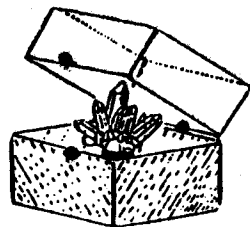


BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER No.4 - June 1982

BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY - INAUGURAL MEETING 28th March 1982
by G.P.Horstman.

Present - 25 members and several interested observers.

Introduction - Mr Starkey briefly explained the origin and aims of the Society, and all agreed that it should continue along its existing lines. Mr Starkey confirmed that this would be possible so long as the membership did not become vastly larger, as correspondence is becoming considerable. He made an appeal for all members to please reply promptly e.g. payment of membership fees, return of reply slips for meetings etc., as 'chasing people for subscriptions is an obviously unnecessary load.

Membership - Present membership was confirmed at 42, and several new members had joined on Saturday at the Show. (Total new members at the Show = 11). Membership now stands at 55 (6/6/82).

- The question of overseas membership was raised, and after prolonged discussion it was agreed that this would conflict with the interests of British Micromounters by creating excessive administrative load. There was no wish to discourage overseas contacts, but it was felt that the International Directory of Micromounters already served this need. It was agreed to exchange newsletters etc with other societies and to emphasise that reproduction of articles etc in their publications was welcome provided source was acknowledged. It was considered that it would be cheaper for interested overseas parties to obtain Xerox copies of newsletters from their Society.

Finance - Mr Starkey explained that administration was at present on a very economical basis and it was expected to be able to manage on the £1 subscription for the current year. Duplication is currently available at low cost or occasionally free of charge, but if we have to start paying commercial rates in the future we shall have to increase membership fees. Our major expenses are stationery and postage costs. Prompt payment of membership fees was requested. This year has been particularly bad - request for payment was sent out with Newsletter No.2 before Christmas, and about 40% of the membership did not pay until February or March. This is extremely annoying and creates unnecessary workload, checking and rechecking who has and has not paid. PLEASE pay promptly is the message!

Annual Field Meeting - An annual field meeting was proposed to be held this summer, and supported by an enthusiastic majority. It was agreed that this be held in the mid-Wales mining field northeast of Aberystwyth on Saturday and Sunday 14th and 15th of August 1982. Arrangements will be as shown later in this newsletter.

Competition - After some discussion it was generally agreed (by a substantial majority) that competitions could present great difficulties at the moment, and might even be detrimental to the development of interests. It was agreed to reconsider the matter in the future.

Weekend Symposium - Mr Starkey outlined proposals for a weekend micromount symposium where members could set up microscopes, study and exchange micromounts, and provide a general workshop/forum for discussion. A beginners table was suggested so that visitors could be guided through preparing their own micromount, and also a 'grab table' where unwanted surplus material would be available for 'free'. Provisionally the weekend of 9/10th October 1982 was agreed. The venue is to be the Mining Museum at Matlock Bath if a booking can be arranged, and a short field excursion will be organised for the Sunday. Catering was discussed, and it was agreed to provide refreshments (coffee/tea etc,) but that members should provide their own food, and arrange accommodation or camping.

Any Other Business - Various ideas for publicity were discussed e.g. Building Society windows, posters, volunteer speakers, loan sets of transparencies and these will be investigated. Trevor Wolloxall enquired whether anyone was able to photograph micros, and it was agreed to arrange a demonstration at the weekend event. Finally Peter Braithwaite proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Starkey for his efforts in getting the BMS started, and this was warmly supported.

The meeting closed at 11.40 am and was followed by a half hour slide show of micromounting techniques and photomicrographs of minerals.

ANNUAL FIELD MEETING

The above event will take place on the weekend of 14/15th August 1982 in the mid-Wales area. Detailed itineraries will be agreed on the days to meet members wishes, and depending on numbers attending. (PLEASE RETURN THE ENCLOSED SLIP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU ARE INTENDING TO COME)

Saturday 14th Aug. Meet at Eaglebrook Mine (Nantycapel) SN736892 from 10.30am. Bring packed lunch & outdoor clothing. Surface collecting and walk to adjacent mines of interest. Please note we shall be moving on from Eaglebrook later in the day, so arrive before 12.00noon.

