

# MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND NEWSLETTER

January 1997

#195

The MMNE was organized on January 14, 1967, for the purpose of promoting the study of minerals that require a microscope.

## **PRESIDENT**

James Clark  
18 Central Street  
Topsfield, MA 01983  
(508) 887-5881

## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Mike Kieron  
38 Merritt Road  
East Providence, RI 02915  
(401) 434-0281

## **SECRETARY**

Patricia Barker  
P.O. Box 810  
Campton, NH 03223  
(603) 536-2401

## **TREASURER**

Janet Cares  
18 Singletary Lane  
Sudbury, MA 01776  
(508) 443-9180

## **EDITOR**

Mike Swanson  
29 Chestnut Hill  
Greenfield, MA 01301-3003  
(413) 773-3867

Dues are \$6.00/year and due on January 1st, payable to the treasurer.

News items for the *Newsletter* are welcome and should be submitted to the Editor.

The *Newsletter* may quoted if credit is given.

The Club address is c/o Editor

## **Upcoming Meetings**

## **MMNE MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting will be held on *SUNDAY* January 12 at the Harvard University Mineral Museum on Oxford Street in Cambridge. Doors will open at 9:00 AM. **NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION.** Curator Carl Francis will discuss Harvard's micromount collection which will be accessible under supervision. This will be a good opportunity to see what species or localities are needed. Any specimen which is donated to the collection will result in the addition of the collector's name to the list of donors. The Harvard Mineral Museum has a collection of about 6,000 specimens which Steve Cares has been assembling. A map for the Museum is on the back of this sheet.

## **MEETING REPORTS - OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 1996**

Since John Stewart is retiring, we will no longer have access to Boston University for meetings.

The Hagendorf book remains in limbo. Pat Barker will inquire again as to its availability.

Gene Bearss reports that there is a new product on the market called "Handitak" which is slightly stiffer than "Mineraltak" and yellow in color. It does not seem to dry out or get oily. It is carried in the stationary department at Walmart.

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Dues time again. Send your payment to Janet Cares or see her at the January meeting.

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

It is the time for each and every member of the MMNE to make a New Year's resolution to writing an article, short or long for the Newsletter. There is only so much interesting material I can find in other bulletins. Write up something on a special mounting or preparation technique, a simple physical or chemical testing process, book or literature review, or a favorite locality.

January 14, 1997 is the 30th anniversary of the founding of the MMNE. An organizational meeting was held on November 6, 1966, but the first official meeting of the MMNE was held on January 14, 1967 at the Eliot Church in Newton, MA. Copies of the first meeting announcement, minutes of the meeting and a list of charter members are enclosed. After reviewing the early history of the MMNE with Janet Cares, the date on the *Newsletter* masthead has been changed to reflect the charter date of January 14, 1967, subject to the approval of the membership.

The 17th Edition of the International Directory of Micromounters is again available. This is published in even numbered years by the Baltimore Mineral Society and becomes available at the Paul Desautels Memorial Micromount Symposium. Cover price is \$5.00 at the symposium, or \$6.50 through the mail from Roy I. Grim, 9155A Hitching Post Lane, Laurel, MD 20723-1531. Make out checks either to Roy I. Grim or the Baltimore Mineral Society.

I have enclosed an prepublication announcement for Minerals of Colorado, by Edwin Beckel. It will be published by the Friends of Mineralogy for delivery in September 1997. It is included because I have not seen the offering anywhere else.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SHOWS

North Shore Rock and Mineral Club Micromounters meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the home of John and Margaret Stewart, 244 Mill St., Burlington, MA. Guests are welcome. For more information call John or Margaret at (617) 272-0854.)

MMNE: January 12, 1997 (*Sunday*), Harvard Mineral Museum. Doors open at 9:00 AM.

MMNE: February 8, 1997 (*Saturday*), Auburn, MA public library. Doors open at 9:00 AM.

