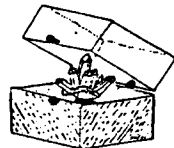


# BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY



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## 3rd British Micromount Symposium – 29 + 30 Sept. 1984

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This newsletter should hopefully be accompanied by the new and much enlarged 3rd Edition of the popular British Directory of Micromounters. It is indeed pleasing to reflect upon the rapid growth of the Society since its inception in 1981, and to note also the extremely high proportion of active members. The hallmark of the Society has been the friendly informality and free exchange of ideas. Newsletters have featured articles on Strontian Lead Mines, Micromounting in the USA, Dithionite Rust Removal, Test Reports on Microscopes, Zeolites, Micro-Trimmers, Wheal Edward, Llandudno Copper Mines, Loanhead Quarry, Kit Hill Consols, Micromounting in Holland, British Lead Minerals, Majuba Hill, Nevada, High Down Quarry, Milgun Station, Australia., Edingtonite/Harmotome, Computer Cataloguing, Wheal Drea, Clevedon Beach, as well as regular reports from our contemporaries in Canada and South Africa.

Three highly successful and well attended field meetings have been held, in Wales, the Lake District and Scotland, and of course the first and second British Micromount Symposia broke new ground for the amateur mineralogist in the UK by providing a serious conference weekend, with the presentation of papers and supporting workshop sessions.

What next then? The Society is now established as part of the 'Mineral World' for serious British collectors and it is time to review the options open to us in order to build on our experience to date, and also secure the future.

The Society turned over nearly £800 during the year ended 31/10/83, and membership has increased over the past three years at a rate of approximately 40% per annum.

Newsletter No.10 contained well over 6000 words of information and comment, and the Society has already published more than 100 A4 page equivalents of typescript.

The workload of running the BMS is becoming such that one person cannot cope, and there is a clear need for additional resources. In addition, the Society has now 'come of age', and must consider the adoption of a constitution to guide its course, and the election of a number of officers to manage its affairs. The problems of delegation and organisation are many and various given the wide geographical spread of our membership, but the running of the day to day affairs can readily be sub-divided on a functional basis.

At present the workload has fallen largely on myself, with able assistance from Elsie Hansford in respect of the Symposium admin. and duplication and mailing of newsletters. Mike Bayley has provided word processing and type-setting for the Directory. My wife has provided much needed and unstinting support. To all of these people I record my grateful thanks.

The functional needs which require to be filled are as follows:-

'Membership / Finances / Address List updates'  
'Newsletter and Communication'  
'Duplication / Printing Services / Envelopes & Mailing'  
'General correspondence and contact address'  
Symposium Organiser' 'Directory Editor'  
'Field Meeting Coordinator' 'Policy Making'

The 8 functions do not necessarily require 8 persons to perform them, several of them may be conveniently combined.

No job titles will be proposed at this stage, but will be agreed at the Symposium in September Your comments and views are welcomed, together with potential volunteers Please contact Roy Starkey.

The Society requires a Constitution in order that its affairs may be managed in a consistent fashion, to control admission of members, and to create an executive body with authority to take action against members in the unlikely event that the need arises. The activities and organisation of the Society need not change in any material aspect, but the facility of a structure and formulation of policy decisions by elected representatives are essentials which we should not be without.

A draft constitution is set out below, please read it carefully, and let me have your written comments as soon as possible. Time will be set aside at the Symposium for discussion and adoption of the constitution (amended as required) and the meeting at the Symposium will be deemed to be representative of all members and quorate.

PLEASE DO LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS - IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE.

The B.M.S. is a strong and healthy organisation - let's keep it that way!

