



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

May 1994

Newsletter #177

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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:

There is no June meeting. Our informal July meeting will take place on July 16, 1994 at John Reiner's home.

The next meeting of the MMNE is our Annual Northeast Meeting, held Saturday, May 14, 1994, At the 4-H Conference Center in Ashland, Mass. Don't forget to bring something to go with the coffee and tea. Our speaker is Carl Francis, Curator of Harvard University's Mineralogical and Geological Museum. His talk will look at northern New England Pegmatites.

DONORS TO THE MAY MEETING:

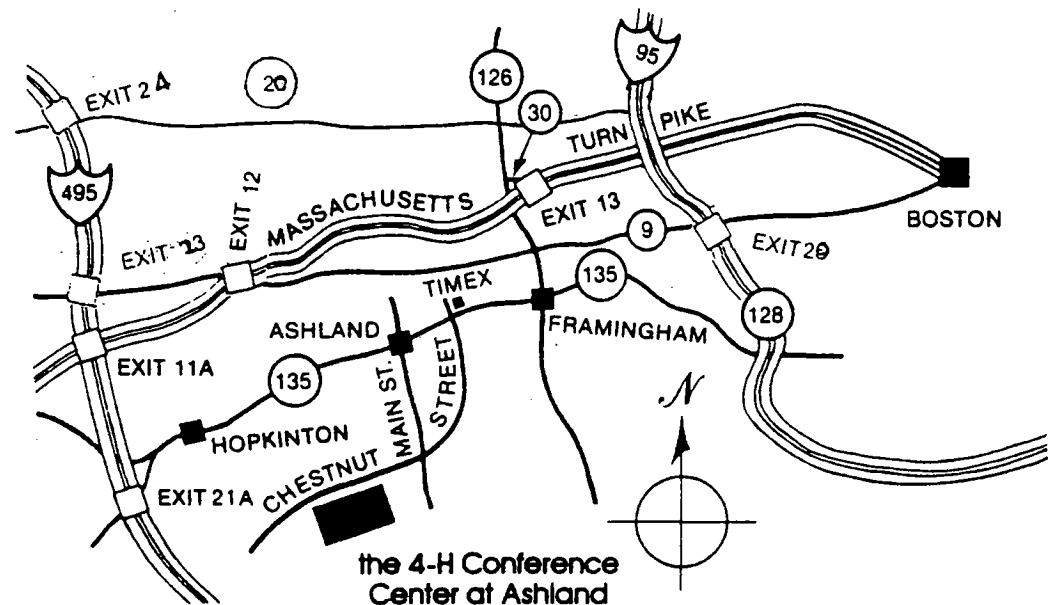
A large part of the success of the May meeting is due to those who donate material for sale or for giveaways. It should be noted that it is our intention to credit all who donate items, however slip ups may occur. When Steve and Janet Cares receive items, they try to keep a list of contributors. It is important that your name be on all donated items, not only so that we may credit you, but also so that you can be contacted if anyone has a question about the mineral or locality.

Much nice material has been given by Mike Swanson, Bob Janules, Gene Bearss, Edna Lerer, Dana Jewell and Inga Burggraf, Ralph and Violet Carr, Walter and Carolyn Lane, Fran and Don Morrison, Steve and Janet Cares, John and Margaret Stewart, Pat Barker, John Anderson, and last but not least, Marilyn Dodge, not only for minerals, but also for a lovely framed photo for the usual drawing. Our thanks to all for their generosity. - JWC

Changes to the membership list:

Bettee Taparowsky's phone number is (203) 254-2508
Please add Marjorie Saums, 24 Joseph Street, Manchester, CT 06040

Mary Briggs is now living in a condominium in New Hampshire, and she would love to hear from, or see anyone who might be in her vicinity. Her address is P. O. Box 886, Wolfboro, NH 03894



The Prez Sez (for one last time!):

The Annual May (Northeast) Meeting will be held, Saturday, May 14, 1994 at the 4 - H Conference Center in Ashland, MA. Please try to bring some refreshments to enjoy with the coffee in the morning. Our invitation to John Reiner's home in Center Harbor is July 16, 1994. Our representative to the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies 44th annual convention and show will be Angie Teixeira. We are reminded once again that, with help, one can achieve, and the past year was no exception.

