

# BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER NO. 27

DECEMBER 1989

<b>Chairman</b>	Mick Wolfe	16 Collington Street Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1FJ
<b>Secretary</b>	Shirley Adrian	103 Woolwich Road Abbey Wood, London SE2 ODY
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Pearl Freeman	12A Allingham Court Haverstock Hill London NW3 2AH
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sidney Freeman	12A Allingham Court Haverstock Hill London NW3 2AH

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**Minutes of the 6th Annual General Meeting of the British Micromount Society held at Leicester University on Sunday 24th September 1989 at 10.00 am. There were 71 members present.**

## 1. MINUTES

The Chairman stated that the minutes of the 1988 AGM had been circulated in Newsletter No. 24. The error in Para 5.03 had been corrected in the original to read 'Jim Wooldridge' in place of 'Aldridge'. He apologised to Jim and asked that the amended minutes be taken as read. This was proposed by Trevor Bridges, seconded by Richard Belson and passed unanimously.

## 2. MATTERS ARISING

Ken Luff asked about the insurance cover of Para 5.04. The Chairman said that action had been taken and details would be given in the Treasurer's report.

### **3. OFFICERS' REPORTS**

#### **3.01 Membership Secretary**

Neil Hubbard reported that we had had a quiet year, with 16 new and 9 lapsed members. The membership now stands at 157 with two members in Scotland but still none in Wales.

#### **3.02 Treasurer**

##### **(a) Accounts**

Sidney Freeman pointed out that the accounts period had been extended to 31.5.89 in order to give a more up-to-date and representative report at the symposium. The published Receipts and Payments Account therefore covered 17 months on this occasion, causing an apparent discrepancy in the payment for Newsletters. Nevertheless, the Society had generally done well, with a balance of £1645.

##### **(b) Subscription**

The Treasurer said that it was desirable that current income should meet current expenditure, and this was unlikely to be the case next year. Symposium auction income had subsidised expenses to a small extent this year and expenditure was expected to rise next year. He therefore suggested that the annual subscription be increased from £3.50 to £4.00, family membership from £5.00 to £6.00, to start from January 1990. This was proposed by Mick Wolfe and seconded by Neil Hubbard.

##### **(c) Insurance**

Sid reported that the Society was now covered by a Public Liability Indemnity Policy for £1 million at an annual premium of £100 and that the policy was available for inspection. He suggested that leaders of field trips or museum visits should apply to him for a photocopy of the policy at the appropriate time. The policy does not cover members acting as individuals. Sid agreed to check whether local group meetings are covered.

Roy Starkey said that the Russell Society were taking legal advice on the application of such policies and advocated the adoption of their methodology when finalised. This will probably involve those attending field trips signing a form which advises them of potential hazards.

Franz Werner questioned whether it was in order for the subscription to be set at the AGM without prior notification, and also suggested that the subscription should be set at the discretion of the committee, if necessary, making an amendment to the constitution at the next AGM to enable this to be done.

The Chairman consulted the constitution and found the proposal in (b) to be constitutionally correct. John Dickinson queried whether we were getting the best possible rate of interest on our deposit account and the Treasurer assured him that we were.

Daphne Hall asked why the deposited funds should not be used to meet costs, thus avoiding an increase in the subscription. The Treasurer explained that there are various publications to be funded soon, i.e. the British Directory of Micromounters, a Museum Catalogue and papers on Lead Minerals and Mineral Identification and that a 'safety cushion' of funds was desirable to meet unforeseen expenses.

The proposal in (b) was then put to the vote and passed with 70 for, 1 against, 0 abstentions.

(d) It was proposed By Roy Starkey and seconded by Peter Braithwaite that an amendment to Section 4.4 of the constitution be tabled for discussion at the next AGM, to delete the words 'to be decided at the AGM'.

### 3.03 Chairman

Mick Wolfe reported that the membership level was healthy but fairly static. Thanks were due to the U.K.J. of Mines and Minerals for their advertisement which had brought several new members. He felt that the society size was now about right.

The visits to Leicester, Sheffield, Oxford, Liverpool and Nottingham Museums had been successful and could be repeated if there was sufficient interest. In addition, visits to view the private mineral collections of Sid and Pearl Freeman, Roy Starkey and Shirley Adrian could be arranged.

