

MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND NEWSLETTER

#217

September, 1999

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

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Dues are \$7.00/year and due on January 1st, payable to the Treasurer.

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

Upcoming Meetings

Sept. 11th, Hudson, MA Public Library. Doors open at 9 AM.

Next meeting

The next MMNE meeting will be held on Saturday, September 11th at the Hudson, MA Public Library. Door open at 9 AM. Our president **Jim Warner** has requested that members bring in stories of their summer collecting trips to share with everyone.

Paul Desautels Micromount Symposium

The Paul Desautels Micromount Symposium, formerly the Baltimore Symposium, is scheduled for Sept. 17-19, 1999. The symposium will take place at the MHA Convention Center, 6820 Deer Path Road, Elkridge, MD 21075, south of the city of Baltimore.

Events begin with a light supper and reception Friday evening, Sept 17th, at 7 PM. On Saturday afternoon, **Steve and Janet Cares** will be inducted into the Micromounters Hall of Fame. They will give a brief presentation either then or at the evening session. They would welcome the support of other MMNE members.

At 9 AM Sunday morning a giveaway and auction of the late **Herb Corbett's** unmounted micros will take place at his former residence. This will be for registrants only. Bring a large box to pack up egg cartons and flats. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

To register for the symposium, send a check for \$20 – payable to the Baltimore Mineral Society – to **John Vanko**, 120 Springside Drive, Timonium, MD 21093-3443. Registration will also be accepted at the door Friday evening for \$22.50.

Micromounting – Good things do come in small packages!

By Steve Reutlinger

I just added an emerald specimen to my collection. It's from the classic locality in Chivor, Columbia. It is a single loose crystal with perfect form and an undamaged termination. It is a lovely shade of green and is so gemmy I can read through it! How much did this fabulous crystal set me back? \$100? \$500? \$1000? Not hardly - I got it for a buck! That's right, just one single dollar. OK, so it's only 5 mm tall X 1.5 mm wide, but when I look at it through my new stereo microscope it looks two inches tall and is absolutely stunning.

This is typical of the crystal perfection and affordability of micromounts. After becoming interested in the rare phosphates of the Palermo pegmatite in North Groton, NH, I happened to meet **Jim Warner**, the president of the Micromounters of New England, and, inspired by his obvious enthusiasm, I became very interested in micromounting and decided to see what all the excitement was about.

Micromounters are quick to point out the fact that almost all of the new mineral species being discovered are micro-sized specimens and that a good majority of the known mineral species occurs only in micro-sized crystals. Certainly most of the rarer species are micro-sized but it wasn't that which initially interested me in micromounting. We all know that smaller crystals tend to better formed and often gemmier than their larger-sized cousins and this is especially true in the micromount-sized specimens. I have a specimen of pyromorphite from Broken Hill in New South Wales, Australia. It is a thumbnail-sized and on the specimen there are easily dozens of lime-green, perfectly formed, terminated crystals of pyromorphite. It is a thrill to see, and if I were to look for a comparable quality specimen in a miniature or hand-sized piece it would undoubtedly cost me hundreds of dollars. That one cost me a bit more than a buck, but not much.

Calendar of upcoming events

Sept. 11-12, Danbury, CT. Danbury Mineralogical Society's 50th Anniversary Mineral & Gem Show. Danbury High School, Clapboard Ridge Road.

Sept. 18, Albany, NH. Swap, Talk, and Brag Day. Sponsored by the Saco Valley Mineral Club. Starts at 9 AM. Dealer/swapper info: call Tom Kleinpeter (207) 935-2107 or Jim Jones (207) 935-3295.

Sept. 18, Mont Saint-Hilaire. Sat. Open for collecting at 9 AM.

Oct 2-3, Sunapee, NH. Sunapee Gem & Mineral Show. Sunapee State Park, Sunapee, NH.

Oct. 9, Dunbarton, NH. MMNE meeting at Forrest & Vera Foggs'.

Oct. 23, Mont Saint-Hilaire. Sat. Open for collecting at 9 AM.

Oct. 30-31, Warwick, RI. 28th Annual Gem & Mineral Show. Sponsored by the Rhode Island Mineral Hunter, Inc. Community College of Rhode Island, Knight Campus, East Ave. (rte 113), Warwick, RI.

November 13, Burlington, MA. MMNE meeting at Burlington Public Library, Burlington, MA.

May 20, 2000, Marlboro, MA. MMNE Northeast Meeting. Moose Lodge, Marlboro, MA.

I have a specimen of turquoise crystals, yes, turquoise crystals, from Notodden, Norway. The sheaf-like crystal aggregates are a gorgeous shade of deep, bright blue, and are quite gemmy and lustrous. Just try to find one like that in a hand-sized specimen. And with the help of my new friends at the micromounting club I have put together a nice little suite of rare phosphate minerals from Palermo which you just couldn't assemble in hand-sized specimens, no matter how much you cared to spend - bright blue bladed crystals of vivianite, water-clear gemmy rhombs of whitlockite, and other phosphates for which Palermo is known the world over.

