

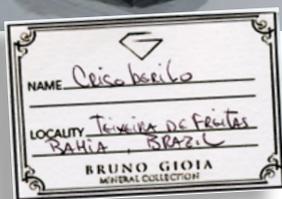


BRUNO GIOIA

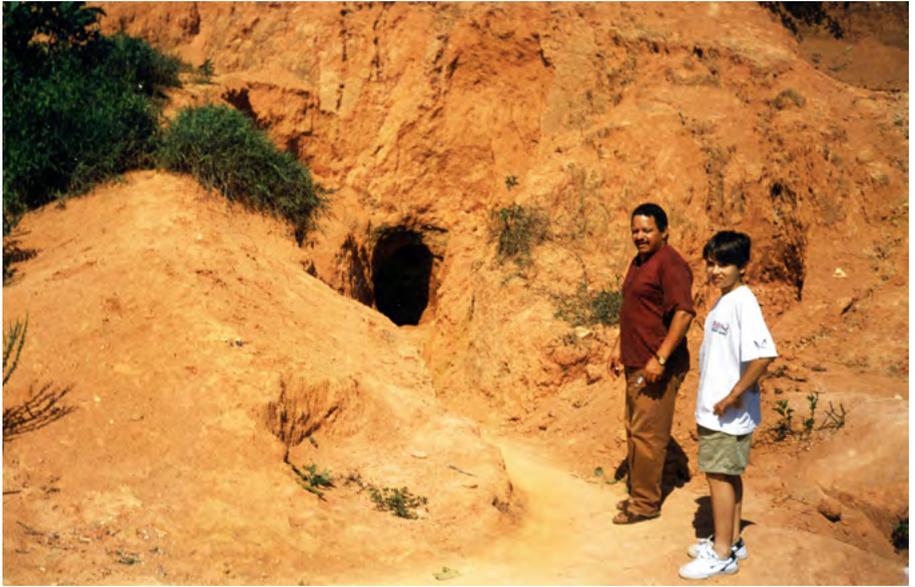
My first contact with stones was through my father's collection. Seeing his pieces organized in boxes that were the result of his travels when he went out looking for samples, which he would clean and pack on weekends. My father, Rolando Gioia, began collecting at childhood when a neighbor gifted him a beautiful amethyst that enchanted him. Later, when he was 16, he met Luiz Menezes, then just 12 years old, who went to the same school and shared his love for minerals. Luiz, along with his father, organized weekend and holiday excursions to places of mineralogical interest (such as Poços de Caldas) to gather specimens.

In 1997, when I was 12, he decided to take me to Teófilo Otoni, in Minas Gerais. There he bought a small set of tumbled chrysoberyl, among which he pointed out a little star or twinned crystal. Upon seeing such preciousness I felt something inside me stir, and I became interested in well-formed minerals with unique terminations or habits.

We started traveling twice a year to find minerals, in January and July, coinciding with school vacation. When



Bruno Gioia at the age of 12, in 1997, visiting an aquamarine mine in Padre Paraíso, Minas Gerais.



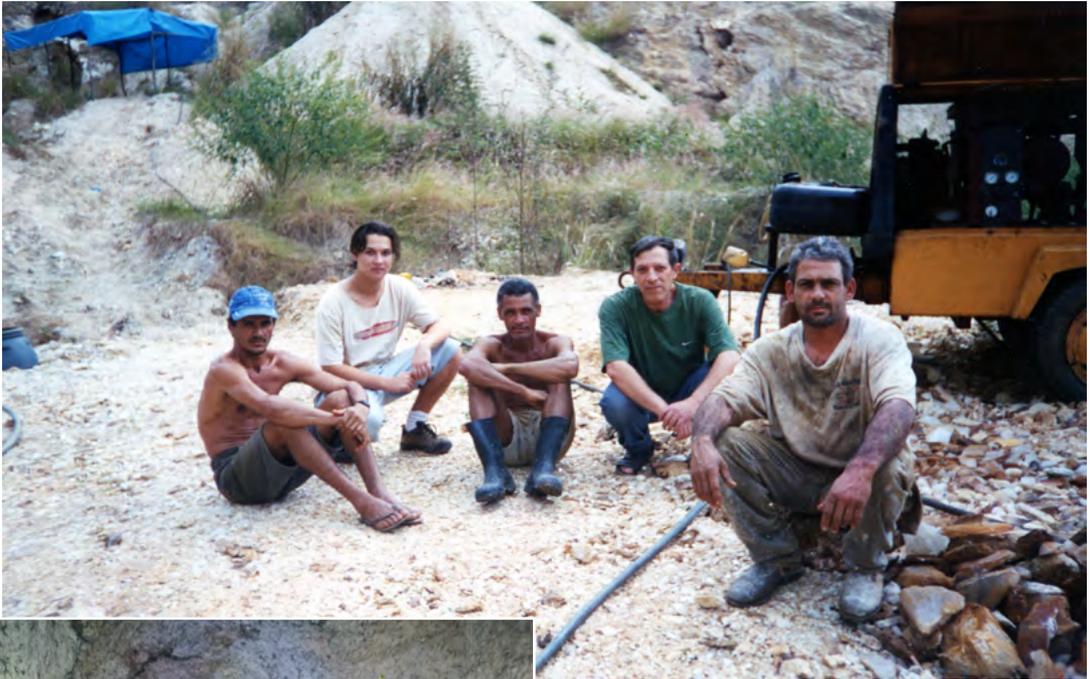
The famous mineral miner and trader Zé da Estrada, alongside Rolando and Bruno Gioia, in Araçuaí, Minas Gerais, in 2000.

