

# BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY



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NEWSLETTER NO.29      DECEMBER 1990

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

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1990

Minutes of the AGM of the British Micromount Society held at Leicester University on Sunday, 23rd September, 1990 at 10am.

57 members were present. Chairman M. Wolfe

1 Apologies for absence were received from Trevor Wolloxall, Pamela and John Pearce, Trevor Bridges, Robert Weatherall, and Steve Rust.

2 Minutes of the AGM of 24th September 1989. The minutes having been circulated in Newsletter 27, the chairman asked that they be taken as read. This was proposed by Dorothy Merritt, seconded by Peter Reynolds, and passed unanimously.

### 3 Matters arising from the minutes

#### 3.1 Amendment of the constitution, clause 4.4, to read:

"Ordinary Members and Family Members shall pay an annual subscription to be decided by the committee of the Society."

This was proposed by Max Wirth, seconded by Jim Wooldridge and passed unanimously.

3.2 Purchase of the Encyclopedia of minerals, 2nd edition. Mike Leppington referred to para 5.06 and pointed out the purchase of three copies for the Society had not been approved at the last AGM. The chairman replies that one copy had been bought for each of the regional groups to use at their meetings, that there was no intention of forming a library, and that the majority of the members present at the last AGM had not disapproved. He asked the auditor whether he felt that all expenditure needed to be approved at an AGM. The treasurer felt that the committee should have executive power, but would obviously seek approval for major expenditure.

A general discussion followed as to whether such expenditure should be limited to a percentage of the society's funds. Max Wirth proposed that the committee be allowed full discretion to spend the funds of the Society for the benefit of the Society. This was seconded by Mike Rothwell and carried with two abstentions.

### 4 Officer's reports

#### 4.1 Treasurer/Membership Secretary

Sidney Freeman presented the receipts and payments account for the year ended 31.5.1990. He pointed out the figures for the previous year, given for comparison, covered 16 months and were therefore not strictly comparable with regard to items such as newsletter expenses.

The Society had a good year, starting with £1,870 and ending with £2,330. The monies deposited in the Business Premium Account attracted greater interest once they exceeded £2000. This account had not been in operation for the whole of the previous accounting period.

On behalf of the Membership Secretary, Sid reported that the Society had 127 ordinary members, and 20 family memberships, bringing the total membership to almost 170. During the year there had been 1 resignation, 4 non-renewals, and 14 new members, a net gain of 9. Regional figures were not available.

#### 4.2 Chairman

4.2a Mick Wolfe reported that the membership was in a firm position and at last included a member in Wales. He thanked the UK Journal of Mines and Minerals for their free advertisement, which he felt had helped find new members. The museum visits proposed at the previous Symposium had not materialised. Visits to Wollaton (Nottingham), Sheffield, Liverpool, and Edinburgh museums had had insufficient support, and the Oxford visit had to be postponed because of storm damage to the museum roof. He suggested that there might be more support for future visits after an interval of a couple of years.

The innovation of visits to view the private collections of Roy Starkey, Pearl and Sid Freeman, and Shirley Adrian had been successful. There is a standing invitation for members to visit Mike Leppington, and similarly Max Wirth could be visited by anyone wishing to view the BMS Reference Collection. Any other member willing to organise this type of visit should issue the invitation via the Newsletter.

There had been one field trip. This was to the Caldbeck Fells, where the weather had been uncharacteristically fine, until a hailstorm on the last day. Mick Cooper as leader had experienced some difficulty in keeping the group together. Any volunteers to lead field trips next year should inform Mick Wolfe and details would be published in the newsletter.

The Reference Collection now contained 950 specimens. A new catalogue will be published when the collection numbers 1000 specimens, probably within the next twelve months. The Committee has authorised the purchase of new cabinets for the specimens and index cards.

Four people took advantage of the facility to order boxes from Neil Hubbard for collection at the Symposium. Neil is willing to repeat this next year.

A donation has been received of issues of the Mineralogical Magazine from 1920 onwards. Mike Rothwell has volunteered to act as librarian. Members may borrow copies for the cost of postage both ways. Single articles could be photocopied.

The Chairman apologised for the non-appearance of the Directory of Micromounters. This he intends to publish in a more readable form. As information is now out of date, individual entries will be sent out for amendment with the Newsletter in December and it is hoped to distribute the Directory next Spring.

