Micromounters of New England
Announcement-News letter
Elliot Church of Newton
474 Centre St., Newton, Mass.
on Saturday, December 13, 1969
from 12M to 6:00 P.M.

Latest finds at roadcuts in R.I.

Route 146 in Lincoln, Rhode Island is being widened so that it will be brought up to Federal standards as an expressway. In this location between route 295 and route 116, rock has been blasted on the east side of the north lane. Minerals listed as being found here are molybdenite and it's alteration- ferrimolybdenite. Exceptional specimens of both were found recently.

The ferrimolybdenite occurs at this location in pseudomorphs after molybdenite in greenish yellow plates as well as in fiberous crystal growths of yellow botryoidal growths in eroded veins. One large vein was found of the fibrous type. A fairly large vein of molybdenite occurs at this location, the xls are in quartz and feldspar.

Exceptional specimens of anatase xls were also found-up to one eighth of an inch! The anatase occurs here as the typical octahedral xls, some with an additional face "c" on both top and bottom, and other forms as well as in pseudomorphs after ilmenite. They are usually dark green but frequently occur in light green xls. It occurs in a large vein at the side of the road in large enough xls to be seen with the naked eye. At first glance it could be mistaken for ilmenite, but the luster is adamantine and that combined with the striations makes it conclusive. Although : fairly common in many veins in Rhode Island these specimens are undoubtly the best of either anatase, molybdenite or ferrimolybdenite I have seen.

The only trouble with collecting at road cuts in the winter in the northeast, is that most times one can not collect during the week. Doing so would interfere with the construction workers, who at this time of the year work from dawn to dusk. So the only time one can collect at road cuts now is maybe on Saturdays if they are not working, or Sundays and holidays. You can just imagine all the good specimens that are carted away and used as fill, and immediatly covered by gravel are therefore lost to collectors!

Other minerals found here are: Calcite, chalcopyrite, chlorite, clinozoisite, Feldspar-albite and orthoclase, galena, goethite, ilmenite, leucoxene(pseudomorphs after ilmenite), malachite, muscovite mica, pyrite, pyrolusite(dendrites), quartz xls-silky, colorless and rarely with a bluish tinge, as well as several others not identified. There is also a yellow fluorescence on some specimens?

Collecting at St. Hilaire in Quebec and at Palermo in North Groton, N.H. still continue to produce good specimens (micro-naturally). Workers at St. Hilaire are now blasting into the rare mineral zone and will produce good specimens until the quarry is snowed in for the winter. Recent blasting (by permission?) has produced good micro specimens at both the Rice and the Palermo Quarries.

Some of the minerals of Palermo are:

Laueite occurs in monoclinic prismatic xls, striated lengthwise, terminated by an oblique termination at one or usually at both ends. It sometimes has a rectangular cross section, but usually has a diamond cross section. It occurs in single xls as well as parallel growths of xls. The color is yellow to golden brownish. They have a vitrous to adamantine luster. It is associated with rockbridgeite, siderite, vivianite, and other phospates.

Strunzite occurs as monoclinic xls in fibrous groups of white to tan and yellow xls as well as single xls. It is a common mineral at Palermo and can only be confused with stewartite, which are usually much smaller.

Goyazite occurs in rhombohedral xls (hexagonal system), with two opposite corners cut by a triangular face with striations parallel to each face. It has one good cleavage and this is a good distinguishing feature, as whitlockite looks like it, but has no cleavage. Goyazite also has a pearly luster on the "c" face, which is the plane of cleavage. It is usually colorless to yellowish.

Whitlockite also occurs in rhombohedral xls (hexagonal system), but usually has faces cutting the joining of the rhombohedral faces. It has no cleavage. The color is the same as goyazite. Both of these minerals can be identified easily compared with other rhombohedral xls at Palermo which all have a rhombohedral cleavage. (calcite, rhodochrosite and siderite)

Stewartite occurs as minute xls as well as tufts of fibers. (probably triclinic) The color of the xls are brownish yellow. They have a sharp oblique termination. They are associated with laueite and strunzite at Palermo.

Beraunite occurs in radiated fibrous xl growths at Palermo. It crystalizes in the monoclinic system. The color is usually green at Palermo. It is the only green fiberous mineral there, so can be easily identified.

Eosphorite occurs in orthorhombic prismatic xls (swords) with the four major pyramidal faces striated parallel to their intersection with the prism faces. It occurs usually as radiating xls of a brown to reddish color. It is common at this location. Can not be confused with any other mineral at Palermo.

Apatite crystallizes in the hexagonal system.

Carbonate-apatite occurs in white hexagonal prisms. Common at Palermo where it is associated with siderite.

Fluorapatite occurs in purple hexagonal prisms. Associated with cleavelandite (albite feldspar).

Hydroxylapatite occurs in hexagonal plates. The color is white. It is associated with quartz and cleavelandite(albite feldspar).

Manganapatite occurs in bluish greenish masses or in crude hexagonal prisms. It's fluorescence at this location is not good, usually non-fluorescent from Palermo.

Rockbridgeite occurs as orthorhombic fibers or columnar xls producing a botryoidal surface. Single xls are rare and extremely small. The color is dark green in fresh material that alters to a dark reddish brown. Common at Palermo.

Metastrengite occurs as monoclinic xls usually as round balls with a radial fibrous structure. The color is a pinkish tone. It is usually associated with rockbridgeite, laueite and strunzite at Palermo. Not as common here as at the Fletcher Quarry nearby, where it is associated with rockbridgeite.

In the next newsletter there will be more on the minerals of Palermo. If you can get volume II of Dana's System of Mineralogy you can get more information on these minerals, but it is hoped that this little information will help to identify some of your unknowns from this location.

Dues for the Micromounters of New England are now due and are necessary to continue mailing the newsletter to members. If dues are not paid after the next meeting in Feburary the newsletter will no longer be sent. The dues are $4.00. Please send a check to our treasurer, Mrs. Stephen W. Cares 18 Singletary lane, Sudbury, Mass. 01776.

Hope to see you at this meeting. Bring some of your unknowns, swapping specimens, slides, etc. For additional information write to Mr. Ralph L. Carr, Jr. corresponding secretary, 25 Farrum Rd., Warwick, R.I. 02888.

Gilbert G. George, President

more on the Nikomo minerals in the next newsletter. hope to see all of you at the micromounters meeting in june, should be fun.

Road cuts in Rhode Island and in Southern Massachusetts continue to produce good micro specimens. More feldspar crystals, anatase and brookite in good sizes are being found at the route 295 road cut. Hope that you are checking road cuts in your area and will bring some of your extras to the meeting for trading.