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 $4.00 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

The next meeting of the MMNE will be Saturday, April 2, 1988 at the Hudson Public Library

MARCH 1988 NEWSLETTER #122

The next regular meeting of the Micromounters of New England will be Saturday, March 12, 1988 at the Auburn Public Library.

DUES ARE PAST DUE. THIS WILL BE THE LAST COPY OF THE MMNE NEWSLETTER THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE IF YOU DO NOT SEND IN YOUR DUES. PLEASE CHECK THE ENVELOPE IN WHICH YOUR NEWSLETTER ARRIVED. IF IT HAS A RED "D" ON IT, WE DO NOT HAVE YOU RECORDED AS HAVING PAID YOUR 1988 DUES.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

The Northeast Meeting of the MMNE will be Saturday, May 14th. Our speaker for this event will be Lou Perloff. Registration forms will appear in the next bulletin, but it is certainly not too early to begin to bring in donations for the sales table and prepare your give-aways as well. This is our most popular (and populated) event of the year, and the success of our meeting lies in the hands of our membership. Please contribute.

Our 1988 Membership starts on page 3 of this bulletin. As stated elsewhere, we have made every attempt to be accurate in compiling this list. Please notify the editor if there are any corrections that must be made. If a telephone number was not listed, it is due to the fact that there is no record of a phone number in the editor's file. If you wish to have your number included, please foward this information to me.--SNM

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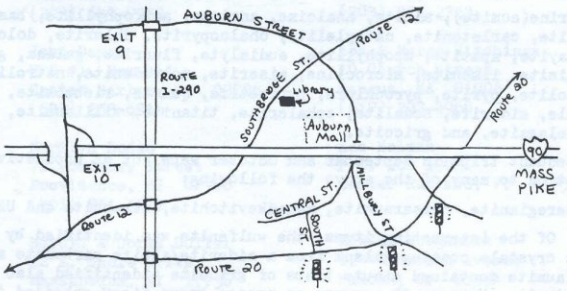
MEETING--MARCH 12, 1988 AUBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY

CLUB WILL MEET IN THE MERRIAM ROOM



The following two items were taken from "MICRO BITS", the Newsletter of the Southern California Micro-Mineralogists, Inc., Charles (Bob) Curtis, Editor. They are quoted as they appeared in the July 1987 issue. No author was listed.

Have you used styrofoam as a pedestal for your micromounts? I have tried this material and find it very good for large specimens and especially those having a rough and uneven surface against which the specimen must be fitted. The specimen can be pressed into the styrofoam so that the bottom fits evenly. The material can be blackened with one of the flat black sprays used by florists. Set the pedestal on a pin and spray on the black. I use Sargent 323, velvet black Florist Spray to blacken the styrofoam. Try a few mounts using the styrofoam and I believe you will like them. G & M 4/66

Mounting a single crystal is generally a challenge to even those with steady hands. One easy method of mounting single crystals is to place them on a disc or square of paper glued to the top of a pedestal. A number of specimens can be placed on the disc to show various forms or habits of a mineral. This is ideal for tiny quartz crystals, garnets, pyrite and other minerals having a number of facets.
The paper discs or squares should be cut from a good grade of paper. Calling cards are very satisfactory. If black discs are needed, they can be cut from photo album leaves or white ones can be blackened with a magic marker. The paper is glued to the top of a pedestal and the pedestal cut to length. Center in the micromount box and allow to dry. Working under the magnifier, place the tiny crystals in the desired position on the paper. Place light colored or transparent minerals on a black mount and dark minerals on the white paper. Very carefully place a drop of gum tragacanth solution on the paper. You may have to reposition the crystals in the liquid. Leave the box overnight for for several hours to allow the liquid to evaporate. When the paper is dry, a fine film of adhesive will have been left over the specimen. This film cannot be detected with a microscope if the solution has been prepared properly. If the solution is too thick, the film will be visible. G & M 1/64

from The Mineral Mite, January 1988. Bulletin of The Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Fred C. Schaefermeyer, Editor.

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MONT SAINT-HILAIRE 1987

Collecting at Mont Saint-Hilaire has been particularly good this year with a good mix of hornfels, breccias and pegmatites. On my trip in June, I was able to identify the following 44 species from a single afternoon's efforts:

aegerine(acmite), albite, analcime, anatase, astrophyllite, bastnaesite, biotite, calcite, carletonite, catapleiite, chalcopyrite, chlorite, dolomite, donnayite, apatite, apophyllite, eudialyte, fluorite, galena, genthelvite, gmelinite, ilmenite, microcline, miserite, molybdenite, natrolite, nepheline, pectolite, pyrite, pyrochlore, pyrrhotite, quartz, riebeckite, rhodochrosite, rutile, siderite, sodalite, sphalerite, titanite, villiaumite, wulfenite, zircon, hochelagaite, and griceite.

