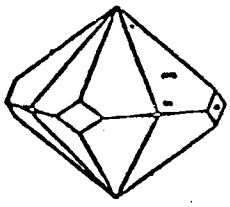
MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

CASSITERITE [SnO_2].



Greenwood, Me.

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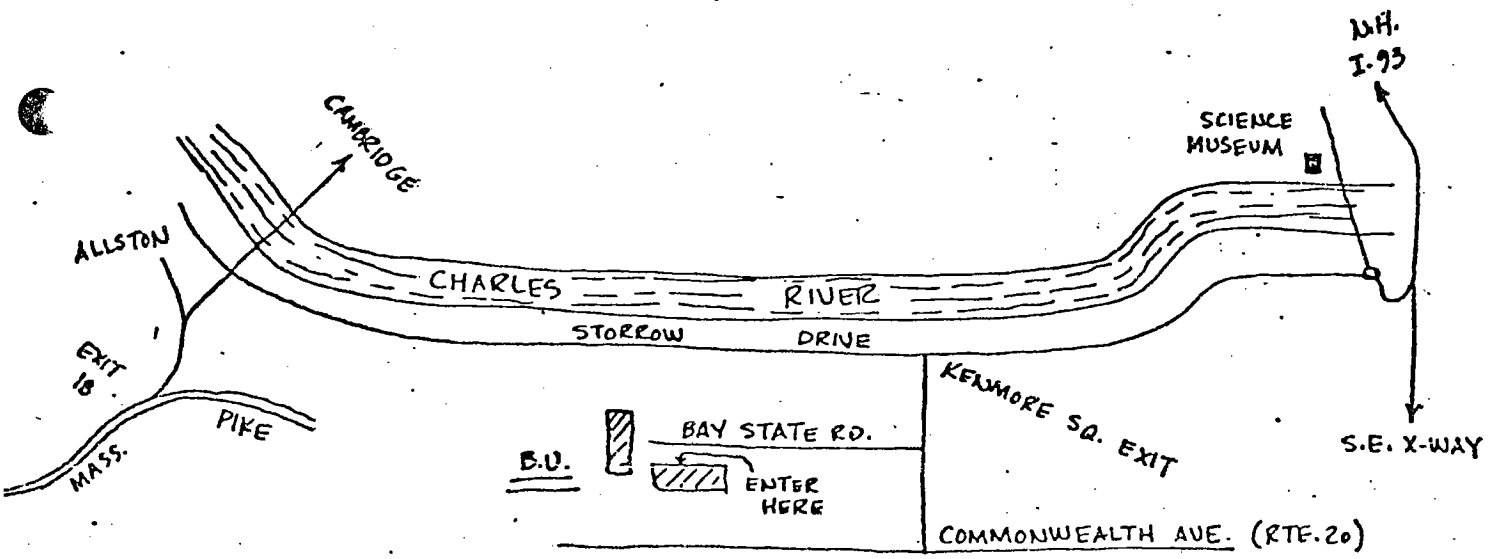
NEWSLETTER #52 — January 7, 1980

The next regular meeting of the Micromounters will be on Sunday, January 27, 1980, at Boston University, from 10AM to 4PM.



The November meeting of the Micromounters of New England was held at the home of Bill and Gerry Lindeyer in Granby, Connecticut on Saturday, November 10, 1979. Although the weather was showery in the morning and a little drizzly thruout the day, it was a pleasant ride to central Connecticut where thirteen members were present during the morning and afternoon. Some of the Lindeyer's fine mineral collection was on display. A visit by Joe Rapalus brought a large Salt crystal specimen from Wieliczka, Poland from over 800 feet underground. He obtained it from the mine foreman in a personal visit last summer to the 1000 year old mine. It was later awarded to Marge Saums who produced the lucky number. The members examined many St. Hilaire, Palermo, Francon and Connecticut specimens. Renewed activity in the original uraloganite area at Francon was described. A brief business meeting ended with the tentative listing of the next meeting to be at Boston University in January. A surprise was a showing of a number of micro color slides taken by Violet Anderson of some of Janet Cares specimens.

Norm Biggart

#52

The following is a brief accounting of a collecting trip taken in September 1979, by John and Sue Anderson, of Walpole.

Four areas were visited with a brief description of each locality and its minerals as follows:

SCHOHARIE, NEW YORK: During the construction of I-88, about five miles north of Schoharie or about 35 miles southwest of Albany, and at the intersection of State Routes 7 and 30, a small quarry was excavated for roadway fill. This quarry is 0.5 miles southeast of the Routes 7 & 30 intersection and can be seen from Route 7, just north of Route 30. The small quarry is now mostly inactive but still produces pyrite nodules, up to 15" in matrix. The most common size is under 6 inches with the nodules being found in a thin band about 8-10 feet above the quarry floor and on the left side as you enter the pit.