Our Treasurer, Janet Cares, recently took on another project that she brought to fruition. Steve and Janet Cares were given mineralogical and geological books from a former charter member, now deceased, Inez Chick. Janet decided on a mail auction via the MMNE bulletin. The listing was detailed and well received; the results most successful. Steve Cares continued his mission with an exceptional presentation of mineral giveaway specimens. Secretary, Pat Barker, in the fall, tuned a kind deed from a group of New Zealand mineral collectors into a project. Floods in the Mid-West prompted them to send minerals to be auctioned. Two mini auctions were held, and a check together with New England specimens were sent to Mary Hanning of Huntsville, Illinois, who in turn, sent to Pat several Keokuk geodes from Iowa. You can read about this in the Mineral News (2/92) issue, p. 9, by Pat.

Applause for our Editor, Shelley Monaghan, who has not been able to attend meetings regularly, but effortlessly puts together an informative news bulletin that gets out on time and is most necessary for our activity dates and current mineral news.

Each meeting we are put in a good mood from our refreshment chairpersons, John and Margaret Stewart. They supply all our meetings with coffee and tea. They have always done extra duties that make it easier for the rest of us. We all have benefited by their helping hands.

The members who said yes in providing programs for our monthly meetings this past year did us a great service. The resourcefulness of Bob Janules, Frank Leighton, Marcelle Weber, Gene Bearss, Larry Pitman, and Scott Whittemore always amazes me. Their talks hold one's attention and allow us to view the magnificent micro mineral photography. It is an artistic creation done under difficult circumstances. As a group, their slides are museum worthy.

Congratulations to Gene Bearss, who has found an unknown specimen, and all the tests and acknowledgments are on the horizon. The MMNE has to have, I truly believe, many members who are some of the country's best ambassadors of mineralogy. One has to feel privileged to be on hand and witness such distinctions that they have achieved.

To those who reach out and oblige requests for mineral specimens during the year, and calls now for more giveaways and items to be available for the May meeting, I am most grateful. The two members who do this each year are Steve Cares and Edna Lerer. Help make their task easier; it's our way of appreciating what a wonderful effort they put forth for all of us.

We all enjoy the leisurely informal meetings that we have been invited to in the July period each year at John Reiner's home in Center Harbor, New Hampshire, and at Forrest and Vera Fogg's in Goffstown, in October. They are special people, and the hospitality is always warm and friendly.

To our incoming president, Angie Teixeira, and Vice-President, James Clark, I wish them the very best. We all know from past experience that the members will respond and accommodate them during their term.

A large part of one's good fortune is having someone close who is so very willing and simply does, time and again, many chores to make life easier. My husband, Don, has always been that way for me, and I wish at this time to thank him for being there!

Personally, I am full of gratitude for the good will that you have given to me during the past two years. All the names mentioned above, and those from the previous year are directly or indirectly responsible for a smooth passing of time. Good health to all, and again thanks to all who volunteered, and to all the members, best wishes.

Sincerely,
Fran Morrison, President

Our speaker, Carl Francis, will be talking about New England Pegmatites. If this topic is of special interest to you, you may be equally interested in: *Granitic Pegmatites in Science and Industry*, edited by P. Cerny, the Short Course Handbook #8 published by Mineralogical Association of Canada in 1982 in paperback (about 1 1/4 x 5 1/2 x 9"), written in English, and includes articles on:

Anatomy of Granitic Pegmatites	Selected Peraluminous minerals
Quartz and the Feldspars	Minerals of Sn, Ti, Nb, Ta
The Mica Group	Lanthanide, Y, Th, U, Zr, Hf minerals
Lithium Minerals in Pegmatites	Pegmatite minerals of P and B
Minerals of Beryllium	Internal Evolution of Granitic Pegmatites
Mineralogy of Rb and Cs	and others

It has no index, but its table of contents includes species.

