

Abstract Submission

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Mineralogy and Museums

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Two exceptional historic specimens of the Florence University Museum, recently restored

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Abstract Content: During a mining campaign carried out in September 1881 in the famous Grotta d'Oggi mine in san Piero in Campo (Elba Island, Italy), hygiene professor Giorgio Roster (1843-1927) from Florence, together with his friend and partner of excavations Bista Toscanelli (1855-1882) and the famous miner Luigi Celleri (1828-1900), discovered perhaps the largest and most beautiful crystallized cavity of tourmalines and pegmatite minerals ever found on the Island of Elba. In his manuscripts, Giorgio Roster reported that on the quartz and feldspar druse that covered the cavity, there were hundreds of green polychrome tourmalines with a yellow head and dozens of pale pink colored beryl crystals, with minor crystals of zircon and cassiterite. Among others, 2 spectacular specimens were extracted, one measuring 30 x 18 cm, with 50 tourmaline crystals up to 6.2 cm long and two beryls and the other measuring 40 x 20 x 10 cm, with 132 crystals of tourmaline up to 5.5 cm in length and 9 beryls. Photographs of the two samples were added to their descriptions in Roster's manuscripts. Detailed drawings of the two samples were then published in 1882 by the engineer Arnaldo Corsi in the Florentine journal "Giornale del Naturalista". At the beginning of 1882 the two samples were sold for the then considerable sum of 2,600 liras at the Museum of the University of Florence, where they have been kept to this day representing probably the most valuable specimens of the collections (Inv. # E4970 and E4973). Recently, the Museum, thanks to a collaboration with the specialized company MCP, carried out the cleaning and complete restoration of the specimens, for their next exposure in the Specola exhibition.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared