

## MICROMOUNTERS of NEW ENGLAND

On Saturday, September 12, 1970 during the Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Swap, Talk, and Baza Day at Bartlett Town Hall in Intervale, N.H. a meeting of the Micromounters of New England will be held. The meeting will begin around noon and run until 6 P.M. Bring specimens to be identified, as well as extras from recent locations or any you have for trading.

Collecting at St. Hilaire continues excellent, since this spring blasting was done in the rare mineral zone. On a recent trip serandite as well as unknown number 19 was plentiful. Micro crystals of pyrochlore, which were once thought of as rare from there were also plentiful. Large specimens with good size narsarsukite crystals were also common. Since not as much material is being used now from this quarry it is problematical if any good specimens are now available at this quarry. A serious collector should keep going to a collecting site like this if he has the time and money to make the trips so that he would obtain some of the rare ones from there.

Collecting at Palermo is still good as most of the collectors that go there usually throw away the good material and keep the bad ones- so digging in the discards is always profitable. Page 2 of this newsletter has diagrams of some of the minerals from Palermo. These forms represent only some of the forms that can be found at this location, as it would be impractical to show all the forms, and for example the twinning of apatite (hydroxylapatite). The diagrams should enable the micromounter to tell goyazite from whitlockite. The next newsletter will have more of these diagrams of the minerals of Palermo.

On Sunday September 13 a collecting trip will be held at Henry, Maine. For those that have not been there before, many of the phosphates can also be found at the Twin Tunnels, the Dunton, Plumbago and also at numerous small prospect pits on the top of the mountain. Stan Perham who now owns the bottom of this mountain below the Twin Tunnels is now operating a quarry for feldspar here. I do not know if any micros are coming out, but it does have possibilities. Hope to see you both at the meeting as well as at Henry.

A meeting will be held in either in October or November at Boston University, hosted by Pete Dunn a graduate student at the university, who is also a member of our micromounters.

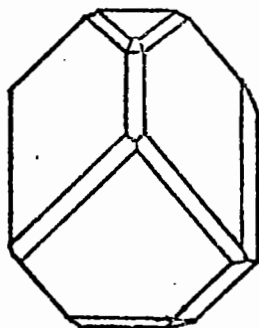
Collecting at road cuts in Rhode Island this summer has been as bad as the weather.



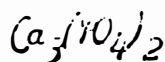
Laueite-monoclinic  
 $MnFe_2(PO_4)_2(OH)_2 \cdot 8H_2O$



Goyazite-hexagonal; scalenohedral  
 $SrAl_3(PO_4)_2(OH)_5H_2O$



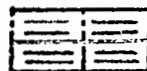
Whitlockite-hexagonal; scalenohedral



Steenartite-triclinic?  
 $Mn(PO_4) \cdot H_2O$



Beraunite-monoclinic  
 $Fe_5(PO_4)_3(OH)_6 \cdot 2-3 H_2O$



Eosphorite-orthorhombic; dipyrnoidal  
 $(Mn'', Fe'')Al(PO_4)(OH)_2 \cdot H_2O$



Strunzite-monoclinic  
 $MnFe_2(PO_4)_2(OH)_2 \cdot 8H_2O$



Apatite-hexagonal; dipyrnoidal



Carbonate-apatite  
 $Ca_{10}(PO_4)_6(CO_3) \cdot H_2O$   
 Fluorapatite

$Ca_5(PO_4)_3F$   
 Manganapatite

$Ca_5(Mn(PO_4)_3F$   
 Hydroxylapatite  
 $Ca_5(PO_4)_3(OH)$



Rockbridgeite-orthorhombic  
 $(Fe''Mn'')Fe_4'''(PO_4)_2(OH)_5$



Melusite-monoclinic; prismatic  
 $FeVO_4 \cdot 2 H_2O$

## MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

The fall meeting of the Micromounters of New England will be held on Saturday, October 24 at Boston University in the Department of Geology which is located at 725 Commonwealth Ave, Boston, Massachusetts. The meeting will start at 9:00 AM with setting up microscopes, meeting fellow collectors, trading extra specimens and having some of the unknowns that you have looked at and hopefully identified.

A tour of the Geology Department will be conducted by our host for the day- Pete Dunn, Curator. This tour should prove an enlightening experience to those that have never been inside a geology department, as you will be able to see some of the equipment that the geologist and mineralogist uses in his everyday work. 11AM-12noon.

We will stop from noon to 1PM for lunch. You can either bring your lunch or go across the street to one of the eating establishments - which while small serve good food.

At 1 PM our host will present us with discussions on the uses of heavy liquids in mineral identification - their procurement, necessary precautions - their ideal use with micro specimens. Pete will also discuss with us the use of some simple miller indices used in crystallography as well as form luster as a result of crystal growth on selective etching.

We will return to our scopes for more looking at micros - from 2 to 3 PM. We will then watch a slide program from 3 to 4 PM. Slides will be shown by Pete Dunn, Ted Agos and by Gilbert George.

Then it will be back to the scopes for more- at least for those that have not had enough- till quitting time at 6:00 PM.

This meeting is free and is open to anybody who is interested in mineralogy and geology. Pete advised me that there will be six extra scopes available at this meeting for those that have not as yet made the jump to micromounting. If you can not make the whole meeting come and enjoy the part that interests you most.

Directions to the Geology Dept. at Boston University are- from Route 93 coming south, take right after Museum of Science (Storrow Drive), take Kermore Square exit and turn right at light at end of exit ramp- pass thru two lights and bear right at fork after second light. Follow this street (Bay State Road) to the end and park in the parking lot. Drive to the diagonal corner and enter the open door aside a beige Volkswagen. From the south, on southeast expressway take exit marked "Somerville-Cambridge, from here follow signs marked Storrow Drive- then follow above directions. Boston University is located on Commonwealth Ave. If lost, please call Pete J. Dunn at 353-2529 or 353-2538.