I was 13, my father began correspondence with collectors he found through magazines and began trading minerals to expand his collection, which soon extended to foreign collectors over the internet, trading with various personalities in mineralogy.

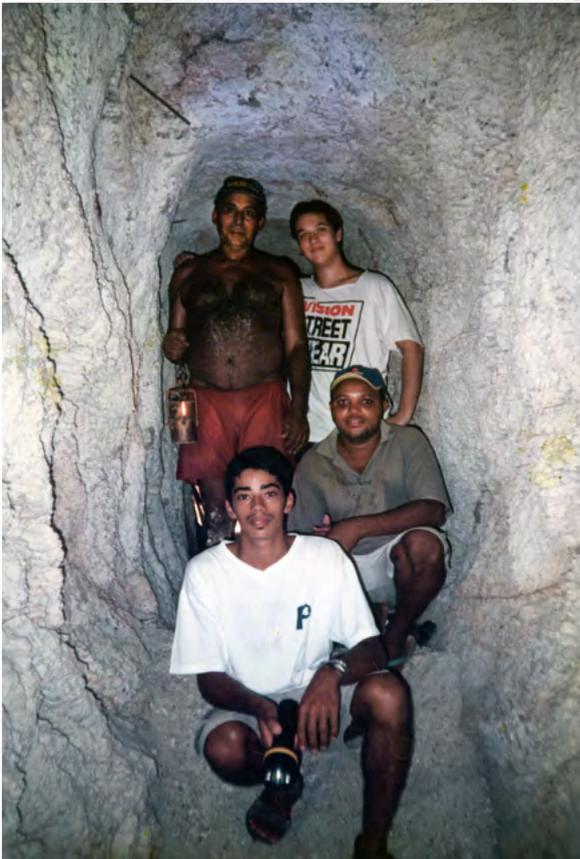
On the first trips, in addition to Teófilo Otoni and the International Gemstones Show (FIPP) held there, we started going to Padre Paraíso and Governador Valadares, and — under the guidance of Luiz Menezes — other localities in Minas Gerais, such as Linópolis, Galileia, Taquaral and Araçuaí, where we met the illustrious Zé da Estrada.



Oval cut kunzite (62 carats), Minas Gerais.



Bruno and Rolando Gioia with miners at the Chiquinho Costa Claim, a tourmaline and quartz crystal producer in Pedra Alta, Goia-beira, Minas Gerais. A mine that produced extraordinary light blue indicolites in 2007.



Bruno Gioia with prospectors at a pegmatite mine in Coronel Murta, Minas Gerais, 2009.

I became a stone merchant in 2005, when a collector from Canada wanted to purchase (and no longer trade for) my stones. From there, I also began to offer my specimens to other interested parties.

On one occasion, Zé da Estrada offered me a nice batch of titanite from Capelinha, which I easily sold. From then on, when my father couldn't go, I began to travel alone, although upon my return my father was the first to select my samples, of batches that he himself cleaned and prepared, thus making us partners.

At that time, I met a major collector in Rio de Janeiro, from whom I acquired part of his collection, notably a blue topaz from the Xanda Claim.

