

BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER NO. 50 June 1998

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MINERALS FROM NORTH WALES

Mike Rothwell

During the 1996 BMS Symposium, Richard Bell, John Dickinson and I ran a small workshop on the mineralogy of a few chosen sites in North Wales. The following is a short summary of the workshop.

We covered minerals coming from three types of host rock.

- 1) Veins in or near carboniferous rocks
- 2) Veins in Ordovician/Silurian sedimentary rocks
- 3) Alpine type veins.

The workshop took the form of a short illustrated talk on the sites followed by a display of minerals chosen to give a representative view of what can be found.

1) Starting with the veins in carboniferous rocks we chose Eclusham Mountain Wedding Cave Mine at Bwlchgywyng, Bryngwiog Mine on Halkyn Mountain, and Great Orme Head at Llandudno.

At Eclusham Mountain excellent ruby red micro sphalerite with quartz and galena can still be found on old tips of the eastern side of the road linking Minera with Worlds End near Llangollen (OS GR SJ 255.503). At nearby Wedding Cave Mine (OS GR SJ 265.541) there is galena mineralisation in quartzite rock along a fault line at the junction of the limestone in the Nant y Ffrith gorge. This site yields a very interesting suite of minerals including one as yet uncharacterised mineral.

Both these sites can be visited by small parties without permission but care must be taken not to cause damage.

Minerals from Minera/Bwlchgywyn

	MINERA	BWLCHGWYN (Wedding Cave)
Common	Sphalerite, quartz, calcite,	Carbonate-cyanotrichite, anglesite,
Less Common	cerrusite Hemimorphite, smithsonite	azurite, linarite Brochantite, sulphur, susannite, caledonite, sphalerite, pyromorphite (Ca)
Unusual		Carbonate-cyanotrichite, pyromorphite (Ca)

Key Ref: Special Reports on the Mineral Resources of Great Britain.
Vol. XIX - Lead and Zinc ores in the Carboniferous rocks of North Wales.
B. Smith. Memoirs of the Geological Survey. HMSO 1921

Bryn Gwiog Mine on Halkyn Mountain (OS GR SJ 194.697) was one of the sites in this area which produced magnificent specimens of blue fluorite. Unfortunately the mine shaft has been capped and the site levelled by the old Clwyd County Council and the area is now used for landfill. The nearby Pant Quarry (OS GR 198.702), owned by Wimpey, still produces representative mineral specimens and excellent carboniferous fossils. Permission from BMS Newsletter 50: 2

Wimpey or the mine manager must be obtained before visiting.

Minerals from the Halkyn Mountain

Common	Fluorite, calcite, quartz, chalcopyrite, smithsonite, sphalerite, galena
Less Common	Pyrite

Key Ref: Special Reports on the Mineral Resources of Great Britain.
Vol. XIX - Lead and Zinc ores in the Carboniferous rocks of North Wales.
B. Smith. Memoirs of the Geological Survey. HMSO 1921

In recent years the very old copper workings in Great Orme Head, Llandudno (OS GR. 770.831) have been developed as a tourist attraction. During this development work a large amount of spoil was removed to a dump out of sight to the east of the tourist centre. Small representative specimens of the minerals can be found on this dump.

Minerals from Great Orme Head Llandudno

Common	Azurite, malachite, dolomite, chalcopyrite
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2) **For veins in Ordovician and Silurian rocks** we chose the Britannia Mine on Snowdon and the mines at Llangynog south of Bala.

The Britannia mine, high on Snowdon (OS GR SH 615.547) is well known amongst micro-mounters for the rare mineral lanthanite which occurs as sparkling colourless plates on the walls of the lower adits. The Ordovician rocks of Snowdon are rich in rare earths and these are leached out of the country rock by acidic mine waters, re-precipitating as the solutions seep through into the adits. The site is an SSSI and so no hammering should be done. The adits are also very dangerous but small specimens can be found on the rocks around adits 2 and 3. The tips also yield good micro specimens of marcasite.

Minerals from Snowdon (Britannia Mine)

Common	Quartz, selenite, marcasite, lanthanite-(Ce) (underground)
Less Common	Langite group, chalcoalumite, aurichalcite, serpierite, aragonite
Unusual	Lanthanite-(Ce)

Key Ref: The Old Copper Mines of Snowdonia
D. Bick. The Pound House 1982
ISBN 0906885 035.

Llangynog

There are three accessible sites at Llangynog. The first that one comes to, on the road from Bala, is Cwm Orog just north of the village (OS GR SJ 052.273) which is one of the few sites in Wales where harmotome is found along with barite, witherite and wulfenite.

The Craig Rhiwarth site on the east side of the village (OS GR SJ 053.263) was an old copper

mine. The vein contains a high level of zinc and produces a wide range of microminerals. This site is well known for excellent aurichalcite, small specimens of which can be found on the tips. The one open adit is dangerous and should not be attempted but the open slope can be entered with care.

A similar mineral assemblage can be found at the old quarry on the west side of the village (OS GR 054.256).

Permission to visit should be obtained from - Mrs Pennant-Lloyd, Groes-fford, Llangynog, SY10 OES.

Minerals from Llangynog

	CRAIG RHIWARTH	CWM OROG
Common	Aurichalcite, chalcopyrite, sphalerite, cerussite, malachite, dolomite, hemimorphite, hydro-zincite, aragonite, smithsonite, quartz	Barite, galena, calcite, quartz
Less Common	Brochantite, linarite, serpierite, langite, ramsbeckite, pyromorphite	Witherite, harmotome
Unusual	Ramsbeckite	Harmotome, wulfenite

Key Ref: The Old Mines of the Llangynog District.
British Mining NO26. R. A. Williams
NMRS 1985 ISBN 0901450

3) To represent sites of the Alpine vein type we chose, Prenteg, (OS GR 582.412), Manod Quarry at Blaenau Festiniog (OS GR SH 707.449), and Hendre Quarry, Glyn Cerriog (OS GR SJ 191.345) All are old, long abandoned, dolerite quarries. Prenteg is the classic site for brookite, it is an SSSI and although it may be visited with permission, no hammering is allowed, but small specimens can still be found in the screens. Beautiful small specimens of blue anatase can still be found at Manod and brown anatase at Hendre. The rare earth carbonate synchisite is found at Manod and the rare earth phosphates, monazite at Prenteg and Hendre and xenotime at Hendre. Small parties can visit Manod without permission, but permission to visit Hendre should be obtained from the landowners.

