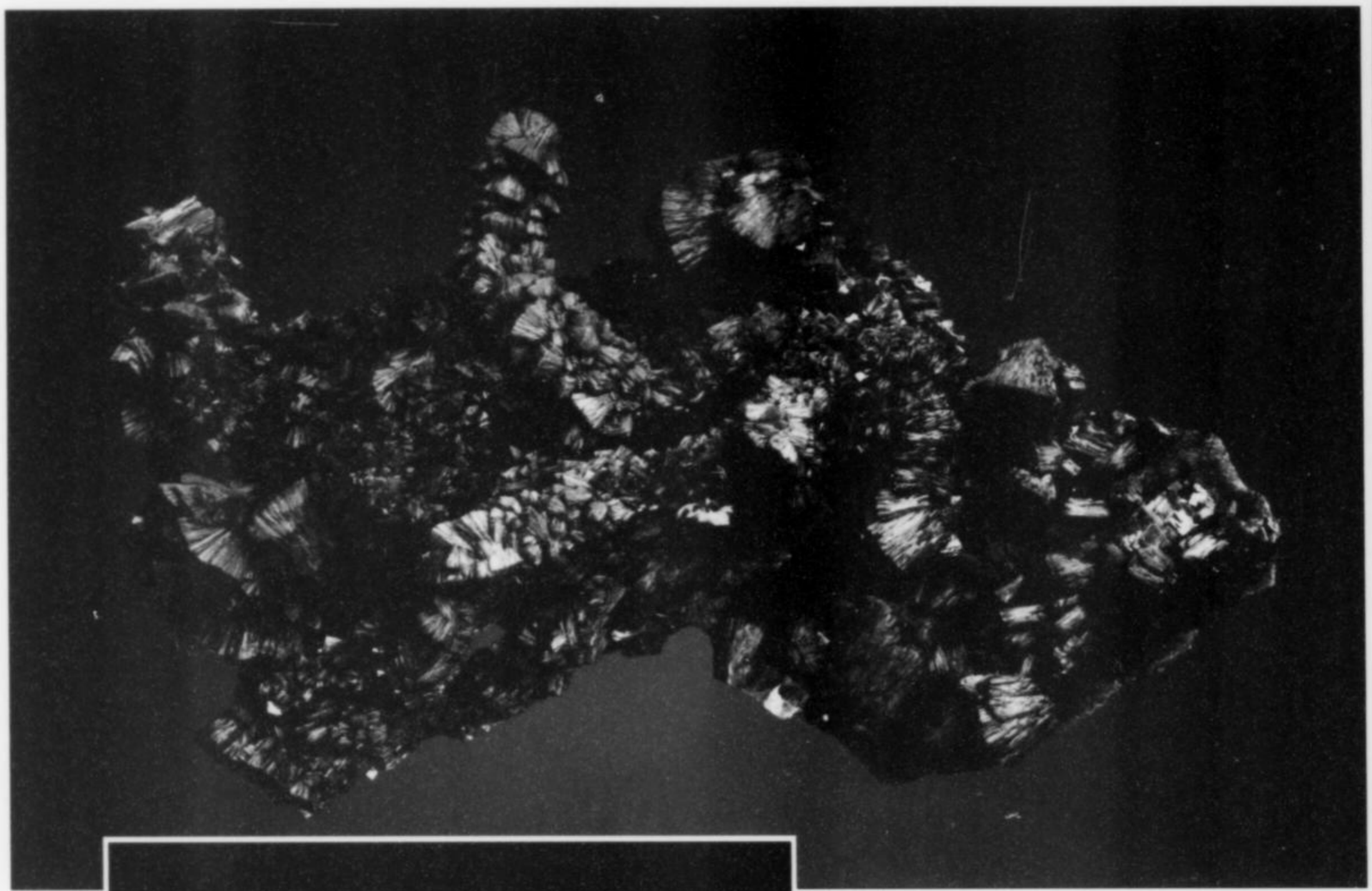
14.4 cm, Mount Xuebaoding, Pingwu County, Mianyang Prefecture, Sichuan Province, China



Aquamarine

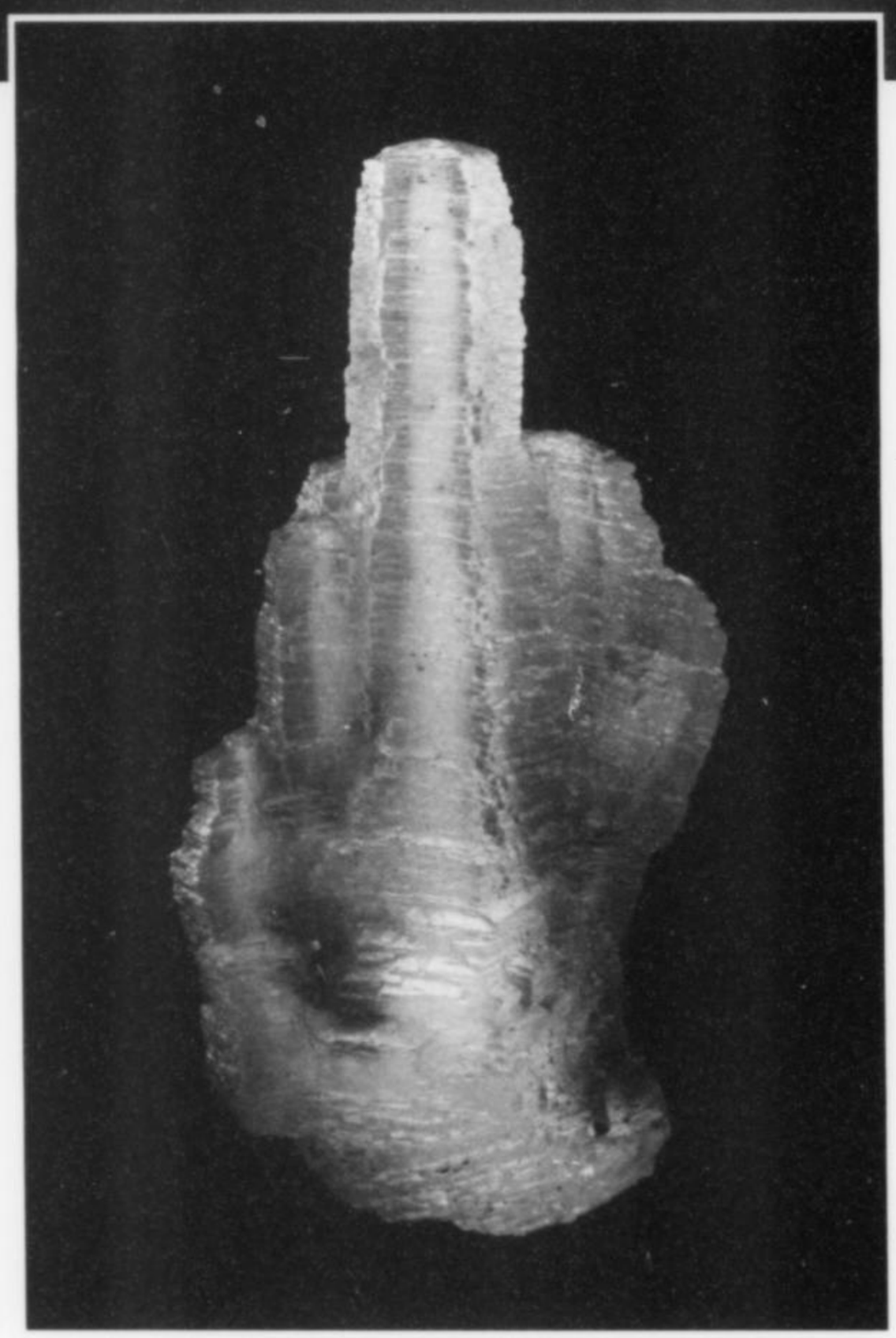
(Beryl) with Quartz, 14.3 cm, Gilgit District, Northern Areas, Pakistan





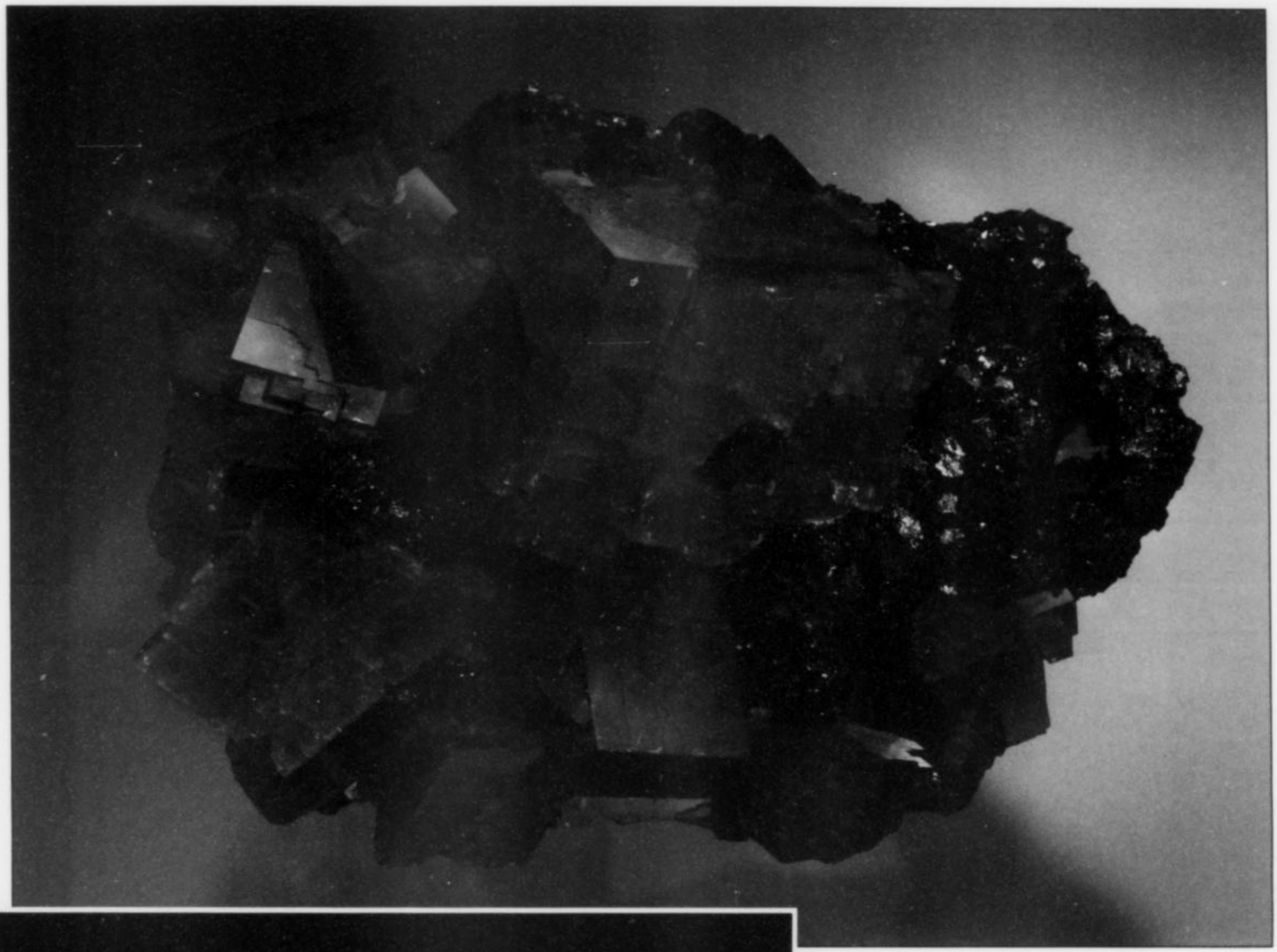
Metatorbernite

14.8 cm, Margabal mine, Entraygues-sur-Truyère, Aveyron, Midi-Pyrénées, France



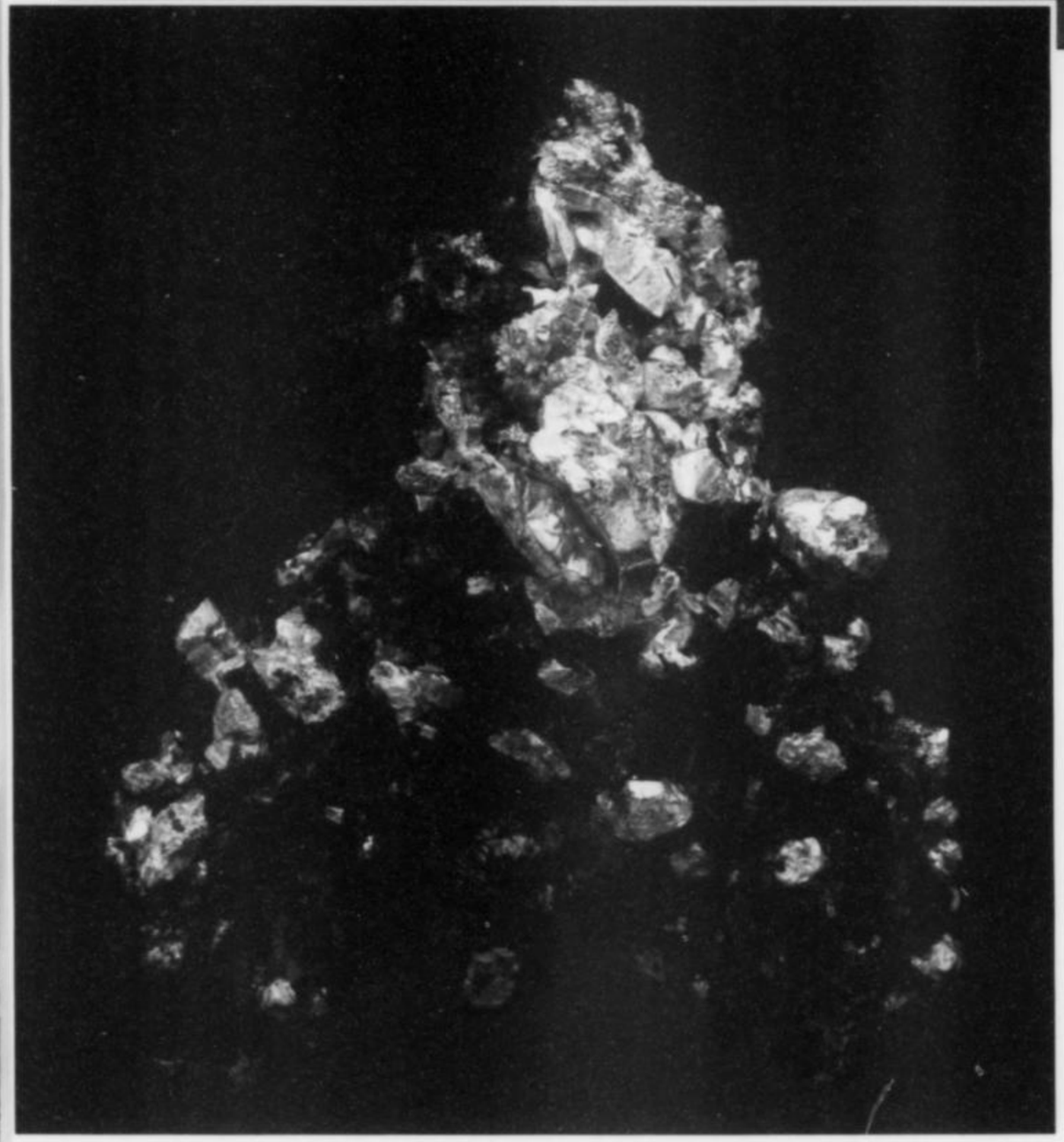
Willemite

5.7 cm, Tsumeb mine, Tsumeb, Namibia. Willemite is rarely found in well-formed, translucent to transparent crystals. This specimen, however, exhibits beautiful crystallization as well as attractive color, making it a star of the Tsumeb rare minerals suite. Ex Robert Lavinsky collection.



