



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, February 6, 1993** at the Auburn Public Library.

January 1993

Newsletter 164

Our next meeting of the MMNE will take place on **Sunday, January 10, 1993**, at the Geology Department at Boston University. Our host will be John Stewart. John Anderson will present a program titled: "Minerals are Where You Find Them." He will narrate a slide program about his collecting experiences over the last 20 years. He will have available at our meeting self-collected minerals, including micromounts, for our viewing pleasure. John has been a MMNE member for several years, and he was bulletin editor prior to our current editor.

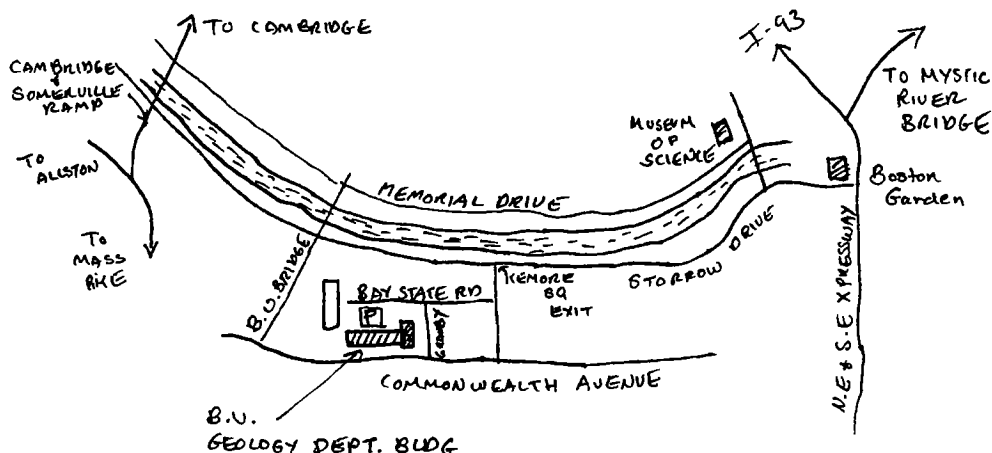
Message from the President:

In November we started our first swap/flea market concept, and it was received with interest. The moneys are now in our treasury. Some suggestions for the next swap are: labels, tweezers, balsa wood, foam, adhesives, probes and needles. **Please note, however, because of our meeting location this month (one that requires transportation of micro equipment some distance from parking), the club officers have decided to skip the flea market, etc., for this month.** We will resume this event at the following meeting, in February.

Remember, it's never too early to start bringing in minerals for the annual May meeting. Keep in mind the monthly meetings are also in need of micromounts.

Fran

Dues are Due! Please bring your dues to the next meeting, or send them to our Treasurer, Janet Cares.



An Alternative (Micromounting) Technique

The majority of micromounter seem to use the technique described in the excellent book by Milton L. Speckles: "The Complete Guide to Micromounts."

Over the years, however, I have developed a modified method which I find is simple, quick and capable of giving neat, properly orientated specimens. I hope you find it of interest.

Basically, the method is to use a round pedestal on a circular disc base and to paint it as the last operation.

The materials used are:

1. **The base.** After using square bases for some years I was able to obtain cardboard discs which are the waste after a cardboard manufacturer's stamping-out operation, I had to persuade the firm to allow someone to sweep up this "rubbish" and put it in a box. A \$5 "tip" bought me a couple of thousand; the discs are one inch diameter by 3/32 of an inch thick (25X2mm).
2. **The pedestal.** Always round and a variety of diameters: balsa wood, ABA plastic tubing, stems from "cotton buds," etc. Recently, thanks to a gift from Peter Reynolds, hollow cardboard tubes (ex-GPO telephones, I think).
3. **Glue.** Generally "UHU." I use balsa cement to glue the mount in the box; the solvent partially melts the box base and ensures a good bond.
4. **Paint.** I use, exclusively, "Tamiya Colour" XF1 Flat Black acrylic paint. This is Japanese and intended for plastic kit modelers. It is quick drying with a dense matte blackness. The odor can, however, be a little offensive after prolonged use.

The method is as follows:

1. If you prefer, paint the edges and top of the discs; sometimes I first do a batch, but usually I leave painting until the end.
2. Prepare the pedestal, cut to length, allowing for the thickness of the base.
3. Use a turret-type leather punch to pierce a hole of proper size in the base (or punch a pencil through, but this is not as good). Glue the pedestal and push it into the hole and then put aside until set (30 minutes).
4. Mount the specimen in the usual way and put aside for about an hour; check; prick blisters and flatten; remove glue strings; etc. and then leave for 24 hours.
5. Holding specimen upside down under microscope, carefully paint over glue and down the pedestal, using a No. 3 brush. Put on a flat surface and paint (or touch up) base.
6. Put glue in bottom of box; place specimen in appropriate position; and using a needle or similar (tool), rotate the base whilst the glue is wet until exact orientation is achieved. With practice, I can mount about 40 specimens in two evenings. Writing the labels is the tedious job.

By Peter Braithwaite, from the *British Micromount Society Newsletter*,
August 1988, via *Micro News and Views*, V.18, No.4, July 1992