ST. JOHNSVILLE, NEW YORK: The Crystal Grove Campground area is still open to collectors searching for Herkimer Diamonds (quartz). The collecting area has not been expanded recently, although the owner plans to open an adjacent field to collectors next year. The present area was bulldozed in August 1979, and requires much exploration to find natural ground. Past diggings have lowered much of the area to near the water table. We were fortunate to have collected after a dry summer when ground water tables in central New York were low. Nice single crystals and matrix specimens were found in rock that is normally under water.

NORFOLK, NEW YORK: The Barrett Quarry on Route 56 in Norfolk, about 20 miles south of Massena, is open to collecting during normal working hours. Collectors need only register at the office, wear hard hats, and collect away from any work areas. The quarry has two levels, with the upper level being the better for mineral specimens. Nice miniatures of dolomite and quartz were found with little effort. The matrix is extremely hard. This is a pleasant collecting area and you are welcome by the quarry owners if you behave.

PIERREPONT, NEW YORK: The famous uvite locality at Bower Powers Farm, about 35 miles south of Massena, is once again open to collectors for a fee of $2 per person per day. Since the recent death of Mr. Powers the collecting area is controlled by his son. The fee should be paid at the Powers house which is the first house on the left on a paved road which runs north from Route 68 at a point 0.8 miles west of Pierrepont. Be sure to ask for directions to the collecting area, especially if you have been there in the past, because access is via a different route. Some nice loose crystals and matrix specimens were found.

THE 1980 CONFERENCE

The Eighth Atlantic Micromounters Conference is now history and planning is well underway on the Ninth Conference to be held on March 21, 22, and 23, 1980. Anyone interested in receiving further information may write to Mrs. Ruth Cole Wertz, 9707 Sutherland Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20901.

THE 1980 ROCHESTER SYMPOSIUM
APRIL 17 - 20

For information Contact:

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Rochester, New York 14612

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Description of locality: Blasted ledge in a construction site..

Minerals: Quartz crystals (crude) up to 4", anatase, up to 2mm., on quartz, brookite-flat transparent brown crystal of about 8 to 10 mm(one specimen only).

Nov. 1979

#52

QUINCY GRANITE.

Distribution.—The type area of the Quincy granite in Quincy and Milton is 10 miles in length from east to west and 2½ miles in greatest width. By far the largest area of the rock, however, is the one that occupies eastern Essex County, including Cape Ann Island and the mainland as far west as Ipswich, Wenham, and Beverly, an area of more than 100 square miles. Another mass—5 miles long by 3½ miles wide—occupies a large part of Peabody and Lynnfield, and smaller stocks occur in Marblehead, Swampscott, Lynn, Sharon, and Fall River, Mass., and in Cumberland, Warwick, and East Greenwich, R. I.

In the Essex County areas the granite both is cut by and grades into the associated syenitic rocks, but no very evident spatial relations are displayed. In the Rhode Island areas, too, the granite is associated with a considerable variety of porphyritic rocks, the whole complex showing no discoverable symmetrical arrangement. In the Quincy-Blue Hills area, however, the granite and associated rocks display an arrangement in concentric shells or zones, of which the outermost was the first and the central mass the last to solidify. The central mass of normal, moderately coarse-grained granite is surrounded by a shell of granite porphyry, which in places grades into a more mafic porphyritic phase and in others is replaced by a fine granite contact zone. The stock as a whole must have cooled very near the surface of the earth, and some geologists are inclined to believe that a part of the magma reached the surface and was poured out upon it or was cooled as a surface cover of the main stock, in either case forming the aporhyolite which is apparently peripheral to the granite porphyry.

Lithologic character.—The normal Quincy granite is a moderately coarse-grained rock composed of dominant quartz, feldspar, and hornblende and accessory ægirite, zircon, titanite, and ores. At some places, especially near the granite porphyry zone, the feldspars have partly automorphic outlines and the rock is obscurely porphyritic. The fresh rock, which takes a high polish, is prevailingly gray, but has scattered darker streaks and cloudy masses, due to abundant dark microlites in the feldspar crystals. At other places the rock is pinkish or reddish from surface oxidation, greenish from alteration along shear zones and near trap dikes, or purplish from abundant microlites of hematite.

The gray, commonly anhedral crystals of feldspar are seen in thin section to be almost wholly microperthite of extremely fine texture, composed of microcline and albite. The quartz, in clear and glassy, dark and smoky, or bluish and opalescent grains, is purely anhedral and is commonly intergrown with ægirite. The hornblende forms black, lustrous, cleavable crystals, generally broad but somewhat prismatic, and arranged in groups of two or more and commonly associated with ægirite. The dominant, and in places the only, hornblende is riebeckite (deep blue in thin section), but in many places the rock also contains greenish kataphorite. The ægirite is not only intergrown with the quartz and riebeckite, but occurs also in separate dark-green grains, generally anhedral, and in many places it exceeds the hornblende in amount. It differs much in its composition and properties and grades toward augite on the one hand and toward hedenbergite on the other. The common accessories are zircon, titanite, magnetite, and hematite. In addition fluorite is fairly common and ænigmatite and astrophyllite are found associated with the ægirite in some localities.