# 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.

October 1989 Newsletter #135



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Dues are $5.00 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.

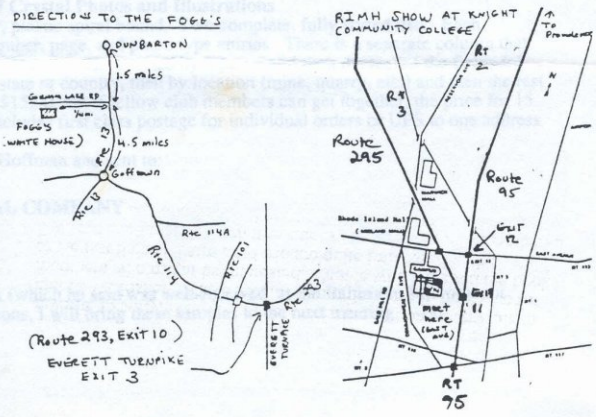

**NEXT MONTH**

The next meetings of the MMNE will be Saturday, November 18, at the Auburn Public Library.

This month we will have two meetings of the MMNE: one a regular, formal gathering; the other, an informal meeting. The regular monthly meeting of the Micromounters of New England will be on **Saturday, October 14, 1989,** at the home of Forrest and Vera Fogg, in Goffstown, NH (see map below). The informal meeting will take place at the Rhode Island Mineral Hunter's annual show, which will be October 28-29, 1989, at the Knight Campus of the Community College, in Warwick, RI. Dr. Peter Bancroft will be a featured speaker on Saturday, at 1:30 pm. "Gold Fever" is the theme of this year's show. (For directions, consult the map below.)

**MICROMINERALS OF MONT SAINT-HILAIRE BOOK**

This book, (not to be confused with Dr. Mandarino's "Monteregian Treasures...") which illustrates in sketches the micros from this favorite locality, is now available from the authors, Garry Glenn and R. W. Fisher. I have included an order form in this issue for members who might be interested. People who acquired the book at the last Saint-Hilaire field trip are quite impressed with it, and I have received many recommendations concerning it. Remember, if you order this book you will need a **30-cent stamp** on the envelope, otherwise, it will return to you in the mail, undelivered.



**FROM THE FALL, 1989 ISSUE OF THE FOMS PICKING TABLE:**

The Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineral Society lists the following new minerals from Franklin: wendwilsonite and petedunnite. Both are new to science as well as to the locality.
Wendwilsonite, the Mn analog of Roselite, occurs as small pink granular crystals with calcite on serpentine.
Petedunnite, A Zn pyroxene, occurs with green clinopyroxene and calcite.

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Member John Anderson sent word that the list of silver minerals which appeared recently in this newsletter was incomplete. He supplied me with the following species which should have been added to the list:

Arcubisite
Cameronite
Dervillite
Giessenite
Henryite
Imiterite
Kitaibelite
Luanheite
Novakite
Paderaite
Pavonite
Penzhinite
Petrovskaite
Rayite
Selenostephanite
Uchucchacuaite
Weishanite
Zoubekite

John used a software program which he bought from David Shannon at Tucson. (The program is on floppy disk and costs about $40, and is a database based on names and chemical formulae from Fleischer's Fifth Edition of the Glossary of Mineral Species. One can search using up to 15 chemical components as parameters.) Thank you, John for supplying us the names of more silver bearing minerals.

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From member Paul J. Hoffman comes the following:

Over the last couple of years I have been compiling a computer listing of crystal photos and illustrations from the first 19 volumes of The Mineralogical Record. Since I feel that visual aids such as pictures and crystal drawings are an important tool in the often-times difficult task of mineral crystal identification, I have decided to go to press with my work in the hope that it will help other collectors.....
Here are the particulars:
**The Mineralogical Record: Index of Crystal Photos and Illustrations**
91 pages, 8 1/2 x 11 format, soft cover, plastic spiral bound. Two complete, fully sorted lists. Each includes mineral, location, volume, number, page, and photo type entries. There is a separate column that identifies micromount size specimens. The first list is sorted by mineral and then the rest of the fields follow. The second list is sorted first by state or country, then by location (mine, quarry, etc.) and then the rest of the fields. The single copy price is $15.00, but if fellow club members can get together, the price for 15 copies or more is $13.00 each. This includes first class postage for individual orders or UPS to one address for a multiple order.
Checks should be made out to Paul J. Hoffman and sent to:

**HOFFMAN MINERAL COMPANY**
P. O. Box 15763
Pittsburgh, PA 15244

Paul sent me sample pages of his book (which he said was well-received at the Baltimore Micromount Symposium). Owing to space restrictions, I will bring these samples to the next meeting. --Ed.

