



MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND



The MMNE was organized on November 5, 1966 for the purpose of promoting the study of minerals that require a microscope.

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Dues are \$5.00 per year and are due on January 1st, payable to the Treasurer

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

This bulletin may be quoted if credit is given. Club address is c/o Editor.

NEXT MONTH

The next meeting of the MMNE will be Saturday, March 11, 1989 at the Northborough Public Library, Northborough, MA.

February 1989

Newsletter #129

The next meeting of the Micromounters of New England will be on Saturday, February 11, 1989, at the Auburn Public Library. (See map below.)

REMEMBER!! --DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE!!

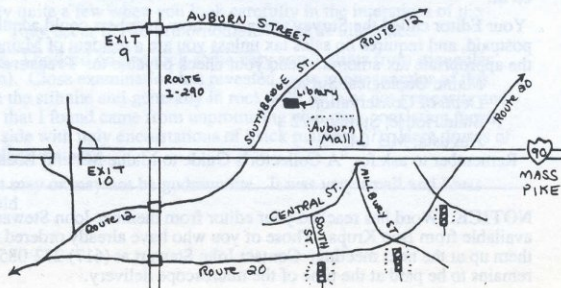
Please check your mailing label on the envelope in which this bulletin was mailed. If you have paid your dues, an '89' should appear after your name. If an '88' appears on your label, then we do not, as yet, have you recorded as paying. (Please note, however, that sometimes there may be a delay of a day or two for your Editor to receive the latest list from your Treasurer; therefore, if you've paid your dues within just a few days of receiving this notice, check next month's label to see if your label has been updated.) Please try to get your dues in this month as the membership list will appear in the March bulletin.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY:

It seems early to be thinking about the May meeting, but time passes and suddenly, it's Spring! This year we must ask our members for help with the give-away table and also for the sale table. We have been very fortunate to have Edna Lerer donate so generously to the sale table for several years, but this year we're running out.

Please look through your duplicate specimens these remaining weeks of winter and see if you can set aside a nice selection. Please let Pat Barker or Steve Cares know if you will be able to help.

(Ed. note: We could use a healthy infusion of give-away material for our regular meetings as well. If you have such material but are not inclined to fuss with mounting on boards or whatever, bring the bulk material in to Steve. We need more material!)



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MMNE MEMBER INTERESTED IN SWAPPING.

If you remember reading the article from last month's bulletin concerning the minerals of Goble, Oregon, than you may remember the article mentioned that Beulah Murphy is a member of our club. She is very interested in Mont Saint-Hilaire minerals, and she would like to swap some of her Northwest minerals. She writes that she has a large variety of zeolites, and mentions a road cut on the Columbia (River) which has lately been producing amethyst and zeolites (a revival of an old locality). If you are interested in swapping with Mrs. Murphy, you may write her at: 2308 S.E. 130 Avenue, Portland, OR 97f233.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

The club would like to welcome new member Connie Bagley. Connie is married to member Walter Bagley.

MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY MEETING.

The meeting was held at Boston University on January 15th. Vice-President Margaret Stewart presided in the absence of President Robert Clements. Under Old Business, it was mentioned that the book on Saint-Hilaire is expected about February, and the Rocks and Mineral Index in April. Under New Business, Gene Bearss presented Bulletin 41, "A Collector's Guide to Maine Mineral Locations", which has been finally published by the Maine Geological Survey. Shelley Monaghan volunteered to check with the Survey to find out how members may acquire this bulletin. (Ed. Note: See below.)

The next meeting will take place at the Auburn Public Library, Auburn, Mass. It was mentioned that donations are needed for the sales table and also for the give-away table at the monthly meetings. If a member has bulk material which he or she does not have time to prepare for meetings, that member should bring that material to Steve Cares--we need new material for our meetings.

Also under New Business, a report was made concerning member Holmes Wilson, who is now permanently in a nursing home. Ralph Carr has Holmes' mineral collection, courtesy of Mrs. Wilson. After some club discussion, a motion was made seconded and unanimously passed that the club acquire Holmes' collection to be used for sales table items, etc.

It was suggested that the November meeting might be held at the Worcester Club's Mineral Show. The club will contact their show chairman to check on the feasibility of this idea.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Shelley Monaghan, Secretary Pro-Tem.

"A COLLECTOR'S GUIDE TO MAINE MINERAL LOCATIONS" by Woodrow B. Thompson, et. al.

Your Editor called the Survey to find out how members could acquire this publication. The book is \$8 postpaid, and requires no sales tax unless you are a resident of Maine, in which case you must include the appropriate tax amount. Send your check payable to: **Treasurer, State of Maine**, addressed to:

Maine Geological Survey
Dept. of Conservation
State House, Station #22
Augusta, ME 04333

Remember to ask for "A Collector's Guide to Maine Mineral Locations", bulletin number 41.