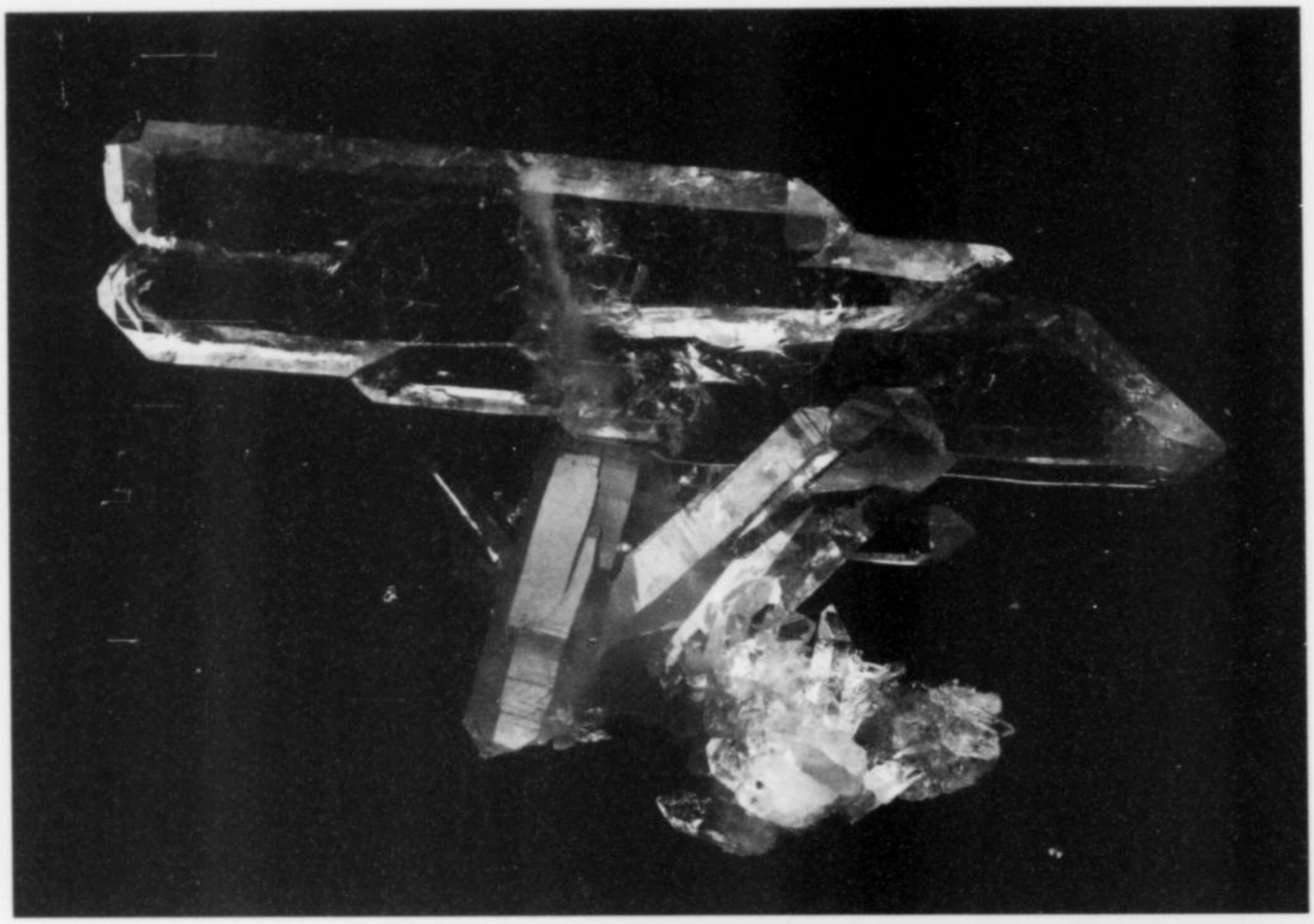
Rhodochrosite

20.3 cm, Sweet Home mine, Mount Bross, Alma District, Park County, Colorado. This piece, one of the finest rhodochrosite specimens known, has extraordinarily large and spectacular crystals, with gemmy transparency and incredible luster. Non-collectors and mineral experts alike are overwhelmed by its sheer beauty. Ex Stuart Wilensky, personal collection.



Silver

with Copper, 12.5 cm, Phoenix mine, Keweenaw County, Michigan. Well-crystallized silver is much rarer than copper in Michigan, especially in combination with beautiful copper crystals, as in this specimen. Ex Robert Lavinsky specimen; sold by Daniel Trinchillo to Marc Weill at the Tucson Show 2007.

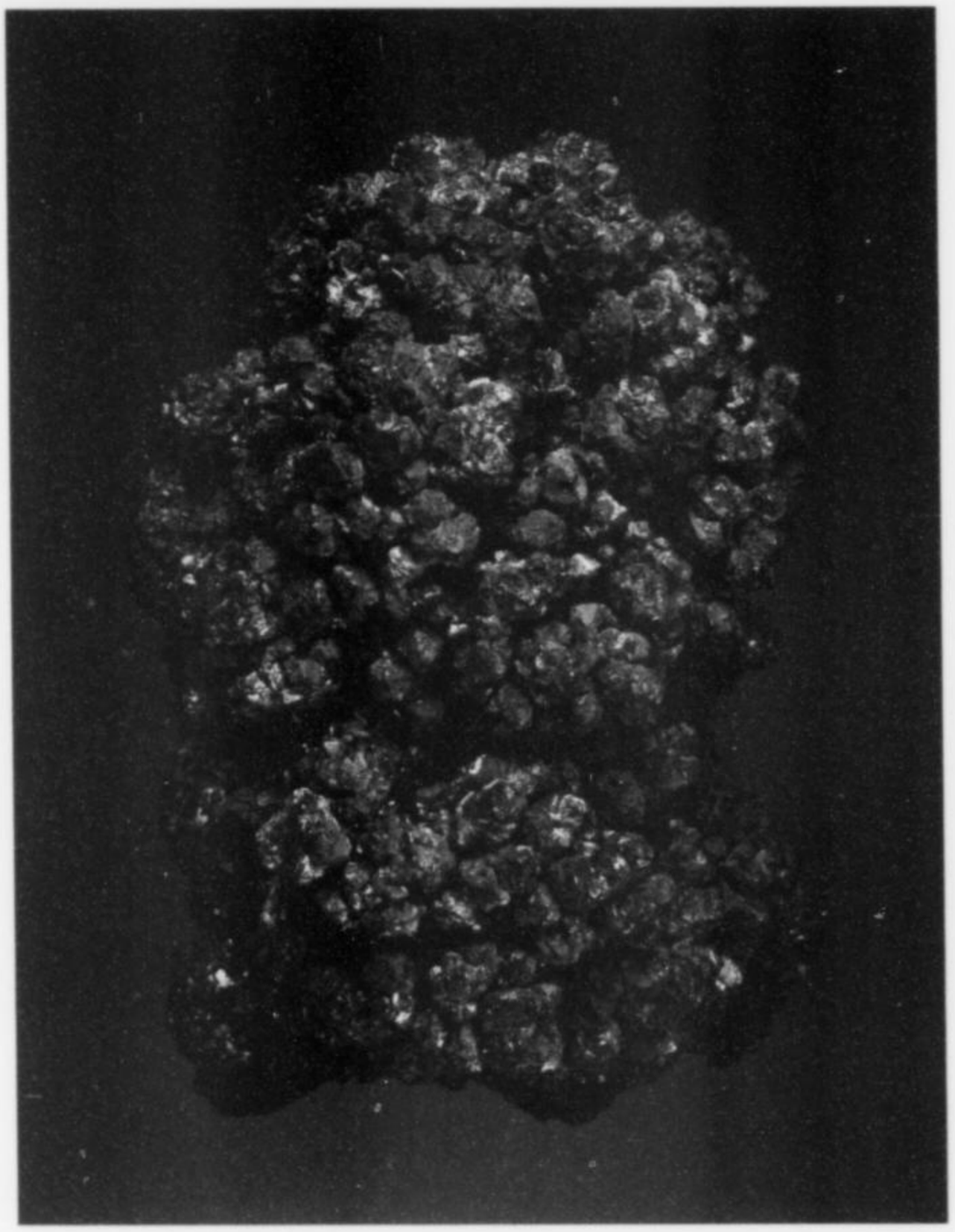


Quartz

16.1 cm, Collier Creek mine, Mt. Ida, Montgomery County, Arkansas

Copper

11.5 cm, Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona. Bisbee is one of the world's most famous copper camps, and a source of world-class azurite and cuprite specimens. And yet native copper specimens of any note are comparatively rare there. This specimen, measuring 4½ inches, would be the prize of any Bisbee collection.

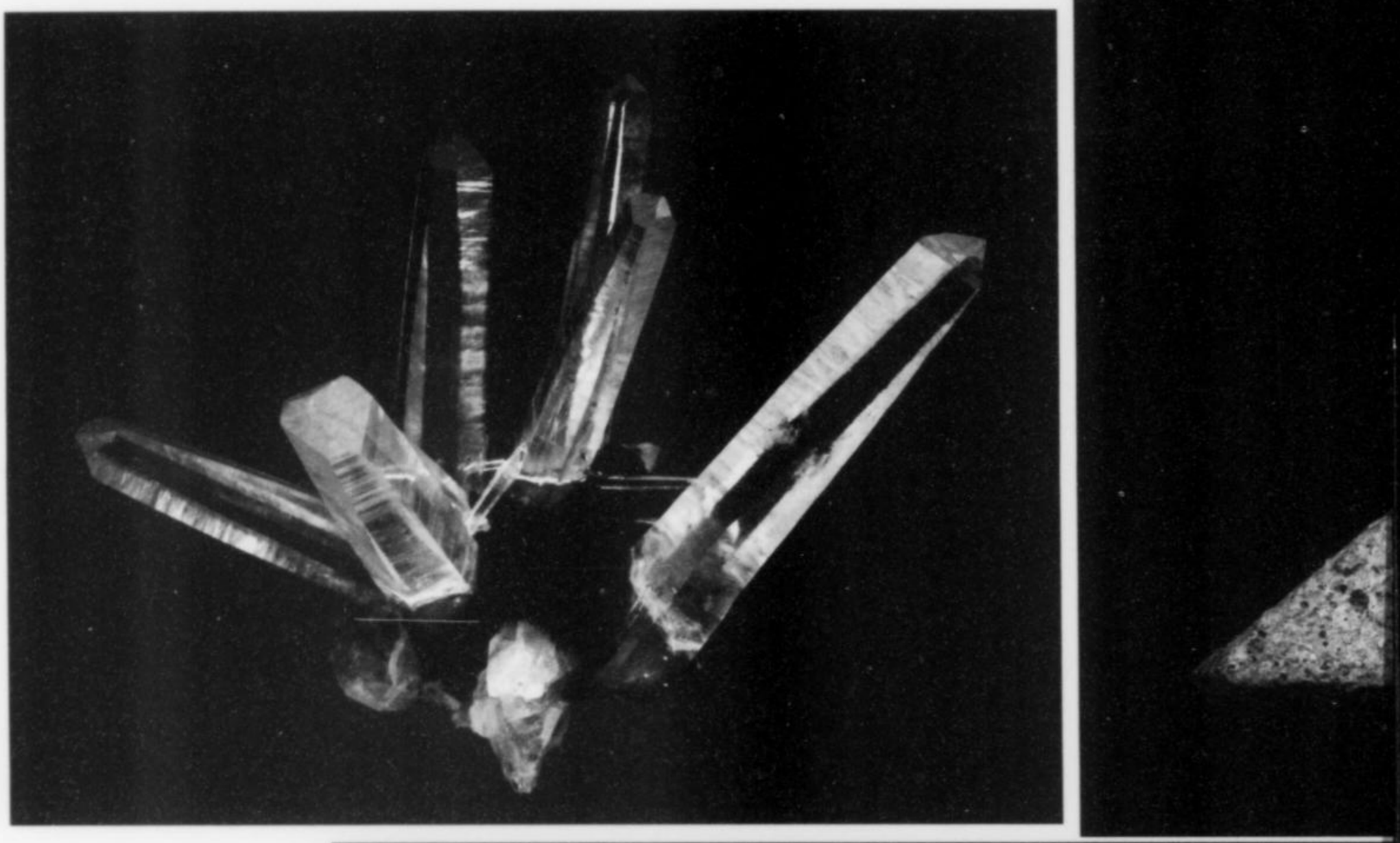


Silver

11.8 cm, Kongsberg, Buskerud, Norway. Silvers from Kongsberg, Norway have been famous among collectors for centuries. Mining began there in 1623 and ended in 1958. The mine name is synonymous with the finest crystallized silver and wire silver in the world, and a really fine example is one of those "holy grail" specimens in the mind of every collector. In the specimn shown here, the thick crystallized wires with a beautiful patina varying from black to silver to a golden color are especially aesthetic. Sadly, the value of specimen silver went relatively unrecognized until late in the 19th century, and most of the great specimens that were saved are now in the Kongsberg Mining Museum and thus out of the reach of modern collectors. Luckily some fine examples like this one narrowly escaped being melted down or saved for the government museums. Ex Herbert Obodda specimen.

