

# MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

NEWSLETTER #61

FEBRUARY 20, 1981

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The next regular meeting will be held on Saturday, March 7, 1981, at Harvard University in Room 203 of the Museum Building. Enter through the door marked "Not for Public Use" or something to that effect, and proceed upstairs. The elevator will be available at 10:00 A.M. sharp!! The parking lot north of the Museum Building is available at no charge. (See attached map)

During the last meeting at the Anderson's, it was suggested to initiate a contest for the design of a Club emblem, with a suitable prize awarded to the winning entry. Enter as many designs as you like, but put your name on the reverse of each one. The sketches should be at a true scale. After the final design has been selected, a line sketch will be put in the Bulletin and a second contest held to select the color scheme. Some suggestions are that the design be distinctive to micros and New England, and be readily reproducible as a jacket patch. It was suggested that our Club's founding date -- 1967 -- be included. Send your entries to President Cleaves, who has already finished his design and will not be tempted by others, or bring it to the next meeting.

Nominations for Club Officers will be considered at the March Meeting.

UK-51 has recently been designated from St. Hilaire. It may be described as "books" of thin tabular plates (orthorhombic?) overlying each other, giving the appearance of a loose pack of cards. The overlapping crystal edges on the flat face simulate striations. Individual plates are clear, but when stacked up are pearly with a slight pink cast. They are sprinkled with tiny pyrite crystals, and may be associated with albite and either dolomite or analcime. They were collected several years ago, and some found their way into the give-aways labelled nenadkevichite. So look through your specimens of that mineral to see if you have UK-51. Steve and Janet Cares will have a known specimen at the meeting, so bring along any suspected ones for comparison.

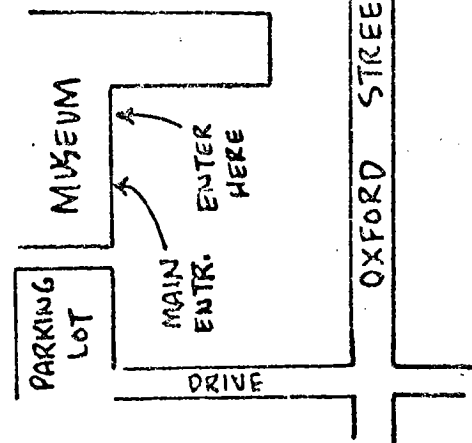
The Canadian Micro Mineral Association is holding its annual Workshop Conference at St. Catharines, Ontario, on May 2 and 3. This is less than 20 miles from the border at Niagara Falls. Reservations must be made before April. Details available at our meeting.



24 Oxford St.  
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Mt. St. Hilaire, being what it is, requires a little more comment other than just on the minerals. To other "specialists" with interests elsewhere (Franklin, Francon, Palermo, etc.), the same situation prevails. You may well ask, at this point, "What is she talking about?". The discussion is on new minerals and their names. Although new minerals continue to be described from a number of places, it appears that use of names before they should be used is more common for those from Mt. St. Hilaire. Perhaps it only appears that way because we are closer to Mt. St. Hilaire collectors, but after all, Francon and Palermo are close to most of us, too.

There are procedures where new minerals are concerned, and Dunn's article on new minerals which appeared on p. 341 of the 1977 "Mineralogical Record" is commended to you. In brief, the name of a new mineral is customarily chosen by a senior author. An abstract is prepared for submission to the IMA (International Mineralogical Association). Commission of New Minerals and Mineral Names, for a vote. The Commission members, one from each of about 30 countries, have 60 days in which to vote. A two-thirds majority of those voting is needed for approval of the mineral and a simple majority for approval of the name. All new mineral descriptions should be published. It is the privilege of the senior author to make the formal introduction of the mineral after the description and name have been approved by the Commission. It may be done verbally at a scientific meeting or symposium.

