

BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER NO.31 November 1991

<u>Chairman</u>	Mick Wolfe	16 Collington St. Beeston, Notts NG9 1FJ
<u>Secretary</u>	Shirley Adrian	103 Woolwich Rd. Abbey Wood, London SE2 0DY
<u>Membership Secretary</u>	Pearl Freeman	12A Allingham Court Haverstock Hill London NW3 2AH
<u>Treasurer</u>	Sidney Freeman	12A Allingham Court Haverstock Hill London NW3 2AH

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Mick Wolfe

Despite a year of heavy expenditure (see the minutes of the AGM) the subscription rates of £4.00 single and £6.00 family membership have been maintained for another year. For those who have not yet paid I would remind them that subscriptions are due on the 1st January 1992 and should be sent to Pearl Freeman, the membership secretary. Her address is on the front page of this newsletter.

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**BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Leicester University, 10.10am, 22 September 1991

56 members were present. The Chairman was Michael Wolfe.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Franz Werner, David Roe, John Betterton and Nick Zachaniades.

2. Minutes of the AGM of 23 September 1990

The Minutes having been circulated in Newsletter 29, the Chairman asked that they be taken as read. This was proposed by Trevor Bridges, seconded by Neil Hubbard and passed unanimously.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

3.1 Photographs from the 1st Edition of the Encyclopedia of Minerals by Roberts, Rapp and Weber (para 6.5): Gill Golz had written to Wendell Wilson, editor of the Mineralogical Record, but he had been unable to help.

3.2 University accommodation for those attending the Symposium weekend (para 4.26): Ken Luff reported that the accommodation offered was 4 miles away from the University, and would cost £16.75 for bed and breakfast. It would have to be booked, with payment, in November for the following September, and was therefore not a viable proposition.

4. Officer's reports

4.1 Treasurer

Sidney Freeman reported that the financial state of the Society was healthy, as shown on the Receipts and Payments account. The Reference Collection expenditure related to the purchase of an additional storage cabinet. At the end of May 1991 the Society had funds in excess of £3000. Since then the agreed £600 sponsorship had been paid to the UK Journal of Mines and Minerals, a new Catalogue of the Reference Collection had been produced, and expenses for the Symposium were still unknown.

4.2 Membership Secretary

On behalf of Pearl, Sid Freeman reported that Ordinary Membership stood at 130 and Family Membership at 20. During the year there were 6 new members and 3 non renewals, a net gain of 3.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Bob Snowball and seconded by Dorothy Merritt.

4.3 Chairman

Nick Wolfe expressed satisfaction that the membership was growing, albeit slowly, and that for the moment no increase in subscriptions was necessary. The issue of the UK Journal of Mines and Minerals which we had sponsored to mark our 10th anniversary might bring in new members. He congratulated the Journal's editorial board on the quality of the issue and thanked the BMS members who had contributed articles and Roy Starkey for his work as coordinator. Further articles were in hand for the next issue. The 5th edition of the Directory of Micromounters was in an experimental format. A questionnaire would be sent out with the next newsletter so that members could express their opinions on this and other aspects of the Society. Errors and omissions in the Directory should be reported directly to Mick Wolfe. The Reference Collection to date contained 1115 specimens. Thanks were due to Mike Rothwell for printing the second edition of the Catalogue, at minimal cost to the Society.

[Mike Rothwell said he had input the data on computer, and had discovered several erroneous grid references. Anyone finding errors should notify either Mike Rothwell or Max Wirth. Mike will copy data onto members' own floppy discs by arrangement. Max Wirth said he would appreciate references to any literature connected with the sites represented in the collection.]

The Chairman said that the next issue of the Newsletter would be the 30th. Mick Cooper would like to receive more copy: brief items, branch reports, dates of meetings etc.

The Society had become affiliated to the Geological Association following a request from the late Beverley Halstead who felt that increased membership of the Association would add weight to its representations for access to sites, etc. The BMS would receive 5 copies if the GA circular.