Three field trips took place over the early May Bank Holiday weekend and were enjoyed despite the weather. Thanks were due to the leaders, David Ifold in North Devon, Mick Cooper to the Caldbeck Fells and David Green and Jean Spence to Southern Scotland. Mick was prepared to lead another trip to the Caldbeck Fells. Information packs were available for the other two areas. Volunteer leaders should contact Mick Wolfe.

The Chairman reported the deaths of Tony Brelsforth and Mabel Lumb during the past year and expressed the Society's sympathy with their families and friends on their loss.

Mick congratulated Max Wirth on the excellence of the Reference Collection catalogue of 800 specimens, his computer expertise having produced a very comprehensive and useful source of reference. Mike Rothwell had organised the printing with speed and efficiency. Mick asked for further donations to the collection and proposed a vote of thanks to Max for his efforts.

In response to the request at the last AGM a PA system had been obtained on loan for the symposium.

The bulk purchase of micromount boxes by the Society had been discussed in committee. As at least 4 different types of box are in use and as there was no indication of requirements it was decided not to make such a purchase at this stage. Next Spring's Newsletter would carry an illustration of the boxes and an order form, which could be sent to Neil Hubbard with advance payment and he would undertake to fulfil the orders for the 1990 symposium. In the meantime, he had brought a selection of boxes for purchase this year.

The Chairman commented on the erratic production of the Newsletter, partly due to the irregular flow of information and partly due to lack of a typist. He requested members to send in more items, particularly for the Spring edition.

Mick said he had received several complaints about the state of sites after visits. Excavations should be refilled collectively or individually and sites left as found, otherwise further permission for collecting could be refused.

John Dickinson commented that care should also be taken not to leave litter.

The Chairman then presented the Founder's Cup to former secretary Elsie Hansford in recognition of her unstinting work behind the scenes virtually since the beginning of the Society. This was the first time the cup had not been presented to a Ph.D.!

Mick announced that Mike Rothwell, David Green, Max Wirth and Neil Hubbard would be meeting in the lecture room on Sunday afternoon to form a group to develop a procedure for mineral identification. Interested members could attend.

#### **4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**4.01** No other nominations having been received the following had agreed to stand again:-

Chairman	Mick Wolfe
Treasurer	Sidney Freeman
Secretary	Shirley Adrian
Newsletter Editor	Mick Cooper
Hon. Curator	Max Wirth
Hon. Archivist	Muriel Tissington
Auditor	Mike Leppington

Their re-election was proposed by Peter Reynolds, seconded by John Betterton and passed unanimously.

#### 4.02 Membership Secretary

Neil Hubbard wished to stand down and Pearl Freeman had volunteered to serve.

She was proposed by Mick Wolfe, seconded by Neil Hubbard, and elected unanimously.

#### 4.03 Symposium Organiser

Mike Rothwell felt it was time for 'new blood' for the good of the Society. Ken Luff had volunteered for the job and would join forces with Mike for 1990 and take over completely in 1991.

He was proposed by Mick Wolfe, seconded by Mike Leppington and elected unanimously.

#### 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5.01 Mike Rothwell said he had found the last five years as Symposium Organiser very enjoyable but wanted to do other things and felt a change would be good for the Society. He thanked:- John Faithfull for his help with the University arrangements and during the weekend; Speakers Mick Cooper, Trevor Bridges and Peter Braithwaite; Roy Starkey, John and Pam Pearce, Daphne Hall, Trevor Bridges and David Middleton for their help with the auction which has raised £130 for the Society; and finally, all the members attending for making the symposium such a friendly occasion.

5.02 Peter Braithwaite reported that the Easter Meeting had been aborted as only 20 responses were received. However, he understood that several people had been unsuccessful with 'phone calls owing to a misprint of the area code. He apologised to them and to the unknown recipient of their calls, in Co. Durham!

5.03 Neil Hubbard raised the question of using university accommodation next year. John Faithfull thought that for the suggested dates of Sept 22nd and 23rd this might be possible. Enquiries would be made.