Minerals from Prenteg

Common	Calcite, albite, quartz, brookite, anatase, pyrite
Less Common	Rutile, monazite-(Ce), fluorapatite, galena, halloysite, ilmenite, sphene
Unusual	Monazite-(Ce)

Key Ref: Famous Mineral Localities.
Prenteg, Tremadoc, Gwynedd, Wales.
R Starkey & G Robinson
Min. Record. Vol. 23 No. 5 1992 p391

Minerals from Manod Quarry

Common	Quartz, albite, anatase
Less Common	Brookite, rutile, synchysite-(Ce)
Unusual	Synchysite-(Ce)

Minerals from Hendre Quarry, Glyn Ceriog

Common	Quartz, albite, anatase, aragonite, calcite, brookite, chlorite, chalcopyrite
Less Common	Apatite
Rarely	Monazite-(Ce), xenotime-(Y), pectolite, epidote, rutile, apophyllite
Unusual	Xenotime-(Y), monazite

Key Ref: Hendre Quarry.
 Roy Starkey, N Hubbard, M Bailey
 UK Journal of Mines and Minerals
 No. 10. 1991. p48

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF MINERAL IDENTIFICATION

Alan F Edwards

Sue and I are new to the art of mineral collecting and identification, having only been at it for some three years. We are very lucky that the Norfolk Club has a number of patient members who are prepared to use their knowledge and experience, to help us identify samples, even when they are very small and of poor quality (the minerals not the members). From time to time however we have a sample that cannot be visually identified. These usually end up as "unknown" or "left shoulder-ites".

In May 1995 we were collecting in the old slag of Meadowsfoot smelter. We found a sample that contained three types of crystal. A bright orange/brown crystal, a bright green crystal and a minute white/colourless crystal. We were unable to have these identified by any Club member or by anyone at the BMS symposium in 1995 or 1997. It was thought that the green crystals might be brochantite and so Mike Rothwell kindly offered to analyse the orange crystals for us. This he did but, from the resultant chemical analysis print-out and photo, we were unable to match a mineral identification.

We had previously attended a workshop at Royal Holloway, London University, so I wrote to Dr David Alderton explaining the problem. He suggested completing the analysis for all the crystals on the sample. I have now received the print-outs which give the chemical elements in each of the three crystals, as well as two photos taken through an electron microscope. He was unable to carry out an x ray defraction (XRD), as the sample was too small, so he could not give us any mineral names.

I was then left to do a bit of detective work to try to match the chemical elements to a known mineral formula and corresponding crystal shape and colour. Two of the minerals contained antimony (Sb) and the third was made up of Cl, Na, Al, K, and Ca. There are over 3,000 entries in my Fleischer from which I extracted some 165 antimony minerals, a painstaking job which took me back to my auditing days.

Concentrating on the white/colourless crystals and looking at them at x80 magnification, it was just possible to identify them as hexagonal in shape. My search turned up the cancrinite group which are hexagonal silicates. In this group I considered that liottite was a possible match with a formula of $(Ca,Na,K)_8(Si,Al)_{12}O_{24}[(SO_4)(CO_3),Cl,OH]_4$.

My work on the orange crystals seem to indicate that it is in the stibiconite group and could be romeite, with a formula of $Ca_2Sb_2O_6(O,OH)$.

I am unable to find a chemical match for the green crystal, the closest I could get was bindheimite, also in the stibiconite group.

Now the question is, have I identified the minerals correctly and if so, are liottite and romeite new minerals to Meadowfoot? Without an XRD they cannot be proven to be the minerals we have found. Is anyone interested in all this? I realise "slag" minerals are not very popular so they may be of little interest. But at least I have the satisfaction of having reached a conclusion even though I do not know if it is right or wrong.

A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM. Martin F Gale.

Mineral collectors are about to be hit with definitely one and quite probably more bombshells. The problem: inconsiderate collectors and DEALERS digging large holes and then not filling them in after their days collecting. The problem to the landowner is serious. Put simply, if someone, even without permission to be on the land, falls into a hole then the landowner is liable. During a recent collecting trip to Cornwall this year, Andy Coster, Robbie Chapman and myself, found ourselves collecting on 16th March 98 at Wheal Cock in the morning, then onto West Wheal Owles for a few hours and finally onto Wheal Edward.

At Wheal Edward, we saw two of the largest holes I have ever seen that had been dug on a dump. The larger of the two holes was 10ft long 6ft wide and 7ft deep. Andy jumped into the hole to have a look for minerals, and Robbie and myself were scratching around the surface, when a National Trust Land Rover zoomed up to the dump, and the frantic lady head warden (I am sorry but I have forgotten her name) jumped out and started to talk to us very sternly. She asked why we dug such large holes, and then asked us why we never fill our holes in. I then explained that we had only been on the dump for 10 minutes, and the only tools we had on us were our Estwing hammers.

After she had calmed down and we began to chat. She pointed out that she was 99% sure who was causing the problem, and if the culprit and his friends were caught she is definitely going to prosecute. She also pointed out that she liked collectors in general and that her daughters liked to collect too, but not when there were deep holes on the dump. She also pointed out that she had to loose the use of two of her workers for a day to fill a massive hole on the Wheal Drea dump.

She finally said that if the problem was not eradicated in the very near future she would ban everybody collecting on the land under her jurisdiction and believe me she meant it. This would mean that we would loose sites like Loe Warren, West Wheal Owles, Wheal Edward, Wheal Owles, Wheal Drea, Bosean, Wheal Call, Boswedden, Wheal Harmon plus lots more.

A further problem would be the knock on effect once other landowners found out about the problem thus escalating throughout Devon and Cornwall. I have suggested to the warden that I might draft a letter and distribute it to the various clubs.

Personally I do not believe that this will help much so the idea I have come up with is to create a governing body for mineral collectors. We could liaise with land, quarry and mine owners and set down a code of conduct between us. It would then be up to the various clubs and the governing body to enforce the various laws. When people break these laws we can banish them from our clubs and pass on their details to the various landowners and try to eradicate this most disagreeable of problems that is sadly on the increase. I, for one, do not want to loose my rights to collect on the available site because of someone else's selfishness. The last part of this report is only a brief outline and needs lots of refinement.