The last Newsletter was published in April 1990, since when insufficient contributions have been received for another to be produced. Mick invited members to send information of general interest for publication. The auction this year resulted in an addition of £175.05 to the society's funds, the best for 3 years.

The Chairman then handed over to the Symposium Organiser for his report.

4.2b Ken Luff referred to the interest shown at the 1989 AGM in University accommodation for the Symposium weekend. He explained that the accommodation which would be provided would be a bus-ride away, and would involve making a formal application to the University for the use of the lecture hall and laboratory, at greatly increased cost over the staff rate which we have obtained up to now through the good offices of John Faithfull. However he felt the time had come to make such an application and he would enquire at the same time about making a package deal to include accommodation. He apologised for the lack of facilities this year and thanked delegates for their forbearance.

#### 4.2c The Founder's Cup

The Chairman remarked that once again the Cup was going to a non-PhD. The recipient was someone who had worked diligently for the Society, as filed trip leader and Newsletter Editor and for mineralogy in general for several years in co-production of "The minerals of the ... Caldbeck Fells" and on the editorial board of the UK Journal of Mines and Minerals. He was also chairman of the Central Branch of the Russell Society. The chairman presented the cup to Mick Cooper, who expressed his thanks.

### 5 Election of Officers

Chairman	Michael Wolfe
Secretary	Shirley Adrian
Membership Secretary	Pearl Freeman
Treasurer	Sidney Freeman

These standing members had all been nominated and had agreed to serve again. Their re-election was proposed by Richard Belson and seconded by Jean Spence and carried unanimously.

Symposium Organiser	Ken Luff
Newsletter Editor	Mick Cooper
Honorary Curator	Max Wirth
Honorary Archivist	Muriel Tissington
Auditor	Mike Leppington

These members all agreed to continue for another year

Filed Trip Leaders: any member willing to lead a field trip should contact the Chairman.

Richard Belson thanked the officers for their work on behalf of the Society.

### 6 Other business

6.1 Richard Belson wondered whether it was really necessary for overnight accommodation to be organised by the Symposium. A show of hands indicated that 20 or so members would be interested and Ken Luff agreed to make further enquiries.

6.2 Roy Starkey pointed out that the Society is now 10 years old and suggested that we mark the occasion with a publication. The easiest way to achieve this would be to sponsor an issue of the UK Journal of Mines and Minerals by a donation towards colour printing and by submitting about 10 articles relevant to micromounting. The cost of colour printing is about £200 per page. The cover of the magazine could announce the 10th anniversary of the BMS. Roy was prepared to act as co-ordinator for this project. Roy's proposal to sponsor an issue of the UKJMM to the extent of £600 to mark the 10th anniversary of the BMS was seconded by John Betterton and carried by 47 votes to 6, with 4 abstentions.

6.3 Mike Rothwell proposed a special vote of thanks to John Faithfull, and Max Wirth expressed similar thanks to Ken Luff, both of them having had many problems due to the unfinished state of the Geology Department.

6.4 Mick Cooper said he was ready to pass on the Norman King Micromount Collection. [The collection is now with Richard Belson]

6.5 John Betterton expressed an interest in obtaining copies of the photographs in the 1st edition of the Encyclopedia of Minerals by Roberts Rapp and Weber. Gill Goltz said that the publishers, Van Nostrand Reinhold, no longer have the plates and she was writing to the editor of the Mineralogical Record for further information.

6.6 Max Wirth wondered if it would be possible to make photocopies of the indexes and Mike Rothwell agreed to investigate the feasibility of this.

The meeting closed at 11.20am.

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**SYMPOSIUM REPORT 1990**  
**Ken Luff**

As the year passed it became obvious that the holding of the 1990 Symposium would be a close run thing. Building works in our intended rooms in the Geology Department of Leicester University planned for the summer recess were scheduled to finish but two days before our meeting. As it turned out we were not able to use the usual laboratory but, as an alternative, John Faithfull found another lecture theatre which we were able to use for our talks. Our usual lecture theatre sprouted numerous microscopes planted by our members and the remainder made use of an adjoining foyer. By 10.30 on the first day there was a semblance of order and, surprisingly, we started only 20mins late. All delegates should congratulate themselves on this achievement. I noted few frustrated delegates and thank all for their forbearance.