[Sid Freeman had ascertained the benefits of affiliation:

- (i) BMS members could attend local GA group meetings and field trips.
- (ii) 5 copies of the GA circular would be sent bi-monthly, with information of the group's activities. Comments for publication in the circular would be appreciated.

He said that Eric Robinson was now president of the GA. There was no coordinating officer assigned to affiliated groups, but any officer could be contacted if required.]

The Chairman then congratulated Muriel and Bill Swindell on their marriage, and went on to thank those who had organised or contributed to the auction, which had raised approximately £175 for the Society. He also expressed his thanks to Bob Symes for speaking after dinner the previous night.

Mick concluded by saying that this would be his 5th and last year in office, and the time had come for "new blood". He said that the duties were not onerous and he would be glad to apprise volunteers for the position of what would be involved.

5. Election of officers

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

These standing officers had all agreed to serve again. No other nominations had been received. Their re-election was proposed by Trevor Bridges, seconded by Chris Jewson and carried unanimously.

The following co opted members had all agreed to continue in office:

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

There will be no Field Trip Leaders as it was felt that Field Trips could be arranged at local group level.

6. The Founder's Cup

The Chairman said that this year the Cup was going to someone who had been with the Society from its early days and had contributed to all its activities Newsletters, Field Trips and Symposia. In the Society's 10th year the cup was presented to the Founder Roy Starkey.

Roy expressed his surprise and took the opportunity to confirm that the position of Chairman was not onerous. He also recommended that if possible, members should support the Dudley Museum's Open Day on 7th November.

Mick Wolfe thanked the officers and co-opted committee members and the many other members who had contributed to the success of the Society.

7. Any other business

7.1 Ken Luff referred to the £25 prize awarded by the Society to a 2nd year Geology Student at Leicester University, and wondered whether it was time that this was upgraded. An increase of the prize to £50 was proposed by John Dickinson, seconded by Trevor Bridges, and carried unanimously.

7.2 The next Symposium will be held on 19 and 20 September 1992.

7.3 Trevor Bridges said that he was disappointed with the educational content of this year's symposium. He thought an earlier society decision to exclude outside speakers should be rescinded. The Chairman pointed out that two speakers had to be replaced at very short notice. Roy Starkey said it might be useful to resume the custom of having a questionnaire on topics for Symposium lectures.

A vote was taken on the desirability of including outside speakers. 53 were in favour, and 1 against, with 2 abstentions.

7.4 Ken Luff said he would also like the opinion of the members regarding future after dinner speakers, bearing in mind that their travel and accommodation expenses would have to be met from Symposium fees.

There were 15 votes in favour, 25 against, 8 abstentions (and 8 non handraisers).

7.5 Trevor Bridges proposed a vote of thanks to all who contributed to the running of the Society.

The meeting closed at 11.05am.

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BMS SYMPOSIUM 1991
Ken Luff

The 10th Symposium was well attended: 91 members were expected and 87 turned up. This year we had the benefit of the large laboratory again and the room had been refurbished with extra seating enabling us to be accommodated with some comfort. With the new computerised security system in force we were locked out until 9.30am but that only served to collect us "at the starting gate" when all were able to race in and bag their places quickly.

The day's events started on time with a welcome from our Chairman, Mick Wolfe, and Trevor Bridges took the lead session to introduce once again the "Goldfish" - a method many of us had seen before to demonstrate the growth of supergene minerals and to enable the processes to be understood in half an hour instead of two years (as in "A" level studies). The session was most beneficial and lost nothing in the re-telling.

"A Study of the Minerals to be found at Penberthy Croft" was to have followed but John Betterton was unfortunately not able to come. Perhaps he will be able to give us a presentation in the future. However Bob Reekie of the Royal Museum of Scotland stepped into the breach and lengthened his proposed session on the projects undertaken by the Museum, particularly around the Leadhills/Wanlockhead area, to include some information on some surprising sites in Argyll, East Kirton, and Stirling. Many of the Leadhills/Wanlockhead spoil heaps are being grassed over to help reduce the levels of air-borne lead-rich dust in an area where local children have some of the highest blood lead levels in the country. We must therefore support the potential loss of sites but Bob Reekie was able to say some areas would be left available. Bob also brought up some videos of Scottish sites but we did not have the equipment to show them (we will next year, Bob!).