From Mineral News and Views, July, 1989 (no author given):

## CLEANING OF MINERALS

Sometimes we are faced with the problem of deciding which re-agents to use to clean minerals. Here now follows a list of minerals which should NOT be cleaned with water.
The following text is taken from Speckel's "Complete Guide to Micromounts". A copy of this list should be made and kept in a handy place in your study/workshop.
The water soluble minerals are numerous. Although this list is not complete, these are some of the minerals that are considered to be from very slightly soluble to very soluble in hot or cold water.

Alunogen
Amarantite
Aphthitalite
Apjohnite
Arsenolite
Autunite
Bianchite
Bilinite
Bischofite
Bloedite
Borax
Botryogen
Boussingaultite
Burkeite
Carnallite
Chalcanthite
Claudetite
Copiapite
Coquimbite
Cotunnite
Cupromagnesite*
Cyanochroite
Cyprusite*
Darapskite
Dietrichite
Dietzite
Dolerophanite
Doughtyite*
Douglasite
Epsomite
Ettringite
Fernandinite
Ferrinatrite
Gaylussite
Gerhardtite
Goslarite
Gypsum
Halite
Halotrichite
Hanksite
Hexahydrite
Hieratite
Hydrocyanite*
Hydrophilite**
Ilesite
Jarosite
Kainite
Kaliborite
Kalinite
Kernite
Kieserite
Koenenite
Kornelite
Krausite
Kremersite
Köhnkite
Krugite*
Langbeinite
Larnite
Lautarite
Leconfite
Leonite
Löweite
Mallardite
Mascagnite
Melanterite
Mendozite
Metahewettite
Metarossite
Metavoltine
Minasragrite
Mirabilite
Misenite
Mitscherlichite
Morenosite
Nahcolite
Natrochalcite
Natron
Newberyite
Niter
Nitrobarite
Nitrocalcite
Nitromagnesite
Oxammite
Palmierite
Pascoite
Phillipsite
Pickeringite
Picromerite
Pintadoite
Polyhalite
Rinneite
Römerite
Rossite
Sal ammoniac
Sassolite
Schairerite
Schrockengerite*
Searlesite
Senarmontite
Sideronatrite
Siderotil
Sulfoborite
Sulphohalite
Sylvite
Syngenite
Szomolnokite
Tachhydrite
Taylorite***
Teschemacherite
Thenardite
Thermonatrite
Tincalconite
Trona
Tschermigite
Tychite
Ulexite
Valentinite
Vanthoffite
Villiaumite
Voltaiite
Yukonite
Zinc-copper melanterite
Zinkosite
Zirklerite

Generally speaking, minerals that are soluble in water include nitrates, many carbonates, chlorides, borates and sulfates. a complete listing of the solubility of minerals is not available, but the "Handbook of Chemistry and Physics" plus various mineralogy texts will provide considerable detail on mineral solubilities.
Minerals that are soluble in water must be cleaned by hand-rubbing, by brushing, or with some other liquid. When collecting minerals such as hanksite, halite or sulphohalite, the specimens should be washed in the host brine at the time they are collected. After drying, they may be coated with a thin film of mineral oil to prevent the mineral from deliquescing, that is, dissolving in the moisture they collect from the atmosphere, a serious problem in humid climates. The mineral oil hides the crust formed when the brine dries.
Alcohol is a poor cleaning agent for removing dirt, but it is a very good drying agent for minerals that have been washed in water. Other cleaning agents may be used on water-soluble minerals, but are not recommended except as a last resort, and only then by those who have a knowledge of chemistry. Many fluids are toxic, some are flammable, and all are dangerous for use by the uninformed. A local dry cleaning establishment can often provide reasonably safe fluids, plus advice about their use.
Earthy, porous varieties of any mineral should not be washed. Clay minerals, including kaolin, montmorillonite, nontronite, and related species, should be dept away form water because they will often soak it up like a sponge and afterwards crack and fall apart. The best way to clean them is to brush them. a soft camel's hair brush will remove dust, while a stiff brush will bring out a clean new surface by removing some of the outer surface.

Editor notes:
*=is not listed in the Glossary of Minerals, fifth edition.
**= Antarctite or Sinjarite
***= ammonian Arcanite
All minerals may not exhibit the same degree of solubility. For Example, many people have no problem washing such items as Phillipsite and Valentinite.