The lectures were of high quality and showed that the speakers had been painstaking in their preparation of material. Mick Cooper was brave enough to start the proceedings with a talk on crystallography, a complex subject which defeats most of us at some stage, but Mick painstakingly led us through aspects which aid recognition in addition to the axes of symmetry etc. Nigel Hoppe followed with a commentary on connellite and

buttggenbachite and the sites from which he has collected these minerals. Using a number of slides he introduced us to these sites, many of which are now difficult or impossible to gain access to. I hope that many in the audience took notes: information like this is very rarely offered. Roy Starkey continued, however, to offer similar information on sites in Scotland in his lecture "Mineralogical rambles north of the Border". He and Neil Hubbard had spent some time in Scotland the previous year prospecting in the footsteps of some notable geologists. I hope we all appreciate the effort that went into their research beforehand and the trekking and searching for the sites described. Roy Starkey also won the mineral competition, the results of which were announced by the judge Peter Braithwaite. The Sunday morning session was ended with a note of the interesting minerals to be seen during the weekend.

The micromount competition was not well supported in its new form this year, however it is intended to continue it next year. Perhaps with the winter months ahead we can think about this and prepare for the competition earlier.

The swapping sessions continued with their usual enthusiasm. Mike and Maureen Edwards of Hampshire Micros opened a surgery and performed a number of operations on members' microscopes reported sick.

Bob Snowball brought along some American friends, Larry and Helen Hauser of the Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society, North Carolina. They brought greetings from the president of the Society and a box of micromounts which were distributed free to members. We reciprocated by giving one each in return. Their president, Ralph Meikle, extends an invitation to trade or visit or both. His letter is reproduced below. Larry and Helen hope to meet us again next year, they enjoyed the weekend so much.

79 members and visitors attended this symposium and, by their fortitude in putting up with the initial difficulties, they ensured that the event progressed to a successful conclusion. I have about 10 Symposium booklets left over which I can send to anyone requesting them.

I am in the process of booking the 1991 Symposium for a similar weekend, 21-22 September. This will be the 10th event and I will be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to give a presentation during the weekend. Feedback from members before this year's Symposium indicated that you did not want anything organised during the evening meal but experience now shows that we should introduce something, perhaps to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Society.

I look forward to meeting everyone again in 1991.

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#### SYMPOSIUM ACCOMMODATION

Ken Luff

Enquiries at the University of Leicester have revealed that accommodation can be obtained at Beaumont Hall (about 3-4 miles from the University) at a cost of £16-50 per night (plus VAT) during the BMS Symposium. An evening meal for the Friday can be obtained for £7.50 extra.

Such accommodation is normally for a minimum number and has to be booked at the time of booking the Lecture Theatre for the Symposium. It is likely that any shortfall in filling accommodation will have to be borne by the Society. This has been my experience at other universities. The Chairman has agreed. The Chairman has agreed with me that this year we will once again book only the lecture theatre and the laboratory. Those present at the AGM will know of my resistance to becoming involved in the vagaries of the residential accommodation and I wish to confirm that I have no intention of doing so. I am concerned that the continuance of the Symposium, but have always felt that private accommodation is too complex for me to consider. I am sure that accommodation can be obtained more cheaply nearer to the University if so desired.

Nevertheless if any member wishes to take on such responsibilities perhaps he will discuss it with me at the next Symposium so that, if demand continues, it can be arranged for 1992.

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#### BRITISH DIRECTORY OF MICROMOUNTERS

Mick Wolfe

As promised at the Symposium you will find enclosed with this newsletter a copy of the proposed entry for you in the new (5th) edition of the British Directory of Micromounters. Please feel free to amend, correct, delete, add or otherwise alter your entry as you think necessary. Return the approved text to me. As the proposed entry is derived from information which is often over two years out of date, I am expecting almost everyone to change their entry. I will assume, if no reply is received after the end of February, 1991, that you are happy with your entry as it stands. Please keep your entry to a maximum of 10 lines or it may be another two years before the 5th edition sees the light of day - yours truly being solely responsible for keying it into a word processor during his lunch breaks. If all goes well, I expect the new edition to be distributed with the spring newsletter - assuming sufficient copy is received to issue one (nudge, nudge). [say no more - ed.]