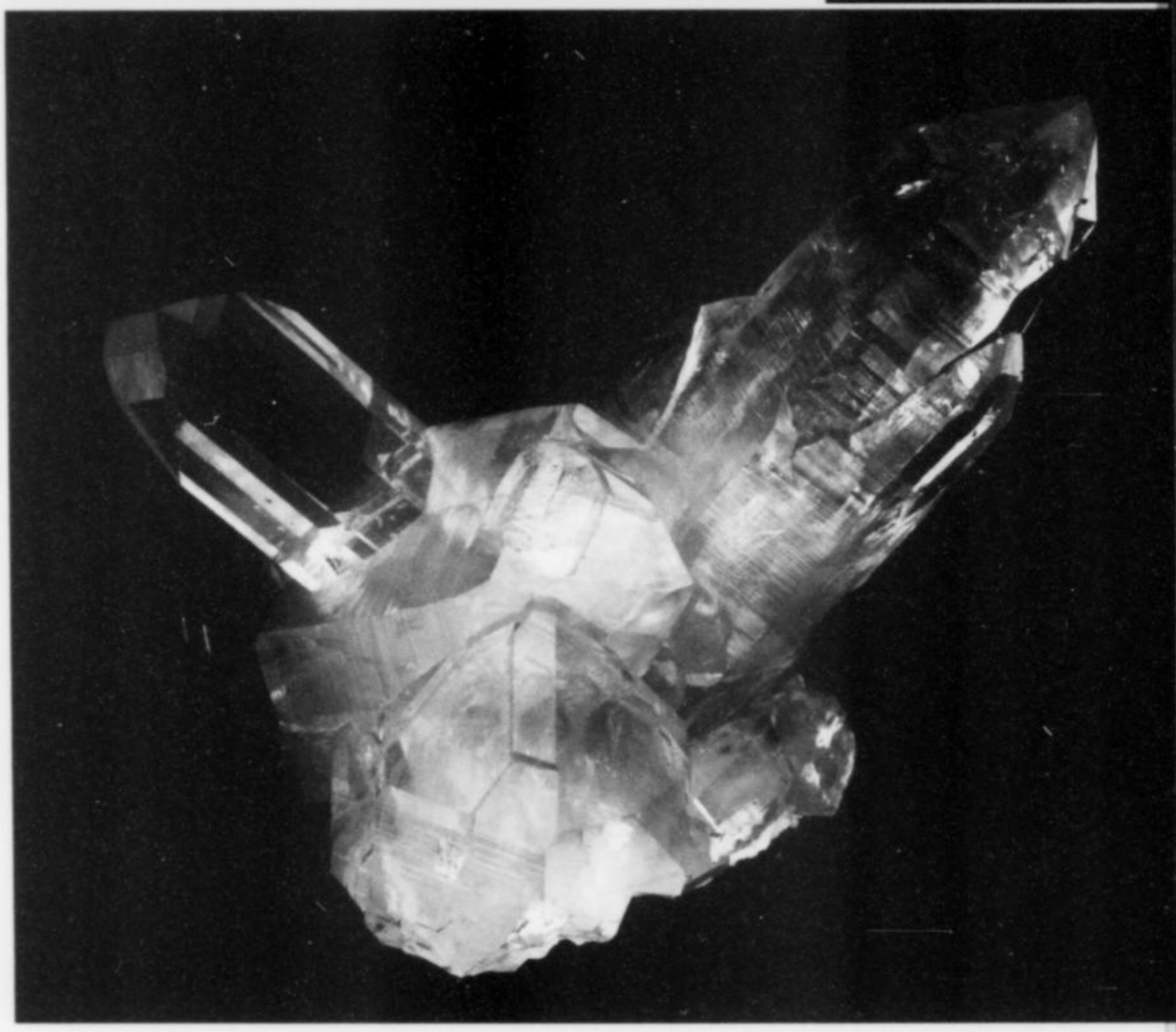
Quartz

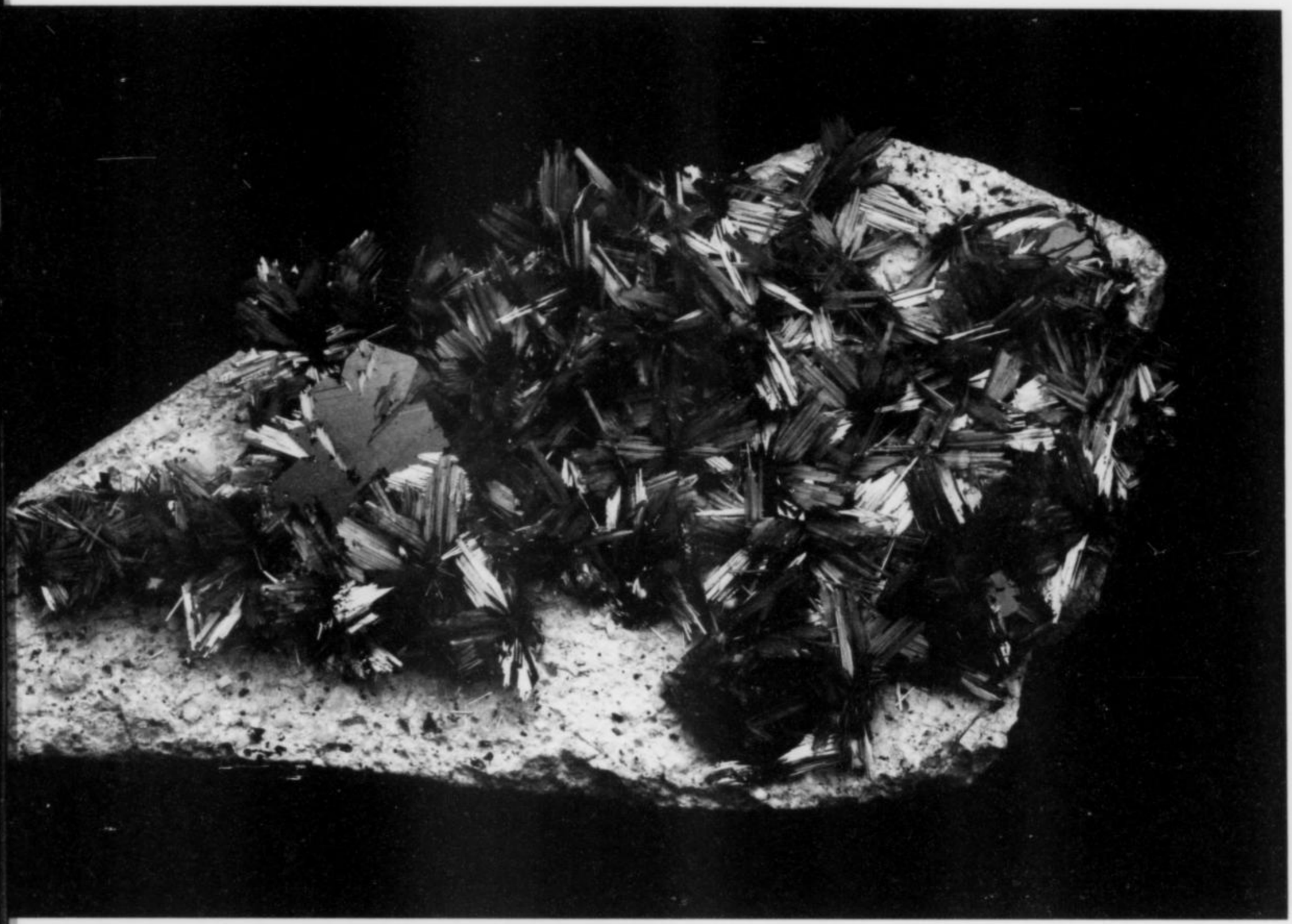
with Hematite, 10 cm, Lechang,
Shaoguan, Guangdong Province, China



Topaz

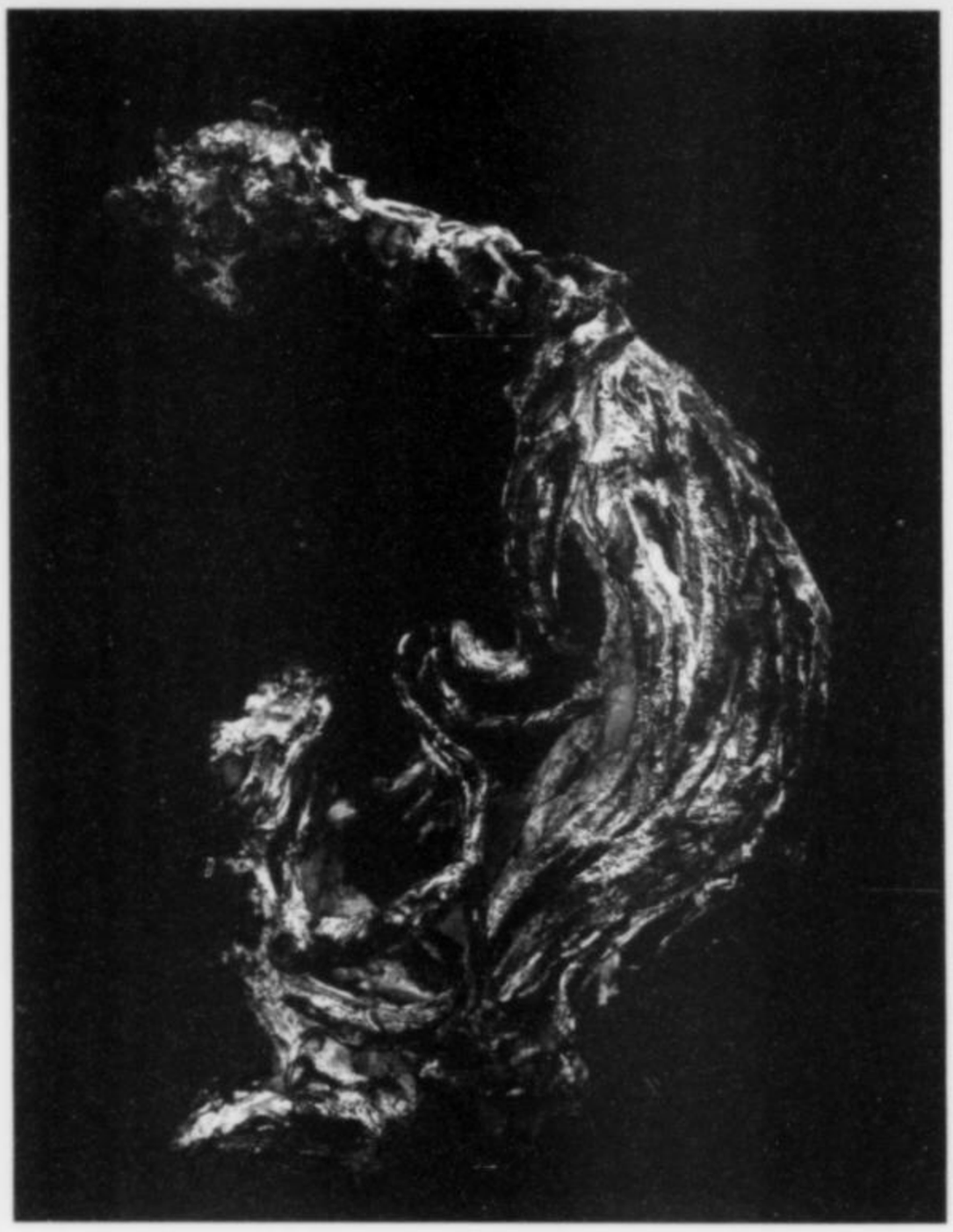
and Quartz, 9.1 cm, Mogok,
Sagaing District, Mandalay
Division, Myanmar (Burma).
Some of the finest topaz crystals have come from the mines in the Mogok Stone Tract in Burma, though in very small quantities, probably numbering less than 50 all together. These crystals are special because they have an internal brilliance often seen only from this location. It gives them a certain fire when moved in light that makes the piece come alive. Good Mogok specimens are usually just single crystals without matrix, but the completely gem-clear champagne-colored topaz shown here is perched on beautiful smoky quartz. Ex William Larson collection traded out by Daniel Trinchillo and Marcus Budil and then trimmed to current size; sold to Marc Weill in 2003.





Rutile

with Hematite, 36.2 cm, Novo Horizonte, Bahia, Brazil. The golden rutile crystals here have grown epitactically from the edge of black lustrous hematite crystals all over this specimen. If you examine this piece closely it looks as if someone took a handful of shooting stars and froze them in place. Both minerals sparkle with a brilliant metallic luster. This large (over 15 inches across) and spectacular piece is one of less than ten matrix specimens from this mine. Purchased at the mine for Marc Weill by Daniel Trinchillo in 2005.

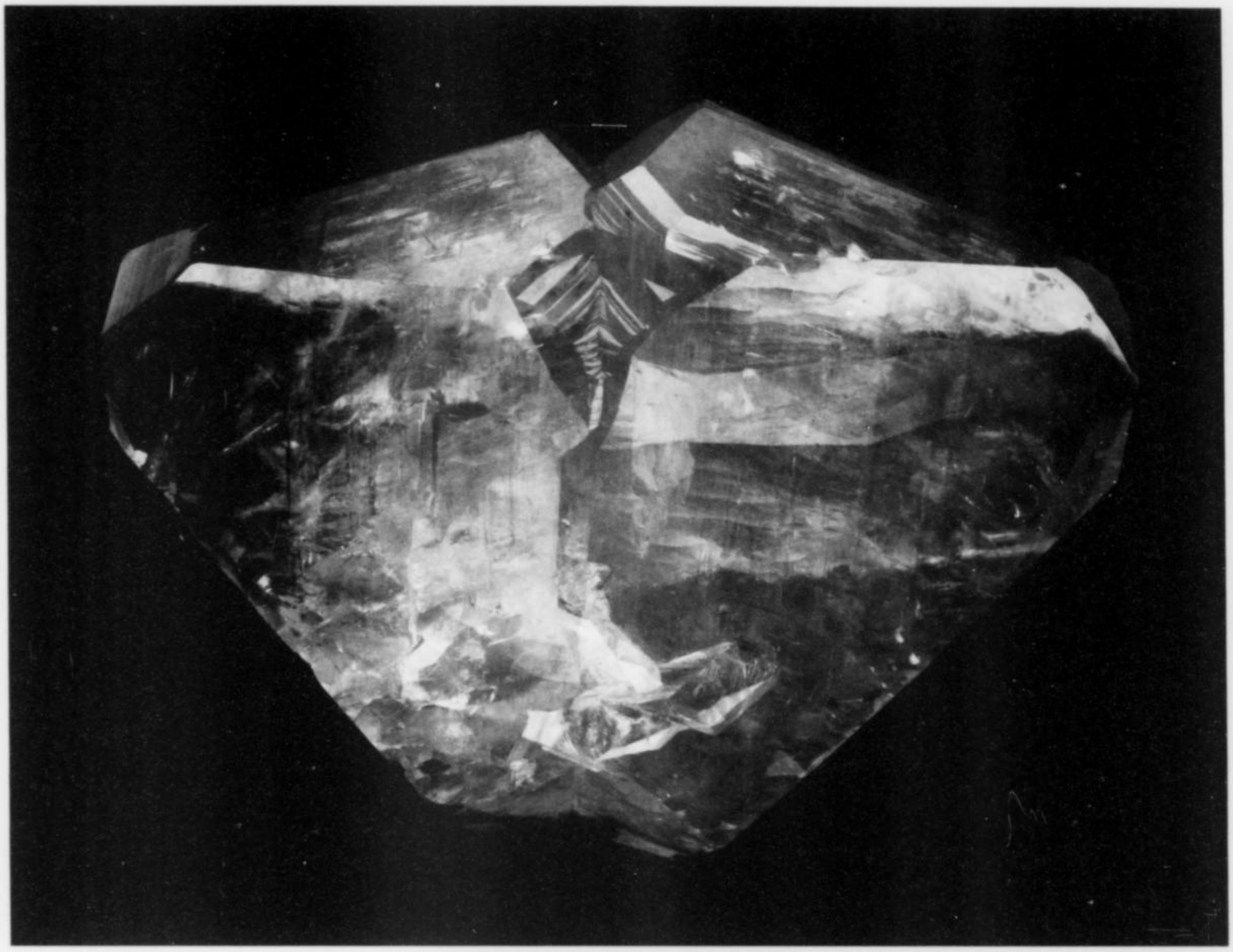


Silver

6 cm, Batopilas, Andres del Rio District, Municipio de Batopilas, Chihuahua, Mexico. Silver crystals showing a herringbone habit are the most common from the Batopilas area in Mexico. Remarkably, only three specimens of wire silver were ever recovered from this mine; this is one of them. The specimen has a lovely patina and sharply crystallized wires, more similar in appearance to the coveted silver specimens from Kongsberg, Norway.

Tanzanite

(Zoisite), 7.3 cm, from the Merelani Hills, Umba Valley, Lelatema Mountains, Arusha, Tanzania. Tanzanites were first found in Tanzania in 1967 and have since left their mark on both the gem and mineral specimen markets. Very few truly fine crystals of tanzanite survive as specimens because almost all are cut into gems. This specimen has a huge gemmy area that could yield a superb cut stone of over 100 carats. A gem tanzanite crystal like this one is something very few collectors will ever have the opportunity to own. Ex Irv Brown collection; purchased from Stuart Wilensky.

