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.

NEXT MONTH

The next meeting of the MMNE will be Saturday, February 11, 1989, at the Auburn Public Library, Auburn, Mass.

January 1989 Newsletter #128

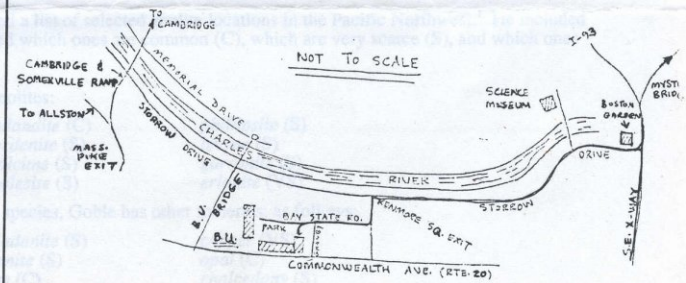
The next meeting of the Micromounters of New England will be on Sunday, January 15, 1989, at Boston University. Once again, John Stewart will be our host. (See map below.)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: **DUES ARE DUE!!!**

Remember that our dues are now five dollars per member. If you cannot attend the January meeting, send your dues along to our Treasurer, Janet Cares. We would also appreciate an inclusion of your current address and phone number so that correct entries will be made on the 1989 Membership List. There are still some members who may have errors in their address listing, or an incorrect phone number. By your giving us a copy of this information, we can verify the accuracy of our lists.

A MICRO TIP From member Eugene Mechler

In a conversation with Janet Cares, Eugene learned about testing mineral identification using the streak method. Not having ceramic tiles, however, he wondered if a similar test could be implemented using paper. Taking a specimen of boleite (hardness of 3.5-5.5), he took a sheet of white paper and, using the polished flat end of his tweezers, he crushed the sample against his desk top. He found that the method worked surprisingly well and produced a bright blue streak. He wondered if streak information could be extended to much harder minerals by using polished blocks of carbide steel to crush the sample on the white paper. Perhaps a few members would like to try this method and get the results back to your editor for further verification.



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THE ZEOLITES AND OTHER MINERALS OF GOBLE OREGON

By Gordon Gilbertson, Contributing Editor of the OREGON ROCKHOUND.

Goble, on the Columbia River west of St. Helens, was the first location at which Minnie (Mrs. Gilbertson) and I begun to collect minerals. For many years we had collected and polished agates. Our only reason for visiting the Goble site was that we didn't have the full weekends needed for trips to Eastern Oregon. When our OAMS (Oregon Agate and Mineral Society) member John Cowles saw us patiently trying to get clusters of zeolite crystals out of rocks along the road, he began to show us how to collect minerals, what to collect, urged us to study them under a microscope and eventually began to guide us to many other northwest localities. Often, members of OAMS joined us on many of those trips. Rudy Tschernich of Snohomish, Washington, was so much interested in zeolites that he would join us too, and he has become one of the authorities on zeolites to whom many of us in the northwest look for help and guidance.

But over and over again, Minnie and I would go to Goble. For one thing, it was not far away and we could accomplish quite a lot in just a one day trip. We also discovered that Goble has a remarkable variety of zeolite species compared to most other locations. The common ones were easy to find, but quite often we would find crystals that we did not recognize and would have to get them identified. I can remember John Cowles looking with wonder at a crystal new to us and saying, "There's no place like Goble!" That statement of John's is still true today. Goble, Oregon is one of the finest zeolite locations not only in the northwest, but is known to mineralogists and collectors all over the world.

Several new mineral species have been discovered at Goble. This is quite remarkable when one considers that the total number of known minerals in the world today is about 1500 (Ed. note: the figure is about twice that number). Those of us who become interested in minerals are lucky compared to hobbyists who collect and study such things as flowers, insects, fossils, etc. There may be thousands of species in each of these categories. The zeolites and other minerals of Goble provide a wonderful experience to the beginning collector. Though it takes a bit of hard work to find good material, with time and effort anyone can find specimens that are well worth a place in one's collection.

