
# 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 $6.00 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:**
Our next meeting of the MMNE will be **Saturday, March 6, 1993 at the Sudbury Public Library.**

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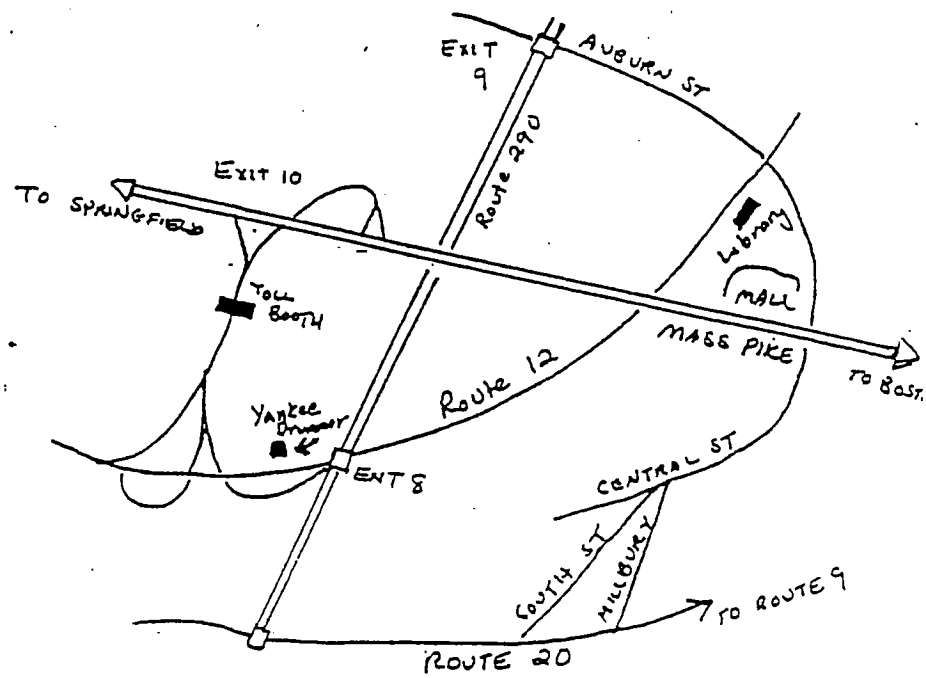
The next meeting of the MMNE will be Saturday, February 6, 1993, at the Auburn Public Library. Janet and Steve Cares will show slides taken by the late Vi Anderson. The slides will feature Palermo specimens and some from Francon, Loudville, and Black Hills. We will again be trying out our flea market/swap format.

**DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE!** Please check your mailing label to see if we list you as having paid your dues. (If you only recently sent them to the Treasurer, you might not be listed yet as paid for the year.) Those labels with "93" indicate paid membership as of the date of bulletin printing.

Our Membership List will appear next month.

**Please note the following corrections:**

In the October issue of the MMNE bulletin, we listed the Micromounter Hall of Fame inductees. Please delete L. C. Wills. Marcelle Weber and Bill Yost were inducted in 1992. These additions and corrections should be made in the 1990 Northeast Program book, page 11.



**A note from one of our members:**

It is nice that micromounters give away extra material, but I wish that some of them would be a little less liberal with the glue. A non-water-soluble glue stuck to foam, wood, or paper can make a specimen unsightly, or needs to be trimmed off. Water-soluble glues, on the other hand, can be soaked off unless the glue gets into a vug. It is distressing to see gobs of glue visible when looking at an otherwise nice specimen.

Elmer's Glue-All®is water-removable and suitable for glued on labels. Mineral-Tack is even better. It is nice that members are generous with material, but going easy on the glue is economical also!

**Canadian abbreviations:**

In 1986, the MMNE Newsletter published a list of two letter abbreviations for the United States. The list below is added for the convenience of those labeling Canadian minerals.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alberta | AB | Nova Scotia | NS |
| British Columbia | BC | Ontario | ON |
| Manitoba | MB | Prince Edward Island | PE |
| New Brunswick | NB | (Province of) Quebec | PQ |
| Newfoundland | NF | Saskatchewan | SK |
| Northwest Territories | NT | Yukon Territory | YT |

References: Towell, J. E. and H. E. Sheppard (Editors) (1993) Acronyms, Initialism & Abbreviations, Gale Research Company, Detroit.

**Some Points to Consider in Creating a Computer Database to Catalogue Your Collection.**

The advantages of cataloguing your collection on computer are difficult to imagine until you have tried it. Done properly the data can be listed and printed in numerous ways to facilitate different purposes. Retrieval of specimens by species or locality or any of a number of other features is greatly enhanced.

