

# 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.

October/November 1995

Newsletter # 186

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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

Oct. 14 (Sat). Fogg's  
Dunbarton, NH

Nov. 18 (Sat). Sudbury Public  
Library (note 9:30am time)

Hopefully, all of us have squirreled away enough material from a successful collecting season to keep us busy through another winter. Some of you must have had interesting experiences at sites others of us have not visited. Write them up for future Newsletters or offer to present them at a meeting. Put together lists of what you have found from Saint-Hilaire and other localities so that the information can be shared with other members. Bring your finds, your unknowns, and your duplicates to the meetings so that all can share in your experiences.

At the last meeting the membership voted to donate \$200 to the *Rocks and Minerals* color fund, with \$100 each going to the Vermont issue and the New Hampshire locality index.

## NEXT MEETING

The **OCTOBER** meeting will be held at the home of Vera and Forrest Fogg on Saturday, Oct. 14, in Dunbarton, NH. This is our traditional pot luck meal, so bring your favorite dish (with a copy of the recipe for Pat Barker's collection). The **NOVEMBER** meeting is on Sat., Nov. 18 at the Sudbury, MA, Public Library. The library will open at 9:30am. Maps are on the back of this page.

## ADDITIONS TO THE MEMBERSHIP LIST

Welcome new members:

M/M Alfred Elvin, 2 Cambridge Circle, New Milford, CT 06776. (203) 798-5531.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Rhode Island Mineral Hunters Show

October 28 & 29, 1995. Saturday 10am - 6pm. Sunday 10am - 5pm.

Community College of Rhode Island - Knight Campus. East Ave., Warwick, RI

There will be table space for the MMNE members to set up microscopes.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Most recognize Dr. George Chao by name as the guru of Mont-Saint Hilaire, even if we never had the opportunity to meet him in person. Unfortunately for the collecting community he recently retired. Enclosed is a note written by Quintin Wight in the CMMA Micronews (Sept. 1995) on to occasion of his retirement.

In the summer issue of the Newsletter I mentioned the possibility of a classified section for members, and there has been some interest, so I will try to start this with the next issue. Since the Newsletter is usually every two months, I will plan on running a given item for two issues only. Books/literature, supplies, microscopes, etc. for sale or trade, as well as want lists for these same items would be appropriate. No specimen material for sale will be listed. Please limit listings to a couple of lines. I will edit and print as space allows.

In the next issue there will be a renewal form for your membership dues. On the form will be a place for members to list collecting interests (localities, species, special categories such as phosphates, etc. - we already know you are micromounters, so come up with something more specific) as well as want lists and available trading material. This information will be put on the membership list, and therefore will be sent to a few other micromount clubs with whom we swap bulletins. You might want to indicate whether you are interested in trading by mail.

### Retirement of Dr. George Y. Chao

The July 1st retirement of Dr. George Y. Chao from the Department of Earth Sciences of Carleton University marks the end of an era for many amateur mineralogists—particularly the micromounters. For them, George Chao was one of the rarest of the rare, a professional who not only listened to them, but took what he heard very seriously, and went to extraordinary lengths to help them identify their mineral finds.

We use the word “was” in a very restricted sense, of course, since George is still very much with us, and will be, we hope, for a long time to come. It applies simply to the fact that he will wind down his activities completely over the next year as the University determines how to replace him. He may concentrate on finishing the descriptions of those unknown species already in progress, but will have little capacity to undertake anything new.

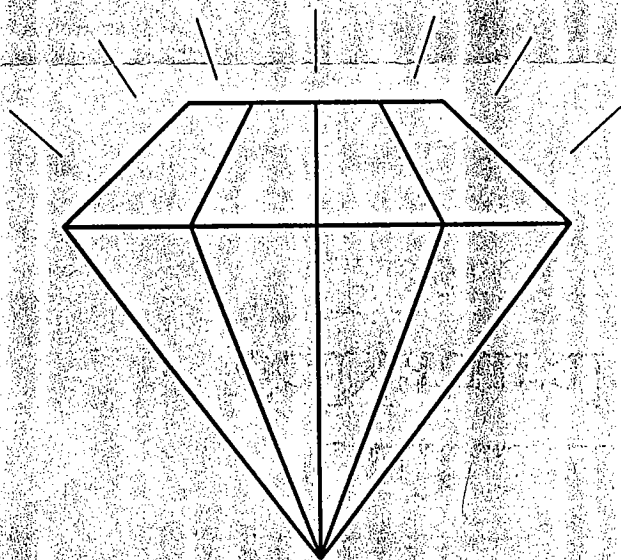
To mark his departure from active teaching, George's friends and colleagues, led by his Laboratory Assistant, Ron Conlon, threw him a surprise retirement party on June 22nd. Donations poured in during the weeks beforehand. During its annual meeting, the CMMA voted to contribute handsomely to the affair, which involved funding of a special painting commissioned for the occasion from artist Susan Robinson. When the day arrived, well-wishers from as far as Connecticut assembled in the Faculty Lounge at Carleton to make their feelings known. On behalf of his professional colleagues, Dr. J. A. Mandarino, himself recently retired from the Royal Ontario Museum, made a speech extolling George's virtues. As the official representative of the CMMA, I followed with an outline of the great respect which George had earned from the amateur community, pointing out how that had been marked by the award of a special plaque from the CMMA in 1994. The painting, kept under wraps until then, was presented with appropriate fanfare, and George removed the covers to reveal a superb portrayal of a bright blue cluster of carletonite crystals—particularly significant both to the University and to George, who did the original description. It was a fitting tribute to a special figure in the world of descriptive mineralogy.

Sad though the occasion may have been for those of us who have been the beneficiaries of George's expertise and generosity in the past, it was an appropriate forum to express our gratitude, and to let the University authorities know of the high regard with which George is held in both amateur and professional circles. For his wife, Nellie, it marked a new view of George, and a welcome increase in the time he is now able to spend on their prime mutual interest—ballroom dancing. We wish them well in their fancy footwork into the future.

(Many thanks to Quintin Wight for sending us this information.)

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# MUSEUM EDUCATION



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