Sunday 15th Aug. Meet at Glogfawr Mine SN747707 (off the B4343 south east of Isbyty Ystwyth). Meet at 10.30am as we shall be moving on from this locality. Surface collecting - bring packed lunch and outdoor gear. Subject to demand an underground trip will be held for suitably equipped persons in the afternoon. IF YOU WANT TO GO UNDERGROUND bring lamp and helmet, towel and change of clothing - we shall be getting wet to the knees!

Recommended campsite for the weekend is Erwbarfe Farm, Ponterwyd. Grid ref. SN748784, Tel. Ponterwyd 665. Location 1 mile north of Devil's Bridge on A4120. Hot & cold water plus showers.

For non-campers the above farm offers B & B accommodation - contact Mr & Mrs E.E. Lewis telephone Ponterwyd 251. The Woodlands Hotel, Devil's Bridge, offers reasonably priced B & B, telephone Ponterwyd 666. Neuadd Parc Farm, Capel Bangor, contact Mrs F. Morris Capel Bangor 260 offers B & B, as does Ty Cam Farm, Capel Bangor, Mrs F. Rowlands Tel. Capel Bangor 662. Other addresses for accommodation will be found in 'Wales - Where to Stay', available price 75p from Dept WTS, P.O. Box 1, Cardiff, CF1 2XN.

For members not familiar with the area, easiest access is via Rhayader on the A470 (T), or from the north and midlands through Welshpool and Newtown on the A483T, A470T and the A44.

If you require any further assistance please contact Roy Starkey (Tel. DUDLEY 59983). The appropriate O.S. 1:50 000 scale maps for the area are Sheets 135 and 136 - you will need these to find the meeting places and for travelling around on the weekend.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU RETURN THE ENCLOSED REPLY SLIP relating to the Field Meeting, Weekend Symposium, and International Directory - by return of post if possible - I need to gauge support for the events. Thankyou.

WEEKEND MICROMOUNT SYMPOSIUM

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, it is proposed to hold the first ever British Micromounting Symposium, in Matlock, Derbyshire on the 9th and 10th October 1982. This event has enormous potential for a really good weekend, and deserves YOUR support, and help to make it a success.

Please note that since this event is a separate venture to our normal newsletter and correspondence activities, all enquiries and applications for attendance should be directed to Miss Elsie Hansford, 46 Wydeville Manor Road, Grove Park, LONDON, SE12 0EW. Elsie has kindly offered to coordinate arrangements for the weekend. In case of any specific difficulties enquiries may be made to Roy Starkey at the usual address.

Details for the weekend are still being finalised, but the following information may be of interest: The venue will be the 'Pump Room' adjacent to the Mining Museum at Matlock Bath, Derbyshire. A registration fee of £2.00 is being charged to all delegates attending, to cover costs of room hire, information sheets, correspondence etc, and refreshments (tea/coffee). Provisional programme is as follows -

- Sat. 10.30 Introductory address and coffee.
11.00 - 12.45 approx Guest speakers from the Society & Demonstrations etc.
12.45 - 14.00 Lunch (Bring sandwiches or use local facilities)
14.00 - 15.30 Practical workshop - mounting techniques and demonstrations
15.30 - 16.00 Tea
16.00 - Informal swap session, evening meal followed by discussions / slides etc.
- Sun. 10.30 Informal chat session and coffee
11.00 - 12.30 Guest speakers and demonstrations - photography etc.
12.30 - Depart for field excursion (packed lunch required)
16.00 Return to Museum - Tea and closing review.
17.00 Symposium ends.

PLEASE NOTE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A SHORT TALK (say 30 -45 mins) on a micromount related topic of your choice e.g. a mineral group, a mining area you know well, photography of m/m, microscopes etc. PLEASE CONTACT ROY STARKEY IMMEDIATELY - preferably by phone, so that we may finalise the programme. If you are able to mount a display of some sort e.g. mounting techniques, photography, trimming etc. please also let me know.