Mike Rothwell finished the morning session with an appropriate anniversary presentation of slides from a number of sites visited over the last 10 years of micro collecting, giving thanks for the inauguration of a Society which

provides such scope for enlarging what is to all of us a valuable (in satisfaction and interest) hobby.

For those of us from the South the latter sessions provided an invaluable resumé of potential field trips to sites that we had never heard of, had been unable to visit, or were able now to use for future planning.

The Workshop sessions introduced some busy, serious work, clearly impressing our evening speaker, Dr Robert Symes of the Natural History Museum, London, who had joined us at the beginning of the day. No less worked was Michael Edwards, who had attended to provide a surgery for sick microscopes. I am sure that we are all pleased he keeps in touch with the Society and thank him for the help and advice he freely gives.

The Auction, with Roy Starkey once again as auctioneer, remained a popular and humorous event providing many bargains and contributions for the Society. Those of you who had cared to watch would have been impressed by the quiet but efficient way the "Auction Team" organised themselves and the exhibits without prompting during the day, and kept up with the accountancy during the event. Mick Wolfe thanked them at the AGM but I would also like to extend my own thanks to John Pearce, Daphne Hall, Dorothy Merritt et al., for the control of the event. It is one area that I do not have to organise or think about.

About 69 sat down for the buffet meal on Saturday night. (This will increase in price next year but you will be able to select two portions of meat/fish from four offered). Dr Symes gave a humorous speech encompassing the science and hobby of mineralogy, his experiences at the Museum, a description and explanation of why naming new minerals takes so much time, and exhorting us to visit museums in Europe, particularly in the East. He congratulated the Society on its anniversary and led a toast to the Society. Roy Starkey, the Founder member, cut a birthday cake donated by South-East Branch member June Lockwood. Our thanks must go to Bob Symes for making himself available to spend the weekend with us.

The Quiz that followed proved successful for David Green with a tie breaker for second place being needed to part Kevin Johns (Norwich) from Richard Bell (Mersey). The former won.

Sunday began with the AGM. Points of note here, beside the willingness of the Society's officers to be re-elected for a further term, were the agreement that we should increase the University 2nd year Geology student's award to £50, and Trevor Bridge's exhortation that we should go outside the Society for lecturers of an educational bent. Perhaps we all felt a little humble after the performance of the quiz which I designed in the hope that those of us with stronger knowledge of other parts of the science could compete on more equal terms with the tyro collectors. It really not surprising that our knowledge becomes more selective as we concentrate on a specialist part of geology. Trevor's thoughts were accepted by the members and Mick Wolfe will be including the idea in his proposed survey of members. We must, of course, be sure of what we mean by "education". Is information on sites and the finding of unusual minerals "education"? For me it is. Will professional speakers provide greater learning power or just more entertainment by introducing greater polish to their presentations? If

academic education is to be given will members wait til the following year for the sequel? I would think that if they had been fired by the speaker they would not wait but continue by reading the subject. Incidentally, did you all remember Mick Cooper's excellent encapsulation of crystallography from 1990 sufficiently to allow him to continue this year or in 1992? I make these comments not to deride the suggestion but to ensure that we reach a clear idea of what we want from the lectures. Please answer Mick Wolfe's survey. I'll provide whatever you want but I will not risk a speaker's embarrassment by signing him/her up only to find that few were prepared to listen.

The AGM ended by the presentation of the Founder's Cup - to the Founder, Roy Starkey!

Peter Braithwaite followed the AGM to introduce and present the Micromount Trophy which was presented to Ivan Peak.