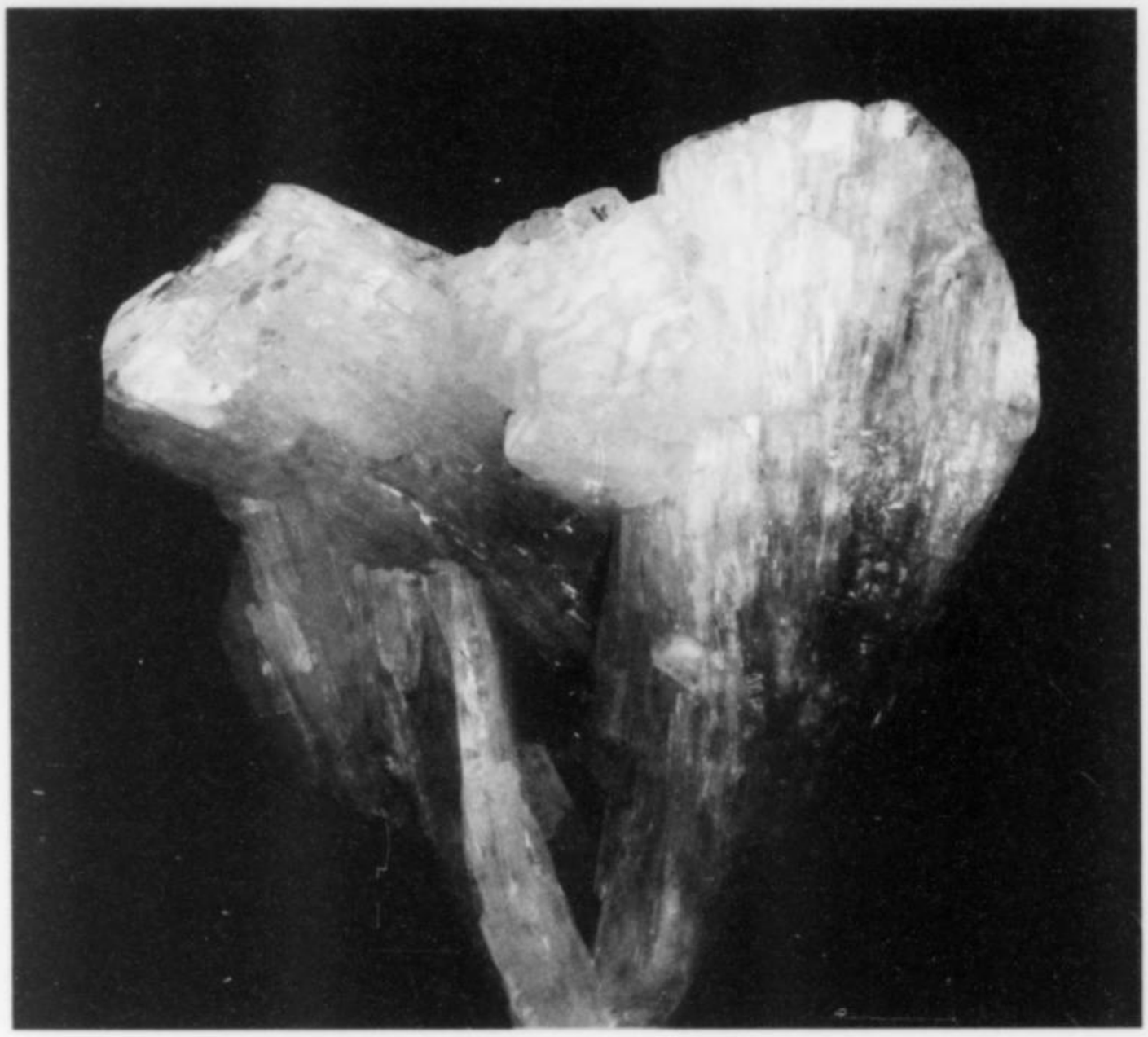


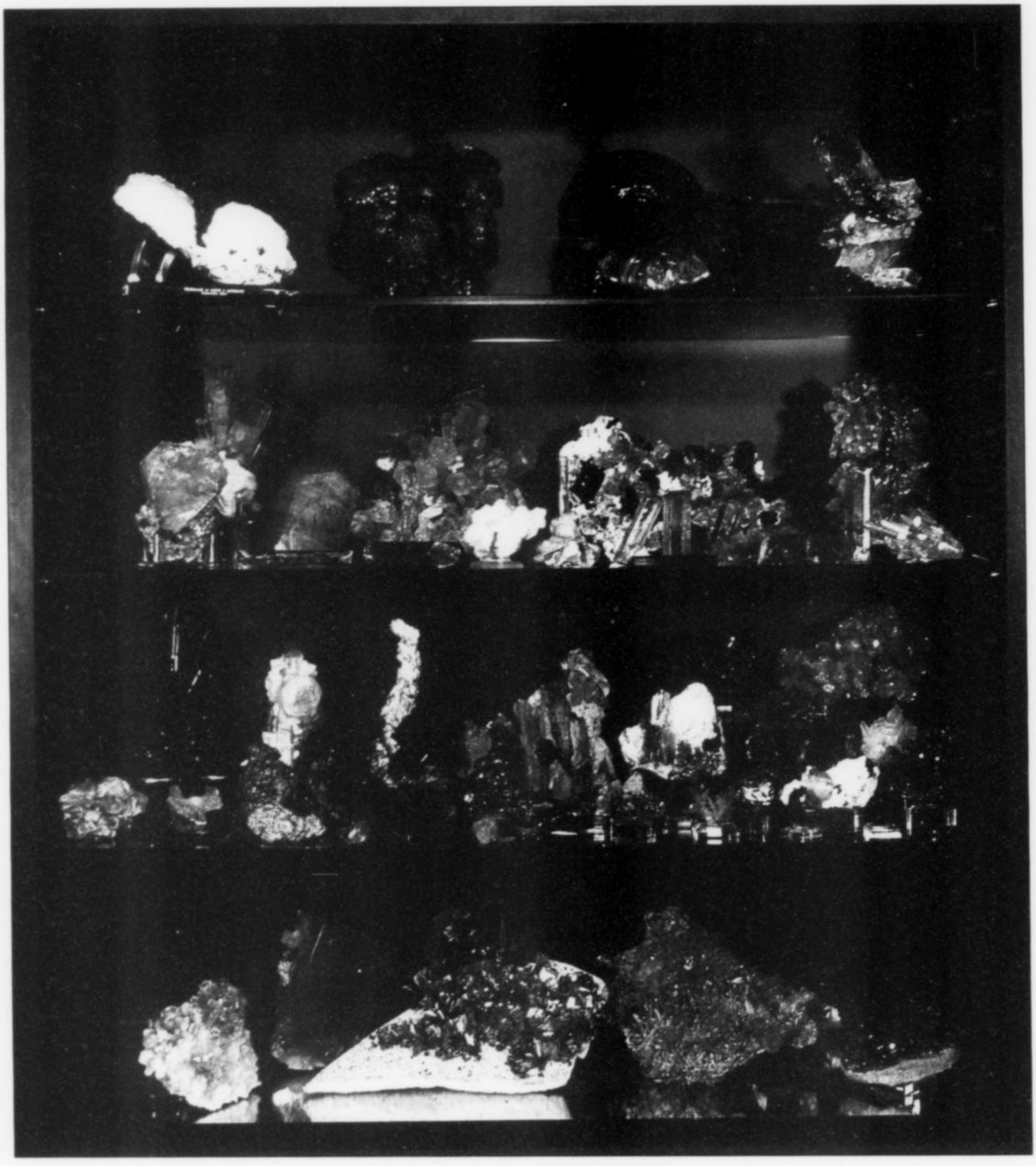
Calcite

17.5 cm, Dachang mine, Nandan County, Hechi Prefecture, Guangxi Province, China. At nearly 7 inches across, this is a spectacular "butterfly twin" of calcite equal to those from any other locality worldwide.

Kovdorskite

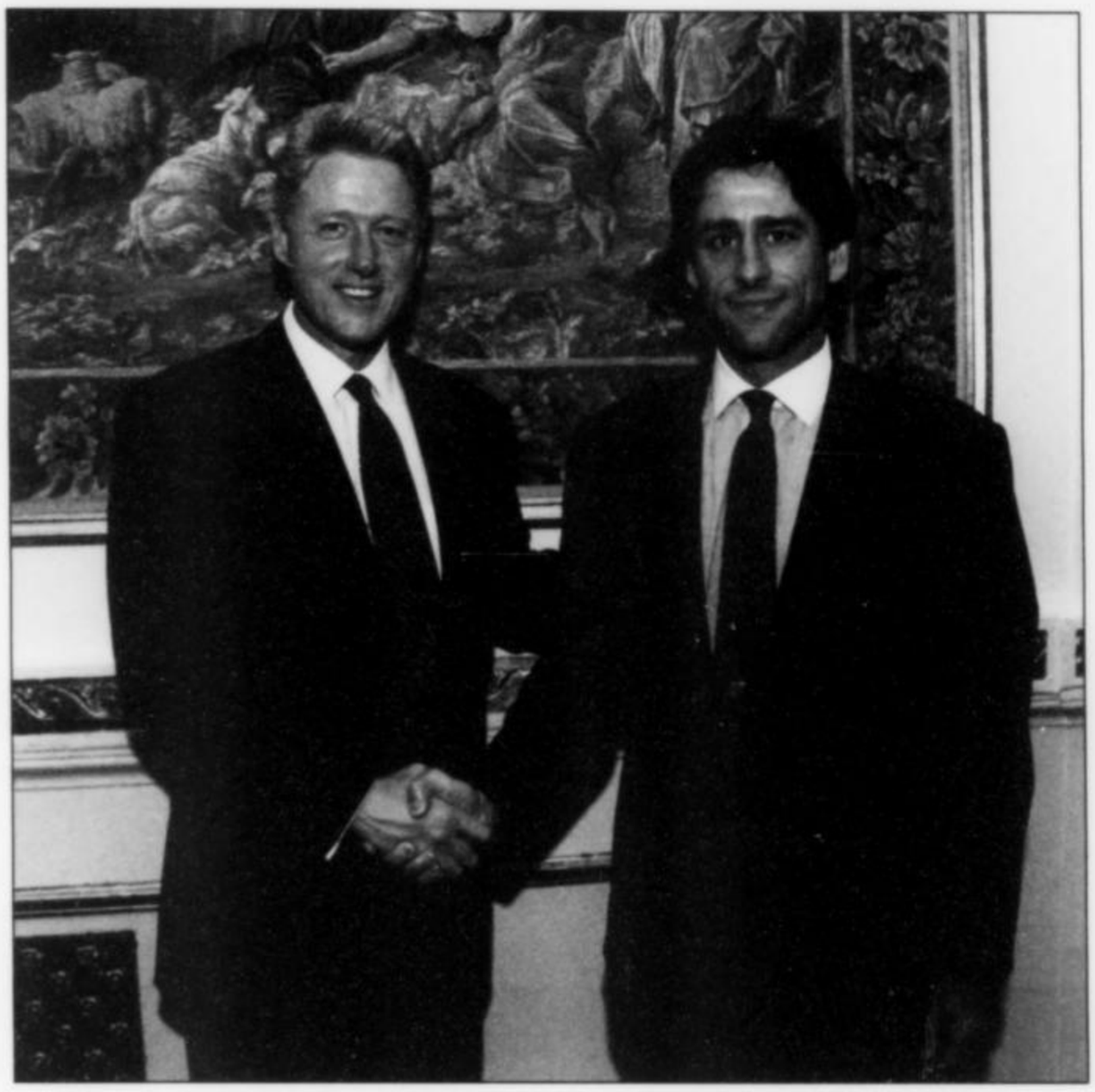
6.2 cm, Kovdor mine, Kovdor Massif, Kola Peninsula, Murmanskaja Oblast', Northern Region, Russia. Kovdorskite is a rare species found at only one locality in the world. It was discovered in 1969, in a rare type of rock called carbonatite. Only a handful of collectors in the world have a good example of kovdorskite; the one pictured here is the finest known example of the species. Ex Paul Stahl specimen.





Part of the Marc P. Weill Collection.

Biographical Notes



Marc P. Weill with President Bill Clinton

Marc P. Weill

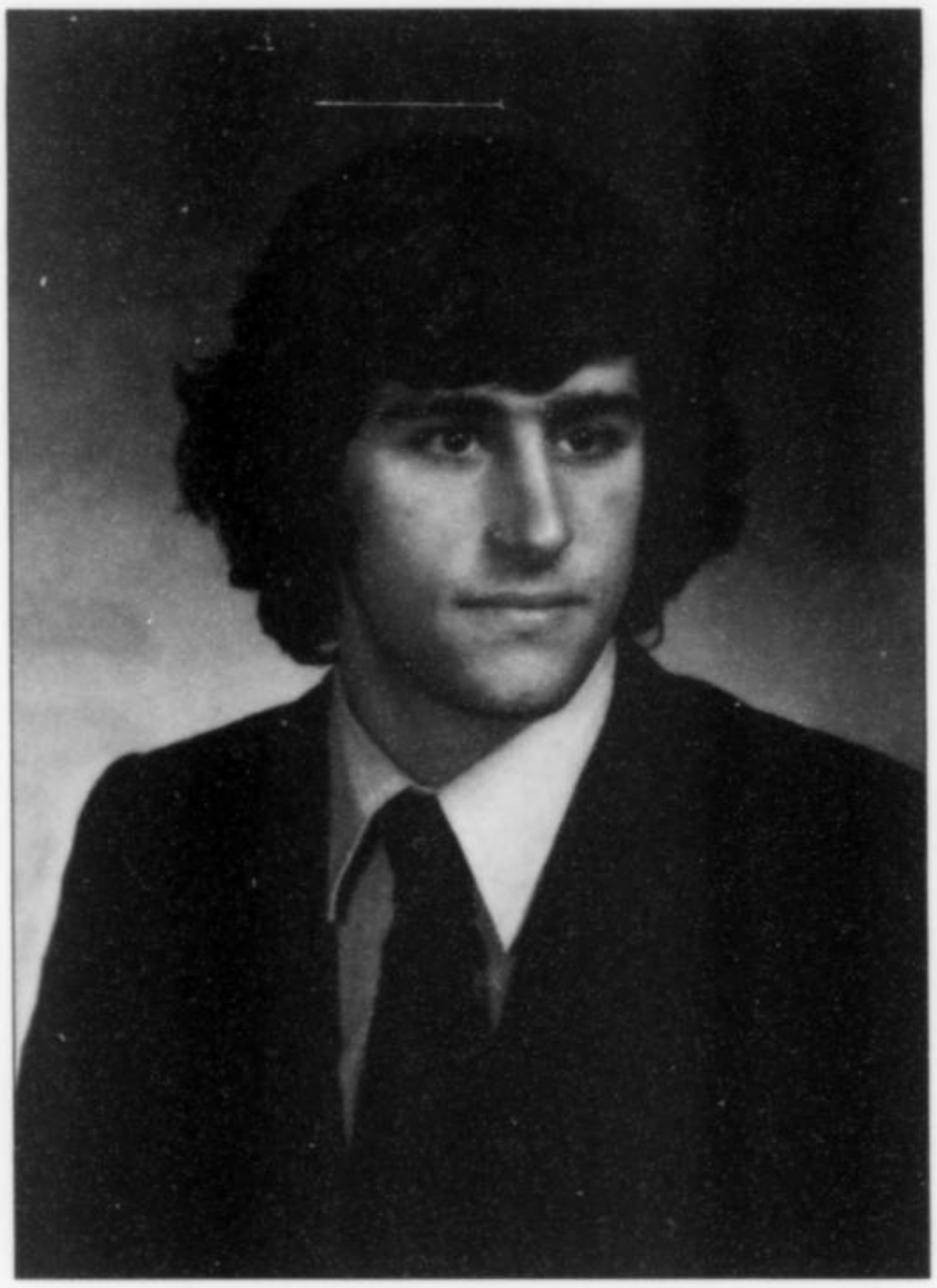
Marc Phillip Weill was born in Brooklyn, New York on September 2, 1956 to Joan (Mosher) and Sanford Weill—one of the most illustrious businessmen of our time. Beginning as a runner for the firm of Bear, Stearns & Company, a leading global investment banking, securities trading and brokerage firm, Sanford Weill eventually helped form the investment firm of Carter, Berlind, Potoma & Weill in 1960. Sanford Weill's strong ambition and genius in the area of mergers and acquisitions propelled him to stratospheric levels in the business world. Ultimately, he held the highest positions at firms like Shearson Lehman Brothers and American Express, and capped off his career as CEO of Citigroup before retiring in 2002. Marc Weill's mother, Joan Weill, was a school teacher before devoting all of her time to her family. Marc and his younger sister, Jessica, have both followed in their father's footsteps in business careers. Today, Sanford and Joan Weill dedicate most of their time to philanthropy and to their grandchildren.