It costs \$22 in U. S. dollars postpaid, from:
Mineralogical Association of Canada
Cityview 78087, Nepean
Ontario, Canada K2G 5W2

(Be sure to check the current postal rate to Canada)

This is a good book for those interested in Mineralogy and geochemistry of granitic pegmatites.

- Dana Morong

NEW PUBLICATION ON PSEUDOMORPHS

"Pseudo News" is now available as a quarterly, dealing with various aspects of pseudomorphs. An article on millerite pseudos is excerpted below from the inaugural issue of eight pages, which also has news of a new find of pseudos of pyrochroite from the Sterling Mine in Ogdensburg, New Jersey. Subscription price is \$12 per year, available from Philip Bentencourt, 410 Chester Avenue, Morristown, NJ, 08057 - JWC

FROM PSEUDO NEWS, Volume 1, No. 1, Winter 1994

Millerite Pseudomorphs

Pseudomorphs after millerite occur at several locations in the United States, especially in Kentucky, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Indiana. The nickel sulfide millerite is usually deposited as a late mineral, occurring as bronze-colored hair-like crystals, often in radiating clusters. On many specimens the crystals are on or enclosed within calcite. Pseudomorphs can be yellow, gray, reddish brown, yellow-green or bright green. The pseudomorphs are often not noticed by dealers selling millerite, but a close examination with magnification can recognize them by the difference in color. Because some millerite has a dark gray coating (of violarite?), one may have to look at a broken crystal to see how complete the alteration is.

An identification of the final mineral is not always possible. The dark gray pseudomorphs are usually identified by collectors as violarite. Analyses of dark gray crystals from locations in Wisconsin have identified violarite along with some tiny grains of another species, most likely bravoite (Heyl, Milton, and Axelrod 1959). The violarite can be a coating, a partial replacement, or a complete replacement after millerite.

Green pseudomorphs are usually called honessite, a hydrous basic sulfate of nickel and ferric iron. This mineral is not well understood because of its rather poor crystallization, and perhaps some of the pseudomorphs are mixtures of more than one sulfate. The material is faintly fibrous under high magnification, but it is mostly amorphous. It was first identified in green pseudomorphs after millerite from Wisconsin (Heyl, Milton, and Axelrod 1956).

The other colors of pseudomorphs (yellow, yellow-green, or reddish brown) are more problematic. Analyses have given ambiguous results, and more than one species is probably present. Some of the specimens might be partly honessite or a series of unknown (or even new) sulfates with differences in the oxidation of the iron or the degree of hydration (Heyl, Milton, and Axelrod 1959). Unless a specific crystal has been analyzed, a respectable label is "Nickel Sulfates (?) pseudomorphous after Millerite."

REFERENCES

Heyl, A. V., C. Milton, and J. M. Axelrod, 1956. Nickel minerals from near Linden, Wisconsin. *Bulletin of the Geological Society of America* 67:1706.

Heyl, A. V., C. Milton, and J. M. Axelrod, 1959. Nickel minerals from near Lindon, Iowa County, Wisconsin. *The American Mineralogist* 44:995-1009.

Industrial Diamonds as Micromounts

Dave Brown showed me several very nice gemmy micromounts that he had purchased from a friendly Industrial Diamond Importer. They rival the pictures in the first edition of the "Encyclopedia of Minerals". Dave was able to pick three new shipments and select these tiny gems, and then but them at the going rate for industrial diamonds. His dealer was in Miami. Is it possible that we could find a northern dealer? How do you find an industrial diamond importer?

Australian diamonds are coming into the market (representing 40% of the current market). A large proportion come from Argyle Diamonds, the largest diamond mine in the world in terms of carats produced. Owned by C R A Ltd., production was 41 million carats. At 5 carats per gram that is about 3,520,000 pounds or 1800 tons. That is a lot of micromount material to sort through after screening out the big stuff.

REFERENCE: "Christian Science Monitor," Wednesday, February 2, 1994, page 7. Available at your local Christian Science Reading Room, and maybe your local public library.

-- Eugene Mechler

Upcoming Saint-Hilaire Dates:

July 2-3, 1994

August 6, 1994

NOTE: September and October dates to be announced.