

Scalsi, P., and Cook, D., 1983. *Classic Mineral Localities of the World: Asia and Australia*. Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York. xvii + 226 pp., 155 figs., 59 photos, 27 maps. Price £25.10.

This is the first volume in a series which will eventually cover Europe, Africa, North and South America. A concise overview of the classical localities for finely crystalline minerals has been the authors' aim.

They have consulted many of the classic works and a most interesting historical review of mining activity is provided for many localities. The text generally gives the detailed localities for the mines and a brief description of the geology. The crystals are often described in detail, including maximum sizes found. In many cases lists are given of

museums exhibiting specimens and holding fine suites. However, in some instances important works have not been to hand and an example is the monograph on the Geology and Gemstones of the Mogok Stone Tract of Burma by L. N. A. Iyer (1953) which does not appear in the bibliography. Extensive use has been made of the fine crystal drawings from V. Goldschmidt's *Atlas der Krystallformen* and these comprise most of the 155 figures which often include up to twelve separate examples. The photographs have, of necessity, been drawn from earlier literature and the standard of reproduction leaves something to be desired in many instances. The maps are very useful. This volume (with its bibliographies) is a very useful compilation of classic mineral localities, but is expensive at £25.

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