5.04 The Russell Society has presented a trophy for a formal micromount competition. Entries would be sent to Peter Braithwaite for short listing, and would be photographed by him, shown on screen and judged at the symposium.

5.05 Doug Morgan queried the inclusion of non-mineral items in the auction. It was agreed that anything mineral-related was acceptable. Colin Horstmann thought groups of micros - eg. a suite of minerals from a locality - might be a possibility for the auction. Roy Starkey made the point that many good specimens had gone for silly prices due to lack of interest - presumably members already had similar material. Geoff Deverell said he

collected micro material only and asked how many members collected hand specimens. Most hands were raised.

5.06 John Betterton said that the second edition of the Encyclopaedia of Minerals by Roberts, Rapp and Weber, was due to be published early next year; and asked whether one or more copies could be purchased by the Society. Mick Wolfe thought that each regional group would require a copy and that an extra copy would be needed for more scattered members. Muriel Tissington was prepared to act as librarian for such a copy. Mike Leppington said he was not in favour of the Society making purchases on behalf of members. Jean Spence said that the Society and individual purchases together might qualify for bulk discounts. Mike Rothwell recommended a bulk purchase of Mick Cooper's forthcoming book on the Caldbeck Fells. Mick Cooper said that the BM(NH) gives a discount for bulk orders. Franz Werner said that, in the Russell Society's experience, Society library books are not used.

5.07 Max Wirth reminded the Society that the King Collection is with Mick Cooper. Dorothy Merritt enquired about tickets for the BM(NH) Open Day. Roy Starkey said he had been sent 25 for the Society of which only 10 had been taken up and remainder returned.

5.08 Trevor Bridges proposed a vote of thanks to all the officers and those who had worked for the Society.

The meeting ended at 11.30 am.

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#### **A ROCK FESTIVAL OF A DIFFERENT KIND**

**Mike Rothwell**

This summer the BM(NH) has held a Rock Festival - not of the musical variety but of the mineralogical variety. On several occasions recently when visiting London I have taken the opportunity to visit this exhibition; as they say every cloud has a silver lining. The Festival is housed in the Geological Museum section of the BM and, having paid the normal entrance fee to the museum, entrance to the Festival is free. The Festival was conceived by the City of Strasbourg to mark the anniversary of its second millennium and it received tremendous acclaim in France for its innovative design and public appeal. Bringing the Rock Festival to London has been made possible with the assistance of D. Pennellier and Co. Ltd., Region Alsace and the City of Strasbourg. The Festival concentrates on the fascinating world of crystals in nature, in art, in science and in science fiction. It is not just a collection of mineral specimens. However, for those of us whose main interest lies with minerals, the Festival contains some of the world's finest specimens chosen for their aesthetic appeal: they are stunning. At the entrance to the Festival one is confronted with a two tonne amethyst geode easily large enough to sit inside. The first

objects to catch the eye inside the Festival are also in this category being huge Brazilian quartz crystals weighing up to 180 kgs. and a beryl crystal weighing over 100 kgs. Before getting too immersed in admiring mineral specimens, and to increase the spectrum of interest, there are cases of old scientific instruments located near the entrance and a collection of artefacts from the Hans Sloane collection which formed the basis of the BM collection in 1759. The mineral specimens are primarily from the private collection of a certain "Dr. A.", from the City of Strasbourg collection, and from the BM(NH) collection. As mentioned above they are chosen because they are nice to look at rather than mineralogical curiosities. Several specimens particularly caught my eye: a pink fluorite from Chamonix found in 1979 and labelled as being the most beautiful crystal in the world (beautiful it certainly is but for my taste not the most beautiful - on David Middleton's scale better than Brigitte Bardot but not up to Helen of Troy); a stunning specimen of rhodochrosite from N'Chwanig, Hotazel, South Africa consisting of a 1½ inch group of raspberry red transparent crystals on a black manganese oxide matrix; a blue topaz found 20 years ago at the famous Virgem de Lapa mine in Brazil; a group of zeolites from Poona in India; a smoky quartz group from Talefre, Chamonix found in 1975 and a single crystal (2 x 1½ inch) of wulfenite from Red Cloud mine, Arizona. British specimens are well represented, particularly from the north of England and from Cornwall, but Scotland, Wales and Ireland are not forgotten.