AN APPEAL FROM CORNWALL

Sheila Harper

On a similar theme, Sheila has written to complain of a number of unfortunate situations in her adopted county. In addition to re-emphasising the point made above and after a particularly harrowing set of complaints, she writes:

Gravel Hills Mine and Dumps, Perranporth Beach.

Due to the over zealous activities of certain mineral collectors, the commandant, Major Barry Andrews, has announced that he is gating the mine. Further, anyone taking material from the bank backing on to the newt pond could face legal action. The mine and dumps come under MoD jurisdiction. In the last year, the amount of material taken from the bank in front of the pond is more than has been pulled out in the last ten years. One of the parties is from London or has a London accent Be warned. The Parish Council have also expressed concern at what has been happening here.

Greystones Quarry, Launceston

The Manager, Scott Ford wishes to remind parties that he is very happy for mineral collectors to visit his quarry, with permission, but that whoever visits must not climb quarry faces or work under them and that they must wear hard hats. They will be asked to leave the quarry if they do not abide by these rules, and collecting could be stopped for everyone.

Chichester Holidays, Newquay

Certain persons have been using our name to gain permission to visit sites in Cornwall. **This is not fair and not on.**

COLLECTIVE USE OF THE SOCIETY'S KNOWLEDGE

MIKE ROTHWELL

People join societies like ours because they are looking for contact with individuals who share a common interest and to expand their own knowledge about their interests. For a society like the BMS whose members are scattered widely across the British Isles it can be difficult to make contacts and thus get the most value from belonging. In particular this is the case for new members. To survive, the BMS needs a continual flow of new members and, once they have joined, we want them to stay.

The hugely popular annual symposium and the regular branch meetings are probably the main vehicle for sharing information. Added to that we have the excellent series of occasional papers and the, by now, excellent Society reference collection which provide background and learning information about many aspects of our shared interest. What we must recognise however is that we are all living during the beginning of a communication explosion via the Internet. New means of communicating with each other in ways undreamed of when the society started less than twenty years ago are now in regular use. We should seriously consider using them to make the most of individual knowledge for collective advantage.

With this note I hope to start members thinking about how the BMS might use the Internet to further its aims. I would like to take half an hour during the Symposium in September for a debate on this with the objective of creating a firm plan of how to take the issue forward.

The Internet is now widely used by many members of the Society and we have a number of options open to us.

- We could construct a BMS home page with information on such things as sites, new finds identification, electronic copy of the newsletter, Branch news, Collection list and requests etc. Doing this would however make this information more widely available than just to the membership. This raises an issue which many of you have, quite rightly, raised as a concern in the past.
- An alternative is to set up Internet networks of people interested in certain topics and publish names and addresses in the newsletter. This would avoid the open access issue. There are many other ways of using the Internet constructively and rather than just list all my thoughts at this stage, I would prefer that the members get their thinking hats on and tell us all at the Symposium what **YOU** want.

If you do not plan to attend and you have something to say on the subject please pass it on to a committee member or someone that you know will be going for them to raise on your behalf.

I look forward to some useful feedback.

THE HARDER YOU LOOK - THE MORE YOU FIND!

Roy Starkey

The past seventeen years have been a period of great interest for British Micromounters, and it seems remarkable to me that it is getting on for twenty years ago that we gathered in Matlock Bath for our first British Micromount Symposium. This newsletter is the 50th edition and Mike Dannatt has asked me to compile a review of notable finds since Newsletter No.1. I have restricted myself to occurrences where I believe the find to be a new record for the locality or species, rather than simply regurgitating the BMS Collection Catalogue. If you feel that I have omitted something of significance or incorrectly attributed a find, please accept my apologies - perhaps such errors will encourage someone else to do a follow-up article !

Where to start ? Well, as in the words of the song, perhaps the very beginning is a very good place to start. Max Wirth, in an early contribution (Newsletter No.7), reported the occurrence of harmotome (is it phillipsite????) from Loanhead Quarry, a mineral which most of us would have associated only with Strontian at that time. The Society field meeting in April 1983 turned up tiny bipyramidal crystals of mottramite (first found by David Middleton) from Arm O' Grain in the Caldbeck Fells (see Cooper and Stanley 1990). Also in 1983, Roy Starkey unearthed cyanotrichite from Mulberry Openwork, Lanivet, Cornwall, and Max Wirth found fine crystals of harmotome and adularia in the Touch Hills, Scotland, whilst out walking his dog Muffin. David Clough found vivianite at Wheal Drea, St. Just, Cornwall, and Steve Rust published his first of many lists of "new finds" in Newsletter No.11 May 1984, including posnjakite from Waterbank Mine, Ecton, and monohydrocalcite in slag from the Meadowfoot Smelter Wanlockhead.

The BMS National Reference Collection was launched in Newsletter No. 12, Nov 1984 , and has provided an impetus for submitting specimens and data ever since. The Collection , and it's accompanying catalogue, maintained by Max Wirth are arguably two of the most important reference sources for British mineral collectors today.

