



# 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 10 1990, at the Northborough Public Library.

February 1990

Newsletter #138

The next meeting of the Micromounters of New England will be **Saturday, February 10, 1990**, at the Fletcher Library in Westford, Mass., just southwest of Lowell off I-495. This is our first meeting at this site so please pay attention to the directions shown on our map. Also, the library opens on Saturdays at 10 AM, so plan your travel accordingly.

**REMEMBER, DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE!** Please check your envelope's label to see if a "90" appears by your name. If you still have an "89" on it, you are not recorded as having paid this year's dues. Please check with Janet Cares if you feel that you have already paid but are not recorded as such. (However, if you just mailed a check, it is possible that your dues may not have been received before the printing and mailing of this bulletin.)

## **ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MINERALS**

The Encyclopedia is now available from the publisher. Jim Grandy has agreed to do a bulk order, and there will be a discount available. We are talking about a ballpark figure of \$75 for a copy of the book. This may vary, as Jim must determine what, if any, sales tax is involved. There are several things you must keep in mind. First, this discount is available because we are getting a bulk order. The books will be brought to a meeting, and it is your responsibility to pick up your own copy. If you cannot pick up your order or cannot have anyone pick it up for you, you must make your own arrangements for mailing, and expect to pay additional for shipping and handling. Jim has been kind enough to do this order for the club, and we do not want to encumber him with extra work as far as handling individual copies. Please see and fill out the reservation form inside this bulletin. This will give us an idea of the quantity of books we will need to order. Do not send money with this form! We will let people know exactly what the figure will be when we hear from Jim regarding tax, etc.

**FOR MAP TO WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY, PLEASE SEE PAGE 4.**

### EMMONS (UNCLE TOM MT.) QUARRY

By Gene Bearss (continued from last month)

I first got interested in the Emmons Quarry in the late 1970s. What got me interested was some perhamite specimens that several dealers had at shows here in the Northeast, with a locality given as the Emmons Quarry, Greenwood, Maine. In 1980 or '81, I traded for some minerals, other than perhamite, from the Emmons, at a swap that used to be held in North Gorham, Maine. In 1982 I finally got a close look at perhamite from the Emmons after trading for a small piece at the above mentioned swap. I had not purchased any from the dealers who had it in the late 70s because of prices in the one hundred dollar range. I now decided to set out to find and collect at this locale.

The two guidebooks I had at the time that gave directions to the Emmons proved useless -- at least to me. I went on many a "nature" walk trying to find the elusive Emmons using the directions those two books contained. Finally, in 1983, I swallowed my pride and asked Dana Jewell, a Massachusetts native, if he would show me the quarry. Dana obliged. Even going in with Dana, we still managed to get disoriented at least once, but we did succeed in finding the quarry. While that particular trip did not produce any perhamite, it did produce several other interesting minerals. So, I decided to make at least one more trip that year. In 1983, with all the effort it took to find the quarry, plus the fact that, once we got there you could see that no one had collected there in years, I thought I had a darn near virgin locale. A year later, during a casual conversation with Nestor Tamminen, I found out that back in the 50s you could drive a passenger car right up to the quarry. So, while the Emmons is many things -- a virgin locale it is not. With the new guidebook put out by the State of Maine in 1988, it is also a lot easier to find. In fact, it is harder to find the Post Office building in West Paris, where you must go to get written permission and to sign a release, than it is to find the quarry. Please do not try collecting at the Emmons without first getting permission from Penley brothers. Their office is in the Post Office building in West Paris. We don't want to lose another collecting locale because someone screwed-up.

My first trip to the Emmons in 1989 was in late May. The dirt road that Penley brothers owns and maintains was in good shape. The old country road which is listed under walking directions in the new guidebook, but which had been passable the previous two years, even for my small, low-slung vehicle -- was not. At least one vehicle, maybe more, had been on the road prior to the frost coming out of the ground and had left ruts up to two feet deep in some places. (Even by late Fall, after the ground had been allowed to settle, there were still areas that were barely passable for a regular four-wheel drive vehicle.) Even with this distraction, the walk into the quarry was still enjoyable.

My first collecting objective was to check out the quarry proper. If you are going to find perhamite, you usually have to find it in-situ in the quarry walls. The place to look is in the vuggy albite that is still showing in the quarry walls. Not all of it contains perhamite, but some does. The reason you don't find much perhamite on the dump is not that it wasn't dumped there. Rather, it is the fact that the albite matrix is so friable that most of the matrix and the perhamite have disintegrated. I have found some perhamite on the dump, but usually on an atypical matrix of either quartz or microcline, as opposed to albite. After collecting a little vuggy albite in the quarry wall, I shifted my attention to the dump area.

This year I decided to try a new area of the dump and to start at a point near the bottom and to dig down until I ran into soil. Once this occurred, it was my intent to continue digging up the sloping area of the dump until I reached the top. After about two hours of heavy digging, I had reached the bottom of the dump material and hit dirt. I next proceeded to dig and rake my way up the dump just knowing I was really in some untouched material. One hour later, I ran into two old soda pop cans right where dump and dirt met. Well, at least they were rusted out and not aluminum. Up to this point I had found some vuggy material plus some quartz that showed crystal faces so I continued to dig for about another hour. I then packed up and walked back to the car. The good thing about looking for micros is that, even when you are in an area where someone else has previously dug, you still have a chance of finding something. Something in this case turned out to be a lot of drusy apatite. This of itself wasn't of much interest to me, but I did find one piece which contains some tentatively identified whitlockite crystals and they are interesting. Since this mineral had not been previously listed as occurring at the Emmons, and since the crystals are quite nice, this one find made the day. In addition to the apatite, I also found several of the quartz pieces contained bertrandite crystals. I also found a couple of small pieces of

secondary phosphates that contained a few minute vugs. This latter find is one of the hardest things to find at the Emmons, but if you can obtain a good piece it can be one of the most interesting.