Lastly Roy Starkey told the membership of the most interesting specimens at the Symposium (see his article below). There was still time to see these specimens and the workshop ended the day at 4.00pm. Altogether members felt it was a fitting Symposium for the anniversary.

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QUESTIONNAIRE
Mick Wolfe

As I promised at the recent Symposium, enclosed with this newsletter you will find a questionnaire. It is designed to find out what YOUR views are of the way the BMS is run and the direction you think it should be going in the future. It invites suggestions to enable the committee to improve the management of current activities and requests ideas for future activities. It is an opportunity to air your views. Please find the time to complete and return it to me at the address shown on the front page of this newsletter. I will publish the results in the next newsletter.

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UK Journal of Mines & Minerals
BMS 10th anniversary issue

Issue no.10 of the UKJMM was published the day before the BMS Symposium, in fact so tight was our schedule that it would almost be more accurate to say that it was printed the day before. Almost all of the articles in it were written by members of the BMS and most dealt with minerals from the British Isles. Although several of the proposals for articles received after the 1990 symposium foundered before pen touched paper (or finger hit keyboard), in the end there were still more articles submitted by BMS members than could be used in this issue. Some of the excess is being held over to be published later - probably in no.11 in spring 1992. (Forthcoming items include a review of wulfenite localities in the British Isles, part two of the microminerals of Ireland, and a catalogue of minerals from Jersey.)

In the end, 8 articles were chosen to represent the endeavours of BMS members and these were mixed with our usual columns featuring show reports, mineral news, classified adverts etc. and a couple of one- or two-page fillers - vital requirements in a magazine make-up like ours. Several of the principal articles concern minerals from quarries (a reflection on the main mineral extraction activity in Britain nowadays): unusual copper and vanadium minerals from Judkins quarry, Nuneaton; beautiful anatase, brookite, and rare earth minerals from Hendre Quarry, Glyn Ceiriog; and exotic zinc hydroxides and other species from Milltown quarry, Ashover. Other articles range from a review of micromineral localities in south-western Ireland, to showy zeolites from Skye. The remainder is a mixture of mineral news, collecting history, show report (Ste-Marie-aux-Mines), and notes on collections (Liverpool Museum and the BMS Reference Collection).

Copies are available from Jean Spence.

The UKJMM Editorial Board would like to take this opportunity to thank the BMS for its generous donation of £600 towards the high cost of colour separations and printing in this issue and to wish the society well in the future. We look forward to printing the 20th anniversary issue!

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BRITISH MICRO LOCALITIES

Roy Starkey

Following Mick Cooper's report at the AGM I was amazed to find (having delved back into my files) that the last item in the 'British Micro Localities' series - an account of Wheal Rose, by David Clough - appeared in newsletter no. 19 back in 1987. This surely cannot be representative of all the field work over the last 5 years! To re-kindle interest in the gentle art of recording finds I offer the following contribution and fervently hope that others will follow suit.

No. 19: Coatsgate Quarry, Beattock, Dumfries & Galloway WT 065 053

Coatsgate Quarry is a working roadstone quarry operated by Tarmac, situated on the east side of the A74 trunk road just north of Moffat. It is clearly visible as you approach in either direction, and must have been passed by hundreds of mineral collectors over the years. I have often thought of stopping, but instead hurried on, either to the Highlands, or further south on the way home. This year we determined to call in and investigate it.

The quarry is reached by a steep climb up the access road through a crushing and coating plant. The country rocks are very tough, splintery meta-sediments and these are traversed by a dyke of fine-grained, dark dolerite. Adjacent to the margins of the dyke, and among the 'boulder graveyard'; in the center of the quarry floor, an interesting suite of attractive micro-minerals can be found. The following list describes the specimens found on my first visit; identifications are based only on a

visual examination. It is possible that diligent searching may turn up further species.:

Calcite forms colourless to reddish scalenohedral crystals to 10mm, often dusted with hematite, and showing inclusions of red-brown garnet crystals.