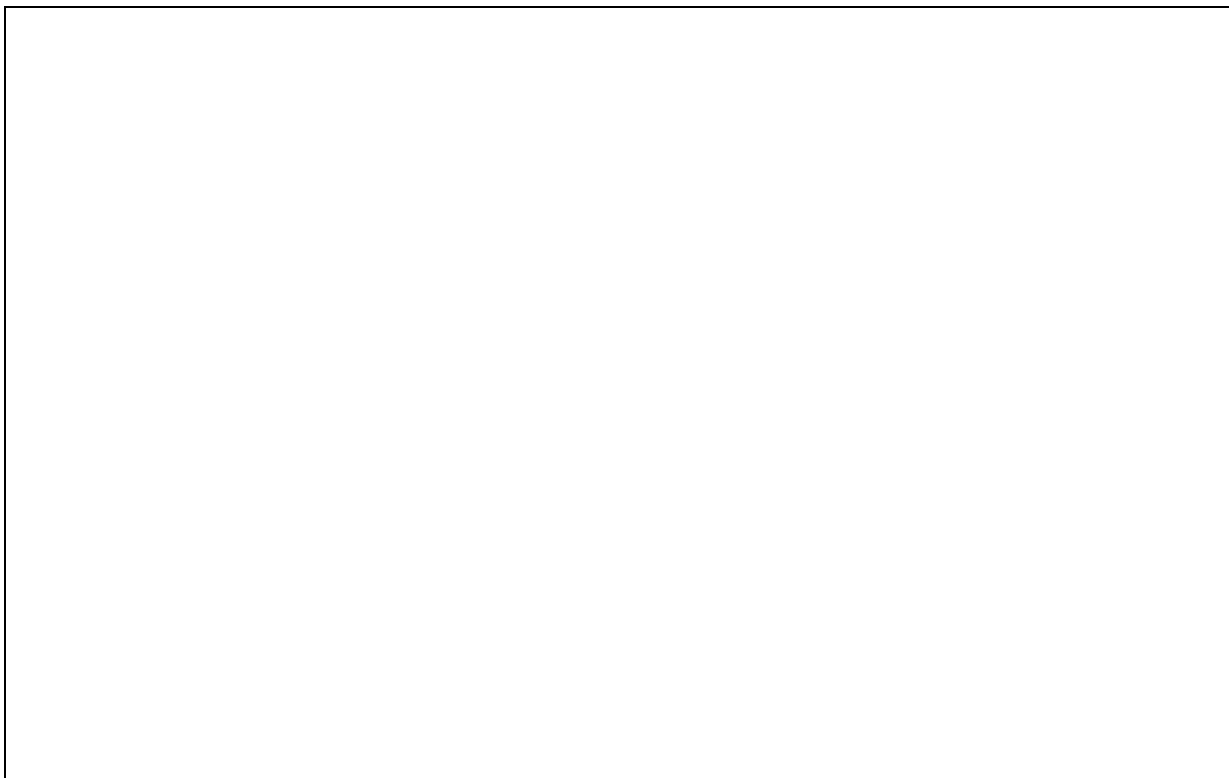
Scotlandite was described by Richard Braithwaite as co-author of a paper in Min. Mag. and Steve Rust found caledonite and leadhillite from Esgair Hir Mine, Mid-Wales in 1985. The now famous Thurstaston Beach erratics were described in Newsletter 13 (March 1985) by John Dickinson and Mike Rothwell, after following up a remark from Neil Hubbard regarding a specimen of titanite he had seen labelled as from Merseyside. This locality has since produced a wide range of interesting well-crystallised minerals including titanite, magnetite, analcime and natrolite. Kemp Meikle recorded crocoite from Hopeful Vein dump, Wanlockhead in Newsletter 14 (June 1985).

A new mineral species, sweetite, was collected by Steve Rust from Milltown Quarry, Derbyshire in 1985, and this locality too has since produced a fascinating range of unusual mineral specimens including wedellite and wulfingite. During a Russell Society Field Meeting to Gunheath Clay Pit in Cornwall, BMS member Frank Ince turned up excellent bright yellow bi-pyramidal crystals of cyrilovite - a new British species.

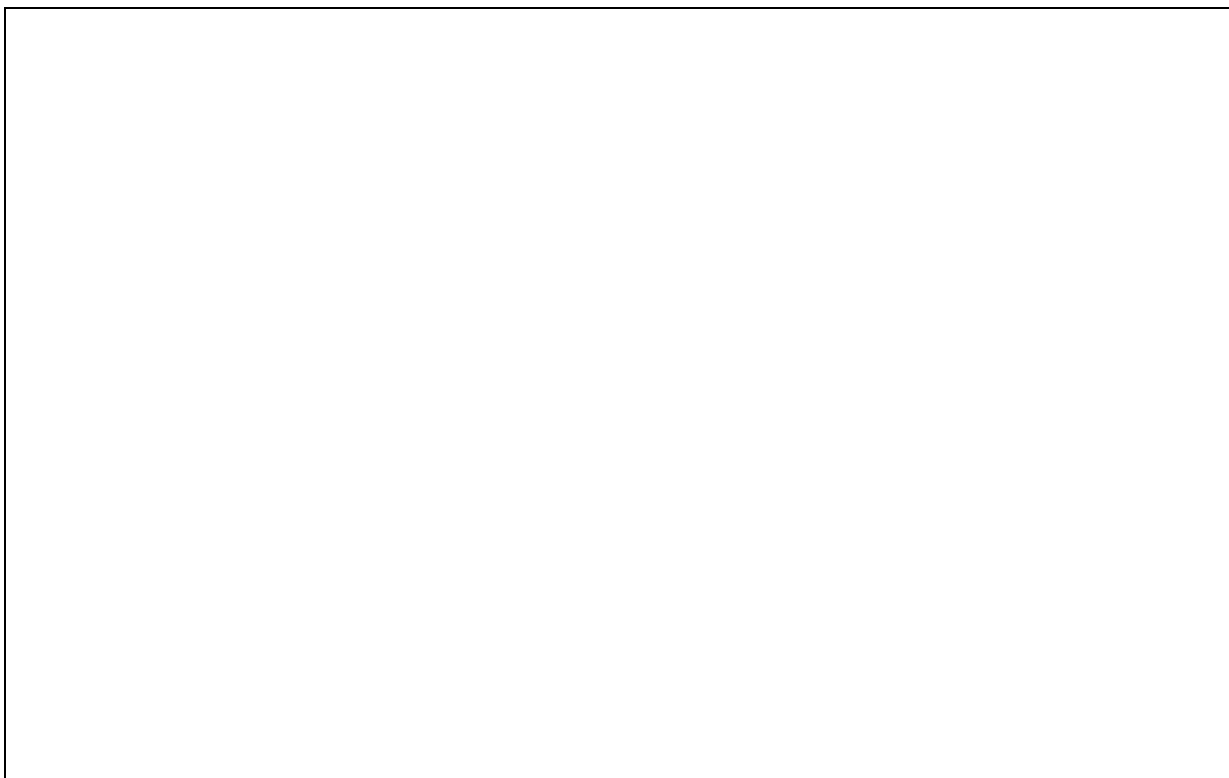
In 1986 a coastal outcrop at Daymer Bay, Cornwall, provided fine specimens of diaboileite and cumengeite, and in the same year, xenotime was described from Hendre Quarry, Wales by Roy Starkey and Neil Hubbard.