When creating a database, considerable thought should be put into the structure before entering the data, if the results are to meet expectations. The following are some suggestions to keep in mind:

- Computers sort numbers much faster than text.
- Try to avoid repetitive data such as locality information.
- Note fields take up large blocks of memory and slow down computer sorts.
- Indexing is preferable to sorting for speed and memory.
- Standardization of text is necessary for computer search. For example much locality data is inconsistent (more than one variation for the same place). Some standard wording must be established. I used the Mineralogical Record 14 year index as a handy basis for this purpose.

In my own system I have used the following format with considerable success:

Three separate data bases (only possible if your software allows linking between the databases).

SPECIMEN DATABASE:

- Consists of species name, box number, link code to locality database.
- Multiple entries are made if more than one significant species is present on the sample.

Sample display of specimen database

| NAME | BOX | LINK |
|---|---|---|
| MOTTRAMITE | 5544 | 2010 |
| WULFENITE | 5544 | 2010 |
| MELANTIERITE | 5545 | 9431 |
| CELESTITE | 5546 | 8600 |

## LOCALITY DATABASE

- Consists of link code and fields for country, state, city, mine.
- The link code is used to provide a simple means of connecting the data with the specimen. It is much easier to type a 4 or 5 digit code than the entire locality name and uses a lot less memory. Each locality is entered into the computer only once. A simple numerical listing of the link codes will tell you the next unused one, and a listing by locality will allow you to quickly find the appropriate code for any locality.

Sample display of locality database.

| LINK | MINE | CITY | STATE | COUNTRY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6006 | Blackwood Open Cut | Broken Hill | New South Wales | Australia |
| 6004 | Whim Well Mine | Whim Creek | W. Australia | Australia |
| 7000 | Moeraki Beach | Otago | South Island | New Zealand |
| 3010 | Majuba hill | Pershing Co. | Nevada | U.S.A. |

## NOTES DATABASE:

- Consists of fields for "source of material", "additional locality information", "dates", etc.
- The notes are linked to the specimen database by box number.

Sample of notes database

| BOX | NOTE |
|---|---|
| 5564 | V. King |
| 5570 | pseudo after cuprite |
| 5572 | near Golden, Japan twin |
| 5574 | twin crystals |

The advantage of such a system lies in three areas. First, it minimizes typing, second, it minimizes memory requirements, third, it speeds up sort and index time because the cross references are based on numbers. During indexing, references are established in the computer linking the information, and at print-out, the data from the various data bases is appended into one continuous listing. For any given print-out, only those databases and fields of immediate interest need be displayed, and they may be indexed and displayed in any order.

Sample print-out by species

| NAME | BOX | MINE | CITY | STATE | COUNTRY | NOTE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CARPHOLITE | 6693 | SCHNOD QUARRY | HORNI | SLAKOV | CZECHOSLOVAKIA | R. FISHER |
| CARROLLITE | 9206 | KANOTO EST | KOLWEZI | SHABA | ZAIRE | M. SAUNDE |
| CASSITERITE | 3669 | TIN CROFT MINE | | CORNWALL | ENGLAND | |
| CASSITERITE | 3475 | WHEAL PENDARVES | CAMVORNE | CORNWALL | ENGLAND | |
| CASSITERITE | 2777 | ARROTA CARRIZAL | | GUANAJUATO | MEXICO | V. HALL |

Sample print-out by locality

| COUNTRY | STATE | CITY | MINE | NAME |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CANADA | NOVA SCOTIA | KINGS CO. | CANADA CREEK | LAUMONTITE |
| CANADA | NOVA SCOTIA | KINGS CO. | CANADA CREEK | STILBITE |
| CANADA | NOVA SCOTIA | KINGS CO. | HALLS HARBOUR | HEULANDITE |
| CANADA | NOVA SCOTIA | PARSBORRO | WASSON'S BLUFF | ANALCIME |
| CANADA | NOVA SCOTIA | PARSBORRO | WASSON'S BLUFF | CALCITE |

From Gary Glenn of Niagara Fall, Ontario, in MICRONEWS, bulletin of the Canadian Micro Mineral Association, October 1991.

Editor's Note: Although Mr. Glenn does not specify what software he uses to construct his databases, most of his advice is applicable using software that allows linkage between databases. Recent innovations and upgrades have produced powerful relational databases that link multiple databases and do sorts and inquiries based on text extremely quickly. (Many do calculations as well.) Also, More powerful PCs are on the market at much lower prices than just a year ago, so memory usage is not the problem it once was. It is important, however, to consider what information should be listed in your database, although again, newer software packages let you change your mind, and add more fields (and data) without as much toil.

UN MINERLOGISTE EN HIVER
(A MINERALOGIST IN WINTER)