As befits such magnificent specimens they are well presented in modern, properly lit cabinets. This makes me wonder how some of the specimens in the museum's main collection would look if they could be exhibited in this fashion. Another major part of the Festival is devoted to modern jewellery fashioned around mineral specimens. I found this fascinating, what top class modern jewellery designers can fashion from minerals and metal must be seen to be believed! Other items to cater for all interests were exhibitions of gold and silver, of man made crystals, of historical mineralogical books, of lava sculpture, and a collection of crystal drawings by Jean Giraud (Moebius).

All in all the Rock Festival alone is worth the museum entry fee, now £2.50 for adults and £1.25 for senior citizens and, having seen the Festival, the Ludlam collection and the main mineral collection can be viewed, not to mention the exhibition of Dinosaurs and that of Insects. If you have not been and you are in London before January 15th 1990 when it closes, go and see the Rock Festival - YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.

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#### HELP!

A specimen of cavansite from India disappeared from its box in Neil Hubbard's tray at the symposium. If anyone has any knowledge of its whereabouts please contact Neil.

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## **MINERAL PROSPECTING IN ULSTER**

A prospecting licence is to be issued to Glenshesk Minerals to search for zeolites in the Coleraine and Limavady area of Northern Ireland. Zeolites, as you may know, are used in the chemical industry as a molecular filter and research is underway to assess their effectiveness as a weapon to tackle oil spillage and deal with radioactive waste. The survey area stretches from Castlerock to Glenshane and prospecting will be by drilling. If zeolites are found in economic quantities then opencast quarrying will follow.

Belfast Telegraph  
submitted by Harry Foy

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## **BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY) DEPARTMENT OF MINERALOGY**

**OPEN DAY SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER 1989**

Roy Starkey

Almost exactly 3 years to the day since the last Mineralogy Open Day in 1986, an enthusiastic crowd of familiar faces and friends gathered in the Flett Lecture Theatre at 10.25am to be welcomed by Dr. Paul Henderson (Keeper of Mineralogy). In his introductory talk Dr. Henderson reviewed the work and research activities of the Department as it faces up to the challenges of the years ahead, and looks forward to the 21st Century. Primary tasks include the continued requirement to characterise new mineral species, investigations into the structure and macroscopic properties of minerals, and work aimed at the prediction of stable mineral assemblages. The role of mineralogy in relation to earth and planetary sciences, materials science, economic studies and environmental issues was discussed. Using illustrative examples Dr. Henderson explained the links between meteoritic research, isotope geochemistry and mineral structure. The Department is also involved in the development of applications for, and evolution of, modern physical and chemical analytical techniques. A new initiative of research programmes is due to be launched later this year targeted at the following areas:-

- Crystal chemistry of minerals
- Carbonate-bearing geosystems
- Environmental mineralogy
- Mineralogy and origin of ore deposits
- Cosmic mineralogy
- Gemmology

Turning to the Departments' extensive collections of mineralogical material, Dr. Henderson contrasted the importance of the BM(NH) in relation to other major research institutions, concluding that the Department could be considered as the 'best in the world' for the number of type specimens, systematic display, publication of important research catalogues and books. The collections are also particularly strong on a large representation of species from important localities. The gem collection is undoubtedly of 'world class' status. In 1985 the BM(NH) assumed responsibility for the collection of



the Geological Museum, and the task of integrating the catalogues and specimens is expected to take around 15 years to complete - even with the aid of computerised systems. The museum is looking for new ways of using the collections, and suggestions from museum visitors and the general public will be welcomed. An interesting question and answer session followed Dr. Henderson's presentation, including a debate centering on the use/overuse and 'wear-out' of collection material, and proposals to rehouse the mineralogy gallery and all geological material into the Geological Museum building. This latter topic created much concern amongst the audience as the systematic display is seen as a vital resource both for serious collectors and newcomers to the hobby/science. However, this possibility is at present only a proposal, and clearly we as interested parties should ensure that the museum management board are aware of our views.