(contd page 12)

Photographs Courtesy Mick Cooper



Mottramite Dark brown “rice-grain” crystals to 0.25mm on quartz with yellow-green pyromorphite. Arm o’ Grain, Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria, England. Specimen: Starkey, R.E.

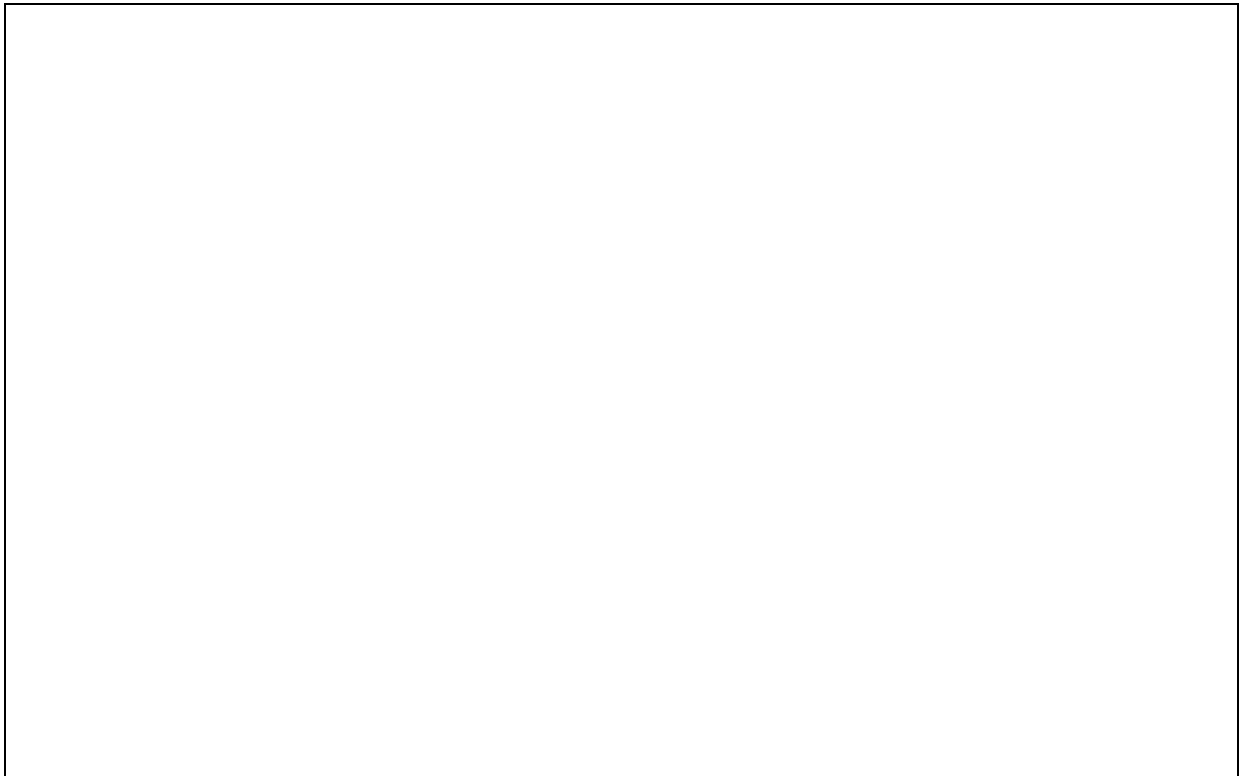


Queitite Minutely botryoidal encrustation on quartz with ?cerussite, ?susannite, and microscopic ?caledonite. (First British specimen.) Red Gill mine, Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria, England. Specimen: Rothwell, M.

Photographs Courtesy Mick Cooper



Vanadinite Prismatic crystals to 0.5mm long, encrusted with yellow-green mottramite. Judkins quarry, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, England. Specimen: Starkey, R.E.



Cyrilovite, dufrenite and chalcosiderite Deep yellow cyrilovite to 0.5mm with minor pale green chalcosiderite blades and globular dufrenite. (The first British occurrence of cyrilovite and a second British locality for chalcosiderite.) Gunheath pit, St Austell, Cornwall, England. Specimen: Hubbard N.

Paul Wallace found dundasite at Eaglebrook Mine, Wales in 1987, and this was followed by mottramite from Penberthy Croft Mine, Cornwall (David Clough), and namuwite at the Waterbank Mine, Ecton, Derbyshire (Steve Rust). The eagle eye of David Green spotted macphersonite from Red Gill Mine, Cumbria. Other new finds of the mid-1980's included adamite from Stennerskeugh Clouds Mine, hedyphane from Brandy Gill, Cumbria, and phosgenite from Lossiemouth, Grampian Region, Scotland.

Neil Hubbard, always one with an eye for the unusual, turned up monazite at Hingston Down Quarry, and was amongst the first to collect vanadinite and mottramite at Judkin's Quarry, Warwickshire.

Apophyllite, associated with prehnite and epidote was a new species for Shap Blue Quarry (Roy Starkey 1987), and much interest was aroused by the re-discovery of pyrargyrite from the old Herodsfoot Mine dumps (Richard Bell and others). Documentary research led Kemp Meikle to explore the many small exposures on Hartfield Moss, Renfrewshire and his efforts were rewarded by fine micros of native silver.

The unusual blue mineral schneiderite turned up at Llechweddhelyg Mine (Steve Rust), and wulfenite was discovered amongst the unusual tin-tungsten assemblage at Gairnshiel Bridge, Ballater by Kemp Meikle.

John Betterton found schulenbergite at Prince of Wales Mine, Cornwall in 1990, a species we more commonly associate with Mid-Wales, and was back in the news the following year with birnessite from Penberthy Croft, Cornwall.

Nakauriite was reported from Hagdale Quarry, Unst, by Richard Braithwaite in 1991 and in the same year, Mike Rothwell identified queitite from Red Gill Mine, Cumbria. Max Wirth found bavenite in the Shap Pink Quarry, Cumbria. Kankite was found at South Terras Mine, Cornwall by Kelvin Phillips in 1991.

1992 was an interesting year with yet another wulfenite locality being confirmed - Kinniside Mine, Cumbria (Mike Leppington), gmelinite (is it gmelinite or chabazite ?) from Coatesgate Quarry, Beattock, Scotland (Kemp Meikle) and thaumasite from Glasdir Mine, Wales (George Ryback). The now famous Buckbarrow Beck locality in Cumbria provided Tim Neall with eulytite and bismutite, and also from the Lake District, Brian Young collected beta-quartz from the Armboth Dyke.