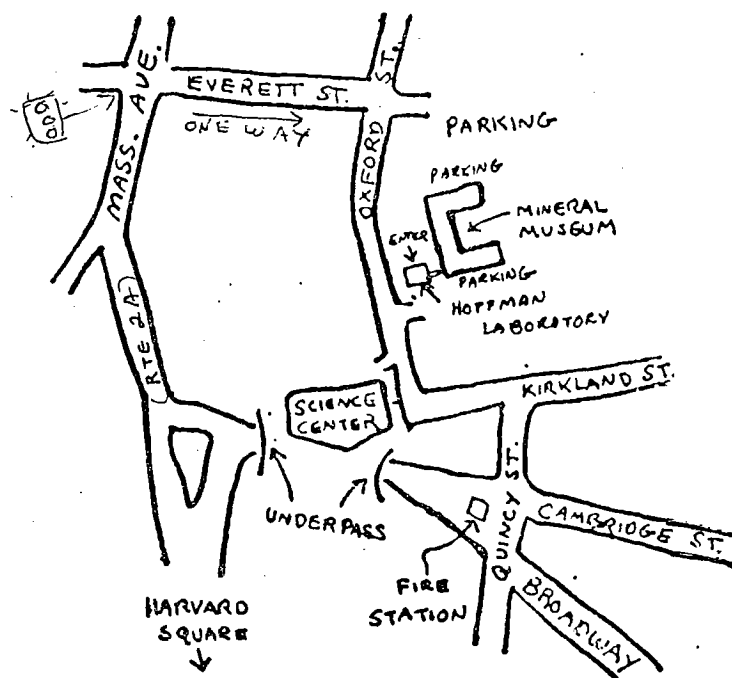
MMNE: March 15, 1997 (*Saturday*), Burlington, MA public library. Doors open at 10:00 AM.

MMNE: April 12, 1997 (*Saturday*), Northboro, MA public library. Doors open at 9:30 AM.

MMNE: May 10, 1997 (*Saturday*), Ashland, MA 4-H Club Center. Doors open at 9:00 AM.

### DIRECTIONS TO THE HARVARD MINERAL MUSEUM OXFORD STREET CAMBRIDGE, MA

From I-95 (Rte. 128) take exit 29 to Rte. 2 east. At the junction with Rte. 30 go left a short distance to Massachusetts Ave. (Rte. 2A), then follow the map to the museum. Go to main entrance of the Hoffman Laboratory. Take the elevator to the third floor then turn right. You may temporarily use the circular drive in front of the main museum to unload, but you must not stay there. Someone will be posted at the door until 10 AM. After that, look for the telephone box to the right of the door and dial 5-4758. Someone will come to the door within 5 minutes to let you in. After 1 PM you may use the main entrance, but you must walk up several flights of stairs.



Announcing...

# **MINERALS OF COLORADO**

By Edwin B. Eckel

*Updated and revised by*

**Robert R. Cobban, Donley S. Collins, Eugene E. Foord,  
Daniel E. Kile, Peter J. Modreski, and Jack A. Murphy**

Originally published in 1961 as USGS Bulletin 1114, *Minerals of Colorado* has served, until now, as the definitive reference of Colorado mineralogy. Since 1961, the number of mineral species reported from Colorado has nearly doubled, making this update indispensable to those interested in Colorado minerals. This important work (of approximately 900 pages in 8 1/2 by 11 inch format) is complemented by 120 color photographs, 26 SEM photographs, eight maps, and many previously unpublished chemical analyses.

**Now Available to You at this  
Special Pre-Publication Offering - \$90  
To be delivered - September, 1997  
(After Publication Retail Price - \$150)**

Please reserve _____ copies (\$90 each)	=	_____
Colorado Residents add 7.2% sales tax	=	_____
Shipping & handling @ \$3.00 per copy	=	_____
TOTAL =		_____

\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed    \_\_\_\_ Charge my:    \_\_\_\_ Visa    \_\_\_\_ Mastercard    \_\_\_\_ American Express  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Credit card charges will not be processed until July or August, 1997.)

Send orders to: **FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY--COLORADO CHAPTER**  
**P.O. Box 11005, Denver, Colorado 80211-0005**

MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

November 5, 1966 -- Charter Meeting  
Elliot Church of Newton  
Newton Centre, Mass.