Garnet occurs as deep red-brown to pale yellow dodecahedral crystals up to 3mm across, showing brilliant crystal faces. These make very attractive specimens indeed.

Hematite. Deep red translucent platy crystals forming rosettes to 1.5mm occur commonly with the garnet.

Epidote. Generally poorly developed, but microcrystalline crusts are quite common. Occasional euhedral crystals were noted.

Chabazite. Glassy, colourless blocky crystals up to 5mm are relatively common in the upper part of the quarry. These are frequently associated with pale yellow calcite scalenohedra.

Amphibole. An as-yet unidentified fibrous amphibole occurs with commonly with the garnet-hematite assemblages as tufts to 3mm.

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RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE BMS COLLECTION

Max Wirth

Firstly, some comments on the previous list: (1) the unknown specimen (BMS978) found by Mike Leppington has now been analysed by Richard Braithwaite at UMIST using infra red spectrophotometry and has turned out to be a solid solution exactly mid-way between pseudomalachite and cornwallite. (2) The specimen (BMS928) originally listed as barite from Shap quarry has now been identified as bavenite, a calcium beryllium silicate, by the Natural History Museum, London. This is the first record for Cumbria and is believed to be only the second known occurrence in the country.

The new specimens 1010-1014 are splendid pieces of fluorite, hematite, calcite, and quartz from the famous Florence Mine, Cumbria. These were contributed by Roy Starkey.

David Nicholls, who is not even a member, as given us some very unusual crystals of fluorite from the Old Town Quarry near Middridge, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham. The fluorite forms square plates, some at right angles to each other with smaller cubes in the re-entrant angles, or superimposed one on another at 45 degrees. Any fluorite enthusiast should see these and comment on the twinning.

I have added hemimorphite and cerussite from Red Gill, Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria, since these were not represented from this site. To our shame I have to say that we have only recently obtained a linarite from Red Gill, one of its most famous minerals.

Wet Swine Gill in the Caldbeck Fells has yielded a suite of antimony minerals (1025-1028) among which is a small but rather nice senarmontite. A trace of valentinite was also found.

Kemp Meikle contributed a number of interesting minerals. Although not beautiful, the huebnerite (1033) from Gairnshiel Bridge contains niobium and the scheelite (1034) is an unusual form. Both were identified by the Royal Museum of Scotland. Loanhead quarry near Beith yielded a most unusual form of titanite (resembling prehnite) in zeolitic vugs with offretite.

Roy Starkey provided a brilliant sphalerite (1040) from the Callow Hill quarry in Shropshire.

A recent member, Kelvin Phillips, contributed a specimen of kankite (1044), an iron arsenate, from South Terras in Cornwall. It looks like pale yellow liverwort and is much too brittle to send around by post.

I found interesting specimens of berthierite (probably) near Hartsop in Patterdale. On some there are red blades, which are valentite containing kermesite needles, as well as sulphur crystals.

Richard Bell has given us numerous specimens: titanite on axinite; vanadinite (impossible to see but X-rayed); linarite prisms from the Britannia Mine (1051), associated with lanthanite; parnaute (1052/54) (another green copper mineral!); chalcophyllite (1055) as good hexagonal plates; and an interesting bayldonite (1057) pseudomorphing or rather epimorphing mimetite. His phosgenite (1062) shows the typical morphology; the hematite from Wheal Cock (1064) is quite photogenic; the alstonite from Fallowfield Mine is interesting since it is frosted with white crystals which are presumably barite. To my mind Richard's best specimen is a tabular crystal of blue apatite, pierced by tourmaline, from North Goonbarrow in Cornwall (1071). From the Geevor Mine, Pendeen, Cornwall he has produced more green minerals (1073-1076): botallackite, atacamite, paratacamite, and malachite. I have no idea how he distinguishes atacamite from paratacamite [arn't such details required on the BMS Collection record slip? Shame on you both. -Ed.]. Another photogenic one is his bright yellow cerussite (1079) from the Greystones Quarry. Siderite (1083) from West Wheel Owles looks like the head of the fungus Boletus.