During the course of the day, the 350 or so visitors were able to take conducted tours 'behind the scenes' to view research equipment, meet members of staff and view collection material not normally on display. Our guide, Tony Wighton, proved an able and informative companion as he led us on a strictly-timed itinerary to the far-flung corners of the department. Peter Tandy provided an interesting review of the history of the Museum and its collections, covering a period of some 250 years in 8 minutes and encompassing a bewildering number of general elections and changes in the British government policy towards museums. Alan Hart, on this occasion manning the Russell Room, gave a fascinating insight into the work and recording of the German born mineralogist, Frederick Ashcroft, whose fine collection of Alpine minerals and photographs now resides in the museum. The opportunity to view a few drawers of Sir Arthur Russell's 14,000 specimens was universally appreciated but alas all too soon it was time to move on again! David Bailey (not of Olympus fame) summarised the work being done to set up computerised catalogues and illustrated the accession procedure for new material coming into the museum. Roger Harding, the department gemmologist, described the non-destructive techniques used to identify gemstones and gave an insight into the problems presented by the high quality synthetic stones now being marketed. Chris Jones, in the rock and mineral preparation lab, explained the variety of equipment used to prepare and study thin sections of rocks, typically 30 microns thick, and also polished thin sections used for electron microprobe work and studies of opaque minerals which range down to only 5 microns in thickness. In the X-ray department John Francis demonstrated the painstaking process of identifying minerals from powder diffraction patterns and the recent developments in technology which have meant that some 70,000 JCPDS data cards can now be stored on a single CD rom with instant search and retrieval for any item and room for twice as many records on the same single disk. The final port of call on our tour was the electron microprobe department where Terry Williams showed off the capabilities of a Hitachi S2500 Energy Dispersive Electron Microprobe. This instrument uses a 15KV

electron beam focused to around 1 micron diameter to provide television images of the specimen at magnifications up to tens of thousands with qualitative and semi-quantitative analysis of specimen composition. The rapid advances in this field now mean that an uncoated specimen can be used in many instances to obtain good image resolution and rapid analysis.

The last event of the day was a lecture by Dr. Chris Stanley on the minerals of the Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria. This talk described the background to a project which will culminate, early next year, in the publication of a lavishly illustrated book on the area. (Cooper and Stanley - Minerals of the English Lake District - Caldbeck Fells). Dr. Stanley recalled earlier discussions with two NMRS members - David Middleton and Trevor Wolloxall - about producing a monograph on the mines and minerals of the Caldbeck Fells. This project foundered but, later, an approach from Mick Cooper for assistance with an article destined for the Mineralogical Record provided a renewed interest and, following the success of 'Minerals of Cornwall and Devon' it was decided to approach the BM(NH) publications department with a view to producing the work as a full colour, authoritative reference work on the area.

During the course of the day visitors were made most welcome in the Palaeontology Common Room where Cally Oldershaw and her helpers (including, at times, some very distinguished mineralogists indeed) provided light refreshments and friendly conversation. The open day was a resounding success and we record our grateful thanks to the head of department, Paul Henderson, and to Cally Oldershaw and Bob Symes, the organisers, the tour guides and commentators who all gave so freely of their time to make it a really worthwhile day out. If you enjoyed the visit please write to Dr. Paul Henderson, Keeper of Mineralogy, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD - and tell him you'd like to attend another Open Day in the Department of Mineralogy.

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#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Those who were unable to attend the recent symposium may not have heard the good news that Roy and Mary Starkey - not to mention daughter Carol - added to their family just 4 days before the symposium. Their new son, Brian Paul, weighed in at 7lb 6oz and was delivered on the 19th September. Our congratulations to Roy and Mary. Just a thought but if his middle name had been Mark or Michael then his initials would have been B.M.S.!!