Next time....a brief description of the minerals found at the Emmons Quarry.

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Speaking about the difficulty in finding a locality, member Dana Morong sends us the following:

One way to pinpoint a locality in print is by latitude/longitude to the nearest arc-second. Of course, one must first plot it accurately on a 7 1/2' USGS topo map (nearest 1/20"), then either measure or use a template. If done accurately, this is accurate to the nearest 100 feet on the face of the earth, about the same precision one gets by pacing with a surveyor's compass (the \$67 - type that one sights through, reading to the nearest half degree or so). With some locations I backup locality data (on back of the specimen's file card) with the latitude/longitude coordinates. Many topo maps are available for viewing (& photocopying) at National Depository Libraries (often college libraries).

Sometimes old government reports are useful. I think I found the location of one "lost" locality, thus -- will try it out in the Spring, I hope.

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**CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO FISHER AND GLENN, "MICRO MINERALS OF MONT SAINT-HILAIRE, QUEBEC"**

Those of you who have the first<sup>1</sup> printing of this book may want to make changes as given recently by the authors. Pages are not numbered so you may have a brief search. On the third page of actual text are two photos. The caption under the lower one (view of southeast wall) should read:

:-----SODALITE SYENITE-----:-NEPHELINE SYENITE-:---HORNFELS---:

Lines 1, 3, and 6 of the final paragraph on the same page should be changed as follows:

At the bottom centre of the sodalite syenite is a large pegmatite

1988. The centre section of nepheline syenite shows a number of large

emplacement of the nepheline syenite, which it does not cut.

If desired, you may cut the changed words from this newsletter and attach them to the proper place in your book either with adhesive or transparent tape.

Near the back of the book, add to the table of UK NUMBERS:

44 DAQUINGSHANITE

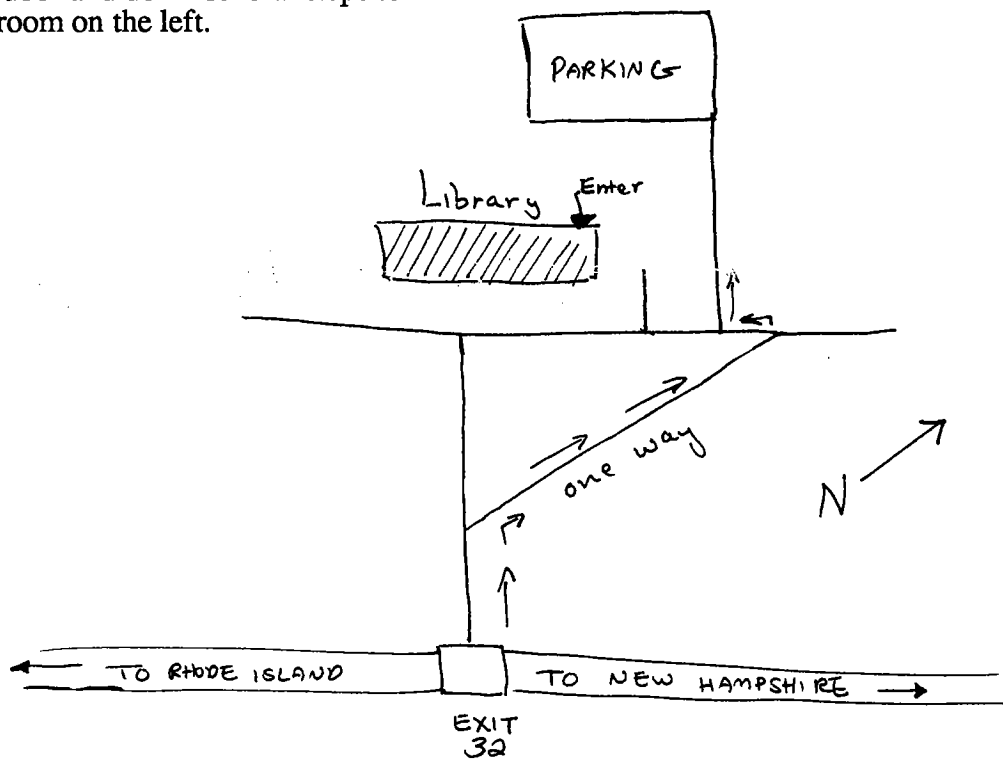
54 GRICEITE

In the table of DISCREDITED NAMES, change MASASSEITE TO MANASSEITE

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<sup>1</sup> If you have the second printing, those changes have been already included.

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-495 take exit 32 towards Westford (northwest) for about one mile to fork. Take right, which ends almost across the driveway to Library parking. Go through rear door and down several steps to the meeting room on the left.



RESERVATION FORM FOR THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MINERALS:

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF COPIES: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE BRING THIS FORM TO THE NEXT MEETING, OR SEND IT TO EITHER JANET CARES OR SHELLEY MONAGHAN (ADDRESSES ARE ON FRONT PAGE OF BULLETIN).