It is possible that we shall allow selling of micromounts at the Symposium if there is a demand for this - PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU INDICATE ACCORDINGLY ON THE ENCLOSED REPLY SLIP.

IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND THE SYMPOSIUM - PLEASE ENCLOSE A CHEQUE/ P.ORDER

WITH THE REPLY SLIP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. We shall be circulating information packs to registered members (who have paid the £2.00 fee) during August/September - this will hopefully include a finalised programme of events, details of how to find the museum, and advice on accomodation or campsites in the Matlock area.

Please cooperate and return the slip and your £2.00 NOW so that we may gauge support and start making firm arrangements with the museum etc.

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF MICROMOUNTERS

The 11th Edition will be published in September 1982, and it is proposed to submit our entire Directory for inclusion - for which there is no charge. If you DO NOT WISH your name to appear in the International Directory for any reason PLEASE advise me IMMEDIATELY. If we do not hear from you we shall assume that you wish to be included in the Int.Dir.

Any member who wishes to obtain a copy of the Int.Directory should write to the Editor - Randolph S. Rothschild, 2909 Woodvalley Drive, Baltimore, Maryland 21208, U.S.A. enclosing \$3.00 US. (You can readily get 3 \$1.00 bills from your local bank and this is cheaper than buying a money order).

MEMBERS' NOTES

G.Deverell of Southampton writes to say that he uses hardboard discs painted matt black, for mounting on, rather than plastic micromount boxes and stores the specimens in recessed trays rather like those in a coin cabinet. Each tray is covered by a perspex sheet to protect against dust. The hardboard discs have a cut-out portion to enable handling to be achieved with a pair of tongs. (See sketch). This method has the obvious advantage of better accessibility for photography. Ed.



Doug Morgan has asked that we mention his bench trimmer which many of you will have seen at Leicester. All those of you who ordered a trimmer from Doug will be pleased to know that production is going well, and given enough time you should be hearing from Doug in the not too distant future regarding delivery.

Neil Hubbard has just produced his first listing of Micromounts for sale. 65 types are listed from British and Worldwide localities. If you would like a copy please write to Rock Art, 4 Gypsy Lane, Leicester. Prices vary from 75p - £1, and a charge of 50p is made for p&p.

FORTHCOMING MINERAL SHOWS

Harrogate Gem & Mineral Fair 1982 - 28/29/30th August at the Crown Hotel, Harrogate, Yorkshire. Admission 60p adults; 20p children. Open 10.00 - 17.30 each day. Minerals, fossils, machinery etc. Organised by the BLMDA.

The Midlands Mineral & Gemshow 1982 - 25/26 September at the Crest Hotel, Hinckley Road, Coventry. M6 Junction 2. Minerals, fossils, gemstones equipment etc. Open 10.00 - 18.00 each day. Information Tel: 0207-32590.

BOOK NEWS

A Systematic Classification of Non-silicate minerals - by James A. Ferraiolo Dept. of Mineral Sciences, American Museum of Natural History. This is a reworking of the Dana classification including hundreds of new species. Copies are available by post @ \$11.05 postpaid, cont.

orders should be sent with remittance to : Ms Theresa DiMeola, Dept. of Library Services, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West @ 79 Street, New York, NY10024.

CLEANING TIP No.5

By John Mörگان.

A cleaning tip for collectors with oil problems. I collected some millerite from Derbyshire a while ago, but unfortunately a lot of it was coated with hydrocarbon deposits, (from thin oil to a hardened covering). These proved to be difficult to remove, not least because of the delicate millerite crystals, some of which are 25mm long. The millerite 'hairs' are growing on calcite crystals, so the use of any acid was out. The answer I found was a solvent called 'Inhibisol' (1:1:1 - Trichloroethane, if anyone needs to know!) It is the replacement for the poisonous Carbon Tetrachloride. Inhibisol is available as an aerosol can which means that a very fine mist of solvent can be sprayed on to the millerite without disturbing the crystals. The hydrocarbons simply dissolve away leaving the millerite a gleaming gold. Inhibisol evaporates away without leaving any residue, and is manufactured by: Bestobel Paints & Chemicals Ltd, of Mitcham, Surrey. I have tried other aerosol grease removers (usually from auto accessory shops) but none were as effective as Inhibisol.