From kindergarten through middle school, Marc Weill attended public schools in Long Island, New York. He was first exposed to the world of minerals during his elementary school years. At nine years old, he went on a field trip to a mine in Connecticut with his Cub Scout troop. The scouts were able to dig around in the dump of the mine, and Marc found a small piece of schorl, which he still has today. Although he no longer recalls the name of the mine, the experience left a lasting impression on him. A fellow Cub Scout and neighbor was also struck by the experience. The two boys began to scour the streets of Great Neck, Long Island, where they lived, for interesting rock samples.

Approximately a year later, just after Marc turned ten, a small mineral and lapidary shop opened in Great Neck across from the local train station; it was aptly named "The Mine." Marc visited the store and was awe-struck. He had never imagined that minerals could be so beautiful or that they could be cut and polished into so many different things. Most amazing of all, he realized that he could do it too! He was hooked! Though still just a boy, Marc worked during the summers at brokerage houses like CBWL-Hayden Stone, and Shearson, wherever his father happened to be working at the time, and used his earnings to buy lapidary equipment and mineral specimens. He began cutting and polishing everything he could get his hands on. Marc loved working with stones. When he was 12 he purchased a faceting machine with money he saved. He loved the idea that he might be able to take

the ordinary and create the extraordinary! But he soon learned that faceting stones looked much easier in a book than it was in practice.

Marc's interest in minerals and the lapidary arts remained strong through the age of 15. After middle school at Great Neck North, he went to Boston to attend high school at Milton Academy. In his sophomore year, his family moved to Manhattan and his parents set up a lapidary room for him in their new home. When Marc would return home during school breaks, he spent much of his time slicing and faceting in his lapidary room.



High School graduation picture, 1974

Although Marc was passionate about minerals and the lapidary arts, he was enrolled in many honors classes which consumed his time. By the time he graduated from Milton Academy in 1974, his mineralogical interests were in temporary hibernation, waiting quietly to be re-awakened. He enrolled in the Business and Economics program at Vanderbilt University. He considered changing his major to Geology after taking Vanderbilt's introductory course in Geology but the university did not have a strong Geology Department. Although he found the Geology course fascinating, he decided he was more interested in a business career. In 1978, he graduated with honors, and Columbia University's Business College to pursue his MBA in Finance and Economics. He graduated from Columbia University with an MBA in 1980.

Marc Weill and his sister Jessica have both achieved extremely successful business careers. Jessica Weill Bibliowicz is currently the Chairman of a prominent publicly-traded company. Marc Weill began in the management training program of Shearson Lehman Brothers and then moved on to several other firms. He became the Chief Investment Officer at Primerica, which later merged with Citigroup Inc. Then, he became the Chief Executive Officer of Citigroup Investments, Inc. and Chairman of Travelers Asset Management International Company, LLC (TAMIC). At Citigroup Investments, he managed a combined portfolio of more than $135 billion. At Travelers, he was responsible for Tribeca, a wholly-owned limited partnership that invested directly in convertible arbitrage and merger arbitrage investment strategies. He also served as a member of the Management Committee of Citigroup, Inc., the parent company of Citigroup Investments and TAMIC.

In 1986, Weill met his wife, Edye, and they were married in 1989. They had two children, Laurel and Matthew, during their marriage. The couple split amicably in 1997.

In 2000, Weill retired from Citigroup Investments to found his own company, City Light Capital. He is currently the Chairman of the venture capital company and spends most of his time developing its growth.

In late 2000, during the construction of his home in Greenwich, Connecticut, Weill's interior decorator suggested that he visit *Astro Gallery of Gems* in New York City to select some geodes or decorator-size crystal specimens to put around his swimming pool, which has a large boulder wall built into it. Taking this advice, he and his son Matthew made the trip to Manhattan to visit the gallery. Upon walking through the door and seeing all of the beautiful decorator and collector specimens, they were both brimming with excitement! Weill's dormant passion for minerals was suddenly revitalized, and they spent the next several hours browsing through the gallery and selecting pieces to ornament the landscaping around the pool. Returning home and still under the spell of his and Matthew's new-found enthusiasm, Weill went straight to his computer and began researching everything he could find on the Internet about mineral specimens, lapidary equipment and gemstone faceting. During the next few months, he became thoroughly engulfed in the hobby all over again!

Marc P. Weill (center) with sister Jessica Weill Bibliowicz and her husband (left) and his mother Joan, father Sanford, and grandmother (right).

Thanks to his successful business career, Weill was now able to afford equipment and mineral specimens that he could only have dreamt about in his youth. He purchased lapidary equipment, including a faceting machine, and he and his son began cutting and polishing everything they could find. His daughter, Laurel, became interested and began working with the lapidary equipment as well. Matt and Laurel began collecting mineral specimens and amassed small collections of their own. They even sold mineral specimens at their booth in the East Coast Gem & Mineral Show in Springfield, Massachusetts. In 2003, Marc Weill and both of his children took a family vacation to the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show. Matt and Laurel remained interested for a few years thereafter, until more popular teenage interests took hold. Who knows? Their attraction to minerals may re-emerge 30 years from now, as it did with their father, and they might suddenly find themselves interested in building a superb mineral collection. Only time will tell.

Their father, on the other hand, was back in the mineral world for good and thrilled to pursue mineral specimens all over again. From 2000 to around mid-2002, Weill purchased specimens exclusively from Internet-based mineral dealers. In the short span of a year and a half he acquired over 500 specimens, which he displayed in various places throughout his Greenwich home. As his collecting gained momentum, specimen prices began to rise accordingly. Weill decided he should get some professional advice on purchasing decisions. So he visited *Astro Gallery* again, only this time he asked to speak with the owner to discuss minerals. While he was waiting to be joined by Dennis and Marc Tanjeloff, owners of *Astro Gallery*, he browsed the mineral cases like a child in a toy shop. He liked seeing the minerals in person before buying them. While looking at some fine specimens on display, he realized that a substantial number of the pieces he had purchased via the Internet were not up to the level he probably should have been seeking. Then and there he decided that he was going to pursue mineral collecting with the same vigor and perseverance that had served him so well in his business career.

Dennis Tanjeloff, Marc Weill, and Daniel Trinchillo.

Marc Tanjeloff began to walk Weill around the store. Within 30 minutes, Weill invited him to visit his New York City apartment to see his recent Internet acquisitions. When they arrived at the large loft apartment, Tanjeloff was amazed to see a conference-size table covered with mineral specimens from one end to the other! It was obvious that Weill was serious about collecting, and that he needed some guidance. After returning to *Astro Gallery*, they were joined by Dennis Tanjeloff, and the three of them discussed mineral collecting for hours.

After that meeting, Weill began visiting *Astro Gallery* almost every day and purchased more and more specimens, both online and from the gallery. Weill always aspires to be unrivaled in whatever venture he pursues, and he applied this same mentality and energy to mineral collecting. Acquiring a complete set of the *Mineralogical Record*, he studied each issue carefully and began to learn the intricacies of the modern mineral market. It became increasingly apparent to him that the market was stratified into different levels, and that the very best examples of minerals were being traded in a quiet circle, one he wished to join. His new friends, Dennis and Marc Tanjeloff at *Astro Gallery*, realized that Weill wanted to build a truly elite collection. This was going to need specialized help, so in late 2002 they introduced him to their friend Daniel Trinchillo Jr., a mineral dealer known for acquiring specimens of the highest caliber. The four of them began a quest to help Weill succeed in building one of the finest private mineral collections ever assembled.

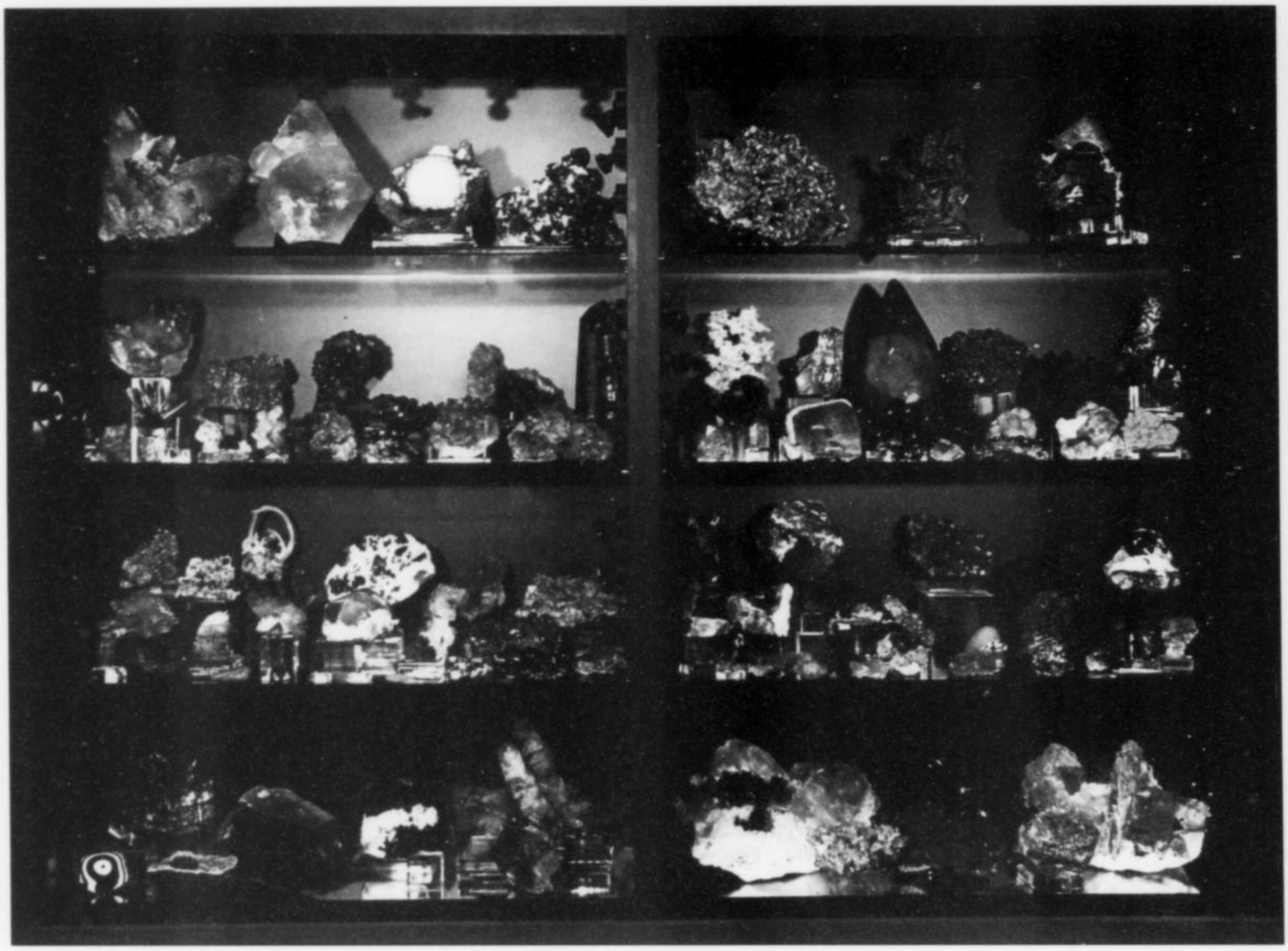
When Weill attended the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show for the first time in 2003 he was, of course, awe-struck. It was one of the most exciting experiences of his life; around every turn a new treasure was waiting. He has attended every Tucson Show since. Later that year, Weill and Daniel Trinchillo became partners in a mineral dealership called *Fine Minerals International*, and Weill began to see the mineral business from the inside. He gained a unique perspective by traveling with Daniel

Marc Weill's winning exhibit in the 2007 Desautels Trophy competition at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show.

to mines around the world and he learned how rare it is to find a truly superb mineral specimen. He often refers to them as "Mother Nature's works of art." With Dennis and Daniel's help, as well as help from many other dealers and collectors, Weill has been able to fulfill his dream of assembling one of the world's finest private mineral collections. Displayed prominently in his home in six enormous built-in wooden cases, the collection is striking to view in person.

Over the course of the past five years, Weill's mineral collection has undergone extensive refinement, fluctuating from as many as 2000 specimens down to as few as 200; today it numbers about 500 pieces. As his tastes have become more developed he has periodically sold specimens that do not match the level of his collecting goals. With the help and advice of Daniel Trinchillo, Weill has built something he is proud of and enjoys sharing with other serious collectors. He loves minerals and is passionate in their pursuit, as can be seen by the specimens pictured in this book. He appreciates not only the ultimate in quality and importance, but also the simple enjoyment of minerals themselves, and the nuances that can propel a common species like pyrite into the realm of the extraordinary. And when those common species reach that unusual level he enjoys them as much as his finest aquamarines. In his acquisitions, Weill abides by no size limitation, no locality preferences, and no other specialization or limiting factor other than quality and personal appeal. He has concentrated on acquiring specimens from unique new discoveries and "classics" from old collections that have come to market over the past seven years, through a small dealer network. Apart from Daniel Trinchillo and Dennis Tanjeloff, another mineral dealer, Dr. Robert Lavinsky, has helped Weill acquire many "classics" from the numerous collections he has handled over the past five years. Some of the other dealers who have assisted in procuring fine minerals for Weill are Herbert Obodda, Sandor Fuss, William Larson and Stuart Wilensky.

A collector's friends and supporters will naturally tell him that his collection is wonderful. But the real test of a collection comes when you publicly exhibit specimens and compete at the highest levels, with judges who are unbiased and authoritative. The ultimate venue for that is the annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, where in 2007 Weill was awarded the world's most prestigious recognition in



Part of the Marc P. Weill Collection.

the field of mineral collecting, the Paul Desautels Trophy. It is the highest honor a mineral collector can hope to achieve. He displayed a small grouping of his finest pieces and was rewarded with a great deal of personal satisfaction for a job well done. Weill is also a philanthropist, supporting the mineral world through considerable donations to the American Museum of Natural History, the Gemological Institute of America, the Seaman Mineral Museum, and Vanderbilt University.

Weill has many other interests besides minerals. He manages his capital investment firm, and enjoys radio-controlled helicopters and playing tennis. But other than the time he spends together with his family, nothing intrigues him more than a fine mineral specimen. Ask Marc what is next and he simply answers "stay tuned"; you never know what is on the horizon.

Daniel J. Trinchillo

With characteristic generosity, Marc Weill has requested that biographical notes be included for his two most frequent collaborators as well as for himself.