The OAMS mineral group which meets once a month at the home of Phil and Beulah Murphy (Ed. note: Mrs. Murphy is also a member of the MMNE) is fortunate in having the help of two persons who are actively studying zeolites. One of these is Rudy Tschernich whom I mentioned above. Rudy is now engaged in writing a book about zeolites and probably knows more about northwest zeolites and locations than anyone else we know.

The other person is Don Howard, who recently appeared on one of our society programs. Don is a physicist and has access to laboratory equipment where he can do the X-ray and other studies that enable him to identify minerals. Both Don and Rudy are able to describe these minerals and help us to understand their structure and formation better.

Not long ago, Rudy completed a list of selected zeolite locations in the Pacific Northwest.[1] He included Goble in his listing and indicated which ones are common (C), which are very scarce (S), and which ones are very scarce (VS).

Following is the list of Goble zeolites:

mesolite (C)	*heulandite* (C)	*phillipsite* (S)
thomsonite (C)	*mordenite* (S)	*levyne* (S)
stilbite (C)	*analcime* (S)	*garronite* (S)
chabazite (C)	*cowlesite* (S)	*erionite* (VS)

In addition to the above zeolite species, Goble has other minerals, as follows:

calcite (C)	*celadonite* (S)	*copper* (VS)
apophyllite (C)	*okenite* (S)	*opal* (C)
pyrolusite (S)	*clay* (C)	*chalcedony* (S)
cavansite (VS)		

Many of us who have collected at Goble know that one of the minerals (*cowlesite*) is named for John Cowles. He also discovered another new mineral at Goble. It was a beautiful blue mineral that he found in a quarry in Goble in 1963.[2] However, other collectors had found the same mineral at the Owyhee Dam in Malheur County and were credited with its discovery. It was named cavansite. Later some of this material showed crystals that were twinned. These were named pentagonite.

Recently two new crystals have been found at Goble and are being given careful study. Both are new species of zeolite. One of these, which is found as tiny crystals in very small vugs in very dense rock, we have been calling *tschernichite* (italics added) since it was Rudy who found it. The other we are calling *boggsite* (italics added). It is being studied by Russell Boggs of the Northwest Micro Mineral study group.

To all the members of our local mineral group these new discoveries are very exciting, and we look forward eagerly to the progress being made in establishing them as new species. Goble will then be the "type locality" for three members of the zeolite family, a type locality being the locality at which a species was first discovered.

References:

1. Micro Probe, Northwest Micro Mineral Study Group, Volume VI, number 4.
2. Cavansite and pentagonite, new dimorphous calcium vanadinite silicate minerals from Oregon, Lloyd W. Staples, American Mineralogist, Volume 58, pp. 405-411, 1973

(The above article came from the September 1988 issue of the OREGON ROCKHOUND, bulletin of the Oregon Agate and Mineral Society of Portland, Oregon, Margaret Evans, Editor.

THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF MICROMOUNTERS.

The "The International Directory of Micromounters" has been published biennially in "even" years, by the Baltimore Mineral Society at the time of its Micromount Symposium in September. Mr. Randolph S. Rothschild has diligently served as the editor for the past 25 years and, for personal reasons, has requested that a new editor be appointed. While we regret his decision, we appreciate all that he has done and we thank him for his efforts.

The appointment took place recently and, because of the timing of the changeover, the 14th edition of the Directory must be delayed until September of 1989. It will be published in "odd" years thereafter. During the coming year, there will be an effort to update the contents. For this purpose, additions, deletions, corrections and other changes needed since the publication of the 13th edition will be gratefully received by the new editor, Roy I. Orim, 9155-A Hitching Post Lane, Laurel, MD 20707.

Information received by June 1, 1989 will be reflected in the 14th edition After that date, it will appear in the next edition. The price for the 14th edition will be honored at this time. Monies received for the edition expected this (past) fall must regrettably be returned. We sincerely regret any inconvenience this situation may cause. Further information will be forthcoming.

(The above information was supplied by the Baltimore Mineral Society, via MICRO NEWS AND VIEWS, Volume 15, number 1, Horst Windisch, Editor.)

TIME TO RELABEL...AGAIN!!

The IMA has come out with a new publication concerning the nomenclature of Pyroxenes. Aegirine has been chosen as the designated name for all specimens previously labeled Acmite. So now its time to get out all those Saint Hilaire specimens and start relabeling!