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#### **MUSEUM AND MINERAL VIEWING VISITS**

Following last winter's series of successful museum visits it has been decided to repeat some of them. In addition, visits to the homes of several members can be arranged to see their collection and spend a few hours talking minerals. If you are interested in

Mick Wolfe

attending any of these please write to the Chairman who will add your name to those who already signed up at the symposium. Final dates have yet to be sorted but it is expected that they will take place in the first third of 1990 and all on separate dates so you can attend all of them if you want! Visits planned, if sufficient support exists, are to:-

Liverpool Museum  
Sheffield City Museum  
Wollaton Hall Natural History Museum (Nottingham)  
Oxford University Museum  
Royal Museum of Scotland (Edinburgh)  
The home of Sid and Pearl Freeman (London)  
The home of Mike Leppington (Cumbria)  
The home of Roy Starkey (Redditch)  
The home of Shirley Adrian (London)

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#### **FIELDTRIPS**

Mick Wolfe

Because of a severe dearth of members prepared to undertake the duties of fieldtrip organiser only one official BMS fieldtrip is to be arranged in 1990. Mick Cooper was the only member prepared to do something and has agreed to repeat his 1989 trip to the Caldbeck Fells. This was already well oversubscribed by the end of the symposium so regretfully no further names can be added - in fact some of those already on the list will be disappointed if they were not amongst the early ones to sign up.

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#### **B.N.S. REFERENCE COLLECTION**

Mick Wolfe

I hope by now that many of you will have remembered to send a few specimens to Max Wirth for the Reference Collection as a way of saying thank you to Max for the excellent job he has made of the catalogue.

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#### **SORBONNE MINERAL COLLECTION**

Geoff Deverell

While in Paris last year I revisited the mineral collection of the Sorbonne which is held in the Universite Pierre et Marie Curie. This is a very worthwhile visit. However, unless you know how to get there, you will have problems.

Take the Metro to Jussieu and on coming to the surface you will see the university buildings behind massive iron railings. In the railings there is a small door. Go through this door and facing you is a tower block about 30 floors high. Around the edge of the square are buildings about 6 floors high. These buildings are supported on circular concrete piers which are numbered and looking half left one can see number 25. Cross the square and go round the back of this pier where there is an auto-open glass door leading to a spiral concrete stairway. This area is rather dirty, plenty of paper rubbish, bleak and a most improbable

entrance to one of the better (if not best) mineral displays in Europe. Go down one floor, there is a handwritten arrow on the wall pointing left, go down this passage and you will come, through a very heavy door, to the display room. The entrance fee is a modest 10 francs.

Inside are 24 all-glass cases lit by quartz halogen lamps set into the ceiling. First impressions are that it is very dim but after about 10 minutes your eyes will have adjusted and the lighting is quite adequate. It is, however, distinctly chilly and a coat is certainly recommended if you intend to spend a reasonable amount of time in there. The 24 cases are arranged in the usual groups of native elements, sulphides, oxides etc. Along the left hand wall is a display of extra large specimens, about 12"x9" or larger. Examples are torbenite, mimetite, malachite, pyrite, sulphur, fluorite, pyromorphite and a large rutilated quartz. The opposite wall has a single exhibit of the two halves of a square geode, somewhat greater than 2ft x 2ft, lined with amethyst crystals. The display cases contain many very fine specimens of which the following particularly caught my attention:-

- Kongsberg wire silver about 5" high;
- California leaf gold with crystals, 3" x 1½";
- a quartz block about 6" x 5" x 2" some 80% covered with crystals of gold;
- a sphere of radiating mesolite crystals about 5" diameter;
- hexagonal muscovite "books" some 3" across;
- rhodochrosite crystals, water clear and bright red;
- two examples of cuprosklodowskite crystals covering matrix blocks about 6" x 8" x 4";
- Bisbee azurite mass 8" x 8";
- two masses of Tasmanian crocoite 5" x 5";
- and one of the world's finest reticulated cerussites from Tsumeb.

The impossible choice of a single specimen would probably be the cerussite or perhaps the cuprosklodowskite? There is no literature available but a set of 38 postcards can be purchased for 95 francs - these can be bought individually.

**IMPORTANT.** This magnificent display is only open during the University's academic terms and then only on Saturdays and Wednesdays between 14.00 and 18.00 hours.

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#### **SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER**

Subs for 1990 are due on January 1st. Following the AGM they are now £4.00 single and £6.00 for a married couple. Please note that they should be sent to Pearl Freeman, our new Membership Secretary.

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE

As it is hoped that this newsletter will be with you in December we would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a very happy Christmas and full collecting bags in 1990.