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## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Mick Cooper

"Building Stones" is a set of 16 postcards depicting some of the most popular and beautiful natural building and ornamental stones used in towns and cities throughout Britain, published by the University of Manchester. They are available from Veena Seth, Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL and, with an explanatory folder, cost £3.50 per set (including VAT and P&P). Individual cards are available at 25p each. There are discounts for quantity.

"Exploration for metalliferous and related minerals in Britain: a guide" by Tim C. Colman is published by the British Geological Survey. It is basically a record of the exploration and development work done by the BGS over the last 25 years. In addition it covers the legal and administrative framework necessary to undertake exploration. While an extremely valuable work for those intending such exploration or development, at £15 for a 52 page paperback, this book is probably a little too expensive for the average collector's bookshelf. Nevertheless it is well worth reading if you can get your hands on a copy.

"The Mineral Reconnaissance Programme 1990" by HW Haslam, DG Cameron and AD Evans is another recent BGS publication and comprises a useful summary of work done by the Programme since its inception in 1972. The Programme has published 113 reports on many different aspects of the minerals of Great Britain, covering a great detail some of the most important deposits in the country. At 20 pounds (a price presumably inflated by the inclusion of many colour photographs of doubtful use) this is a very expensive bibliographic reference but, again, well worth reading as an introduction to this important aspect of the BGS's work.

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### HOW TO ORGANISE A FIELD TRIP...

In the mid nineteenth century, renowned mineralogist Matthew Forster Heddle organised a collecting trip to the Farøe Islands:

"In 1856 I induced my friend, the late Mr Dudgeon of Cargen, Dumfriesshire, to associate himself with me in a more persistent assault upon their rocks. A cutter of 48 tons was chartered, her crew strengthened, a quarryman engaged, blasting and heavy mining tools provided and the vessel specially fitted for the storing and conserving of the spoils. The consent of the Governor of the Islands was next secured..."

From "The mineralogy of the Farøe Islands" by MF Heddle, Transactions of the Geological Society of Glasgow 12, 1-15

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### MINERALOGICAL MAGAZINE

At the annual Symposium in Leicester, Harry Day presented the BMS with a number of copies of the Mineralogical Magazine. Mike Rothwell volunteered to look after these for the Society. The set begins with number 119 from vol. 21 (1927) and continues to number 363 from vol. 51 (1987). Unfortunately the set is not complete, we are missing the following:

no	vol	year	no	vol	year	no	vol	year
121	21	1928	149	24	1935	165	25	1939
122	21	1928	150	24	1935	169	25	1940
125	22	1929	151	24	1935	173	26	1941
126	22	1929	154	24	1936	176	26	1942
130	22	1930	156	24	1937	186	27	1944
134	22	1931	161	25	1938	295	38	1971
138	23	1932	163	25	1938			

and all between January 1979 and September 1985

Attempts are being made to locate the missing items. If anyone comes across a reference in a magazine we have and wants a photocopy please send a stamped addressed envelope (A5 size) to Mike Rothwell and he will send on a copy.

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#### MINERALS FROM GAIRNSHIEL, NEAR BALLATER Kemp Meikle

Kemp Meikle has written to the Newsletter to comment on Max Wirth's words on wulfenite from Gairnshiel in the last Newsletter: "it should perhaps be noted that the wulfenite was confirmed by the Royal Museum of Scotland. The presence and form of the wulfenite are both rare and unusual for the environment - a zinnwaldite granite/greisen ... the crystals are invariably bipyramidal, very sharp, and either colourless ... or brownish grey to off-white and opaque, on quartz or sitting on and between small upstanding 'coated' books of muscovite. This small but highly mineralised occurrence is unique for the high niobium content of its huebnerite and the presence of rare koehlinite and cosalite as well as acanthite in addition to other combinations of the Al, Ba, Bi, Ca, Cl, F, Fe, K, Mg, Mn, Mo, Pb, S, Si, and W established as being present."

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BMS REFERENCE COLLECTION UPDATE

Max Wirth

Brian Young, who is not even a member, has contributed some interesting specimens, BMS 901 to 913, including: a fine hemimorphite (BMS 902) from the Swathbeck Mine, Millburn Forest, (between Alston and Appleby), as well as very attractive clusters of hemimorphite amongst fluorite cubes from Durham (BMS 912). He has also given us an unusual species, clinohumite, from Skye (BMS 906). This is ugly but interesting and of course Brian's specimens are confirmed by hi-tech methods.