Mr. Gunnar Bjareby	14 Palace Road	Boston, Mass.	02115	566-0127
Mr. Walter G. Chick	392 West Roxbury Parkway		02131	FA5-2746
Mrs. Inez W. Chick	" " "	Roslindale, Mass.	" "	" "
Mr. Fred I. Colby	75 Garfield St.	Laconia, N.H.	03246	
Mr. Steve Cares	18 Singletory Lane		01776	
Mrs. Janet Cares	"	Sudbury, Mass.	" "	" "
Mr. Ralph L. Carr, Jr.	53 Hill Top Dr.	Cranston, R.I.	02920	
Rev. Harold R. Fray, Jr.	180 Park St.	Newton, Mass.	02158	
Mr. Gilbert L. George	82 Chapin Ave.	Providence, R.I.		351-3042
Mr. Russell J. Gilman, MDB	Brann Ave.	Augusta, Maine	04330	
Mr. Clifton H. Gray	137 Veazie St.	Old Town, Maine	04468	
Mrs. Effe S. Gray	" " "	" " "	" "	
Mr. Philip C. Foster	2 Elm St.	Dover, N.H.	03820	1-603 742-9006
Mr. Elden McFetridge	43 Benefit St.	Warwick, R.I.	02886	1-401 737-6635
Mr. Edward W. Rushton	Star Rt 1271	Belfast, Maine	04915	
Mr. Richard H. Thompson	9 High St.	Fairfield, Maine	04937	
Mr. Chester O. Teichman	1840 Trapelo Rd.	Waltham, Mass.	02154	893-5098

### Micromounters:

This is a notice of the first meeting of a New England Micromounters Club as noted in the August issue of "Rocks and Minerals". This club is being formed to help all collectors interested in the study of minerals, by the use of microscopes. Please show this notice to all interested members of your club.

The first meeting will be held at the "Eliot Church of Newton", 474 Centre St., Newton, Mass. on Saturday Nov. 5, 1966 at 1 P.M. At the present time four meetings a year are planned, dates for future meetings will be announced later.

Each member is expected to bring a maximum of ten (10) micromounts to be identified or in the case of an expert to bring micromounts to show to interested members. It is not necessary to bring mounted specimens but too large a specimen will take much longer to be identified as the spot in question would have to be located by the owner to be properly identified. If the area in question is small it is better to make an arrow from tape and stick it to the specimen pointing to what you would like identified, this also applies to mounted specimens to insure correct identification.

There will be microscope turntables at the meetings. These tables will be used by an expert and three or four members at each table. Each member will set up his specimens to the area in question one at a time and the expert will identify it. The members at each table will also have an opportunity to look at each mount and in this way will learn the identification of minerals. In this way we can all benefit from this club. This does not mean that a member will learn all there is to know about minerals but seeing the specimens in conjunction with study of the minerals in any of the mineralogical books will help all of us.

Bring your microscope and light. We will have provisions for electric outlets at the regular tables also. If you do not have a microscope come anyway as there should be enough around to permit all interested to have a chance to look at some micromounts. You will have an opportunity to see the scopes in use as well as to see the differences in mounting. Members can bring micromount specimens to be traded, especially material from distant and new locations.

There will be a talk by Gunnar Sjarby on the phosphates at Palermo Mine, North Groton, N.H., giving tips in identification.

Hope to see you there.

By the way if you have been looking for please be  
before I think it is off to you. I am sure you are anticipating  
going to a visit of yours. If you can find out more about this  
can we make a trip here a bit later. They say: See you  
in "London" and then hope.

## MICROMOUNTERS

The charter meeting of the "MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND" was held at the Eliot Church in Newton Center, Massachusetts, on Saturday Nov. 5, 1966. A good meeting was held with members coming from Maine, New Hampshire, Mass., New York, New Jersey, and Rhode Island.

A committee was formed to draft a constitution. Since then this committee has met and a constitution has been drawn. This constitution is to be voted on at the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Saturday Jan. 14, 1967 at the Eliot Church, 474 Centre Street, Newton Center, Mass.

At the first meeting, mineral specimens from St. Hilaire in Quebec, Canada proved to be the most interesting to most members present. Many of them had collected there recently or had traded, or bought some of the rare ones. Many different minerals have been identified from this quarry. There are others found here that as yet have not been identified. Some of the rare minerals from this location are serandite, eudialyte, eucolite, elpidite, catapleite, leucophanite, helvite, genthelvite, synchisite, and others.

Why not plan to come to the next meeting of the "MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND". Bring your microscope if you have one. If you do not at this time own one, come and see the different ones in use, as well as see slides and take part in the program. Hope to see you there. For further information write to;

Gilbert G. George  
82 Chapin Ave  
Prov., R.I.