Most of the unknowns at Mt. St. Hilaire have been numbered by Dr. George Y. Chao of Carleton U., Ottawa, Ont. We understand the numbers are well up into the 50's. The Worcester Mineral Club had a designation WMC-1 which was Chao's UK32. The Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, has designated some numbers, too. ROM #1 was Chao's UK10 in the 1967 literature. It is interesting to note, but probably insignificant, that the earlier literature used the "7", but the current literature does not. Some of the unknowns are previously described minerals and some are new. Previously known are cordylite (UK12), ekanite (UK4), ewaldite (UK37), labuntsovite (UK5), mckelveyite (UK35), nenadkevichite (UK19), tundrite (UK18), vinogradovite (UK28). Some of these are mounted in our collection with their UK labels--some day we will up-date them. New minerals for which Mt. St. Hilaire is the type locality are carletonite (UK15), donnayite (UK33), gaidonnayite (UK23), hilaireite (UK20), lemoynite (UK13), montregianite (UK6), and yfortierite (UK25). All of this preface is because two unknowns were readily collected in 1982.

credit for this article is given to Marcelle H. Weber via the Triassic Valley Bulletin, Feb '81;

24--end in Canada. Many of us had been waiting for the return to Mt. St. Hilaire, as in the Fall of 1979, the pond was being drained and blasting started on a new level. So, it wasn't surprising that we had a good many collectors lined up at the gate. Available material was definitely spotty. We know of several specimens with a wee bit of serandite, leucophanite and genthelvite; some calcite and natrolite. However, almost everyone ended up in one area, breaking down rocks full of aegirine which contained tiny flat anatase xls and analcime, siderite-calcite-feldspar rocks which also contained anatase, gray donnayite, pyrite, pyrochlore, rutile pseudo after ilmenite, bastnaesite, synchysite, natrolite, UK50 as tiny spherical aggregates of white needles, sometimes piled together and sometimes iron-stained, and occasional sphalerite.

Saturday, we were at Francon--where pickings were slimmer than they used to be--and Monday at the mineral dump in Asbestos. Several nice vesuvianite xls were found and many small ones as well as prehnite.

Mt. St. Hilaire was next open June 14, which seemed much like turning around and going right back, so we skipped it. It turned out to be a productive trip for two days in the quarry. Eight on the heels of that trip, the quarry was open July 5-6, but we were not able to find out when trip it was. We have heard nothing about that visit. Our members were invited to visit Mt. St. Hilaire Aug. 30 with the Boston Club, followed by Francon and Asbestos--another long weekend Canadian trip. The CMMA and Walker Club's visit was Sept. 13 and Sept. 14. The last opportunity was with the North Shore Club Oct. 11 and the Montreal Club Oct. 12. Incidentally, you can see what has happened because clubs asked for the long week-ends and got them! From July 6 to Aug. 30 there was no open date for collecting at the quarry!

August 30 collecting was on a talus slope, in vugs in the walls (where we found burbankite) and in a vein loosened by blasting. Yuggy chunks were picked up, so dirty it was impossible to tell what they were. When washed they revealed excellent, well shaped xls varying in color from pale yellow to orange to brown, with fine cleavage in three directions. Also, pinkish and white to colorless ancylite, dark green arfvedsonite, excellent bronzy astrophyllite, sphalerite in various colors, tan hex plates of catapleite and fluorite. The same minerals came from the vein with most attractive rhodochrosite. But, it was primarily the yellow-orange-brown xls which took us back Sept. 13. Many were found that day. Ron Waddell was among those who took home a fine one. This mineral is UK42, crystallized. Some of us were helping George Chao and his staff look for cleavages of UK 42 Sept. 19, 1976 in the biotite areas. The Morgans were there,

Now, the mineral has turned up in crystals, some better than an inch. Ask Gerry Lindeyer to show you hers. This mineral has been named and the bulletin of one club has used the name without reference to the UK number. We have talked to the senior author and he refers to it as UK 42. That's good enough for us.

Not too far away from the trench, several collectors were digging out analcime xls, some nice and white and complete, about golf-ball size. We were allowed to have the cast off material: smaller, incomplete analcimes, feldspar and micros of some lovely spheres with flat points sticking out in all directions ranging from a very pale yellow to a pale pink. The same xls, colorless, occurred here and there as a crust. These have yet to be identified. Also seen is bastnaesite, hex prismatic xls resembling earlier found UK 34, rutile pax ilmenite, siderite, calcite.