Millerite was an unusual find at Bryn-yr-afr Mine, Talybont, Wales (Steve Rust 1993) and this was followed by rosasite from Hendy Quarry, Miskin, S. Wales (Steve Plant) and hilgardite-Tc from the famous Boulby Mine, Loftus, Cleveland (David Green).

Shropshire produced two significant finds reported in 1993 - edingtonite from Dysgwylfa Hill Quarry (Neil Hubbard) and barytocalcite (a first for the ore-field) from Rorrington Mine (Roy Starkey). Edingtonite was in the headlines once again in 1994, this time from Loanhead Quarry, Beith, Scotland (Kemp Meikle), and Tim Neall found scotlandite at Short Grain, Caldbeck, Cumbria. The Wallace family team, and others, turned up some really superb material from Padstow Consols, Gunver Head, Cornwall - boleite, cumengeite, phosgenite and chalcophyllite. Nick Elton and Jeremy Hooper (with A. Jeal) described novacekite and metanovacekite from Wheal Owles, Cornwall, one of many interesting Mineralogical Notes published in Mineralogical Magazine.

The first Welsh occurrence of laurionite was reported from Nant-y-cagle mine, Wales by Messrs. Rust, Burchmore, and Foy in 1995, and Richard Bell found delafossite at Tolvaddon Mine, Cornwall. Carbonate cyanotrichite turned up again, this time from Wedding Cave Mine, Wales, (David Green), and mahlmoodyite (a new British species) was reported from Kerriak Cove, Cornwall, by Nick Elton and Jeremy Hooper (1995).

The South-West continued to produce new finds - jeanbandeite (yes, that is the correct spelling!) from Hingston Down Quarry, Cornwall (Chris Jewson 1996), and subsequently from Penberthy Croft Mine by John Betterton. Mansfieldite was collected from Penberthy Croft, Cornwall (Peter Wallace 1996), and the unusual selenium mineral chalcomenite from Wheal Cock, Cornwall (Bridget Belson 1996). The team of Nick Elton and Jeremy Hooper were once again in the news with morinite from Gunheath Clay Pit, and Nick also separately recorded variscite, metavariscite, and hydroxyl-chlorapatite from the same locality.

Neil Hubbard found synchysite from Manod Quarry, Wales, and Tim Neall found novacekite at Needle's Eye, Scotland. The 2nd British occurrence of claudeite was recorded from Wet Swine Gill, Cumbria, by Mike Leppington, and finally some truly magnificent smithsonite was collected deep underground in March 1997 by Roy Starkey from Rhosesmor Mine, Halkyn, Wales.

This listing is necessarily incomplete, and is of course subject to the ever-present risk that finds reported by word of mouth, rather than written publication in a scientific journal, may be incorrect or possibly just misleading. For any inaccuracies please accept my apologies - Mike Dannatt will be pleased to publish any corrections or points for discussion in a future Newsletter.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS

Shirley Adrian writes:

A company called Geography Science Ltd has sent me samples of a couple of its products asking whether they would be of interest to our members.

1. A cavity storage box costing 39p. This has a glass microscope slide over a 2mm thick card which has a 44 x 15mm portion cut out and a backing layer of thin black-faced card. The layers are held together by a removable sleeve with a label on the back. Alternatively, the cavity could consist of two 10mm diameter x 2mm deep circles.
2. Circular microscope slides at 16p. A U-V curing adhesive is also available for mounting minerals onto the slide.

Contact: David Simpson, Pangea, 185 Oxford Road, Calne, Wilts, SN11 8AL.

Tel: 01249 816010

Pearl Freeman writes:

I have been asked if any BMS members would like to trade with a Spanish collector. I have completed two trades with the gentleman in question and his material has been good. His name is Borja Sainz de Baranda Graf and his address is:

Miami 3 4^oC, 28027 Madrid, Spain

Pearl included a long list in small print, far too long to reproduce here. No doubt he will supply an updated list in exchange for yours!

**INTERESTING ADDITIONS TO THE BMS COLLECTION Nos.1951-2000
Max M. Wirth - May 1998**

We have rather few nickel minerals, now Trevor Bridges has submitted niccolite from Teesdale, but only as cleavages in matrix (1955-1956). From the Scordale he has given gersdorffite with niccolite (1958).

Steve Rust found bechereite, a complicated Cu/Zn mineral as sprays of tiny, white crystals on galena (1959). His rutile from Wheal Remfry (1961) is a well formed but unusual habit. From the same site, waylandite (1962) comes as an encrustation on topaz, whilst bismutite forms cream needles.

Chris Jewson contributed interesting hematite (1968) from Roscommon Cliff, blocky instead of platy.

John Pearson found and identified pyrargyrite (1970/71) from Holmbush as small, brilliant red needles. I never found any there (or elsewhere).

Ike Wilson sent us a suite of minerals from Ireland. From Tynagh, excellent anglesite (1980/81), doubly terminated mimetite (1982) and rosettes (1984). At Crich quarry in Derbyshire he found minute wulfenite (1987/88).

I was looking through some old spares of mine and came across a harmotome (1991) from Goat quarry near Aberdour. It is harmotome since it did not form a gel with acid (see Newsletter 44, p. 2). Phillipsite *would* have formed a gel.

Mike Rothwell found nice specimens underground in the Bedford United mine, cornwallite, olivenite, clinoclase and brochantite (1992-1996). Mike also contributed a nice gold-in-matrix specimen (1997) from Hope's Nose and **broke the 2000 specimen barrier** with siderite from Penlee quarry in Cornwall.

Now if you make enough noise we may expect a new, complete catalogue!