Subsequent trips in September and October were not as productive but yielded in addition to many of the above the following:

monteregianite, narsarsukite, nenadkevitchite, serandite and UK59

Of the interesting items, the wulfenite was identified by CHAO as fine needle-like crystals coating galena from a siderite/albite carbonate matrix. Some of the villaumite contained minute blebs of griceite (identified also by Chao) embedded within it. Unknown 59 appears as orange brown fiber embedded in the syenite and occasionally extending into free growing fibers in very tight openings. The anatase

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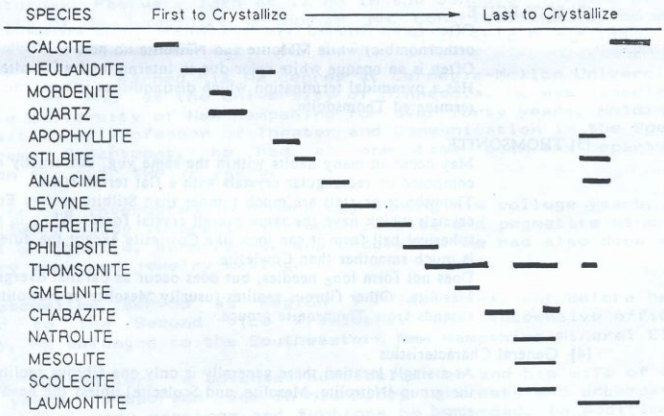
Since I know a number of micromounters are interested in zeolites, I thought the following information might be interesting and useful.--Editor

SEQUENCE OF CRYSTALLIZATION for ZEOLITES OF THE NORTHWEST
by Rudy Tschernich (Reprinted from MICRO PROBE Fall 1971)



Notes:
[1] CALCITE commonly is the first and/or last mineral to crystallize.
[2] HEULANDITE (if present) is the first Zeolite to form and commonly has a second generation which forms larger crystals.
[3] MORDENITE and QUARTZ commonly crystallize at the same time.
[4] STILBITE (if present) follows Heulandite crystallization. A second generation of Stilbite is usually micro sized Epidesmine.
[5] ANALCIME usually crystallizes before Thomsonite and Levyne.
[6] THOMSONITE and CHABAZITE crystallize together.
[7] Usually only one zeolite from the group (Natrolite, Mesolite, Scolecite) occur.
[8] LAUMONTITE usually is the last zeolite to form, but CALCITE is the last mineral to form

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6.....

IDENTIFICATION NOTES ON THE FIBROUS ZEOLITES
(Natrolite, Mesolite, Scolecite, Mordenite, Thomsonite, Edingtonite, Gonnardite)

Characteristics that **DO** distinquish the fibrous Zeolites

[1] MORDENITE

Commonly associated or intergrown with quartz crystals or chalcedony.
Always occurs as very thin needles and if wetted becomes matted.
Mordenite is an early zeolite to crystallize therefore it is often covered with other zeolites, especially Stilbite. Can occur at the same location that produces other fibrous zeolites such as Natrolite, Mesolite, or Scolecite.

[2] SCOLECITE

Often forms flattened crystals or flattened crystal aggregates (pseudo-orthorhombic) while Mesolite and Natrolite do not.
Often is an opaque white color due to internal hydration alteration.
Has a pyramidal termination which distinquishes it from the flat terminated Thomsonite.

[3] THOMSONITE

May occur in many habits within the same vug, but usually is composed of rectangular crystals with a flat termination.
Thomsonite crystals are much thinner than Stilbite variety Epidesmine crystals which have the same overall crystal form. When in a spherical ball form it can look like Cowlesite except the outer surface is much smoother than Cowlesite.
Does not form long needles, but does occur as parallel overgrowths on Mesolite. Other fibrous zeolites (usually Mesolite or Natrolite) often extends from Thomsonite groups.

[4] General Characteristics

At a single location there generally is only one fibrous zeolite from the group (Natrolite, Mesolite, and Scolecite) unless the needles are zoned.

CHARACTERISTICS THAT DO NOT DISTINQUISH THE FIBROUS ZEOLITES

[1] Size of crystals (diameter or length) does not identify the fibrous zeolites.
[2] Matted appearance of a fibrous zeolite does not mean it is Mordenite. It only indicates the thinness of the crystals.

Examples: Mesolite from Ritter, OR and Natrolite from Cape Lookout, OR are often matted, but Mordenite from South Goble, OR and Stevenson, WA is not matted.

From the BEMS' the TUMBLER, December 1987

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SAINT-HILAIRE, CONTINUED

from the October trip are fine brilliant black crystals (prismatic with a shallow pyramid) associated with very nice large green dolomite crystals.

by Garry Glenn (Niagara Falls, Ontario)
From The MICRONEWS, the bulletin of the Canadian Micro Mineral Association, February 1988, Muriel and Eric Wood, Editors.