In my travels, I started to regularly visit Novo Cruzeiro, where a prospector always had tourmaline, as well as Coronel Murta, Galileia and Ouro Preto, in Minas Gerais, and also Novo Horizonte, Bahia, when there was "rutile fever" in 2008, and where xeno-



time-(Y) was also found. I got to know prospectors and stone dealers in the region, suppliers of rare minerals, like Mr. Olivio from Divino das Laranjeiras, Ramiro Sardinha from Governador Valadares, Gera from Araçuaí, and Tião Quaresma from Teófilo Otoni, to whom I owe much for their teachings on the stone trade and who were acquainted with everyone, knowing who was producing what and guiding me to find samples.

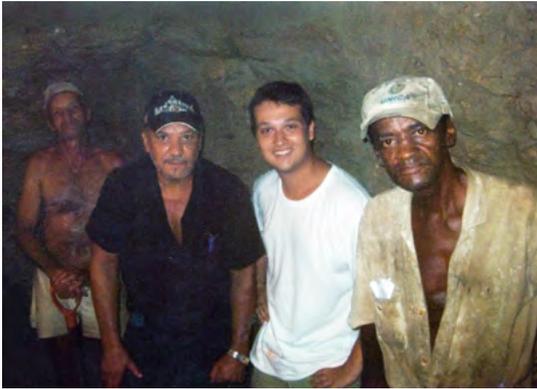
A great opportunity arose when, while traveling in Goiabeira in 2010, I met José Horta, a miner who in Jaguaruçu had discovered a rare and unique find of 13 millimetric samples of minasgeraisite in a mine that no longer exists and where today there is a soccer field. He sold most of it to Carlos do Prado Barbosa, but had saved the best piece of the lot, with a purple-colored crystal of about half a centimeter across, visible to the naked eye, on a milarite, which I was able to buy after trying to do so for four years, and that currently belongs to a Brazilian collector of rare minerals.

In 2014, I had the opportunity to appreciate pieces of rubellite from the Jonas Claim, directly with Joninha, Jonas Lima's son. Was at this time when I saw the famous and now legendary "Tarugo", an aggregate of parallel cherry-colored rubellite crystals measuring 82 x 32 cm.



Bruno Gioia at the house of a miner named Agenor, (at center, wearing a white shirt) with his wife and sons in 2009, selecting well-formed crystals of brazilianite produced at the Agenor Claim in Taquaral, Itinga, Minas Gerais, the same mine that produced excellent crystals of andalusite. The brazilianite crystal above, measuring 50 x 40 mm, was one of the highlights of the lot due to its size and excellent termination. Photograph by Marcelo Lerner.

MINERAL COLLECTIONS OF BRAZIL



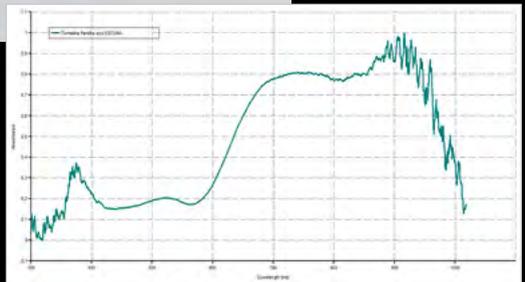
Bruno Gioia and Mr. Ideo, a quartz and tourmaline miner in a pegmatite mine in Ferruginha, Minas Gerais, in 2012.



Bruno Gioia, in 2014, next to the "Tarugo", the last large piece remaining in Brazil of the famous 1978 rubellite strike at the Jonas Claim.



"Paraíba" tourmaline in a carré cut (1.62 carat), Batalha Mine, São José da Batalha, Salgadinho, Paraíba. On the right, a spectrum chart UV-VIS-NIR with the characteristic curve of cuprian elbaite, or "Paraíba" tourmaline, from São José da Batalha, showing the presence of copper that gives it the exceptional bluish color highly coveted by collectors. Gem not subjected to heat treatment, which makes it even rarer. Photograph by Marcelo Lerner.





My international activity began in 2005 at age 18, when I traveled alone to Tucson and met several international merchants and collectors. From then on, I started attending shows like the ones held in Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines, France, and Munich, Germany, and traveled to Peru and Mexico to buy mineral samples.

In recent years, I started to market gemstones and I also make jewelry. I still collect minerals and I am always looking for samples, focused on beauty and rarity.

Cluster of bicolor elbaite tourmaline crystals (30 x 50 x 30 mm) from the 1967 strike at the Zequinha Menezes Claim, Golconda district, Governador Valadares, Minas Gerais. Photograph by Marcelo Lerner.