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**INTERESTING ADDITIONS TO THE BMS REFERENCE COLLECTION** Max Wirth  
A number of interesting specimens have been added to the collection in the last 12 months and I have been asked to make brief comments on these.

762 Brochantite - this shows exceptionally clean and bright crystals. It had been thought that they might be antlerite but XRD analysis by B. Young proved them to be brochantite. The two are indistinguishable visually.

763 Veszelyite - Neil Hubbard has provided a very fine specimen of transparent, deep blue, sharp crystals. It is only recently that this species was first found in the UK (on a BMS fieldtrip) and its seems quite astonishing that it has escaped collectors for so long.

764 Scheelite - a well formed, pyramidal, tetragonal termination has been preserved nesting between quartz crystals.

765/6 Spangolite and crandalite are rare species from Cornwall.

770 Azurite - the crystals are coating goethite-covered siderite and the specimen also shows a fine aragonite cluster.

771 Siderite - this is an unusual flat, star-shaped variety and is set off by brilliant sphalerite, see U.K.J. Mines and Minerals, no6, p2.

772/3 Birnessite - This sodium-manganese oxide is black but the specimen is largely covered by blue chrysocolla. The birnessite has been XRD identified.

774/5 Carminite - these specimens from near Brandy Gill are excellent as the tiny needles are well dispersed and, of course, carmine red. No. 775 is mainly brown beudantite as patches of crystals with a trace of white mimetite.

778/800 Hemimorphite - this is interesting because it shows unusual acute terminations.

801/2 Strunzite and strengite - these species were depicted on the cover of the Journal of the Russell Society (vol 2, no 1). Our specimens came from Perranporth beach and not the Gravel Hill mine.

804 Philipsburgite - this looks like slightly inferior malachite but Brian Young, the donor, has authenticated it by XRD.

805/6 Mattheddleite and leadhillite - these were found by Mike Rothwell in higher Roughton Gill. I have been there twice but found nothing.

808 Lanthanite-Ce - Mike Rothwell also presented this specimen which is better than earlier ones.

803 Baryto-celestite - identified by XRD and comes in fragile needles. It bears no resemblance to the better known strontium equivalent.

809 Diaspore - this is in prehnite from Hartfield Moss. It is not showy but is a very rare mineral for the U.K.

815 Rosasite - from Closehouse mine (quarry) in Lunedale. It is a fine clean specimen even if I say so myself! This has not been positively identified but is known from this location.

820 Barite - Low Pike in the Caldbeck Fells has yielded a variety of forms of this mineral; this specimen is glass-clear and multi-faceted.

824 Agardite - from the Deer Hills, also in the Caldbeck Fells and is related to mixite. It is a copper arsenate containing rare earth elements. It comes in tiny yellow-green sprays.

In addition several interesting Cornish minerals and a single crystal of ludlamite (836) from Wheal Jane (my appeal at Leicester was not in vain). A new specimen of mottramite from Brandy Gill (841) was given by Mike Leppington, to replace the former specimen (246) which turned out to be duftite. Mike also has provided a number of specimens from Silver Gill (842-850). These are not particularly showy but do represent a good selection of the associations to be found there.

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### B.M.S. SYMPOSIUM

Mike Rothwell

The 8th Symposium took place at Leicester University by kind permission of Dr. John Hudson on the weekend of 23rd-24th September 1989. For the seventh year running the rain gods were not in evidence and we all had to bear the misery of spending a glorious weekend indoors listening to lectures, squinting through microscopes and generally standing around gossiping. This year, 95 members and guests said they would come and 90 showed up; not bad, one or two more than last year and a new record.

As usual most arrived well before the advertised starting time and made the most of the opportunity to acquaint one another with all the latest news and the happenings of the summer.

After the Chairman's opening remarks which, this year, included congratulating Roy and Mary Starkey on the birth of a son the previous Tuesday, the show kicked off with a talk by Mick Cooper on Goldschmidt's "Atlas der Krystallformen". Mick gave a short account of Goldschmidt and his famous work, going into some detail on what is in the volumes and how they can be used. Mick's talk was followed by Peter Braithwaite who conducted a photographic essay of pyromorphite and mimetite or was it mimetite and pyromorphite? Peter's slides were first class and clearly demonstrated the variety of form and colour exhibited by these minerals. The slides were made using a technique devised by Peter in the best traditions of British string and sealing wax science which enables him to use flash lighting via fibre optic light guides. Peter has spent some time during the year developing his technique and the results were most impressive.