Daniel Joseph Trinchillo Jr. was born in Long Island, New York on July 23, 1973 to Camille (Natale) and Daniel Trinchillo Sr. The elder Daniel worked as a Production Manager for Edmund Mayer Meats, and later purchased a small trucking firm, Zole's Trucking Company, which he still operates today.

Daniel grew up in College Point, New York until the age of 12 when his family moved to Whitestone, New York. His interest in minerals and natural sciences began at the age of six or seven, when he would go into his neighbor's rock garden and select the oddest and strangest ones to take home. He then crushed them to powder with a hammer, collected the powder in test tubes and experimented on it with a chemistry kit he had received for his birthday. One day, he found a spaceship-shaped rock with flashes of what looked like metal and rubies (most likely muscovite and garnet). This piece was too special to go to the crusher, and so his mineral collection was born. Little did Daniel know this was also the beginning of his career!

Daniel spent his summers camping in the Catskill Mountains of New York, from ages two through 12 or so. In those years, he spent a lot of time exploring the woods around his campground and collecting all kinds of things, including birds' nests, insects, snakes and rocks. Every year his parents would take the family to the Orange County Fair in upstate New York. One year there was a vendor selling decorator mineral specimens as gift items. He had a chunk of deep purple amethyst from Uruguay or Brazil that Daniel was desperate to have. To his delight, his mother bought it for him—another addition to his small but growing mineral collection.

Daniel had several interests that were natural history oriented. Mineralogy became the one he was most passionate about, but entomology and herpetology were also serious pursuits throughout his adolescence. At one point he was breeding rare snake species at home and was selling the broods for a profit; he had over nine breeding pairs. He also had a large cage in his backyard where he raised caterpillars into moths and butterflies. But minerals were always his main focus. His elementary school took several class trips to the American Museum of Natural History and he was mesmerized by the Mineral Hall.

When Daniel was 13 the metaphysical movement was in full bloom, and Daniel's mother took an interest. So the family took a road trip to New Jersey in search of crystals—a trip that changed all of their lives forever. They visited the "Jim's Gems" shop in Wayne, New Jersey, operated by Jim and Candice Kaufman. Jim was a mineral dealer and lapidary artist who created some incredible intarsia work; some of his pieces sold for over six figures in 1988. Daniel and his parents were astounded to learn that mineral specimens like they had seen in displays at the American Museum could actually

Daniel Trinchillo (age 19) with his parents at his mineral booth at the New York Armory Show in 1992.

be purchased! That day Daniel's father bought nearly 200 specimens, beginning a mineral collection that ultimately grew to over 4,000 specimens.

On Jim's recommendation they attended the New Jersey Earth Science Association Gem and Mineral Show the following weekend. It was the first of what seemed like thousands of shows to come. Nearly every weekend, from the age of 14 through 18, Daniel traveled with his parents to some show or to see the collection of someone they had met at a show. They also field collected, traveling to localities such as Herkimer, New York to hunt for "Herkimer Diamonds," to the New Street quarry in New Jersey for zeolites, and even to the old Franklin mine, in New Jersey (where they had to sneak in). On their first visit to Herkimer, Daniel and his parents unearthed their first pocket of Herkimer diamonds at the Ace of Diamonds mine. It was a mud-filled pocket full of crystals, and seeing the stones just sitting there was like seeing lightning in a bottle.

Daniel's father purchased seven full-vision display cases for his mineral collection and lined the basement walls of their home with them. Daniel and his father spent the next ten years accumulating specimens. It turned out Daniel had a great eye for specimen aesthetics and with constant exposure it developed rapidly. While his father was building an impressive collection with the help of various dealers, Daniel was befriended by the dealers as well. Everyone seemed to like him and readily offered up advice and information. Daniel absorbed it all like a sponge. His father began to display his minerals in show exhibits all over the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut area, and truly enjoyed the excitement of finding a great specimen for a good price at a show. He was a great negotiator, and constantly shocked his son with the "what do you think I paid for this?" question.

Daniel went to high school at Bayside High in Bayside, New York. After graduation in 1991 he enrolled at Pace University in New York City, where he lived on campus. At 19 years old Daniel was still very interested in minerals, but never thought of it as a potential profession. At this time the former Soviet Union was under reform and Mikhail Gorbachev's *perestroika* economic restructuring program was well under way. The former Soviet Union was beginning to open its doors. Dalnegorsk fluorites were all the craze at the time, and increasingly fine examples were appearing at mineral shows. Daniel's father had been running ads in the classified sections of several magazines including the *Lapidary Journal*, and he received an answer from a Russian named Rouslan Adamovsky. Rouslan visited Daniel's father at his trucking warehouse in College Point, and claimed that with some

financial backing he could get great mineral specimens from Russia. Though he knew nothing about him, Daniel Sr. gave Rouslan $10,000 and told him to bring back the best specimens he could find of any minerals, especially fluorites. Upon Rouslan's return over a month later, Daniel learned two important things about him. First, that he was trustworthy (Rouslan had not even left his telephone number with Daniel Sr., and could easily have disappeared with the money), and second, that he knew nothing about minerals. So he told Rouslan, "I need to introduce you to my son."

A week later, Daniel pulled up to his home on a new motorcycle (purchased against his father's wishes), and saw his father waiting outside with some people. His father said, "I have a few things to tell you: first get rid of the motorcycle or I will break your legs." And "this is Rouslan; you and he are going to Russia to buy minerals on your next break." Two months later, Daniel and Rouslan were on an Aeroflot flight direct to Moscow, and the motorcycle was long gone. This first trip, at the end of 1991, was the first of over 70 such trips in seven years. Daniel and Rouslan purchased some of the finest minerals ever to come out of the former Soviet Union. He then decided to participate as a parking lot tail-gate dealer in his first mineral show: the 1992 New Jersey Earth Science Show in Franklin. The show was a huge success for him, and he sold almost every specimen he had brought back from Russia, making enough profit in the process to be able to afford another buying trip. It occurred to him that being a mineral dealer might be fun and lucrative. Over the following two years, Daniel continued to make as many trips as he could during school breaks, long weekends and whenever circumstances allowed. Together Daniel, his father and Rouslan established a fledgeling mineral business they called DeTrin Fine Minerals, Inc.

Over the next two years, it became increasingly apparent that Daniel could make a successful career out of dealing in minerals. Gradually, his original plan to earn a degree in Business Management with a joint Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in Corporate Law faded away, and at 21 he ended his academic career just shy of obtaining his bachelor's degree.

Over the course of doing business in Russia, Daniel's eyes were awakened to a world he never could have imagined. Russia, at that time, was like the Wild West but with 21st-century technology. In 1994, Daniel and Rouslan saw that entrepreneurship was exploding in the new Russian economy and they began to establish new businesses of their own there, from supplying containers of chicken leg quarters (at the time Russia was the largest importer of chicken in the world, most of which came from the United States), to opening a fast food franchise, to becoming a credit card provider, to establishing a taxi cab company, "Concord Unlimited," in Moscow. By mid-1994 they had 15 cars driving the streets of Moscow. The company grew rapidly, to the point where Rouslan lost all interest in mineral dealing. But that was not a problem for Daniel, who by that time had become fluent in Russian and had plenty of well-established contacts for specimens. He continued to help manage the growing taxi business while also buying and selling minerals.

By the end of 1996, Concord Unlimited had five partners and over 500 cars on the street. Business was great, almost all profits were being rolled back into the developing company, and the possibilities for continued growth seemed endless. The company employed a managerial staff

Part of Daniel Trinchillo's fleet of taxi cabs in Moscow, 1996

Daniel Trinchillo (right) with sister Danae and cousin John Trinchillo

of over 50 people supervising nearly 2,000 drivers. Sadly, in August of 1998 an economic crisis hit Russia, and the taxi company threatened to become unprofitable. Daniel's passion was dealing in minerals anyway, so in 1999 he left the company to Rouslan and the other partners and has not set foot in Russia since then. Although Russia still holds a special place in his heart, his main reason for not returning is simply that the minerals stopped coming out. In the early days, Russian minerals in endless quantities seemed everywhere, but what no one understood at the time was that those minerals were not all coming from active mines. Because of the lack of a market economy in Communist Russia, specimens gathered by collectors and miners had been accumulating in large stockpiles for many years. With the coming of *perestroika* the flood gates opened, but the old stockpiles were soon exhausted and after 1997, finding good minerals to buy in Russia became extremely difficult. Not only did you have to travel to Moscow, but you also had to go to many distant Russian cities where no foreigners had ever visited. Daniel spent many a night sleeping in trains, on floors, with no heat in freezing temperatures in Siberia, and with no food, all for the thrill of chasing fine minerals!

It was clearly time to find another source of mineral specimens, and after Daniel's first trip to China in 1994 he realized that China was his next area of concentration. He began making frequent trips to China, and found minerals there to be readily available and still affordable (as opposed to Russia where the prices had skyrocketed). If you knew where to look, had some money and some luck and could tolerate adventures along the way, incredible specimens could be found. In all he has made over 50 buying trips to China.

Of course, the easy pickings in China lasted for only a few short years. Soon enough the Chinese, who are natural entrepreneurs, began coming to American and European shows as dealers themselves, as the Russian dealers had done in the years before. Competition became fierce in all aspects of the business. In order to gain an advantage over other dealers, Daniel traveled where few others were willing to go at the drop of a hat. It was quite common for him to get a call in the morning and be on a plane that night, to some remote part of the world. Russia led to China, China to Colombia for emeralds, then on to Pakistan, Tanzania, Brazil and so on and on. Daniel went anywhere in the world where great minerals were to be had or mineral shows were taking place.

Daniel first started participating as a dealer in local shows in the New York-New Jersey area, but soon learned about the famous Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. In 1993, he became involved for the first time—though he didn't actually attend personally. He was still in college and could not afford

to skip classes, so he asked his mother, Camille, and his Russian friend, Rouslan, to attend the show as dealers on his behalf. They loaded up a van and made the four-day drive to Tucson. When they arrived, they figured they would go to the show, get a space, then find a local hotel room and set up shop. Much to their surprise, that was not how Tucson worked. The hotels were nearly all filled and table space at the Main Show was unavailable. They finally got a selling room at the Desert Inn, once the main focus of mineral dealing. But by then Marty Zinn's show at the Best Western Executive Inn had stolen the thunder from the increasingly dilapidated and poorly managed Desert Inn, and the show there was just a shadow of its former self. But Rouslan and Camille did their best and were able to reserve a room at the Executive Inn for the following year. In 1994, Daniel attended the Tucson Show himself for the first time and was overwhelmed. Since that time, Tucson has become a pilgrimage for Daniel, and he never misses the show, often spending well over a month in Tucson.

In 1999, Daniel was introduced to Marcus Budil, a German dealer, at the Munich show, and the two formed an alliance shortly thereafter. They worked on all projects together and became partners in almost every aspect of their businesses. Together they collaborated in obtaining specimens in China, Colombia and throughout the world; their good working relationship continues to this day. From 1999 thru 2006, Daniel's cousin, John Trinchillo, was their right-hand man. John proved to be a quick study with a knack for understanding fine minerals which made him essential in the company's growth

In 2001, Daniel and Marcus purchased a home on Granada Avenue in downtown Tucson directly adjacent to Marty Zinn's Arizona Mineral and Fossil Show at the InnSuites. Every year since then, they have operated their own small show from the house, filling the ground-floor rooms with showcases and offering some of the finest minerals from around the world to collectors who come to sunny Arizona for the show.

In 2002, Daniel and Marc Weill were introduced by Dennis Tanjeloff. Marc's newly awakened passion for minerals and Daniel's ability to acquire fine specimens, made a partnership inevitable. Daniel and Marc started *Fine Minerals International* and have successfully run the company together ever since.

Display of minerals by Daniel Trinchillo and Marcus Budil at the 2001 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. The following year Daniel won the Desautels Trophy with a similar display.

Daniel and his partner, Marcus Budil, are zealous collectors as well as dealers. Specimens from their collections were exhibited together at the Tucson Show in 2001. In 2002, Daniel won the prestigious Desautels Award for his competitive exhibit of specimens. Daniel appreciates all types of minerals, from the common specimens to those at the pinnacle of quality and aesthetics. He strives mostly to find things that his customers will be proud to show to their collecting colleagues. His favorite locality is Dalnegorsk in Russia because of the affinity he has for Russia and the fond memories he has of his early years collecting and dealing there.

Daniel has owned and operated several mines around the globe. From merely financing a mining project, to crawling through tight spaces with dynamite and hand tools himself, he has tried his hand at all aspects of specimen mining, always chasing that feeling he had when he lifted the rock with his parents in Herkimer, New York and saw the crystals lying there, never before seen by

anyone. His mining projects for mineral specimens have ranged from unsuccessful to moderately profitable—with the exception of his involvement with the Pederneira mine in Minas Gerais, Brazil, which has proven to be one of the most successful ventures in the world for producing fine tourmaline mineral specimens.

Today, Daniel is well known in the mineral community for supplying some of the finest worldwide mineral specimens, with a distinct concentration on those coming from Russia, China, Brazil and Africa. He continues to operate *Fine Minerals International* and to travel the world on the hunt for the finest mineral specimens being found. Daniel has been fortunate enough to turn his childhood hobby into a career that allows him to pursue his passion for minerals full time.

Five years ago he met his wife, Marisa Chung, and together they have had two children. Ever since the Forbes article on "Rare Minerals" was published in November 2006, Marisa often refers to Daniel as her "Indiana Jones" since he frequently travels the world in search of treasures. Being a father is the one thing he enjoys more than his passion for mineral specimens. For Daniel, spending time with his family is like finding the Jonas tourmaline pocket every day.

Countless dealers and collectors have spent time and energy helping Daniel to develop his understanding of minerals and cultivate his appreciation for them. Some of them were integral at various times in his career. He offers his thanks to the entire mineral community, from collectors to dealers to clients and friends, to partners and family members. Thank you. And a very special thanks must go to his parents, who have always been there helping and pushing him through. He could never have been as successful as he is today without their support.