NOTICE: Word has reached your editor from member John Stewart that no more microscopes are available from Bob Krupa. Those of you who have already ordered the scopes might be able to pick them up at the next meeting. Contact John Stewart at (617) 272-0854. Remember a balance of \$150 remains to be paid at the time of the microscope delivery.

LAC NICOLET ANTIMONY DEPOSITS

By Garry Glenn, from CMMA "MICRONEWS", January 1989, Muriel and Eric Wood, Editors.

Quite a few members have collected at this site over the past couple of years. It is located at Ham Nord, Wolfe County, in the province of Quebec.

While it is difficult to produce good-looking material from the vein, very careful observation under the microscope could reward you with a couple of extremely rare species.

Reported species are:

Native Antimony	Sb	
Stibnite	Sb_2S_3	
Gudmundite	$FeSbS$	
Kermesite	Sb_2S_2O	
Valentinite	Sb_2O_3	orthorhombic
Senarmontite	Sb_2O_3	cubic

Of these species antimony, stibnite, kermesite and valentinite are reasonably abundant and can probably be found in any of the vein material brought home.

The first three on the list are primary materials. The last three represent oxidation products of these primary species. Much of the ore is coated with various unnameable antimony ochres.

Appearance characteristics are as follows:

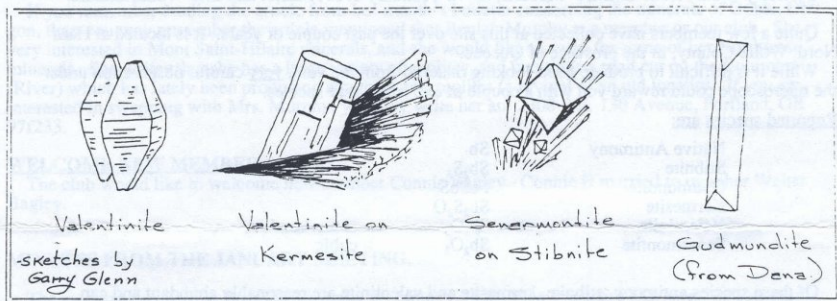
Antimony	massive silver-white metallic
Stibnite	small acicular silver to black metallic sprays to 1cm
Kermesite	cherry-red sprays to 1cm
Valentinite	cream to white boxwork masses and crystals forming quite large lumps at times and making up the whiter non-metallic portion of the ore.
Senarmontite	much rarer; occurs as small (30x or better) clear to colorless octahedrons in and on stibnite
Gudmundite	very rare, silver-gray crystals in stibnite; recognizable by crystal shape

The stibnite and kermesite were the first items to catch my eye as they are the most attractive material in the rock. Next was the valentinite and, while I had quite a lot of it, it seemed difficult to find undamaged crystals. There are actually quite a few when you look carefully in the interstices of the boxwork of more massive valentinite. They occur in two orthorhombic forms as illustrated.

The senarmontite was a real surprise. I noticed on one rock some very small glints from triangular faces (a tip-off to their octahedral form). Close examination has revealed quite a few samples of this material. Most of it occurs directly on the stibnite and generally in rock with little or not kermesite and valentinite. Some of the best material that I found came from unpromising wall rock consisting mostly of black quartz but coated on the vein side with ugly encrustations of black material (?). Here druses of clear octahedrons nested all over the black material.

I have found only one specimen that may or may not be gudmundite. It was very small and I was judging it on crystal form as best I could.

Sketches on next page.



NEW MINERALS FROM MONT SAINT-HILAIRE:

Dr. Chao tell us that the following four minerals are recent finds.

Kogarkoite	$\text{Na}_3(\text{SO}_4)\text{F}$	Bluish blebs; fluoresces white
Rasvumite	$\text{K}_3\text{Fe}_9\text{S}_{14}$	Black or steely gray
Redvite	$\text{Na}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5\cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Colorless
Sidorenkite	$\text{Na}_3\text{Mn}(\text{PO}_4)(\text{CO}_3)$	Rose-colored with Ussingite

All of the above come from Sodalite/Villiaumite xenoliths.

also from CMMA "MICRONEWS", January, 1989

ATLANTIC MICROMOUNTERS CONFERENCE--MARCH 31, APRIL 1, 2, 1989

The Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area are holding their conference on Saturday and Sunday, April 1-2, 1989 at the Adult Education Center of Maryland University, Adelphi Road, University Boulevard and Campus Drive, College Park, Maryland. The pre-conference reception on Friday, March 31st, from 7 to 11 pm, will be held at the Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.

Dr. Stephen Kline, a Professor at George Mason University will speak about the geology concerning the Hunting Hill Quarry. Wayne Downey will speak on the mineralogy of burning coalfields in eastern Pennsylvania.

A new feature this year will be an auction of micromounts with a picture of the specimen displayed on a screen while it is being auctioned. The high bidder will receive the specimen and a color photo of that specimen.

A raffle will also be held. For further information, you will find copies of conference information at the next MMNE meeting. **Registration must be before March 21, 1989.**