

# MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

The MMNE was organized on November 8, 1966, for the purpose of promoting the study of minerals that require a microscope.

March 1995

Newsletter #182

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

News items for the Bulletin are welcome and should be submitted to the Editor. The Bulletin may quoted if credit is given. The Club address is c/o Editor

## Upcoming Meetings

July 15, 1995 John Reiner's  
Center Harbor, NH

August 19, 1995 Sunapee  
State Park, NH (Capitol  
Mineral Club)

The March meeting of the MMNE will take place on Saturday, March 4, 1995 at the Sudbury Public Library starting at 9:30AM. The program will be an EFMLS slide show on micros from the Pospossel collection. The April meeting will be held at the Northborough Public Library on Saturday, April 8, 1995. The program will be an EFMLS video by John Koivula from the Gemologic Institute of America entitled "Inclusions in Gem Crystals and Gemstones" which was presented at the Rochester Symposium.

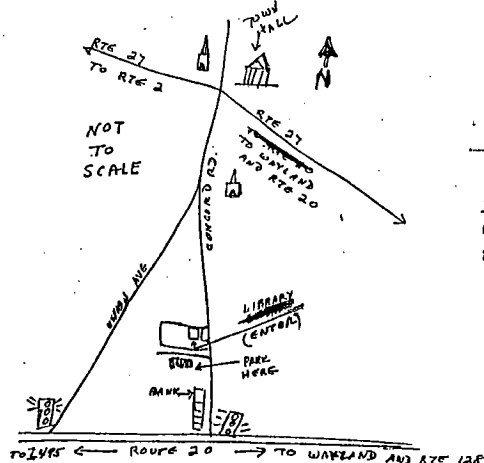
*If dues are not paid before the next mailing, you will be dropped from the mailing list.* If there is a "94" expiration date on your address label, you are in arrears. Please review your mailing list for errors. Please give the editor your full 9 digit zip codes and phone numbers for the list as well.

*Notice:* Our annual May meeting is scheduled for May 13, 1995 at the Ashland 4-H Center. The speaker is Jeff Post from the Smithsonian Institute. It is time to start bringing giveaways and donations for the sale table. Please mount and label material for sales as you would like to see it if you were buying, and please price reasonably. Our goal is to offer real bargains to our members and guests, not to get as much money as possible. If priced too high, items will not sell. Remember, these are donations to the club and will not be returned if unsold.

*Missing:* At the January meeting at Boston University, one of the members lost a styrofoam holder for his microscope lenses. If you know of its whereabouts, please bring it to the March meeting.

*Reminder:* Pat Barker is trying to assemble recipes for all the delicious dishes we enjoy at our pot luck luncheons at the Reiner's and Fogs. Please write yours up with any comments (an old family recipe, variations, what it's good with, how many it feeds, etc.). Hopefully a recipe book will be published so we can all try our hands at our favorites.

*Rocks and Minerals* is planning several issues pertaining to New England localities over the next year. A Connecticut issue is scheduled for Nov/Dec 1995 which will include a locality index co-authored by MMNE member Marcel Webber. Bill Henderson's "Microminerals" will be devoted to Connecticut minerals. A full issue on Vermont is planned for 1996. It is being coordinated by member Sue Hadden and will include contributions from Sue and Janet Cares. A New Hampshire locality index is also in the works, put together by Art Smith who has co-authored with Gene Bearss in the past. It has been suggested that the MMNE might make contributions for color in one or more of the issues or in individual articles, particularly for support of a color geologic map of Connecticut.



THE SUDBURY IS ABOUT HALF WAY BETWEEN RTOS I-495 AND I-95/128. THE LIBRARY IS JUST NORTH OF RTE 20 ON OLD CONCORD ROAD. PLEASE ~~DO NOT~~ USE LIBRARY PARKING LOT, BUT THE ONE BEHIND THE BANK, ~~JUST SOUTH OF THE LIBRARY. IT IS JUST A FEW STEPS FROM THERE TO THE REAR DOOR OF THE LIBRARY WHERE THE MEETING ROOM IS.~~

MONT SAINT-HILAIRE AND 1994

Marcelle H. Weber

The reports have been hot and cold regarding Mt. St-Hilaire collecting in 1994. And, spotty it was. A "not good" report could mean (1) the collector has been there often--there was nothing new; (2) the collector wanted macro material and all to be had was micro; (3) the weather was wrong--too hot, too cold or too wet; (4) cutting material was being sought in vain; (5) the collector was at the wrong end of the quarry or (6) left just before someone found a good spot. It was ever thus: "You should have been here last time!"

The first trip, May 28 and 29, saw a number of collectors digging a trench in pegmatite on the now upper level of Poudrette, toward the back wall. The western end was worked primarily by Bill Henderson, Mike Haritos and Linda Jensen, with Mike concentrating on the quartz crystals. The matrix was albite with carbonates. Very interesting, green fluorescing, twinned gaidonnayite crystals in shades of gray were perched on the feldspar. Fluorite cubes, pale yellow, colorless or colorless with purple zones and yellow zircons added more interest. The tiny brown "balls" are bastnaesite. Catapleite occurred as beehives of grayish micaceous plates. In the same area, there were large sections of brownish nepheline. Grayish-blue opalescent cancrinite was seen--this material turned up the rest of the summer, as well. Cynthia Peat (in CMMA's Micronews) has noted "beige ankerite preferentially oriented on siderite crystals" were also present.

Additional information has come from Peter Tarassoff that herschelite was also found in the pegmatite vein. It "occurs as translucent, milky white, globular shells formed around aggregates of intergrown, dull white gmelinite crystals, in interstices of large microcline crystals; it is associated with glassy micro analcime". Another association is gobbinsite in translucent white grains with clear areas. This may very well have been from the other end of the vein as Peter adds "The globular 'shells' on material from the smoky quartz pipe all seem to be carbonates".

While others were working on the upper level, we were on the ground floor. Greenish hornfels contained seams and vugs of very collectible blocky anatase and brookite crystals. Some pieces had cream-colored or light tan hexagonal crystals resembling quartz externally but they have a rhombohedral cleavage and proved to be siderite.

A request has been received from Dr. George Chao, to whom we owe many thanks for identifying baffling specimens. Ron Waddell submitted a specimen to Dr. Chao which contains lizardite, chrysotile in asbestiform veinlets, dolomite, magnetite, magnesite and hydrotalcite, all massive (chrysotile and hydrotalcite would be additions to the MSH list.) Ron found this in May in the back corner of the lower level, near the pegmatite vein. If any reader has this material, please tell Dr. Chao, Carleton U., Ottawa; Peter Tarassoff or me.

We missed the July trip; have heard "raves" (large analcimes) but more disappointment, particularly with the weather.

August 6 produced carletonite accompanied by pink fibers of raite. Marble contained pectolite--naturally; apophyllite, colorless and pinkish; and long tan fibrous sepiolite. Some of the shorter gray-green to bluish fibers may be the same mineral. Analcime was seen in the hornfels, as well as exceptional rutile and very fine spheres of micaceous gmelinite appeared in the white contact rock on the dark hornfels. Other specimens in this matrix are donnayite, anatase, rutile, franconite and dark sphalerite with growth lines on the faces.

September 10 provided two pipes with rhodochrosite. Fine crystal groups of behoite were present as well as catapleite, franconite, aegirine and white fibrous or granular masses of dawsonite in one pipe, and flat twins of rhodochrosite and genthelvite, micro to T/N, in the other. Good smoky quartz was plentiful in the hornfels, and fine reticulated rutile was found.

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