#### DRAFT CONSTITUTION

1. The Society shall be called the British Micromount Society, hereinafter referred to as "the Society".
2. The aims of the Society shall be to promote contact between micromounters in the U.K. and to encourage the serious development of micromounting as a branch of mineralogy through the publication of a newsletter and occasional field meetings & Symposia.
3. The Society shall publish its findings for issue to membership not less than three (3) times per year.
4. The Society shall consist of Ordinary Members and Family Members.
  - 4.1 Ordinary Members - normally aged 18 years or over. Minors may be accepted at the Committee's discretion.
  - 4.2 Family Membership - being a member of a family in which there is one Ordinary Member. In the case of family membership only one copy of any publication(s) shall be supplied to any one address.
  - 4.4 Ordinary Members shall pay an annual subscription of £..... (Family Members £..... each, subject to there being one fully paid up Ordinary Member in the Family).
  - 4.5 Subscriptions shall be due on the first day of January each year, but members elected after the first day of October shall not be required to pay subscription for the current calendar year.
  - 4.6 Any Members in arrears of subscription for more than three months shall be deemed to have resigned, but may seek re-election when all dues have been met.

- 4.7 Any member not behaving in a responsible manner shall be liable for expulsion from the Society. Membership shall cease if, at a meeting of the Committee of which the Member in default shall have twenty one days' clear notice, and at which the Member shall have been given the opportunity of being heard, the Committee pass a resolution that it is undesirable, in the interests of the Society that such a membership be continued.
5. Members shall keep the aims of the Society in mind, at all times, and my work done in its name shall be executed in a responsible manner.
6. A leader shall be appointed for each of the Society's field meetings, both above and below ground. Any member failing to comply with a leader's reasonable request shall be reported to the next committee meeting.
7. The business of the Society shall be conducted by a committee consisting of (...to be agreed) of whom four shall form a quorum.
8. The Officers and Members of the Committee shall be nominated by any two ordinary members of the Society. Such nominations shall reach the Secretary at least 28 days before the time arranged for the Annual General Meeting.
9. The Annual General Meeting (of which 15 Ordinary Members, not being officers, shall form a quorum) shall be held to receive and approve the Annual Report and audited Balance Sheet. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to all members of the Society at least 14 days before the time of the meeting.
10. Alterations to this constitution can only be made at an Annual General Meeting and proposed alterations must be submitted to the Secretary not less than thirty days prior to the meeting.
11. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Committee or on the signed request of six members of the Society sent to the Secretary. Such Extraordinary General Meetings shall be held within twenty eight days of receipt of the request, and fourteen days notice of the meeting shall be given by post to all members
12. The Society shall not be dissolved or terminated, except at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose. Any property remaining after the satisfaction of all proper debts and liabilities shall be disposed of in accordance with the wishes of the meeting.

#### ADDENDUM

- 4.3 Applications for membership of the Society shall be made on the official Society membership application form. Every candidate for Ordinary membership shall be proposed by two members, one at least of whom shall have personal knowledge of the candidate.

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Prepared R.Starkey 22/5/84

#### LOST & FOUND

Muriel Tissington writes to say that she recovered her camera lost during the Leadhills Field Meeting. The camera was on the Harrison Shaft Dump at Sussana Mine. Thanks to all who showed concern.

NEWS FROM STRONTIAN by David Ifold

From NCC bulletin 'Earth Science Conservation' March 1984

"Strontian Lead Mine, Lochaber - one of Britain's most famous disused mines - is shortly to be re-opened and arrangements have been agreed to ensure that re-working will not cause undue damage to the mineralogical interest. The mineral strontianite was first identified from this site and the rare barium zeolites, brewsterite and harmotome have also been identified. The dumps associated with previous mining activity are now almost barren of useful material and the proposal to extract barytes for use in North Sea drilling operations has therefore come at a timely moment. The operators have given assurances that access to any safe workings or spoil tips will be allowed during the life of the mine and that they will attempt to conserve the more valuable features of geological interests when working at the site eventually ceases."

NEW FINDS by Steve Rust

Posnjakite -  $Cu_4(SO_4)(OH)_6.H_2O$

From the Waterbank Mine, nr Ecton, Staffordshire. Forms as blue microcrystalline crusts, rarely single pseudo-hexagonal crystals. This was erroneously identified as Langite in the article in Mineral Realm.