Dennis Tanjeloff

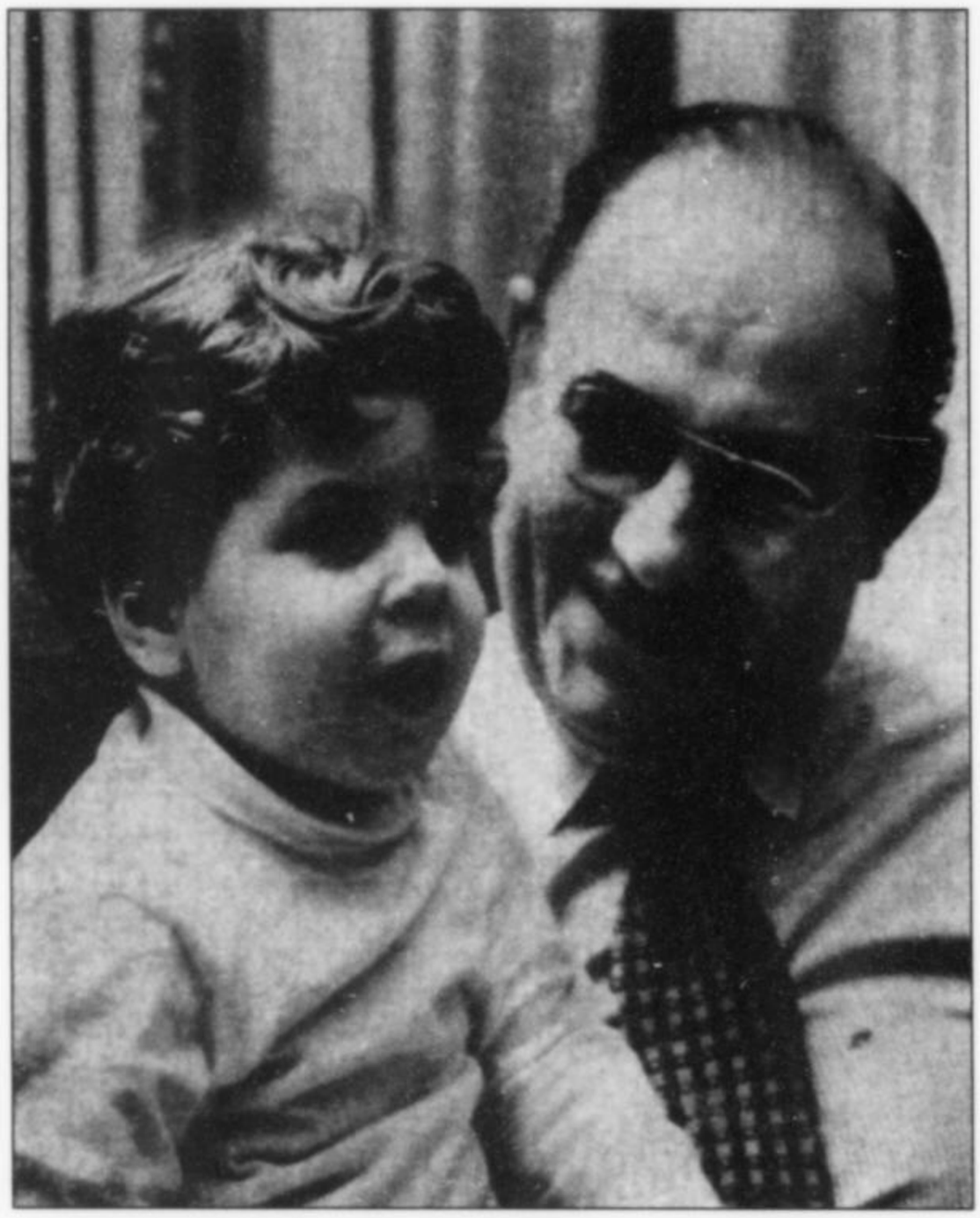
Dennis Tanjeloff was born in New York City on December 27, 1967, the son of Edgar Tanjeloff (born in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1941) and grandson of the legendary Julio Tanjeloff (1916–1988). Julio, an Argentinian dynamo, had earned a law degree from the Universidad Nacional de Litoral in Santa Fe, Argentina. However, he went instead into the construction business in Buenos Aires, and made nearly $10 million, eventually owning several mines (including the Catamarca rhodochrosite mine) and nearly a million acres of ranch land. When the Peron regime began to expropriate some of his properties he emigrated to the U.S. with his family in 1961 and immediately began studying the mineral specimen market. In 1963 he opened the spectacular *Astro Gallery of Gems and Minerals* in New York City, an operation which grew into a stunningly lavish 16,000-square-foot establishment that drew mineral collectors, gem collectors, interior decorators, architects and designers. In 1970 he began publishing *Mineral Digest* to promote minerals and his business. Though *Mineral Digest* ran for only eight widely spaced issues it still ranks as the most extravagant mineral periodical of all time.

Around 1967, gem-grade blue zoisite was discovered in Tanzania, and Julio was apparently the first person to bring a crystal into the United States. In a famous dispute, he marketed it as "tanjeloffite" in his retail stores, while Tiffany & Company independently marketed it as "tanzanite." The latter name stuck.

By 1976 Julio had engineered an empire of over 20 Astro Gallery retail outlets in various department stores across the country, and also acquired other retail stores outright, including Georg Jensen boutiques, Cartier Wholesale Division, Mark Cross Ltd. Wholesale division, Kosta Boda art glass, Rosenthal Studio-Haus giftware shops, Klein's department store and Blum's department store. The Astro Galleries sold decorator minerals and gems, while the other stores he owned sold sterling silverware and table top china, with over 400 employees and $35 million in annual sales. He also operated Tanjeloff Ltd., for exploration, mining and distribution of mineral specimens and gems.

Dennis Tanjeloff was introduced to the world of gems and minerals at the age of four by his grandfather, and as a young boy he traveled with him to over 30 countries around the world buying and selling minerals, gems, fossils and related objects of art for the company. They also visited many exhibitions and retail stores operated by Astro Minerals Ltd. in order to check on operations. Dennis's passion for minerals accelerated during his teen years; he knew that he wanted to follow in his father's and grandfather's footsteps and one day join the family business.

Beginning at the age of 13 Dennis worked summers and on weekends throughout high school and college at the family gallery, learning all aspects of the business and absorbing as much knowledge as he could from the 40 years' worth of experience his family had accumulated in the mineral world.



Dennis Tanjeloff with his grandfather, Julio Tanjeloff, in a 1972 *New York Times* ad for *Mineral Digest.*

Dennis Tanjeloff with his father, Edgar Tanjeloff, as pictured in a 1990 *New York Newsday* article, "Older Than Dirt; Fossils Become Fashion."

He enrolled at Adelphi University, but in his second year there Julio Tanjeloff passed away of a sudden heart attack, and Dennis left college to help run the family business with his father.

In 1987 Dennis took his first solo trip to the Torino, Italy mineral show to purchase minerals, followed by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show in 1988. Since then he has not missed a single Tucson Show, and travels throughout the world on buying trips.

In 1990, *Astro Gallery of Gems* moved to spacious new headquarters at 185 Madison Avenue in New York City, where they still bill themselves as "World's Largest Gallery of Gems and Minerals." Dennis and his father also built a retail mineral exhibit in the Bloomingdale's headquarters in

Part of the Astro Gallery of Gems showroom in 1996.

New York City, which remained in place for three years until Bloomingdale's underwent a change in ownership.

Dennis succeeded his father as President of the company in 1996 and has been running all aspects of the operation since then. In 1998 Dennis launched an Internet sales program through an Ebay portal (as "mtmineral"), and through a direct website, which today sells over 600 specimens every month. That same year Marc Tanjeloff, Dennis's youngest brother (born in 1978), joined Dennis in the family business and has worked his way up to being in charge of retail and purchasing operations for *Astro Gallery of Gems.*

Over the years Dennis and Marc have acquired many fine mineral specimens which have found homes in many of the top private collections of our time. In 2001 Dennis met Marc P. Weill at *Astro Gallery of Gems*; over the last seven years Dennis has had the honor of helping and advising Weill in his acquisitions, and has also served as private curator of Weill's amazing collection.

Dennis's passion for minerals extends much deeper than just the retail and wholesale aspects of the business. He is a collector himself, and his knowledge of minerals has helped him build a personal collection of fine worldwide minerals currently numbering over 400 specimens which he keeps on display in his home.

Dennis and his wife Margery married in 1999 and have four children: Chloe, Galena, Nicholas and Matthew.

Part of the Marc P. Weill Collection.

Acknowledgments

Marc would like to thank all the people who have helped, advised and supported him in his pursuit of building a world-class collection. A very special "thank you" goes to Daniel Trinchillo and Dennis Tanjeloff for their invaluable advice and for repeatedly going beyond the call of duty. To name a few:

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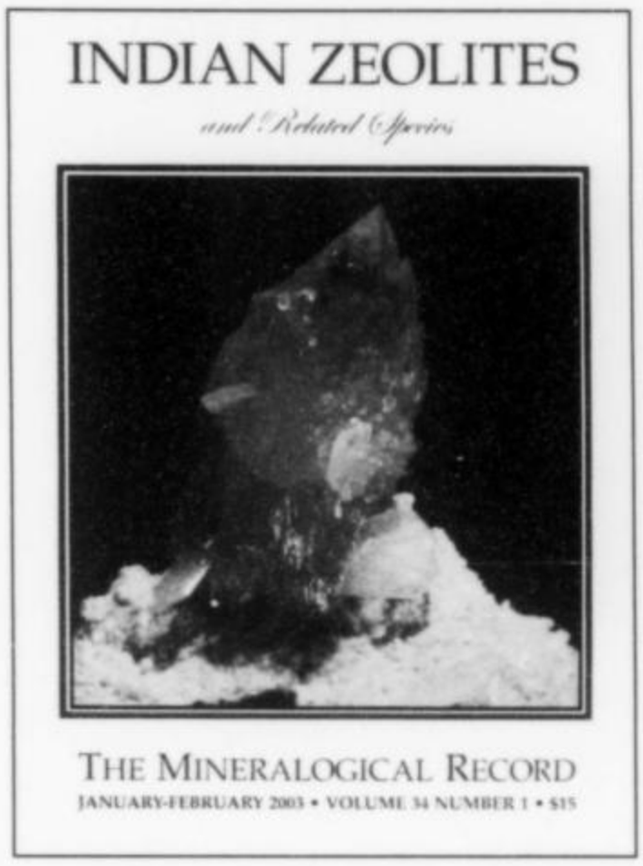
Dennis Tanjeloff
Mark Tanjeloff
Junio Wilson Tomich
Daniel Trinchillo
John Trinchillo
Markus Walter
Sanford and Joan Weill
Matthew Weill
Laurel Weill
Stuart Wilensky

And to all the countless miners around the world who spend their time underground preserving the beauty of minerals . . .

Thank You



Learn More . . .

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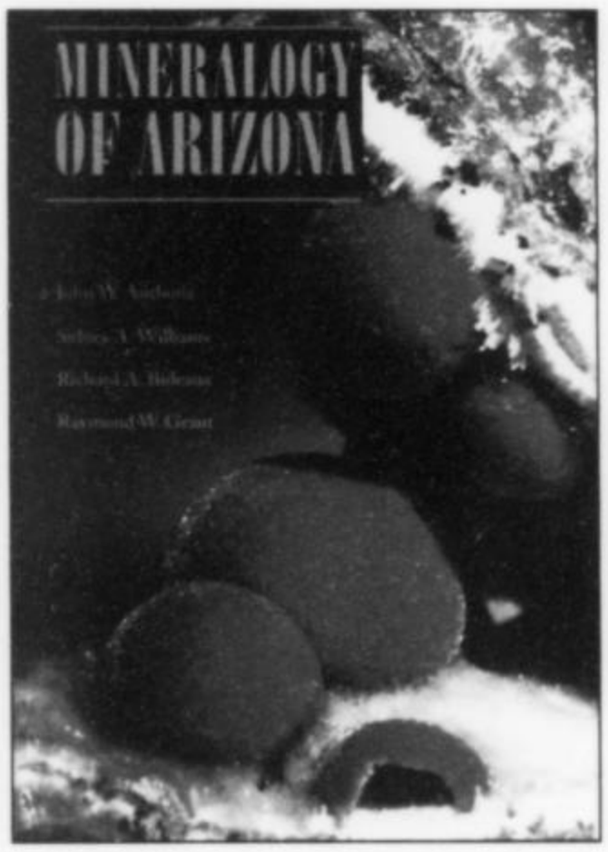

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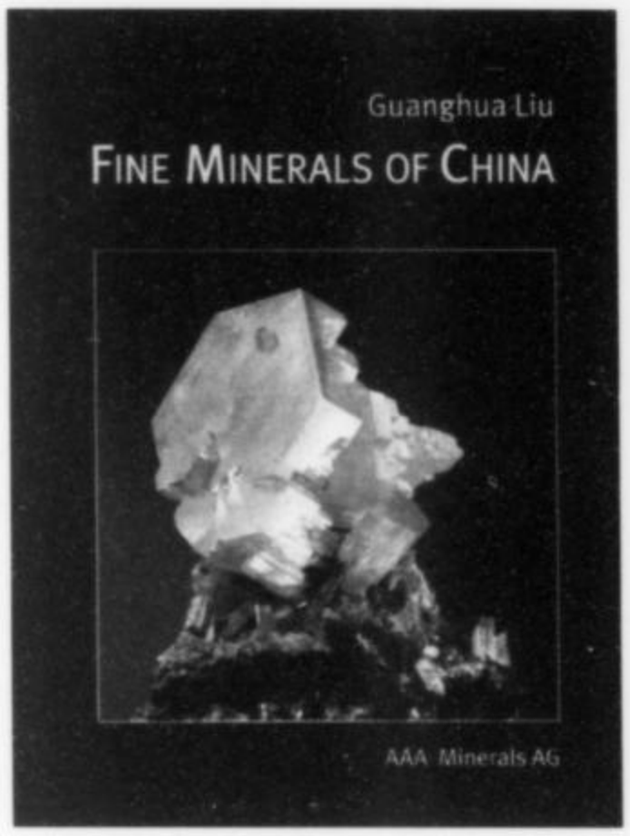

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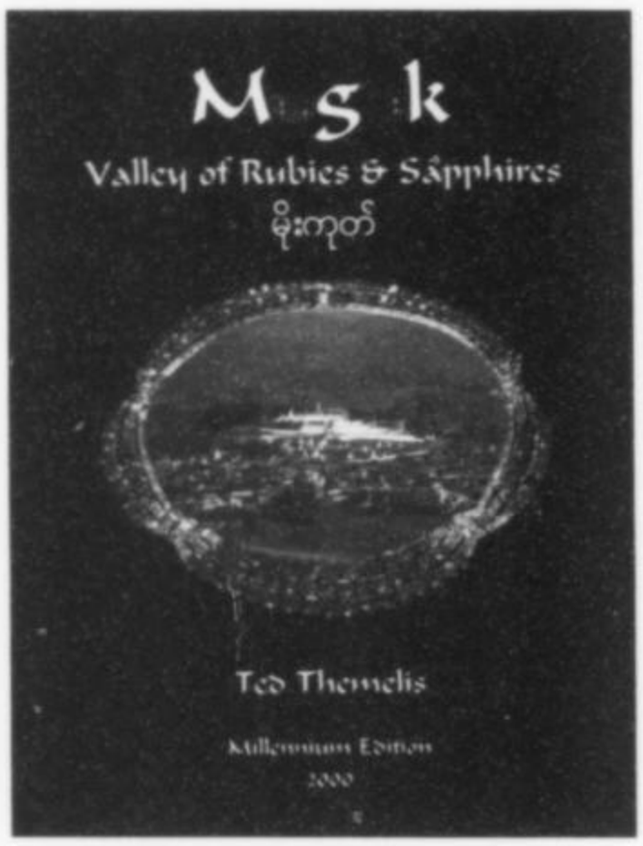