I wrote to a number of mineral dealers, enquiring about species we did not have. One of them, Rex Cook, who is now a member of the BMS, sent a specimen of "montmorillonite" as a gift (BMS 915). This Geevor mine specimen had been purchased by Rex from a miner. In fact this was kaolinite and also showed some minute brown needles which turned out to be allanite-(Ce). Both of these were identified by the BM(NH). This allanite probably formed by leaching of rare earths from the granite walls of the mine, in much the same way as the lanthanite specimens Mike Rothwell collected from Britannia Mine, Snowdon.

I also purchased a specimen from Corrie minerals on condition that the authenticity could be confirmed by the BM(NH) to whom I sent it. In the event I had a verbal confirmation by Bob Symes that it was almost certainly (98% likely) to be djurite (BMS 916).

A Langdale slate quarry (of all places!) yielded quite rich anatase (BMS 921) as well as very small multi-faceted apatites similar to those from Pranteg (BMS 922).

Further cuprian adamite has been found in the Caldbeck Fells, both at Nether Row Brow and at Driggith mine. A specimens donated by Neil Hubbard (BMS 923) makes an interesting addition to the collection and is in fact prettier than the photograph (fig.48) in Mick Cooper's fine publication would lead one to expect. [Ed.: A matter of personal preference! The habit of these recent specimens of adamite is quite different from that illustrated in Minerals of the ... Caldbeck Fells: green globular masses compared with the earlier short prismatic crystals. I quite like both!] My paper chromatography indicates the presence of trace Pb in all these.

Kemp Meikle has found a very unusual type of strontianite (BMS 926) from the Muirshiels mine, near Glasgow. The crystals are in the form of rough hexagonal plates and their identity was confirmed by the Hunterian Museum. Kemp has also contributed a specimen of lanarkite (BMS 936), a very valuable contribution to the collection. He found this on a Royal Museum of Scotland dig along the spoil heaps of the little known Sarrowcole Vein at Leadhills.

I found an attractive form of baryte as stacked sprays of plates, in the Shap pink quarry (BMS 928) - I think it is baryte! I also found a fine little bipyramid of scheelite to replace the earlier specimen.

Mike Rothwell went underground in the Brandy Gill Lead mine, Caldbeck Fells, to take some photographs, and came out with bits of a well crystallized green mineral believed to be duftite. This has yet to be confirmed (BMS 934).

Finally, Frank Ince gave us a very interesting suite of minerals from Judkin's Quarry, Nuneaton (BMS 939 to 943) including pseudomorphs after chalcocite and vanadinite on mottramite.

As curator I get the most benefit from all these donations, but as they are there for anyone on request (on loan!) by post. Our thanks are due to all contributors.

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#### SLAG MINERAL COLLECTORS CLUB

The newly formed International Association of Collectors of Slag Minerals invites new members. It has been formed as a joint venture by the Greek collector's newsletter Oryktologica Nea - News on Minerals and the South African Micromounter Society. The Association intends the publication of a quarterly newsletter "principally of interest to collectors of slag minerals". Membership fees will be US\$5.00 for four newsletter. Application forms can be obtained from Dimitris Minitidis, 70 Queen Sofia Avenue, 185-32 Piraeus, Greece or from Horst Windisch, PO Box 17273, Groenkloof, South Africa, 0027. Completed forms should be returned to Horst Windisch.

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#### Open letter from the SOUTHEASTERN STATES MICROMOUNTERS FEDERATION

Dear Micro-Mounters of Great Britain:

As the designated spokesman for the newly formed Southeastern States Micromounters Federation, I send you best wishes for a successful meeting.

Distances are so great here in the U.S. and micromounters so few that, until last year, there had been no serious attempt to establish a micromounters federation in the southeastern United States. My local mineral club [the Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society (HGCMS), New Carolina], whose letterhead I am using, suggested about seven years ago that we have a micromount study group during the club's annual show, held the weekend prior to the first Monday in September each year. We struggled along for about five years and almost gave up on the idea. However, last year it showed real signs of life and we enthusiastically set about forming the Southeastern States Micromounters Federation (SSMF). This year was the first formal meeting of the SSMF and we were pleased to have 19 microscopes in attendance. We are already looking forward to next year's meeting. The Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society has sponsored our project, and plans to continue to do so until we are strong enough to stand on our own.