Monohydrocalcite -  $CaC_2O_4.H_2O$

From the Meadowfoot Smelter Slag Dump, Wanlockhead, Scotland. Forms colourless triangular crystals (hexagonal system), in Iron rich slag with calcite ? or aragonite ?. The crystals are similar in form to benitoite.

Both the above have been recently confirmed by the B.M. (Nat.Hist.)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS Please note that Hampshire Micro have moved !

Now at:- 3 SOUTHLEA, CLIDDSDEN,  
BASINGSTOKE, HANTS. RG25 2JN Tel: (0256) 62871

Directions:- Take A339 Alton road out of Basingstoke, Under M3, First right, B3046 to Alresford. Cliddesden 1 mile. We are last gate but one on right, up embankment before church on right, nearly opposite first thatched cottage.

Michael Edwards.

A NEW TECHNIQUE ? Recently spotted in our local newspaper -

Advertisement for scientific perming "Scientists have proved..... by studying very closely the structure of the hair before and after it has been permed. The following examples of one single hair have been PHOTOMICROFIED 500x !" One wonders whether the technique of 'Photomicrofication renders things easier or more difficult to see!.

Ed.

COURSES OFFERED

We have received a brochure from Preston Montford Field Centre giving details of a number of courses which may be of interest to members. These include:- Rocks, Minerals and Mines of Shropshire; Rocks, Fossils and Minerals; Rocks, Minerals and the Microscope; and others. Details from the Warden, Mr J A Bayley, Preston Montford Field Centre, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, Salop. SY4 1DX. Tel. (0743) 850380.

**DON'T MISS the great**

# ROCK EXCHANGE

**October 6th & 7th 1984**

The Peak Lapidary and Mineral Society are once again organising the above event at the Medway Centre, Bath St. Bakewell, Derbyshire. 10.30 - 5.00 both days. There will be no selling at this event, all participants will be committed to exchanging specimens only. Refreshments available. Anyone interested may participate by either hiring a table at a fee of £1.25, or by turning up with a box of specimens to swap. For more details contact Don Edwards at Tideswell Dale Rockshop, or write to Les Fox, 4 Undercliffe, Bakewell, Derbyshire.

We have cooperated in arranging the Symposium date so as not to clash. enabling BMS members to attend. I shall be there with a good selection of material - see you there ?

Roy Starkey.

## THIRD ANNUAL FIELD MEETING - 5/6/7 May 1984

Some forty members of the Society attended the 3rd Annual Field Meeting at leadhills and Wanlockhead in the Lowther Hills of Southern Scotland. The weather was dry and sunny throughout and there was good collecting on the slopes reaching up to the snowline at 1700 ft. The villages looked their best and many members were able to make good use of their cameras.

Although some had met up at the caravan park on the Friday evening, greetings were exchanged as members changed into Windproof walking gear on the Saturday morning, after parking vehicles at the foot of Whyte's Cleugh (867133). The large party was introduced to Richard Gillanders, the author of the article on the area which appeared in "Mineralogical Record" July/August 1981, and who had been active for some years in accessing the old Sussanah mine at Leadhills. Richard gave a short talk on the geology and mines, before the party split into two, lead by Kemp Meikle and Max Wirth respectively. Nearby was the Glencrieff tip (known locally as "the bing") which has shrunk over the years as material has been taken for landfill, but which still offered on the extreme edges a good selection of primary minerals - galena, sphalerite, chalcopyrite, quartz, ankerite and barite. It was a good introduction but the walk up Whyte's Cleugh was more rewarding in terms of secondaries which came to light after digging into the old dumps.

cont/-

Trenching tools were very useful and spades even better as fine specimens of galena associated with linarite, pyromorphite and cerussite were unearthed. The hunt was on for lanarkite and leadhillite; several specimens of leadhillite were collected. After returning to the cars for lunch (and shelter from the bracing wind) there was a short drive alongside the Wanlock Water to the Meadowfoot Smelter (855144) site. The stark remains of the old hearth buildings and the wheelpit were to be seen as well as the old wood which had lined the flues leading up Sownen Dod. By the river were the dumps of slag which have been well turned over in the last two years, no doubt in search of the rare elyite. Nevertheless there were blue and green colours to be seen on the surface and to a greater extent after digging into the dumps where it was damp. As the pieces of slag were broken there was sufficient evidence of fine micro crystals and many pieces were taken for further study at home. After a hectic day there was then just enough time for a short visit to Belton Grein Vein (878132) and a climb up the slopes to High Pirn mine (873139) which has been the source of vanadinite.

