

CRYSTRAL MUSEUM



International Mining Investors Conference
Konferenca ndërkombëtare e investorëve për miniera

MEM

MINISTRIA E ENERGJISË DHE MINIERAVE
MINISTARTSYO ENERGIJE I RUDARSTVA
MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINING

Ministry of Energy and Mining – Kosovo Government

Mining Department

TREPÇA

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INTRODUCTION

Deposits of lead, zinc and silver in Kosovo have been known from the ancient times. This is proven by many found works of ore such as galleria, wells, smelting remnants and many working tools used in different times for utilization of these minerals. A part of these are active even today (Stantërgu, Kizhnica, Artana, Hajvalia, etc.) and their activity is undertaken within the Trepca Complex.

The lead, zinc and silver deposit "Trepça" in Stantërg is one of the most attractive and known deposits in the world, because of diversity, size and beauty of crystals discovered so far in this deposit.

Crystals discovered in the deposit have been collected by the staff and engineers, and in 1964, a Museum of Crystals of Trepca was established. In the beginning, the number of samples was modest, but in mere time, this Museum was widely known in the world.

Trepca Crystals are still exposed in many famous world museums, and they take an important place as valuable exemplary. But today, the Trepca Crystal Museum, despite possessing over 1500 samples of beautiful crystals, is in a rather difficult situation, without any defined status, funding nor adequate maintenance.

Aiming to raise awareness on the very difficult condition of the Museum, the Department of Mining within the MEM, following talks with the representatives of Trepca and the Museum, had established a working group, which in cooperation with the Museum guide would engage in cleaning, picturing crystals, and prepare a promotional book for informing and raising awareness of the wide public and potential donors on the wealth and value this Museum has, and the difficult condition of the Museum. Also, in cooperation with the Trepca management, the Government and the KTA we have to define the status of the Museum into a National Museum.

The Working Group

Following talks and discussions by MEM/Department of Mining and Trepça and Museum representatives, the stance taken was to initiate the work in informing the wide local and international public on assistance required for the Trepça Crystal Museum in Stantërg.

For this reason, a working group was established with members from the Department of Mining and Museum representatives.



Members of this Working group were:

Dukagjin Shala, Skender Sallahi (who took photographs of crystals), Vjollca Meha.

Contribution was also provided by:

Lorik Haxhiu, Shaip Blakqori, Sylejman Bejta, Ismet Shala, Rinol Nishevci, Vehbi Duraku and Sherif Begu. In the beginning, it must be stated that the working conditions within the Museum were tough, without any heating or water.

On 06.11.2006 the Group begun its work in cleaning and photographing crystals.



The first stage of the works (cleaning and photographing) concluded on 15.12.2006. In this period, a total of 1560 crystals, 12 old means and tools of work, and 4 maps were photographed and registered.

Following cleaning and photographing of crystals, registration by numbers took place. All these data were reprinted

and were submitted to the Museum guide to verify.

History

In the Illyrian and Roman times, in the Middle Ages, and later, many deposits in Janjeva, Kishnica and Artana, as well as other parts of Kosovo, had been exploited for lead, zinc, gold and silver. This is proven by numerous discoveries of melted metals, old works and many primitive working tools.

Trepça (Trebza) is mentioned in the literature for the first time in 1303, although known even earlier. This document is located in the Dubrovnik's Archive.

The mining went through a speedy development in the 13th century in Kosovo, with the coming of Sas, a people which even at that time had laws and rules on extraction of ground assets.

Since 1455, these mineral deposits have been under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. The first complex geological surveys came in 1924, when the English geologists begun a geological prospecting of the Stanterg ore field. Following positive results of these surveys, in 1926, a limited liability association called "Trepca Mines Limited" was established in London, in 1926, which was awarded the concession of utilization of this deposit for 50 years.

IN 1930, the probation production started. During the World War Two, Germans held the Stanterg Trepca mine into operation, but only with reduced production capacities. Since 1945, the mine has consistently been in operation, until 1990, at the capacity of 600.000 tons per year.

Kosovar lead-zinc mines in use were: "Trepça" in Stantërg, Crnac, Belo Bërdo, Koporiq and Zhuta Përlina -Albanik (Leposaviq), Kizhnicë, Hajvali, Badovc and Prroi i Ngjyrosur (Kishnica-Artana Complex).

Researched deposits, which are ready for opening and utilization are: Zjaça, Melenica, Mazhiqi (Stantërg), Prroi i Thartë and Badovc-Gnilicë (Kizhnicë), Çuka e Batllavës (Podujevë) and Plakaonica dhe Kallugjer (Albanik)

The lead-zinc ore in Kosovo is used for industrial purposes since 1930, when the "Trepca" Mine utilization in Stanterg begun.

Since 1930 until 2000, the Kosovar mines have produced 61.750.000 t ore or 3.045.404 tons of Pb, 2.230.167 tons of Zn, 5.538,134 kg. Ag.

The current situation in the Museum

One of the priority tasks of the Working Group was to assess the current situation of the "Trepça" Crystal Museum in Stantërg.

Following the visits to the museum, it was concluded that the physical condition of the museum is very difficult.

The Museum building is at the stage of total destruction. Firstly, the roof is damaged, and due to that, in each precipitation, there are leaks in many parts of the museum.

The walls and the ceiling are damaged, the façade and plaster in many places are damaged, and drops fall on the crystals, which are laying down on the floor.

The Museum does not have any water supply, heating is damaged and does not work. There are no ventilation or climatization systems. Electrical lighting is inappropriate, and is already damaged. The windows of the building are damaged and unsafe.



The crystals are placed almost one on top of the other in existing showcases, and a large number of these showcases are damaged and pose risk of total destruction.

Too large a number of crystals is laying on the floor or the window, without any protection from the dust, humidity or physical

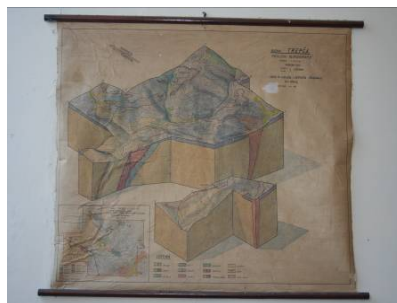
destruction.



Due to these reasons, a considerable number of crystals has been damaged, clefted, dusted, and especially the pyrrhotite crystals, which in the Stanterg mine are found in large and attractive crystals, have almost been squandered totally, and it is difficult to move them.



For this reason, a certain number of damaged crystals has been photographed in their own positions. Apart from the crystals, humidity in the Museum has damaged the old maps, and the few ancient working tools and means discovered in the mines of the past.



Suggestions of the working group

Following a considerable engagement, and concluding on a much degraded Museum building and many damaged crystals in the Museum, the Working Group suggests undertaking these measures:

- An analysis of the total cost of renovation of the Museum Building should be made, including all necessary parameters for a modern museum, or see possibilities of transferring the Museum to a more appropriate location and venue;
- As soon as possible, find means for protecting and securing crystals against further deterioration;
- In cooperation with the Trepca Management, the Government and the KTA, define the Status of the Museum as a National Museum;
- Inform the wide public on the values of the museum;
- Draft a regulation on the activities, operation and funding of the Museum;
- Information and awareness-raising of domestic and international institutions on the difficult condition of the Museum;
- Prepare a catalogue of museum-pieces in the Museum;
- Publish a brochure on the "Trepca Crystal Museum in Stanterg". This shall be a promotional publication, including pictures of crystals in the Museum.

Publication of the brochure, inviting all stakeholders who can provide assistance and financial support for the capital overhaul of the object, the exterior and the surroundings of the Museum.

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