Tantalite crystals
(40 x 35 mm), Parelhas,
Rio Grande do Norte.



Brazilianite and
quartz, Lavra do Elias,
Linópolis, Divino das
Laranjeiras, Minas
Gerais. Photos
by Marcelo Lerner.

Microлите crystals
(30 x 30 mm), Urubu
Claim, Taquaral,
Itinga, Minas Gerais.



Stokesite with cookeite on biotite (35 x 25 mm),
Urucum Claim, Galileia, Minas Gerais.



Hureaulite (21 x 19 cm), Boca Rica, Sapucaia
do Norte, Galileia, Minas Gerais.



Manganotantalite crystal
(40 x 40 mm), Alto da Cruz,
Equador, Rio Grande do Norte.



Florencite, quartz and
magnesite (30 x 25 mm),
Brumado, Bahia.



Cassiterite crystal
(50 x 45 mm),
Linópolis, Divino
das Laranjeiras,
Minas Gerais.
Photographs by
Marcelo Lerner.



Quartz crystals with epitaxial
rutile on hematite inclusion
(35 x 75 mm), Novo
Horizonte, Bahia.



Epitaxial rutile crystals
on hematite (90 x
120 x 70 mm), Novo
Horizonte, Bahia.



Rose quartz and eosphorite (70 x 80 mm),
Ilha Claim, Taquaral, Minas Gerais.



Rose quartz on milky
quartz crystal (35 x
25 mm), Taquaral,
Itinga, Minas Gerais.
Photographs by
Marcelo Lerner.

Hydroxylherderite on
orthoclase and muscovite
(90 x 80 mm), Xanda
Claim, Virgem da Lapa,
Minas Gerais.

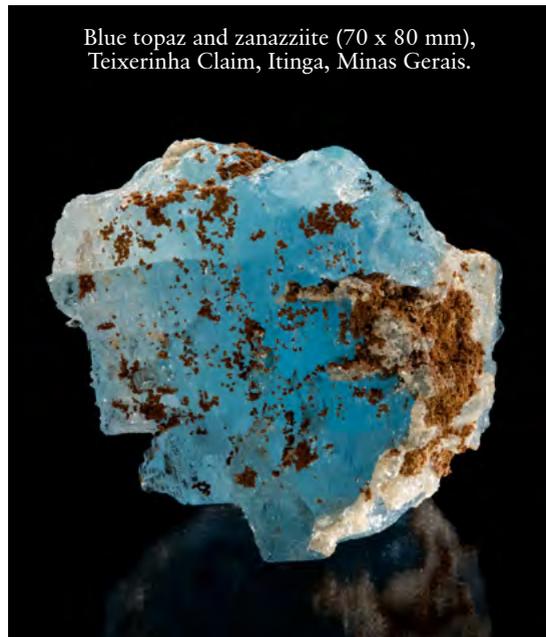


Spessartine in
biterminated quartz
crystals (40 x 35 mm),
Navegadora Claim, Penha
do Norte, Conselheiro
Pena, Minas Gerais.
Photographs by
Marcelo Lerner.

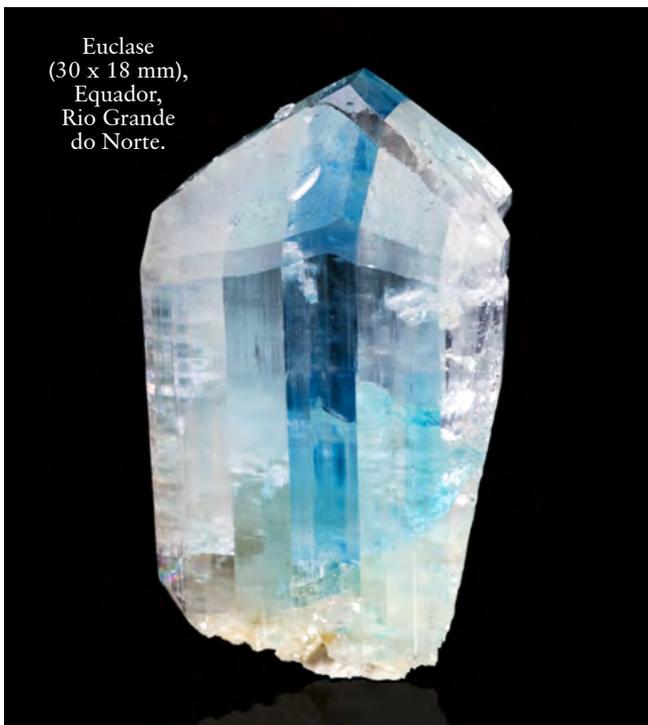




Pink topaz on quartz
(20 x 10 mm),
Brumado, Bahia.