Sunday morning found members rarin' to go, after meeting at 09.30 hrs between Wanlockhead and Leadhills. The party divided, each half taking a side of the valley which had carried the Brow and Hopeful Veins with the Glengonnar shaft to the east of the main road. Above this shaft were extensive dumps which had been well-weathered but there was also some freshly moved material with attractive pyromorphite in shades from yellow to grass-green with crystals varying in size. High up on the western slopes of grass and heather was more pyromorphite, some as growths on fine white quartz crystals. Cerussite was much more apparent in large crystals on this site. After lunch the parties moved north of Leadhills village to the area above the Sussana mine (882158) which extended up to the snowline. Collecting on these dumps provided fine cerussite crystals and many members took time out to appreciate the fine views across Leadhills village and take photographs. Ten members who had suitable equipment were able to go underground in the Sussana mine. The party was led by Richard Gillanders who, with other members of the Scottish Mineral and Lapidary Club had timbered some 600 feet of level in search of the old workings. The problems had been far worse than anticipated and the work had been going on for about six years..

Saturday and Sunday evenings were spent in cramped but pleasant surroundings in the local hostelry and many yarns were exchanged. Several ladies now know that the Scots take their pleasures seriously and wished they had kept on their walking boots. Some members seemed disappointed that there wasn't room for swaps - neither was there much light!! - but Max did produce something from a pocket lining which drew a number to the bar, while this pleased the bemused landlord, he was absolutely perplexed by the conversation. A member who had arrived late at the caravan site had been greeted with "Are you one of the Microwave lot?" so it was easier to follow up that line of conversation. Our coming to Sanquhar had been well-aided on the street... voices on CB were unintelligible.... we would be missed.

Monday morning was scheduled to visit north of Leadhills - Mill Vein and Wembley Shaft - and those who made the journey were rewarded with fine hemimorphite crystals. Many just wanted to re-visit Whyte's Cleugh and the Meadowfoot smelter and others took advantage of Rex Bingham's offer to demonstrate gold-panning in the Wanlock Water. Rex showed the type of bed rock cracks where tiny flakes of gold would be likely to accumulate and then lifted from them mud and gravel into a bucket of water fitted with a chip basket. This was used to separate the larger particles and the mud which passed through was then sloshed around and the water poured off. After this primary separation, the remaining fine material was then transferred to the gold pan and using the river water, the gravel was swirled around.

cont/-

The occasional gold flakes just stuck to the pan as everything else was on the move and ....WOWEE..... there was the yellow, the pay-dirt, BONANZA!! Rex also demonstrated a home-made suction pump which was used to get at the lower levels of gravel under large boulders where gold was also likely to accumulate. The sight of the yellow stuff was enough for some to prise off car hubcaps to act as makeshift goldpans and enjoy a new experience.

After lunch thanks were expressed to all who had contributed to make the week-end so enjoyable. The weather had also helped to make it the most enjoyable field trip yet. Many pleasant memories will be recalled when specimens are re-examined in the long, dark evenings of next winter - the permanent reminders of our visit to the area described by Rev.J.M.Porteous in 1876 as "God's Treasure House in Scotland".

### THIRD BRITISH MICROMOUNT SYMPOSIUM 29/30th September 1984

This event will be held at the University of Leicester Dept. of Geology as last year, with arrangements being generally similar. Full details will be posted to delegates around the end of July upon receipt of a completed registration slip, and the appropriate fee.

