

Kašperskohorské zlato (Šumava, Česká republika)

The Kašperské Hory gold (the Šumava Mts., Czech Republic)

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Abstract

The paper summarises historical reports of gold findings and their variable fineness, observation of previous geological and mineralogical research and results of new mineralogical study on museum samples of abundant macroscopic gold from the Kašperské Hory gold-bearing ore district (Šumava Mountains, Czech Republic). Except the dominant actually explored Au-quartz mineralization, the vein Au-base metals-quartz mineralization is developed in this ore district. It is represented by macroscopic Ag-rich gold in association with usually microscopic sulphides (pyrite, chalcopyrite, pyrrhotite, galena, sphalerite), complex sulphides (berthierite, bournonite, tetrahedrite, boulangerite) and rare Cu sulphides (covellite, geerite?). The occurrences of this type mineralization with macroscopic gold at outcrops of the ore zones at the Kašperské Hory ore district apparently initiated intense mining activities in the period of Middle Ages.

Key words: history of mining, mineralogy, macroscopic gold, Ag-rich gold, electrum, chemical composition, the Kašperské Hory gold-bearing district, Moldanubian, the Šumava Mts., Bohemian Massif