ADDITIONS TO BMS REFERENCE COLLECTION 1951-2000

1951	FLUORITE	Cambokeels mine	Weardale, Cumbria	Bridges, T.
1952	SPHALERITE	Cambokeels mine	Weardale, Durham	Bridges, T.
1953	SPHALERITE	Smallcleuch mine	Nenthead, Durham	Bridges, T.
1954	SPHALERITE	Smallcleuch mine	Nenthead, Durham	Bridges, T.
1955	NICCOLITE	Lady's Rake mine	Teesdale, Durham	Bridges, T.
1956	NICCOLITE	Lady's Rake mine	Teesdale, Durham	Bridges, T.
1957	GERSDORFFITE	Hilton mine	Scordale, Cumbria	Bridges, T.
1958	NICCOLITE	Hilton mine	Scordale, Cumbria	Bridges, T.
1959	BECHEREITE	Frongoch mine	Dyfed, Wales	Rust, S.
1960	TOPAZ	Wheal Remfry	Indian Q., Cornwall	Hacker, C.
1961	RUTILE	Wheal Remfry	Indian Q., Cornwall	Hacker, C.
1962	WAYLANDITE	Remfry clay pit	Indian Q., Cornwall	Rust, S.
1963	BISMUTITE	Wheal Remfry	Indian Q., Cornwall	Rust, S.
1964	SMITHSONITE	Waterbank mine	Ecton, Staffs.	Belson, R.
1965	AURICHALCITE	Waterbank mine	Ecton, Staffs.	Belson, R.
1966	PYROMORPHITE	Wilson's shaft	Leadhills, Scotland	Grab table
1967	CORKITE	Iron Crag	Caldbeck, Cumbria	Bell, R.
1968	HEMATITE	Roscommon Cliff	St. Just, Cornwall	Jewson, C.
1969	GRAPHITE	Borrowdale wad mine	Cumbria	Hay, P.
1970	PYRARGYRITE	Holmbush	Callington, Cornwall	Pearson, J.
1971	PYRARGYRITE	Holmbush	Callington, Cornwall	Pearson, J.
1972	PYRITE	Silvertop quarry	Brampton, Cumbria	Thomson, N.
1973	TETRAHEDRITE	Barlocco mine	Auchencairn,	Thomson, N.
1974	GALENA	Mill Dam mine	Gt. Hucklow,	Dannatt, M.
1975	BARITE	Mill Dam mine	Gt. Hucklow,	Dannatt, M.
1976	SMITHSONITE	Mill Dam mine	Gt. Hucklow,	Dannatt, M.
1977	SPHALERITE	Mill Dam mine	Gt. Hucklow,	Dannatt, M.
1978	GYPSUM	Mountfield mine	Robertsbridge, Sussex	Hay, P.
1979	ERYTHRITE	Vigra mine, Bontddu	Dolgellau, Wales	Hay, P.
1980	ANGLESITE	Tynagh mine	Ireland	Wilson, I.
1981	ANGLESITE	Tynagh mine	Ireland	Wilson, I.
1982	MIMETITE	Tynagh mine	Ireland	Wilson, I.
1983	BEUDANTITE	Tynagh mine	Ireland	Wilson, I.
1984	PYROMORPHITE	Tynagh mine	Ireland	Wilson, I.
1985	CHALCANTHITE	Dooneen mine, Allihie	Co. Cork, Ireland	Wilson, I.
1986	HEMIMORPHITE	Ballygowen mine	Tipperary, Ireland	Wilson, I.
1987	WULFENITE	Crich quarry	Derbyshire	Wilson, I.
1988	WULFENITE	Crich quarry	Derbyshire	Wilson, I.
1989	SPHALERITE	Nentsberry Haggs	Alston, Cumbria	Wilson, I.
1990	CERUSSITE	Cwmystwyth mine	Dyfed, Wales	Wilson, I.
1991	HARMOTOME	Goat quarry, Aberdour	Fife, Scotland	Wirth, M.
1992	CORNWALLITE	Bedford United mine	Tavistock, Devon	Rothwell, M.
1993	OLIVENITE	Bedford United mine	Tavistock, Devon	Rothwell, M.
1994	CLINOCLASE	Bedford United mine	Tavistock, Devon	Rothwell, M.
1995	CUPRITE	Bedford United mine	Tavistock, Devon	Rothwell, M.
1996	BROCHANTITE	Bedford United mine	Tavistock, Devon	Rothwell, M.
1997	GOLD	Hope's Nose	Torquay, Devon	Rothwell, M.
1998	OLIVENITE	Ting Tang mine	Carharrack, Cornwall	Rothwell, M.
1999	PHARMACOSIDERITE	Ting Tang mine	Carharrack, Cornwall	Rothwell, M.
2000	SIDERITE	Penlee quarry	Newlyn, Cornwall	Rothwell, M.

DAVE SMITH
Martin F Gale.

I regret that I have to inform club members of the death of Dave Smith on 4th April 1998. Dave was born at West Ewell in Surrey, his family then moved to Redruth in Cornwall just after the war. After leaving school he obtained employment as a psychiatric nurse, and I believe that it was at this job that he learned the art of being able to listen, a rare commodity.

Like most young men, Dave was always on the lookout for a more interesting and better paid job, and he got his chance with the opening of Wheal Jane in 1969. He started as a shaft sinker on No 2 shaft which was dug to a depth of 347 metres. In 1971 he became a timberman putting in supports, stulls, platforms and sets etc. Within a few months he gained the position of miner, followed by leading miner. His skill and judgement with drilling, blasting, mucking and other activities was noted by the management and a promotion to charge-hand quickly followed.

Dave started his keen interest in exploring old disused mines and collecting minerals whilst working at Wheal Jane, but in 1978 Wheal Jane closed. Dave had to find employment elsewhere particularly in Southern Ireland and Wales, so his exploration of old mines was put on hold for a year. In 1979 Wheal Jane re-opened and Dave was able to obtain his old job back. It was also at this time that his long running interest with Wheal Gorland started, a hobby that became an obsession that had lasted nearly 30 years and is still being worked on by others.

His legacy was he kept a diary of all work being carried out at Wheal Gorland. In 1997 Dave, Martin Stolworthy and myself managed to print the diary, the 100 copies we printed have now all been sold, but the diary will now be reprinted with full colour cover, improved photos and the text amended in the very near future.

In 1985 with hints flying around about Wheal Jane closing again, Dave took redundancy, and along with Mike Cooper (an ex-miner from Pendarves), set about capping old mine shafts. In the early 1990s he started work at Geevor mine near St. Just. He was employed making safe the shallow adit, and prettying up the surface remains.

