

Franconia, N. H.



# MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

March 1, 1984

Newsletter #87

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Dues are \$3.50 per year and are due on January 1, payable to the treasurer.

Contributions of news items for the bulletin are welcome and should be sent to the Editor.

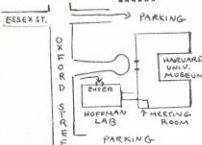
The next regular meeting of the Micromounters of New England will be held on Saturday, March 17th at the Harvard University Museum, Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA, in the office of the Curator, Dr. Carl Francis. The office is located on the third floor of the Museum beyond the Mineral Museum display area. Between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. you will be able to enter the Hoffman Lab Building (see map) where you can take an elevator to the third floor and cross over directly to the meeting place. From 9a.m. to 4p.m. you may use the main entrance to the museum building, but you will have to identify yourself as a member of MNNE to avoid paying an admission fee. This entrance also requires a trek to the third floor, a right turn at the Glass Flowers Exhibit, and a walk through the Mineral Museum (none too comfortable if you are lugging all your equipment!). The drive leading to the main entrance of the museum may be used long enough to unload, but cars must then be parked in areas designated on the map.

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A group tour of the Mineralogical Society of Pennsylvania (about forty persons) is coming to Massachusetts on the March 17-18 weekend and they have been invited to visit with us during our Saturday, March 17 meeting at Harvard. Several of the visitors are members of the Leidy Microscopic Society and are no doubt well-versed in the micros of Pennsylvania. They will be interested in seeing our New England micros, and some swapping may be anticipated. In addition to bringing a few surplus specimens, it would be nice to bring a few extra snacks that could be offered to our visitors.

**SPECIAL RAFFLE OF FIVE COPIES OF THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD**-At the March meeting there will be a raffle with the only criterion being that one is a paid-up member with an interest in obtaining one of the following copies: (all Volume 13; 1982): #1, Jan/Feb.; #2, Mar./Apr.; #3, May/June; #4, July/Aug.; and #5, Sept./Oct. You may write your name on a slip of paper with the words: "Mineralogical Record Drawing in March" and either mail it with your registration for the Northeast meeting or bring it to the March meeting. Every participant will be assigned 5 numbers that will be placed in the drawing. You need not be present to win.

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# To The Micromounters of New England:

We have a healthy organization and I know that the members want it to stay that way. It does take planning and work. We have plans and progress toward our Northeast Meeting in May. Janet Cares reports that the special publication is in the process of completion, donations of specimens are coming in from our members for the benefit sale, our speaker is arranged for, the meeting place is reserved; and now it is your turn to send in your reservation forms, make micro specimen donations if you have not already done so, mark your calendar, and plan for a pleasant day in Greenfield. For those who would consider prolonging their day in the Connecticut Valley, a dinner gathering with our speaker in a Greenfield restaurant is being planned. You may signify your interest on your reservation form (although there is no designated check-off place--just write it in).

A Pennsylvania flyer was sent to me for an activity on March 10 (Saturday), by the Lower Bucks County Rock & Mineral Club. They are holding a Micromounters Swap-Sell & Learn which is highlighted by a feature of Pennsylvania Wulfenites, as well as offering to photograph your favorite micro for a 25¢ fee.

I hope to see you all at Harvard University.

Nora Biggart

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## Some tips for handling micro material:

by Bob Fisher of St. Catharines, Ont.

To stabilize crumbly matrix when reducing to micro size such things as calcite, cleavelandite or St. Hilaire material--

Make a very weak solution for the white glue: 1/3 glue to 2/3 water. With a fine dropper or forceps, pick up some of the weak glue solution and touch it to the side of the specimen away from the side to be displayed. It will quickly disappear into the cracks. Keep adding it to cracks until no more rapidly disappears. Watch the attractive side carefully under the microscope and stop if the solution starts to creep into the crystals (especially fibrous, or micaceous types). Set the lump aside to dry for twenty-four hours. It can then be sawn with the diamond saw (the glue will not let go in the short time involved) using water; rinse off the sawdust and set to dry on a paper towel. Even with the nippers or micro rock breaker, the matrix will not crumble badly. Add a touch more glue solution if needed, and dry before mounting. If the glue sets before going into the cracks, it is too strong; add more water. Use common sense. I have used this method successfully for crumbly marble and St. Hilaire material--even to secure crystals that are loose and ready to pop out. When the water dries, the film of glue is so fine that it is almost impossible to find. This diluted glue can also be used to secure minute crystals to paper surfaces: place a drop of diluted glue on the paper and lower the crystal onto it. The water will evaporate very quickly and pull the crystal down tightly to the paper. A little practice will show you how much glue to use and how fast you have to work.

from Micronews, February, 1984

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An invitation has been extended to our club from the Boston Mineral Club to attend their next meeting Saturday evening, March 17th, at 7 p.m. in the Harvard University Geological Lecture Hall at 24 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA. Featured will be Bill Higgins of Exeter, NH who will speak about "Mines and Minerals of New England." The group from the Mineralogical Society of Pennsylvania have also been invited and will attend.