**Book Review.** by Reivan Zeleznik. (Taken from AFMS Newsletter, 11/96, via Gem Cutter's News, 11/96)

A Systematic Approach to MINERAL IDENTIFICATION by, Betty M. James. 1996, Petrograph Publishing. 215 p. softcover. Library of Congress Card No. 96-68744.

Although I have known her for many more years, I first met and got to know Betty and her husband, Tom on an Eastern Federation geology tour in 1990. Living in close proximity day and night for more than two weeks allowed for the development of a familiarity which may breed contempt or admiration. In my case it was certainly admiration. She is a wonderful person and a knowledgeable collector. Our paths have also touched on many occasions at EFMLS conventions, shows and Wildacres Workshops.

And so. It was not without surprise that about two years ago, I began to note that Betty's mineralogical and writing skills combined when she began to regularly contribute articles to the Lapidary Journal. At the recent CFMS/AFMS Convention and Show in Riverside, Betty asked, and I consented, to review her newly published book.

About a month after we returned from our California trip I received a small, innocuous looking book in the mail. It was from Betty. Was this just another book on mineral ID? Dutifully, I glanced at its size, layout and especially the Table of Contents. Nothing extraordinary. Except for the first two sections of Chapter I whose titles intrigued me: What Minerals Are Not and What Minerals Are. Hmmm. And so I started to read the author's prefacing Purpose and Acknowledgments and then continued with the body of the book.

With subtle and definite skill and assurance, the author leads the non-professional mineral [not rock] collector through the first 50+ pages. The stage is set with an easy, style which encourages the reader to eagerly continue. Little is taken for granted as new terms are introduced in bold type and then explained in either the text or the reference glossary. The aims of the book are clearly spelled out and the author appropriately cites other reference sources if the reader wishes to digress for a more detailed study of, for example, Crystallography. The book remains focused and on track throughout.

One third the way into the book the tone seems to shift into a higher gear. It starts with the chapter on Crystallography and revs up even higher with the introduction of chemical properties, chemical analysis and more sophisticated tests. Bonding, valence, and qualitative and quantitative analysis all bring me back to my own chem major background some 45 years ago. I haven't used it and this was a good review. The writing style remains the same however, with the author leading the novice or semi-novice into more and more complex realms while continuing to explain new terms and concepts.

By the time spectroscopy, DTA, TEM, CTEM, STM, SEM and other terms and techniques are introduced the reader realizes that the book is most aptly titled. This is truly a description of "how-to".

One can stop anywhere along the line - at one's 'comfort level', so to speak - and use the previously developed methodology to advantage with respect to personal collecting and enjoyment. This may probably be the

greatest single benefit of this small volume.

An interesting technique includes a self test after each chapter.

Unlike many traditional textbooks however, some of the questions don't reference specific answers in the chapter. Rather, they reference concepts which have been raised. This demands that the reader absorb and integrate the information provided and then re-synthesize it with additional information in order to arrive at an appropriate conclusion. Of course, one may disregard the self test altogether. But then, why read a book (or any informational article for that matter) if one is not to learn from it.

I recommend this book as an excellent resource for not-so-new rockhounds, people who have had a few years in the hobby but are not guided in their development via formal course work - in colleges or universities. A Systematic Approach to MINERAL IDENTIFICATION is for rockhounds who field trip, swap or collect.

It is for rockhounds who want [or need] a guide to help organize thought processes to more fully enjoy their acquisitions. It is for rockhounds who want to learn at their own pace. As the holiday season approaches, it is also a wonderful "stocking stuffer."

Copies may be ordered directly from Petrograph Publishing at 106 Madlyn Drive, Florence, MS 39073-3868. Single copies are \$21.95 each, five copies are \$19.75 each and 10 copies or more are \$17.55 each. Add \$2.00 per copy for shipping and handling.

+++++

**Books** Roadside Geology of Vermont and New Hampshire by Bradford B. VanDiver, is now available. 240 pages and paperbound. Also just released is Roadside Geology of Hawai'i (the apostrophe is in the title) by Richard W. Hazlet and Donald W. Hyndman. 432 pages and paperbound. Another related book (not part of the popular "Roadside Geology" series) is recently released - Geology Underfoot in Illinois by Raymond Wiggers. 240 pages and paperbound. To order any of these new books, check your local book stores or call Mountain Press Publishing Company at 1-800-234-5308 for books or a free catalog.

+++++