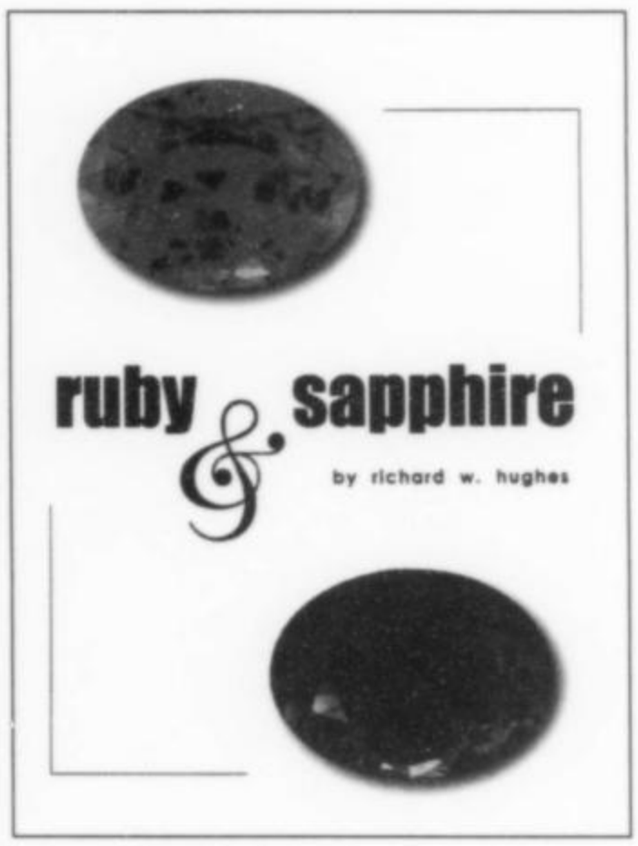

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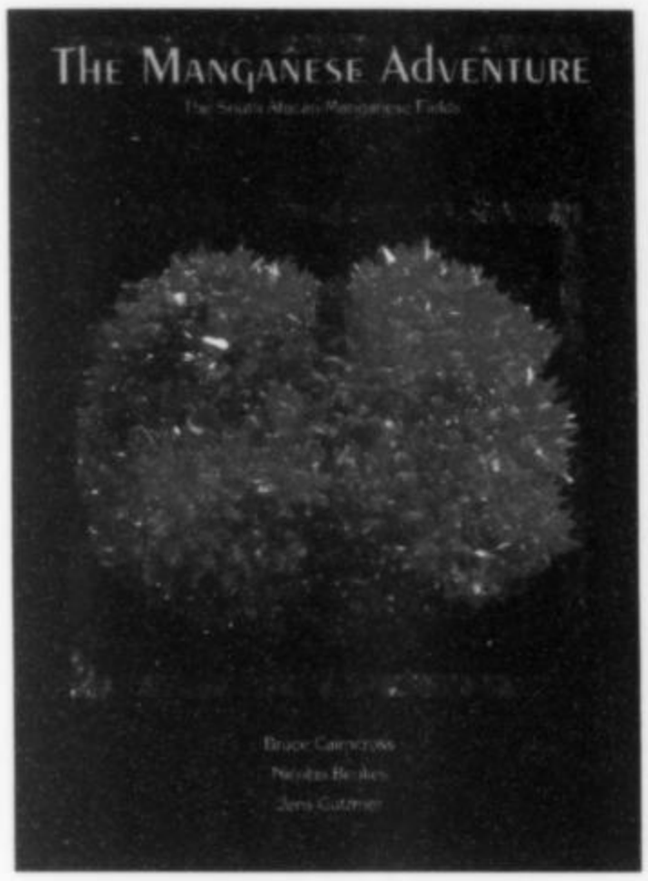

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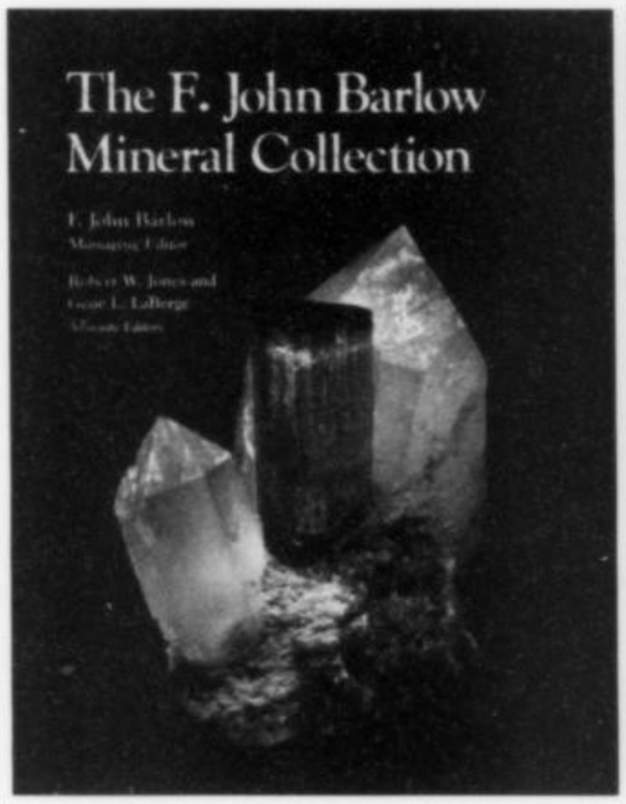

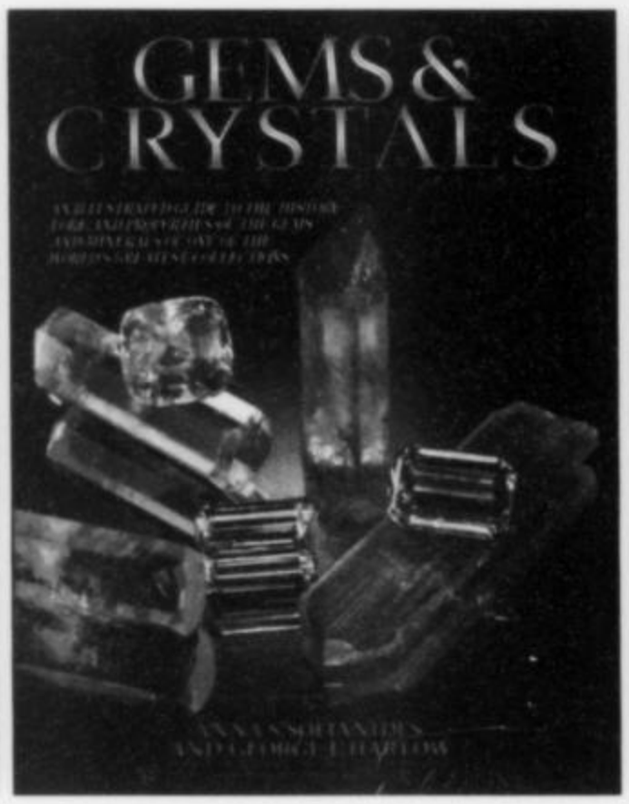

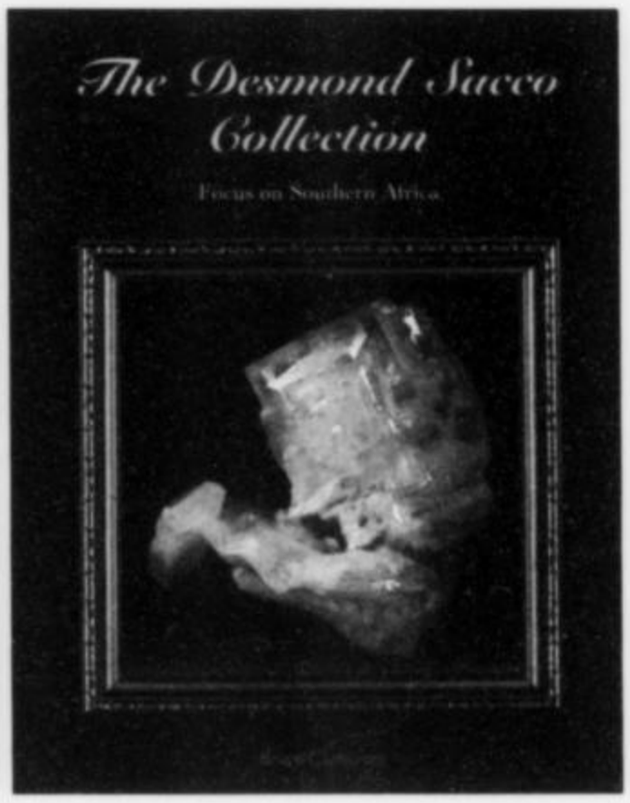

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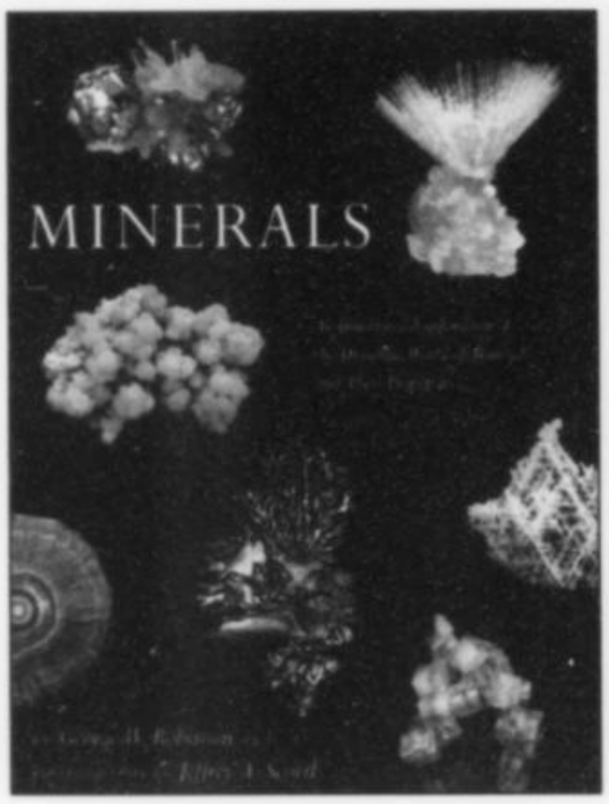

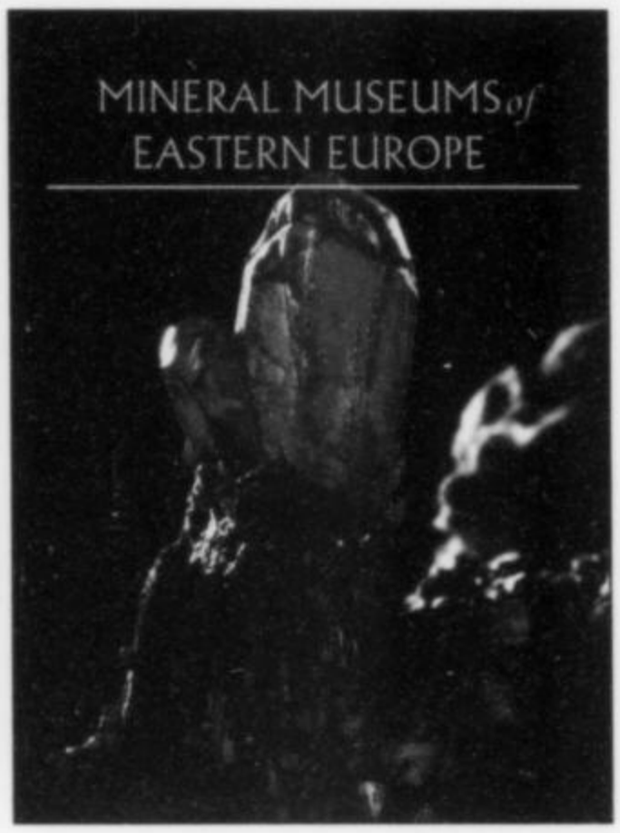

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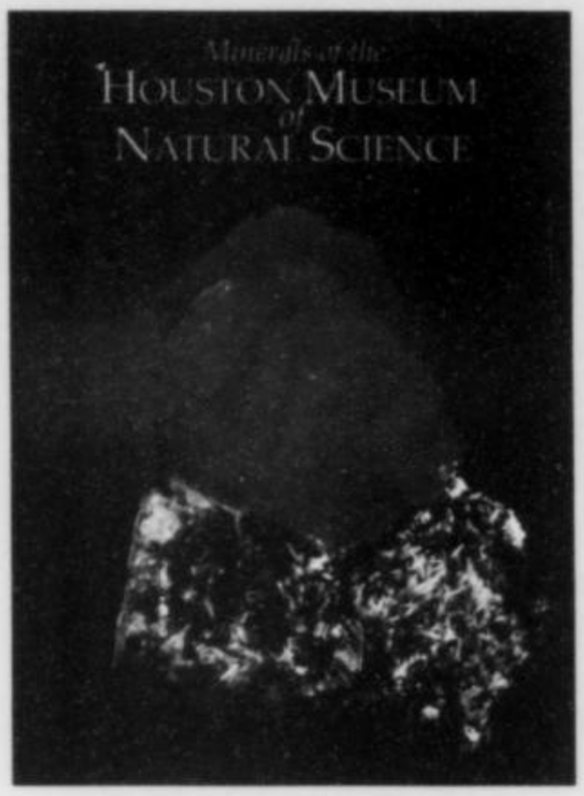

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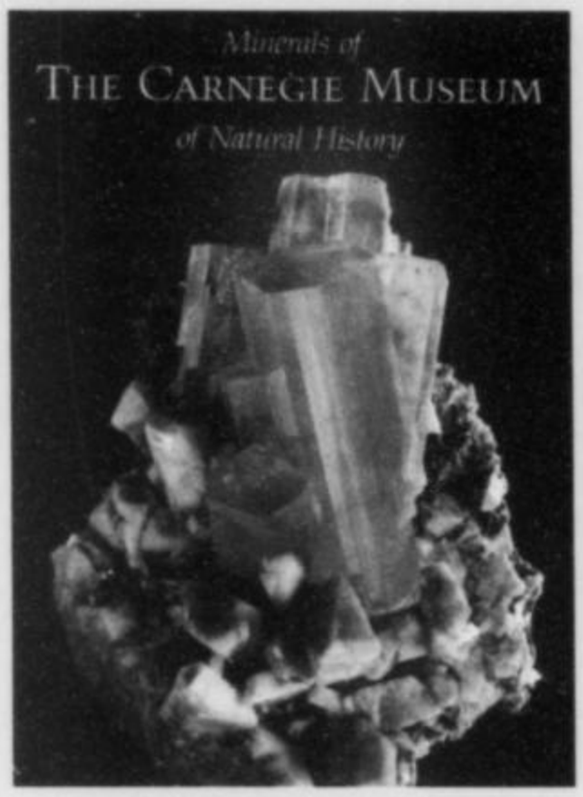

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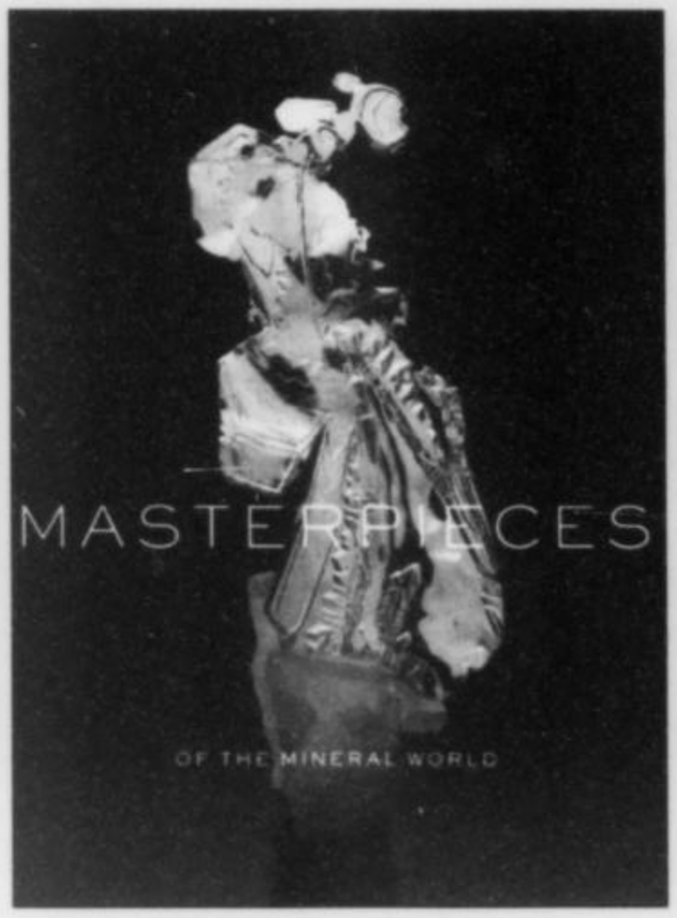

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