



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 April Meeting will be **Saturday, the 11th, 1992** at the: **Northborough Public Library**

March 1992

Newsletter 157

The next meeting of the MMNE will be **Saturday, March 14, 1992**, at the **Sudbury Public Library** in Sudbury Mass. Remember, the library does not open until **9:30 am**. Our program for this month will be a slide program given by member **Angie Teixeira**.

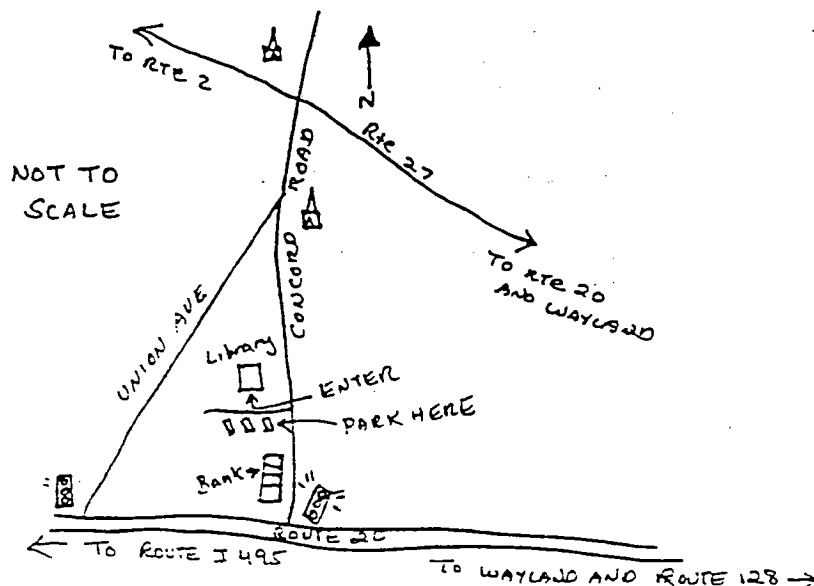
This issue contains our 1992 membership list.

Donations for the May meeting sales table and giveaways are still welcome. Besides those already mentioned, we have had specimens from Bob Janules, Gene Bearss, Pat Barker, and Ralph and Violet Carr, who have also donated some interesting USGS reports.

Registration forms for the Northeast meeting will be mailed with the April newsletter, but it's not too early to start thinking about registration for the Northeast Meeting. Extra copies will be available at this month's meeting.

The Sudbury Library is having a book sale April 4th. If you have some old (or late) books you want to dispose of, bring them along to the meeting. It's a good way to do your spring cleaning, recycling, and keeping us in favor with the library. Any mineral related books or periodicals should be held out for the MMNE May meeting.

Congratulations to member Dana Morong for the publication of his article in Rocks and Minerals. We had a short preview of this topic given by Dana in our bulletin.



New Minerals at Mont Saint-Hilaire

From a reliable source we hear that a number of new minerals have been found at Mont Saint-Hilaire. If you collected shortite last season, look for vaterite as chalky, white masses and coatings with it. Both are carbonates and will effervesce in acid.

Other species are mostly known only from one or two specimens from the sodalite xenoliths, and all are micros. Langite and posnjakite are found as apparent alteration products of still unnamed copper sulfides UK 55 and UK 82. Digenite, djurleite, and nikeline may also be added to the list, as well as wagnerite, which was found some time ago by Bob Janules and confirmed by Dr. Chao. More blasting has been done, but the quarry is now snowed under, and idle for the winter.

The Mineralogy of Uranium

This is the topic that will be presented by Dr. Abraham Rosenzweig at our Northeast Meeting, May 9. Perhaps some of our members would like to read up on it before that time. Drs. Clifford and Judith Frondel of Harvard did extensive work on the radioactive minerals and produced the most comprehensive information on the subject. Availability of these publications is not guaranteed, as some are out of print.

Frondel, C. (1958) Systematic Mineralogy of Uranium and Thorium, Geological Society of America Bulletin 1064. (400 pp.)

Frondel, J. et al (1967) Glossary of Uranium and Thorium-bearing Minerals (4th Edition) GSA Bulletin 1250.

A number of articles have appeared in the Mineralogical Record with descriptive text and beautiful color photographs. Some of the more comprehensive are listed below in chronological order.

Anderson, V. 1978. "Microminerals" Jan./Feb., pp. 32-34. (Zaire)

Kennedy, I. 1979. "Intensely Radioactive Minerals from the Bancroft Area, Ontario" May/June, pp. 153-158.

Gault, R. and R. Waller 1980. "Uraninite from Gatineau Park, Quebec" March/April, p. 79.

Vochten, R. and G. Brizzi 1987. "Bassetite and other Uranium Minerals from....Sardinia" May/June, pp. 181-184.

Gauthier, et al 1989. "Uranium Deposits of the Shaba Region, Zaire" July/August, pp. 265-288.

---- JWC

From member Eugene Mechler:

Your article on sight identification (February) is very interesting. I remember identifying the minerals in my small collection several years ago. The next year I was looking it over and realized about half of the identifications were wrong. I was surprised at how much I learned in a year.

Personally, I have a "photographic" memory and tend to picture a specimen in my mind. I think, too, a good memory with a lot of specimens in the storage unit helps the identification process. It's strange how the subconscious can pull together a bunch of seemingly unrelated facts to produce an identification for a particular specimen.

The Saco Valley Club (New Hampshire) asked members to bring in certain specimens at each meeting. Crystal shapes was one category, a certain chemical context was another, color was another. Over the years some super specimens were brought in. It's surprising how much you learn when it comes at you a little at a time.

A Nashoba Valley (Massachusetts) Club member taught a course on identification. She had a prize-winning thumb-nail collection which was a pleasure to view. For a beginner, this course was a real help.

Strange mineral names I can remember, but people's names are very difficult for me. Maybe I should put an "ITE" on people's names?

The Micromounters of New England meet regularly every month except for June, July, August and December. Informal meetings are held in July and August. The May meeting is a pre-registered event. Dates and locations of regular meetings are printed in the bulletin. Advance notice of the next month's meeting appears on the front page, lower left-hand corner. Arrival and departure times vary with each location, but are not usually earlier than 9 AM and later than 5 PM. Members bring along microscopes, lights and minerals for study, trade and possible identification. Members provide their own lunch (except for the May meeting); the club provides coffee/tea. Dues are due on January 1st of each year and are \$6.00 per member.

While every attempt is made to keep this membership list accurate, some errors or omissions may occur. Any inadvertent errors/omissions will be corrected at the earliest possible printing.

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