Registration fees for 1984 will be:- Single £6.00

Husband & Wife £8.00

and include provision of light refreshments during the weekend, but not meals. Dinner on Saturday evening will be bookable at additional cost, details later.

Please return your remittance and completed registration slip to Roy Starkey, 29 Painswick Close, Oakenshaw, Redditch, Worcs. B98 7XU.

The Symposium programme will contain a full listing of activities over the weekend, which this year will include the Annual Photocomp, and a new attraction - THE BMS Annual Specimen Auction (an opportunity to sell three of your best swaps, with 50% of the price realised going to BMS funds, and 50% to the donor.) Hand specimens only.

### Harrogate Gem & Mineral Fair 1984

August Bank Holiday Weekend, 25/26/27th August 1984 at the Crown Hotel, Harrogate, N.Yorks. 10.00 - 5.50pm each day. Adults 60p, 6-17 years 20p, (OAP's 20p). This popular and well established show is sure to be a success. If you're in the area why not visit ?

### The British Gemstone, Minerals, Jewellery and Crafts Show

This show is organised by BGM Promotions, and takes the form of a number of shows at different venues around the country (see last issue of Gems and Mineral Realm for details). I attended the show last weekend at Stratford on Avon. All around Stratford were posters and handbills detailing "A Major Event Not To Be Missed" When I arrived at the Falcon Hotel I was surprised to find an admission charge of 70p for a provincial show, however, I paid up and walked round the corner into the show. The room was small and filled by about 21 stands, as follows:- Minerals (1), Gems/Lapid (6), other crafts e.g. enamelling, leatherwork etc. (13), Exotic Lingerie (1) The only mineral stall had a poor selection of over-priced north of England material and a limited amount of Foreign specimens. This was clearly aimed at the tourists in Stratford, not the mineral fraternity. I spent £2 in petrol, £0.50p parking, and £0.70p entrance fee, which for about 4 minutes in the show makes it probably the most expensive thing I've ever done in £'s per hour other than flying the atlantic. Clearly the BGMJCS is not intended for the Mineralogists amongst us. There are a number of other venues still to come - 6 days in Brighton for example, you have been warned !

Roy Starkey.

Geological Report - sent in by Rex Bingham

A prospector saved his money for years to get a geological report on his prospect. When he received it he could make nothing of it. It was all Greek to him. So he sat down and wrote the following lament to the geologist.

"It's not very gneiss of you to take my gold and give me so much waste. I am schist going to telluride now that, try asbestos I could, I couldn't make head nor tailings of it. Perhaps you don't realise what aplite it puts me in. I tell you it's tuff to concentrate so long on buying some useful advice and then have to tram it over the dump. Why, some of the words you couldn't pronounce if you had tungsten feet long. At first I thought I'd take arsenic and diorite then and there. I am going to take all the money I have left and go over the barite now and in about 20 minutes albitite as Hades. Then perhaps I'll be able to understand your report."

MICROMOUNT BOXES

Ron Weaver has kindly offered to bring micromount boxes to the Symposium for anyone requiring them. These will be the black base clear hinged lid type, and will cost £9.00 per hundred. If you are interested please contact Ron directly - tel: Brierley Hill 79105. (address in directory)

South East Branch News

The last two meetings have been well attended with 21 and 16 members respectively. The enthusiasm of the members knows no bounds and the hours go all too quickly. Please note new venue for the rest of this year. The Small Community Hall, Wydeville Manor Road, Grove Park, London, SE12. Approx 3 minutes walk from Grove Park Station.

FINAL REMINDERS

1. Please let us have your views on the proposed constitution.
2. Please telephone or write to me if you would like to help in running the Society - or just to talk about it.
3. Please return the Symposium Registration slip as soon as possible together with your cheque for the correct amount.
4. Please send in any items of news, interesting finds, localities, visits etc. for the newsletter. My stocks of contributions are now at an all-time low. Get writing!

Have a good summer and a successful field season - let us know what you find.

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Thank you.