It was while he was working at Geevor mine that sadly he contracted cancer. He then took up studying minerals more closely and in 1996 joined two clubs the N.M.L.S. and the B.M.S. where he met a lot of new friends. He particularly liked the B.M.S. Symposium at Leicester University. Dave also started giving talks on the Wheal Gorland project.

One of his lasting qualities was honesty. They say that it is rare to find a person that can truly be called a friend, for myself I have lost a very close friend. One who I could never repay for the knowledge he gave me on exploration and mineral collecting. I know that I speak for everybody that knew him, when I say that our sincere condolences go to his wife Liz and to the rest of his family.

**Donations to the Cornish Macmillan Nurses, C/O 10 Lanner Moor, Lanner,
Nr. Redruth, Cornwall, TR16 6HV.**

KEN SAVAGE

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden and premature death in February this year of Ken Savage.

Although a well known figure in Mineralogy, Ken did not attend the Symposium so he would have been a more familiar figure to those who knew him for his work with the North West Branch of the Russell Society, his annual stall at the Bakewell Show and his collecting activities.

Ken was a man of varied interests. He was Chairman of the Wirral Mineral and Lapidary Society for some time in the eighties and early nineties, and for the past few years field trip secretary for the North West branch of the Russell Society. He was also involved in the Scouting movement and had interests in model steam engines.

Ken got a lot of pleasure out of his hobbies and was the kind of person who was always willing to put a lot back in to help other people. He is greatly missed, particularly in the North West but also more widely for his unfailing good humour and generosity with help and information.

Ken leaves a wife Diane and two sons, both studying at college. Deepest condolences on behalf of the BMS have been passed to the family.

To commemorate his work with the Russell Society the North West branch have planted a Yew Tree in his memory in the grounds of the Children's Hospice at Clatterbridge on the Wirral.

BRANCH NEWS

Midlands Branch

Dick Smith writes to say that the next Branch meeting will be in October or November. Contact Dick for details.

South-East Branch

Austin Lockwood writes to say that the branch will hold a joint meeting with the South-East branch of the Russell Society on Sunday 6th September in the afternoon. John Pearce will give a presentation on "Minerals are Chemicals". Numbers limited and a few places were left when Austin wrote. Those attending should at least work through occasional paper No 3 on the same subject. Details of time on venue on booking.

Northern Branch

The branch continues to meet at Bircotes library near Doncaster, most recently on the afternoon of Saturday 25th July.

DIRECTORY OF MICROMOUNTERS 1999 EDITION

Mick Wolfe

Every two years the BMS publishes its Directory of Micromounters. Members of more than 2 years standing will know that this contains brief (not more than 60 words please unless you *really* have to) paragraphs detailing individual members' interests, areas of expertise, collection size, etc. It is nearly 2 years since the last edition of the Directory and I am sure that all members will have increased the size of their collections, some will have joined/left other societies, and the more affluent members may even have purchased better microscopes. The Directory must, therefore, be updated periodically.

Members wishing to appear in the Directory are asked to check their existing entries and to advise me in writing of any amendments or corrections which they require. New members are invited to create their own entries.

Replies to Mick Wolfe, 16 Collington Street, Beeston, Notts., NG9 1FJ (or hand them to me at the Symposium).

EDITORIAL
Mike Dannatt

This edition of the Newsletter comes with my sincere apologies for its late arrival. I regret that personal pressures this year prevented me from making a timely start on it. I can only hope that the wait has been worthwhile!

This is our 50th issue and it has fallen to me, the new boy, to produce it. Credit must go to all previous editors for (a) getting it started and (b) keeping it going. Looking back over previous issues there is no doubt that, taken together, the issues of the Newsletter provide a rich archive of information. I must now try to press on with a full index!

The 50th issue coincides with the 2000 specimen mark for the BMS Reference collection, highlighted by Max Wirth in his regular contribution above. He has already provided the raw material for the full catalogue which he suggests might be published soon.

I must take this opportunity to give due credit - and thanks - to Mick Cooper for providing the photographs for the "centre-fold". Thanks are also due to Roy Starkey for his work on the article which they illustrate. The intention was to give a flavour of what our chairman describes as the "real contribution to British Mineralogy made by members of the BMS through their activities in the field and their work in identifying their finds. For a Society of mainly amateurs this is quite remarkable." As Roy says, such an article can never be totally comprehensive. There is, therefore, an open invitation to anyone who feels strongly enough about it to provide me with a follow-up article entitled "The bits they left out"? By the way, colour will not be a regular feature of the Newsletter!

This is also a sad issue, recording, as it does, the deaths of two members. It is sad, too, in that it contains reports of the consequences of thoughtless actions by unknown mineral collectors. Too many sites have been lost, or are under threat through such actions.

Finally, our chairman makes some suggestions as to how we might use new technology to benefit the Society. I am sure that this will precipitate animated discussion at the AGM but we need to find out what other members who cannot come to Leicester might think. As always, contributions on the topic will be most welcome.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the Symposium.

Please note the following changes of address and/or telephone number:

Richard Lamb	33 Northgate, Walkington, Beverley, E Yorkshire, HU17 8ST	TBA
Ken Beeson	4 Waldene drive, Alvaston, Derby, DE24 0GY	01332 322992

NEW MEMBERS

New members are urged to inform the editor should any of their particulars (as noted below) be incorrect:

Timothy Neall	Greenside, Kirkbride, Cumbria, CA5 5JH	016973 51511
Richard Colliass	66 Favell Drive, Furzton, Milton Keynes, MK4 1AJ	01908 502316 0411 337507
Frank Bouweraerts	Irestone House, Wearhead, Co. Durham, DL13 1HT	01388 537584
William Mason	6 Wordsworth Avenue, Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire, FY5 2ST	01253 821929
Colin Fuller	113 Crestline Court, Goldings, Northampton, NN3 8XZ	01604 499894
John Coleman	2 Roundhay Drive, Eaglescliffe, Cleveland, TS16 9HW	01642 648508

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Please note that the deadline for articles for Newsletter 51 will be October 1, 1998. Please let me have contributions as soon as possible in order to spread the load. Articles or reports on PC disc are particularly welcome but should be in one of these formats, please:- plain text (ASCII or TXT files), rich text format (RTF), Word for Windows 2, Word 97 (or earlier versions) or Word Perfect. Articles sent via the Internet should be part of the body of the E-mail message - please do not attach documents to E-mails. Many thanks.