At our annual meeting a few weeks ago, Larry Hauser mentioned to us that he was off to England and had planned to go mineral collecting in Cumbria with a friend from Norwich. However, his friend phoned him back to say he was unable to go as he had gotten his dates mixed up and would be attending a micromounters symposium in Leicestershire. This led Larry (being the brash American he is) getting himself and his wife, Helen, invited to your meeting. You can only imagine the envy he created in our group of dedicated micromounters.

Although neither Larry nor Helen are micromounters, Helen decided that they should bring over some of our specimens to your group. I really can't say we are such a generous group, but Helen is a very persistent lady, and ... well you know what I mean! As a result our SSMF group would like you to accept a selection of micromounted minerals as a 'get acquainted' gesture. It will make us happy if we have furnished new minerals suitable for your collection.

We have charged Larry and Helen with the task of obtaining a lot of good ideas and information, while in attendance at your meeting, that will be of benefit to our group. Any ideas, suggestions, or information you might have we will appreciate!

We would like to set up a long range goal of establishing trading activities with persons having access to those rare and fabulous minerals from England and the European continent. If you are interested in trading, and time permits, you may wish to send some material state side with the Hausers. Regardless of that, we would like to hear your opinion on our proposal.

We realize it is difficult to set a price on micro materials; so, we suggest a one for one trade. In the future, if we do establish a working relationship, it might be desirable to send us a list of materials available and another of materials desired. We will do the same. Also, these lists should have specific names and addresses for each item listed. This would, of course, possibly lead to person to person trading, but I am sure that excess material would be distributed to group members. This would assure that people with choice material would not be last at distribution time.

We extend an open invitation to all of your members to visit with us at future annual meeting of our group.

I wish that I could be at your symposium, but realize that long distance correspondence and trading is the next best thing.

Ralph Merkle

[Ralph can be contacted at 180 Tranquility Place, Hendersonville, North Carolina 28739. The HCGMS's address is PO Box 2205, Hendersonville, North Carolina 28793]

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**New find:  
SCHULENBERGITE FROM CORNWALL**

John Betterton reports the first Cornish find of schulenbergite  $(\text{Cu,Zn})_7(\text{SO}_4)_2(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_{10} \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  at the Prince of Wales mine, Gunnislake. The identification was confirmed by XRD at the Natural History Museum (Film no. 8198F).

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**NEW BRANCH OF THE RUSSELL SOCIETY**

On the initiative of Harry Critchley, a North West Branch of the Russell Society was inaugurated on the 21st November 1990. The meetings will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8pm in the HQ of the Warrington Mineral and Lapidary Society, Unit 16, Rowan House, Padgate Business Centre, Green Lane, Padgate, Warrington, Cheshire.

The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, 16th January, 1991. Prospective new members should apply to Franz Werner, Russell Society Membership Secretary, 12 Martinshaw Lane, Groby, Leicestershire, LE6 0BJ or pick up a membership form at a Branch meeting.

The officers of the new branch are: Chairman - Harry Critchley, 23 Fryent Close, Bolton, Lancs. tel 0204-694345; Secretary - Rex Cook, 93 Halifax Road, Halifax, Nelson, Lancs. tel 0282-64615; Treasurer - John Houghton, 26 Crawford Avenue, Tyldesly, Greater Manchester, M29 8FT. tel 0942-882051

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**CORNISH MINERALS IN THE BMS COLLECTION**

Max Wirth

Perusing my copy of Embrey and Symes' "Minerals of Cornwall and Devon" I thought it might be useful to make some notes on the specimens from these areas that we have in our collection. All the following minerals were first found in or identified from Cornwall:

**CORNUBITE** The name derives from the old Roman name for Cornwall. The first specimens of cornubite were found at Wheal Carpenter in 1959, but our specimen (BMS 702) came from the Bedford United mine.

**BOTALLACKITE** This was first found by Richard Talling at Wheal Cock in 1865. Our specimen came from the nearby Levant mine. It was collected by N. Brewer of St. Just.

**BASSETITE** Wheal Basset was named after the Basset family who owned the land. Our specimen dates from the 19th century and the exact mine from which it came is not known.