Mick Cooper has contributed 11 specimens. Now I have to say that these are pretty ugly (the EDITOR, bless him, may blue pencil this comment) [the Curator, bless him, may refrain from dubious value-judgements, Ed.], however, most of these specimens have been authenticated by XRD and the index slips carry comments and references which make a welcome change. The collection would surely benefit if more members went to this trouble. Mick's most interesting specimen is just quartz, but it is an epimorph after cerussite, from Brandy Gill [I thought the rutile in calcite from Carrock mine was pretty interesting myself, personally that is - Ed.]..

Mike Rothwell gave us a very clean specimen of arsenopyrite from Wet Swine Gill (1099) and wulfenite from Kinniside Mine, Cumbria and Ball Eye Mine, Derbyshire.

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FOREIGN JOURNALS
Max Wirth

RIVISTA MINERALOGICA ITALIANA, No. 3 1991

The first article deals with the volcanic "bombs" or ejecta found in the Latium region of Italy and the extraordinary variety of minerals found in them. While there are no similar occurrences in the UK, a number of these minerals are also known here, including zircon, vesuvianite, sanidine, apatite, titanite, and thorite. The specimen photographs in this article are mostly excellent and could be a great help in identification. Some of the minerals are very rare and probably unique to the location: liottite (the author's name!), latiumite (the region), tuscanite, and franzinite. For those members who do not restrict themselves to the UK this article is well worth reading in case specimens turn up at shows. [For those who do it could still be worth reading in case they turn up in the British Isles! Ed.]

The second article, on anatase, brookite, and rutile, is mainly of interest for the excellent photographs showing some unusual habits of these minerals. Another paper deals with the famous Příbram area, 60 km from Prague. This mentions mainly silver minerals. The photography is not too good except for the whewellite group why does whewellite not turn up here? (see my article on organic minerals in the last Newsletter).

LAPIS, MAY 1991

In the latest issue of the UKJ Mines & Minerals an advertisement by LAPIS offered a free sample (their choice) of their magazine. It was an offer I could not resist and I received the May 1991 issue. The photography and reproduction are quite superb, however I did not find the majority of articles of great interest to me as they tend to be historical and mining related. [This is by no means always the case -Ed.]

One article I did find excellent, namely that on the phosphate pegmatite at Bendada in Portugal. This was very much a mineralogical paper listing and describing numerous rare phosphates, all in micromount sizes. Again the photographs are really professional, be they colour or SEM. Many of the minerals remind one of the Gunheath Pit minerals of Cornwall (cacoxenite, cyrilovite) and the succinct descriptions should help in recognising some of the rarer ones.

Then there are two more articles on whewellite, huge crystals (to 4 cm), easy to photograph. Why is whewellite all of a sudden so popular?

One cannot judge a journal on a single issue and I will take out a one year subscription. I might even report on further issues. [Good idea. Do any other members take journals that our readers might like to hear about? Your editor would love to hear from you.]

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BMS Northern Group Meeting. 21st March 1992, 2.00am at Bircotes Library, near Doncaster. For details contact Jean Spence.

SYMPOSIUM 1992

The 1992 Symposium will be held on 19 and 20 September at Leicester as usual.

Mick Cooper is prepared to conduct a photograph workshop for those who would bring their photos of minerals for discussion or advice.

I regret that the 1992 Symposium will be my last. My job changes in intensity in this November (ie gets busier) and in 1993 my wife and I want to holiday in the mid USA in September. The ritual of Symposium organising is orderly and well developed but requires a touch on the tiller from January onwards. There must be someone out there prepared to have a go for a three year stint. It's probably YOU.

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UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Mick Wolfe

One of the frustrations of using any local council library is that its stock of books related to mineralogy is strictly limited. This, inevitably, means that getting a book you want entails having to use the inter library loan procedure. This can mean a wait of weeks or often months only to find, when the book arrives, that it is not what you had hoped for (book titles can be very misleading!). A helpful assistant in my local library suggested that many of the books I was ordering may be on the shelves of my local university library. This was too good an opportunity to miss.