OVERSEAS NEWS

We have received requests from the following people for exchange of micromount material. If you are interested please contact the individuals direct:-

Carlo Cassinelli
Via Friuli 86
20135 Milano
Italy

Offers much rare Italian and worldwide material e.g. Vigezzite, Peretaitite, Cannizzarite, Tiragalloite. also Austrian and Swiss alpine locality material.

Michel Mizrahl
Via Boscovich 17
20124 Milano
Italy

Offers a very comprehensive list of rare and varied species from Italian and other locations (5 pages+)

Andrea Manni
Viale B Bardanzellu 30/b
0015 Roma
Italy.

Offers augite, leucite, spinel, titanite, hauyne, thomsonite, melilite, akermanite, magnetite, apatite and many others.

Morris M. Gerber
1520 Ocean Avenue
Brooklyn
New York 11230
USA

Good listing of swaps available - specialises in Uranium, Phosphates, Zary Coppers, and is interested especially in Cornwall. Over 8000 mounted micros !

Donald J. Smoley
3401 Churchview Avenue
Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania
USA 15227

Good listing available of high quality xtlite material, mostly N. American but including some worldwide. Wants good xtlite micros from England and Europe. Offers clinoptilolite, kinkite, boleite, strunzite, faujasite, cookeite, pickeringite and many others.

Everett R. Hawkes
550 Princess Drive
Bathurst
New Brunswick E2A 2R3
Canada

Offers eastern Canada material including Francon Qry, St. Hilaire, Cobalt district, Bancroft. Wants British material.

We have just received a copy of Micronews - the Canadian Micromineral Association newsletter. Details of the Annual Conference with a special session on the minerals of Mont St.Hilaire are given together with an article on the derivation of mineral names. We shall be exchanging newsletters regularly with CMMA and wish them luck. They have about 175 members from all over Canada, and so if anyone wants to swap with Canadian collectors they can put you in touch ! Contact Muriel & Eric Wood, 3,Orangewood Cres. Agincourt,Ontario.M1W 1G5.

Horst Windisch sends 'Micro News and Views' from South Africa, and gives details of the various meetings and trips they have been doing, and includes another in a series of three articles on the Uranium Minerals of Shinkolobwe in Zaire, by Hugh Heron.

We are forming a library of overseas newsletters, and this will be available for consultation at the weekend symposium.

LATE DIRECTORY ENTRY

JOHN DICKINSON
35 GAYTON PARKWAY
GAYTON
WIRRAL
MERSEYSIDE
L60 3SY

Surface only,Worldwide,No specialist area,
No specialist group,Just starting m/m,
Vickers M69, Postal exchanges.
Liverpool Geological Society.

Tel: 051-342-2629

FINAL REMINDERS

Please ensure you return the enclosed reply slip IMMEDIATELY - even if you aren't coming to the field meeting or symposium, a negative reply is still helpful. No reply means uncertainty and gives us (the organisers) problems. Thankyou.

Please send in any news items, or articles for the next newsletter. Anything is welcome.

Please remember to send £2.00 with the reply slip if you are coming to the weekend symposium, make cheques payable to British Micromount Society - we now have a bank account!

We look forward to seeing you in Wales and or at Matlock. Please support the events if you can. Comments on the new format of the Directory are welcome, and suggestions for future additions would be appreciated.

As we are now coming into the summer field season - good hunting, and let us know what you find !

BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY, 15 WHITEHALL DRIVE, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS,
ENGLAND. DY1 2RD. Tel: 0384 - 59983

Reproduction of material freely encouraged - please acknowledge source.
Thankyou.

LATE EXTRA !

Robert Fisher
17 Gavin Drive, St.Catherines,
Ontario,L2M 2X8. Canada.
(Secretary of CMMA - see above)

Bob would like to establish contacts with UK collectors for exchanges, and has about 4000 mounted micros ! Write to him if you are interested. He hopes to be over in September 1982.