Blue topaz and zanzaziite (70 x 80 mm),
Teixerinha Claim, Itinga, Minas Gerais.



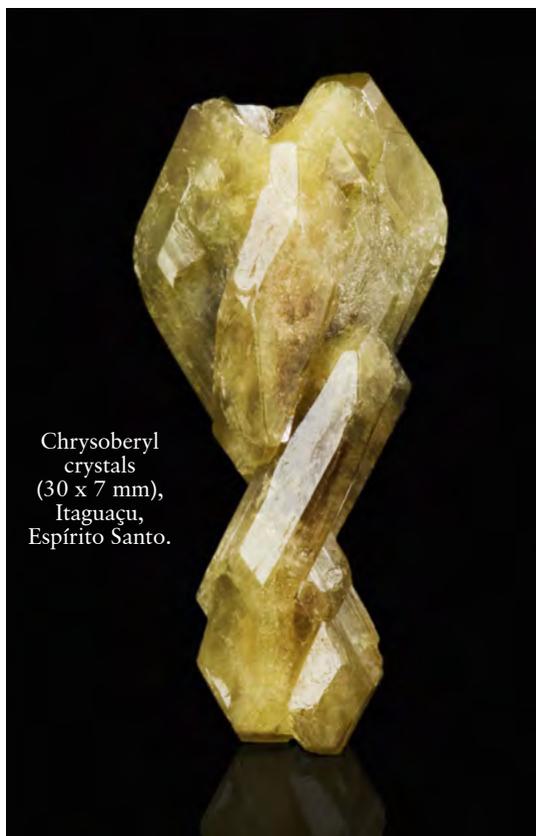
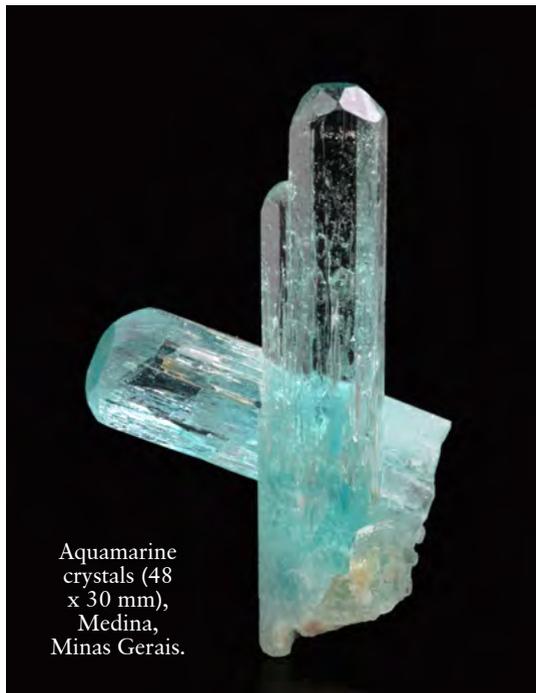
Euclase
(30 x 18 mm),
Equador,
Rio Grande
do Norte.