Fortunately for me, I live less than two miles from Nottingham University so the following Saturday saw me at the enquiry desk of their Science library, and, yes, they would issue me with a reader's ticket for private research purposes. This gave me access to not only the books and periodicals on the open shelves but also to the contents of the Basement Store. This contains transactions of learned societies such as the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall and the Royal Society of Edinburgh as well as both volumes of Heddle's Mineralogy of Scotland.

Nottingham University, when I joined its Science library, had a Geology department so the range of books and periodicals was extensive. This was especially true of items of local interest. Sadly the department has since closed but the books remain and periodicals such as Mineralogical Magazine are still being bought.

A readers ticket does not allow you to take books out of the library but photocopying facilities are available at half the cost of my local library. Books worthy of longer study can still be ordered through the local library in the certain knowledge that the wait will be worthwhile. I would urge all

members, if they have a university within easy reach, to make use of the facilities. You will not be disappointed.

[Access to Nottingham University's Libraries is currently free to outside users, but some other universities charge an annual fee for membership. However, even at fee-charging libraries, short term access may be freely given provided arrangements are made in advance. As an indication of what may be available it's worth checking whether your local library has a copy of the nearby University's holdings of periodicals. I would also remind members that access to other institutional libraries is also available to private individuals by arrangement: those of the Natural History Museum, London and the British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Notts are both superb. The British Library, shortly to remove from its present site in the British Museum to a new building next door to St Pancras station, also carries many mineralogical publications and has the added advantage of being open Saturdays and has some late night opening. In these three cases you must be prepared to do your homework since the vast majority of their holdings are not on open access. Subject indexes are, however, available on site in the libraries and the British Library catalogue (all snillion huge volumes of it arranged by author's name) should be held in any large local authority library - Ed.]

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INTERESTING SPECIMENS AT THE SYMPOSIUM 1991

Roy Starkey

Max Wirth had some excellent senarmontite crystals from Wet Swine Gill, Cumbria; Arthur Harrison had nice manganite from Laverock Braes, Aberdeenshire, and Beryl Harrison interesting native copper on prehnite from Carsaig Bay, Mull. Superb gemmy sphalerite micros from Frazer's Hush were available from George Fletcher, and the Wallace Family team had splendid specimens of caledonite, susannite and mattheddleite from Leadhills and Caldbeck Fells. John Dickinson had excellent acicular antimony minerals with arsenopyrite, recently collected from Wet Swine Gill, Cumbria.

Chris Jewson showed fine material from Nentsberry Haggs mine including baryte, witherite and ?alstonite. Elsie Hansford's stereo photographs drew much admiration and attention from delegates - hopefully Elsie will run a workshop and demonstration at next year's meeting. Trevor Bridges returning to Leicester after missing last year's Symposium brought a new find of anglesite from Dry Pry Vein, Wolsingham, and some nice annabergite from Hilton Mine. A good selection of rare supergene minerals from the northern Pennines was also on display. Neil Hubbard had fine Alva silver specimens, dundasite from Gunver Head, Cornwall, and superb boracite from Boulby Mine. Roy Starkey had a selection of recently collected Scottish material including fine garnet and haematite micros from Coatsgate Quarry, Beattock; sapphirine from Loch Scridain, Mull; and epidote on prehnite from Ben more, Mull.

Nigel Hoppe had fine bayldonite from Penberthy Croft Mine, and John and Daphne Hall a good selection of wavellite from turquoise from Gunheath Pit.

John Fisher had a very extensive selection of nicely presented material from many British localities, including mirror bright galena from Ladywash Mine and gemmy cassiterite crystals from Cligga Head. Larry Hauser had brought superb 'Herkimer Diamond' quartz specimens and a selection of Odessa Meteorite specimens from the USA. Finally, David Green showed several fine alstonite specimens from Brownley Hill Mine, and a splendid plumbogummite from Drygill Mine, Caldbeck Fells.