Needless to say, we were willing to return Sept. 14 when the opportunity was offered. Rain by noon ruined part of the day, but the UK 42 showed up very nicely when wet. We also got a number of sodalite xls, up to several inches, covered with natrolite, rhodochrosite, arfvedsonite, ancylite in attractive pink groups. Natrolite, clear covered by bluish-gray natrolite and pyrite as well as an unknown dull gray-brown hex mineral.

Oct. 11, some of our members were back again. Unfortunately, our previous collecting areas had been blasted, but there was UK42 in some of the rocks if you knew what to look for. Ernie Schlichter had worked a pipe, finding a triangular rhodochrosite (apparently others had, too), and on this trip, Dana Jewell was working hard on it with home-made tools to reach down about 7' in a hole about 8-10" across. The gravel in the area contained some larger xls of red rhodochrosite (see Bill Henderson's) and many micros or triangles: about 1" on a side. Many of these appear to be twinned. The rhodochrosite rhombs occur in many shades of red to brown. Associated are white or colorless needles or fibers, some fluff and some terminated. These are luffite. Also seen are tiny perfect rosettes, pale in color, of catapleite, gray sphalerite, glassy serandite, and polyolithionite. Our specimens came from the pounds of gravel brought home, and are therefore small. Pieces of calcite, natrolite, ancylite were available and analcime rock with its usual interesting minerals. When the chance occurred to go back on Sunday, there we were. From large boulders in the far end of the quarry, we turned up one more burbankite and some very good synchysite. There are the usual number of "whatever can that be" specimens; a number needing identification.

Our next field trip to Canada will be May 23 - 25, 1981.

John Anderson: New England, Francon & St. Hilaire Micros, Anatase, Zeolites, Phosphates, Faceting and Mining Memorabilia.

Pat Barker: Korean Minerals, Micromounts & Mineralogy Books.

Norm Biggart: Micros, N. E. Minerals, Francon, St. Hilaire, Palermo, Mineral Books by States, Metallic and Radioactive Minerals.

Jim Cahoon: N. E. Minerals especially Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire, Prehnite XLS.

Carl Calderara: Micros from everywhere.

Janet Cares: Physical and Chemical Methods of Mineral I.D., Francon, Single XLS, Thumbnails, Mineral Books (Old and New).

Steve Cares: Micros, Phosphates and St. Hilaire.

Ralph Carr: Identification, Study of XL Forms, Palermo and Strickland.

Violet Carr: Tourmaline

Gabrielle Coignet: Study XL Forms.

Ray Denicourt: Worldwide Minerals, Moroccan Minerals, Micros and St. Hilaire.

Cleaves Dodge: Mineral Books and Literature, Optical Mineralogy, Thin Sections, Phosphates, Zeolites, Feldspars, Chemical I.D., Geological Oddities, Rock Types and Crystallography.

Gil George: New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont and Canada Minerals.

Man Massague: Worldwide Minerals, Sulphides and Related Micros.

R. Robert Perlman: Identification, Mineralogy, Mineral Books, Francon, St. Hilaire and Palermo.

Larry Pitman: Rare earth and Radioactive Minerals, Francon St. Hilaire, Chemical Analysis with Microchemical Techniques.

Palmer Sevrengs: Micros, Francon, St. Hilaire and New England.

## ATLANTIC MICROMOUNTERS CONFERENCE

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MICRO MINERALOGISTS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

APRIL 10, 11, 12 1981

Speakers: Paul Desautels, Smithsonian Institution; Tom Peters, Paterson, NJ Museum; Lou Perloff, Micromineral Photographer; Robert Hoban, Color Specialist.

Sales - Swapping - Demonstrations

Center of Adult Education, Maryland University, College Park, MD 20740

For further information contact: Ruth Cole Wertz, 9707 Sutherland Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20901.

MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND  
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