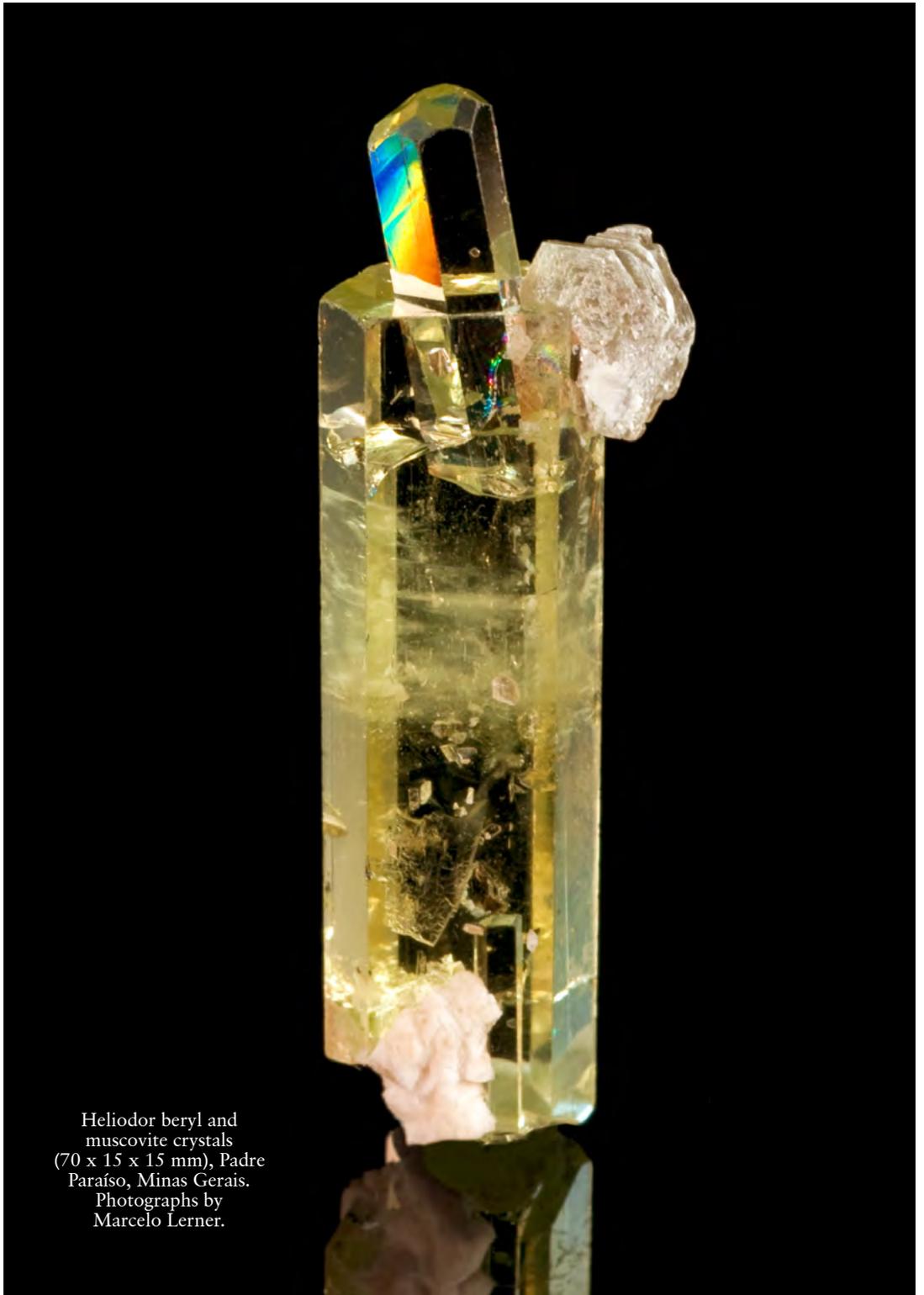


Euclase (20 x 8 mm),
Don Bosco, Ouro
Preto, Minas Gerais.



Imperial topaz
(40 x 15 mm),
Ouro Preto,
Minas Gerais.
Photographs by
Marcelo Lerner.





Heliodor beryl and
muscovite crystals
(70 x 15 x 15 mm), Padre
Paraíso, Minas Gerais.
Photographs by
Marcelo Lerner.



Emerald crystal on calcite matrix (60 x 120 x 60 mm), Muzo, Boyacá, Colombia.



Colombian emerald in a "cushion" cut (22 carats).



Emerald crystal
on calcite
(50 x 30 x 30 mm),
Muzo, Boyacá,
Colombia.



Emerald crystals
on dolomite
(35 x 40 x 30 mm),
Bom Jesus dos
Meiras, present-day
Brumado, Bahia.



Trilliant-cut emerald
(38 carats the pair),
Nova Era, Minas Gerais.

Riviera of round-cut emeralds
(36 carats), Nova Era, Minas Gerais.



Emerald crystals
in mica schist
matrix (70 x 50
x 40 mm), Nova
Era, Minas Gerais.
Photographs by
Marcelo Lerner.



“Star Tourmaline”, a cluster of bicolor elbaite crystals on albite (60 x 80 x 40 mm), Barra do Salinas, Minas Gerais.



Green elbaite crystals (35 x 20 mm), Pederneira Claim, São José da Safira, Minas Gerais.



Elbaite with crystallization
in the "scepter" habit
(28 x 12 mm), Barra do
Salinas, Minas Gerais.