The third lecture of the Saturday morning was given by Trevor Bridges. This year Trevor did not talk about the chemistry of mineral formation but about pseudomorphs and, as he has difficulty staying away from chemistry, the chemistry of formation of alteration pseudomorphs. In addition to discussing

the classical pseudomorphs Trevor livened up his talk in his own inimitable style by asking for examples from the floor and then discussing how they came about. Trevor also took the trouble to bring along a display of pseudomorphs and one epimorph.

Following the morning's heavy load of education the afternoon of the first day was spent exchanging and buying specimens. There was also David Middleton's competition to enter and auction specimens to preview. David's competition sadly attracted few entries. The competition was won by a specimen of scheelite from Shap Pink Quarry entered by Mike Leppington. Second prize was awarded for a phosgenite from Clevedon beach found by Roy Starkey and the third prize went to George Fletcher's boleite from Merehead quarry. Commendations were awarded to Bill Bolton for a pyrite from Thurstaston beach, to John Fisher for a cuprite from Wheel Gorland, to David Green for lanarkite from Roughton Gill and to Richard Bell for an aragonite from Greystokes Quarry, Cumbria.

The auction raised a handsome £130 for the Society. It would have been more had Mike Rothwell been able to persuade Richard Bell to pay freight for the shipping of one heavy industrial potato-chipper back to Merseyside. Grateful thanks are due to Pam and John Pearce, Daphne Hall, Trevor Bridges, David Middleton and the able auctioneer Roy Starkey for their sterling efforts. Thanks also to everyone who provided specimens for sale.

The evening was spent by the majority in the Garendon Room of the Charles Wilson building where a buffet meal, a few drinks and a light-hearted quiz, written and produced by Mike Rothwell was enjoyed by all. There were fifty questions and the 'greater experts' team of David Green, Jean Spence, Trevor Wolloxall and Mick Cooper managed to score 44 - not bad. They did not however know what was mined at Knotty Ash! The runner up prize was awarded to the 'lesser experts' team of Richard Bell, John Dickinson, John Novak, Martin Pruden, Muriel Tissington, Bill Swindell and Henry Twiggs.

Sunday morning, as usual, saw everyone bright and early and ready for the Society's AGM (reported elsewhere). This was followed by a short talk from Mike Rothwell on some recent finds from the Caldbeck Fells and then to lunch. The afternoon was given up to final exchanges and a short get-together of a few enthusiasts interested in setting up a project to help people identify minerals.

Surprisingly, people started moving off relatively early this year and by 4.30 p.m. everyone had left, thus concluding another successful Symposium.

The author would like to thank everyone who helped make the Symposium successful and all those who attended. Next year the Symposium will be organised by Ken Luff and I wish him success. I hope he enjoys the task as much as I have.

See you all again in 1990.

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**STRAITSTEPS VEIN, WANLOCKHEAD**

Mick Wolfe

Although the Royal Museum of Scotland have now completed their investigation of the dump behind the cottages collecting is still not to be allowed in the immediate future we are advised by the owners of the land, the Buccleuch Estates. In order not to risk an extension of this ban to other areas of Wanlockhead would members please do nothing to jeopardize this situation.

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**STOP PRESS**

Mick Cooper

**ROCK:Resources fOr the amateur mineral Collector in the U.K.**  
Editor John Pearce. Published by the Sussex Mineral and Lapidary Society.

79 A4 pages. £4.50 + £1.00 p & p from the editor at 7 Condor Way, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 9QB

First prize for the most contrived acronym goes to this bibliography of mineralogy and mineral collecting. Aimed at the amateur collector, ROCK covers general mineral, gem, and collecting literature, species and topographical mineralogy (biased to the U.K.), and specialist topics such as micromounting, photography, fluorescence, etc.

It is the outcome of an enormous amount of work by John and his team and warrants a fuller review that will be published in the next newsletter.

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