**OLIVENITE** This was first found at the Carharrack mine and recognised as a new mineral by Klaproth in the late 18th century. A specimen from Wheal Gorland was described by Phillips in 1811. We have a specimen from Wheal Gorland (BMS 789), two from Wheal Unity (BMS 372 and 373), and one from Wheal Phoenix (BMS 121).

**PHARMACOSIDERITE** This was also first recognised by Klaproth in the 18th century on specimens from the Carharrack mine.

**MIMETITE** The presence of chlorine in mimetite was first established by Gregor in 1809 on a Cornish sample. Surprisingly, our collection contains only a single Cornish specimen, from Penberthy Croft (BMS 370)

**VIVIANITE** Wheal Kind may be the type locality for this species, but our only specimen (BMS 637) came from the Isle of Wight.

**WAVELLITE** The type locality for this is High Down quarry and we have a specimen (BMS 501) from this site. The Rev. William Gregor analysed a specimen from Stannagwyn mine in 1805. We also have two specimens from the Gunheath pit, St. Austell (BMS 129 and 781).

**LISKEARDITE** Marke Valley mine is the type locality, but our specimens (BMS 110 and 124) came from Penberthy Croft and Wheal Carpenter.

**ARTHURITE** This was first identified in 1964 by Davis and Hey on specimens from Hingston Downs Consols, the type locality. Our specimen (BMS 122) came from the same site.

**CHILDRENITE** This was first found and described around 1850. It probably came from Wheal Crebor where our specimen (BMS 261) came from. The others samples we have (BMS 712 and 260) were found at New East Wheal Russell and the George and Charlotte mine.

**CARBONATE-FLUORAPATITE "Francolite"** The old, discredited, name for this species derives from Wheal Franco. Our specimens (BMS 432, 543, 624 and 625) come from other sites, and none has been positively identified.

**WAYLANDITE** Richard Talling, who first found this mineral, identified it as eulytine. Recently, however, his specimen was shown to be waylandite. Our own beautifully crystallized specimen, from Wheal Phoenix (BMS 463), has been identified by XRD.

A number of interesting minerals mentioned in "M of Cornwall and Devon" are not represented in our collection ...yet. These include:

Ludlamite (type locality Wheal Jane)  
Agardite-(Nd)  
Cornwallite (from St. Day area)  
Stannite (from Wheal Rock)  
Ferrostokesite (from Cligga Head)  
Fluellite [well, we can dream..]  
Russellite  
Churchite (type locality Tretoil mine, Bodmin)  
Bournonite (from Wheal Boys)

#### TAFF'S WELLS QUARRY

Under the headline "Steetley quarry inquiry adjourned", Industrial Minerals for October 1990 reports: "A public inquiry into plans for an extension to Steetley Quarry Product Ltd's Taffs Wells quarry (adding 41m tonnes of limestone) in Mid-Glamorgan, Wales, was called off at the last minute as council leaders and Steetley representatives agreed to adjourn the inquiry while Steetley proposes a new planning application for October 1990. The original plans would have disturbed ancient woodland around the quarry rim ... The new application is expected to provide for quarry extensions outside protected areas by working the 1m. tpa quarry deeper."

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#### MINERALS OF LEICESTERSHIRE

The Central Branch of the Russell Society is planning a glossary of the minerals of Leicestershire. Research for this project will include a literature search and a collation of records of Leicester species in public and private collections. Any non-Russell Society BMS members having interesting records or specimens from the county, who would be willing to allow access to them as part of this project should contact the Central Branch chairman, Mick Cooper.

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#### THE LAST WORD

There have only been two newsletters issued this year. This is mainly due, as usual to a lack of copy. As previous pleas for cuttings, notes etc generally result in responses from the same few dedicated people, we can only assume that the vagaries of the Newsletter's appearance do not unduly concern most members. At least, we trust this is the case! Therefore no more carping notices on the lack of contributions will be released. (Well, maybe...) Apologies to anyone upset by the lack of Newsletters and copious thanks to those who have contributed. And best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Now's the time to get down to all that backlog of cataloguing, storing, micromounting etc. that has been building up for so long. Especially if there's any more atrocious weather like that seen recently here in the Midlands: a mineralogical bonanza not welcomed by everybody.

#### NEW MEMBERS

The new members listed below are requested to check that their address details are correct. If not, please communicate corrections to the Newsletter Editor.

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