The only item that you need to truly appreciate the beauty of micromount specimens is a decent quality stereo microscope. I'd been looking for a used one in the \$300 - \$500 range and recently got one through a trade that I made. So if you'd like to enjoy the crystal perfection and affordability of micromounting, look into it. I highly recommend it as a fascinating part of the mineral collecting hobby.

Secretary's report

July 13, 1999 – Winnisquam Lake.

On a perfect summer day, July 13, MMNE members met at **Julie and Herb Fielding's** vacation home on Winnisquam Lake in New Hampshire.

Since three of the Club officers were unable to attend, the Secretary, nor anyone else, for that matter, had no interest in holding a formal meeting. However, general information about upcoming shows and field trips was shared.

An unusually rich selection of giveaways was available. **Gene Bearss** had brought along a distinguished guest, mineralogist and author, **Art Smith**, from Texas. Art offered a box of choice goodies. Gene had some nice things as well, and a flat of **Frank Leightons'** Loudville specimens disappeared rapidly. That was Frank's favorite location.

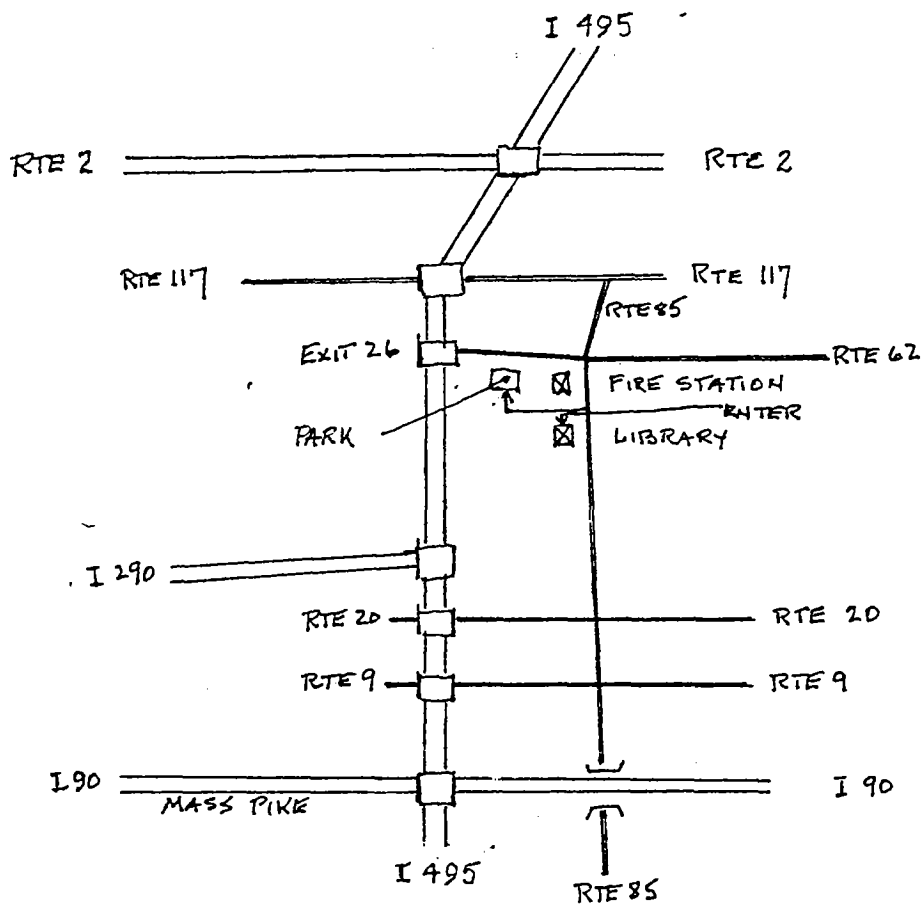
Phil Partington generously donated some of his Western material. We are indebted to **Dana Jewell**, **Herb Fielding**, and **John Stewart** for sharing the results of their Route 128 collecting last winter. I wonder if we'll ever see such superb babingtonites again! **Josephine MacIndewar**, **Margaret Stewart**, and **Pat Barker** all had swaps, too.

If the giveaways were exceptional, the food table was truly extravagant. Everyone brought something delectable. We kidded Josephine about supplying enough food for an army, but by the end of the day, just about everything was gone. That fresh Winnisquam air gave us all great appetites.

Particular thanks to Herb and Julie for providing the lovely site and for all the work that goes into getting ready for this kind of meeting. As usual, John and Margaret gave them a hand, and John had made a new set of signs.

Thanks to everyone for a great day!

Pat Berry Barker, Secretary



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