However, although there was plenty of interesting material on display, nothing really new came to light during the weekend - so, please go away and try harder for next year!

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RECENT PAPERS OF INTEREST TO THE AMATEUR MINERALOGIST
Roy Starkey

The following selection of recent papers all contain data of use to the amateur. These publications are available via the inter library loan system at your local reference library [see also Mick Wolfe's comments above on University libraries]. Good hunting!

C.J. Stanley, G.C. Jones, A.D. Hart, P. Keller & D. Lloyd (1991) Barstwoite ... a new mineral from Bounds Cliff, St. Endellion, Cornwall. Mineralogical Magazine 55, 121-125.

N.J. Fortey, P.H.A. Nancarrow & R.E. Starkey (1991) Armenite from the Middle Dalradian of Scotland. Mineralogical Magazine 55, 135-138.

B. Young, A. Dyer, N. Hubbard & R.E. Starkey (1991) Apophyllite and other zeolite type minerals from the Whin Sill of the northern Pennines. Mineralogical Magazine 55, 203-207.

T.B. Colman & A.K. Appleby (1991) Volcanogenic quartz magnetite haematite veins, Snowdon, North Wales. Mineralogical Magazine 55, 257-262.

A.M. Pollard, R.G. Thomas & P.A. Williams (1989) Synthesis and stabilities of the basic copper (II) chlorides atacamite, paratacamite and botallackite. Mineralogical Magazine 53, 557-563.

B. Young & D. Schofield (1990) Stevensite from upper Teesdale, Co. Durham, a second British occurrence. Transactions of the Natural Historical Society of Northumbria 55, Part 2, 150.

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SITE ACCESS

Following up an article in BMS Newsletter 25 (April 1989), H.R. Thomas of the Fortescue Estate Office points out that the charge is now £10 and that the new office phone number is (0598) 760336.

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NEW MEMBERS

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NEW ADDRESS

NEIL-JOHN LEONARD, 62 Thorns Rd, Astley on Bridge, Bolton

OLD MEMBERS

Tim Riley, recently retired Curator of Minerals (among other things) at Sheffield Museum has settled in France (233 La Vallée Heureuse, 66690 Sorède, France). He is just a few miles from the Spanish border and a few more from the Mediterranean. In a recent letter he says that so far his mineral collecting has been limited to digging tourmaline crystals out of his garden-to-be (so it's not called 'Happy Valley' for nothing!) and visiting (relatively) local mineral shows in Narbonne and Barcelona. Armed with local mineralogies, he hopes to 'get stuck in' as soon as possible.

John Faithfull, that stalwart and well-known BMS member and lynchpin of the Symposium arrangements, has taken a new curatorial post at the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, whose collections are based on those of renowned 18th century physician and collector Dr. William Hunter. The Newsletter's best wishes John. Drop us a progress report soon.

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BMS NEWSLETTER

A Plea

Yes, it's called the November Newsletter but, as we all know, it's not November. In fact it'll not even be 1991 by the time you're reading this. A major problem this time has been your editor's quite ridiculous work load (cue music); apart from therefore being unable to chase and check copy as quickly as he would like, access to the word processor on which he makes up the 'letter has been limited by other more pressing work (yes, there are more important things!). To save time this newsletter has had to be keyed in by an outside professional operator; however, Mike Rothwell has kindly offered to arrange for future keyboarding which should improve matters. It is however, likely that your editor's quite ridiculous work load will only get worse, with the probable result that he will have to resign the post come the next AGM. A plea is therefore necessary: - please will someone give me approximately £5m to carry on in the manner to which I have become accustomed, or is there someone out there who has a burning desire coupled with the ability to edit the Newsletter?

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THANKS

to all contributors to this newsletter, especially the prolific correspondents Roy Starkey and Max Wirth, and to Maria who made such a good job of keying it all in. And a Happy New Year to everybody else (well, almost everybody...)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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