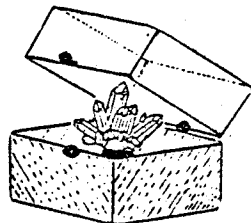


BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER No.5 - September 1982

The Society has had a particularly successful year, with a well supported stand at the British Mineral and Gemshow, the recent Field Meeting in Wales, publication of the enlarged second edition of the British Directory of Micromounters, and the prospect of the first ever British Micromount Symposium to be held in Matlock on 9/10th October. For a new organisation to enjoy such rapid success is surely a sign of greater things to come, and it is on this note that we should consider our future.

The newsletter has so far served mainly as a line of communication with the membership - which indeed it should, but what would you like to see? The original concept of the newsletter was that it would provide a forum for discussion amongst micromounters in the UK, it was hoped to publish short contributions from members on micromount related topics - localities, mounting techniques, photography, equipment and services. The possibilities for promoting exchange of specimens by post are obvious, and to this end we proposed a swap list edition last autumn - only 4 contributions were received! Does this mean that we are all happy with what we can collect ourselves? I doubt that there is anyone member who could not profit from exchanges with other collectors, and find personally that exchanges are the fastest way to acquire new and rare species.

All of these possibilities rely ultimately on YOU, the membership. The Society was founded to serve the interests of micromounters in the UK, and it is up to you, the membership to see that this comes about, both by voicing your opinions, and contributing items of news, and articles.

In this edition we are launching a new series, suggested by Trevor Wolloxall, and following on from Mike Bayley's original contribution in No.1 - British Micromount Localities. Every single member should be able to contribute something for this series of guides - PLEASE, put pen to paper now, and write something! Without your help, we cannot put together an interesting and informative newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.
Roy Starkey.

International Directory of Micromounters - As mentioned in the last newsletter, the 11th Edition will be published in September 1982, and we have submitted the entire British Directory for inclusion, with the exception of any persons who wrote and specifically asked not to be included. Copies are available at US \$3.00, from Randolph S Rothschild, 2909 Woodvalley Drive, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. 21208.

STOP PRESS..... STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS...
REPLY SLIPS NOT RETURNED...URGENTLY REQUIRED TO FINALISE ARRANGEMENTS..
16 MEMBERS NOT YET REPLIED...PLEASE SEND BY RETURN OF POST...FINAL
NUMBERS REQUIRED FOR SYMPOSIUM...Thankyou.

...see inside for details...

BRITISH MICROMOUNT SYMPOSIUM 9/10th OCTOBER

Arrangements for the symposium are well advanced, and all indications are that it will be an extremely successful and enjoyable weekend. So far, some 30 people have registered and paid the £2.00 fee. The programme has been finalised as shown below, and Elsie Hansford has done a first class job on the information pack for delegates, and duplicating of leaflets etc.

<u>Saturday 9th October</u>	<u>Sunday 10th October</u>
10.00 DOORS OPEN - Registration & Coffee	10.00 DOORS OPEN
10.30 INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS	10.30 INFORMAL DISCUSSION & COFFEE
10.45 'GOLD IN BRITAIN' - Eric Otty	11.00 'MICROMINERALS OF MILLCLOSE MINE, DERBYSHIRE' - Peter Braithwaite
11.15 'MICROMINERALS OF THE CALDBECK FELLS' - Trevor Wolloxall and David Middleton	11.30 'MICROSCOPES - CHOOSING and CARE OF' - Michael Edwards of Hampshire Micro, Basingstoke
12.15 'CATALOGUING TECHNIQUES FOR THE MICROMOUNTER' - Paul K Monk	12.15 'MINES & MINERALS OF EIRE' - Jean Spence
12.45 LUNCH (Bring sandwiches or use local facilities)	12.45 DEPART FOR FIELD EXCURSIONS (Packed lunch required - see notes*)
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13.45 'MINERALS OF ZAMBIA' - Mike Leppington	
14.15 'SIMPLE MINERAL OPTICS' - Doug Morgan	
14.45 PRACTICAL WORKSHOP	
- Mounting Techniques	
- Photography of micromounts	16.00 RETURN TO MUSEUM - Tea and Closing review
- Demonstrations	17.00 SYMPOSIUM ENDS
15.30 TEA	
16.00 INFORMAL SWAP SESSION (bring material for exchange or sale)	
17.30 EVENING MEAL (make own arrangements)	
19.00 'MICROMINERALS OF THE ISLAND OF SKYE' - Roy Starkey	
19.45 MEMBERS' SLIDE SHOW (please bring some slides)	
- Meeting closes	

If you wish to attend the symposium, and have not yet notified the organisers, PLEASE do so immediately, enclosing £2.00 with your reply slip from newsletter no.4. We need to make final arrangements regarding tea/coffee, seating and tables etc. Thankyou.

For those members who will be attending, Please Bring Your Microscope, DO bring some micro material for exchange, bring along any interesting items for discussion, and also any slides which may be of interest, for the Saturday evening slide show. Please bring extension leads, 3-way 13amp adapters etc if you have them.

SEE YOU THERE !

HAMPSHIRE MICRO - A NEW NAME , 'PROVIDING A SPECIALIST SERVICE' FOR THE NON - SPECIALIST'

It is always pleasing in these difficult times to hear of new enterprises starting up, and particularly so when the service offered relates to ones personal interests. Hampshire Micro have just set up as suppliers of microscopes and ancillary devices to the serious amateur market. The proprietors have long standing experience in the microscope field, and will be well placed to serve the needs of members from their offices in Basingstoke. The product range offered falls into several categories; some, directly imported will include step - change, zoom and interchangeable objective microscopes, both monocular and binocular. Polarising equipment is available as required. On the above items the company is kindly offering a 10% discount to BMS members.

Additionally, Hampshire Micro will be acting as agents for Prior Scientific, James Swift, Kyowa, Vickers Instruments, Pyser Swift, Zenith etc. The range here is very comprehensive, and although discounts will be considered, the level will be lower. Several ranges of magnifiers and handlenses are also included.

The BMS wishes Hampshire Micro every success, and looks forward to their attendance at the British Micromount Symposium in October.

ANNUAL FIELD MEETING 14/15th AUGUST

Bright sunshine and blue sky complemented the scenery of the Nant-y-Moch reservoir, surrounded by its innumerable regimented rows of Forestry Commission conifers, on Saturday morning. By about 10.30am, seventeen members and friends had assembled at Eaglebrook Mine, and tailgates and car boots were flung open amidst enthusiastic cries of 'where's the 'ammer !', and 'what have you done with my boots !?' The party moved down onto the spoilheap, knees bent, eyes down, hammers at the ready. Any self respecting mineral specimen would surely have gone running for cover! It wasn't long however before Linarite was turned up in nice blue sprays of microcrystals, and cerussite, malachite and chalcopyrite were not hard to find. Sulphides included sphalerite and galena, and ankerite and quartz were noted in abundance. The enthusiasts had just started shaft sinking operations when a voice from the top of the spoilheap challenged our right to be there ! Unfortunately we had not realised that the open spoilheap was under the jurisdiction of the Forestry Commission, and so had not sought permission. After some delicate negotiations we were eventually allowed to stay, but in future if any member wishes to collect at Eaglebrook, YOU MUST SEEK PERMISSION from: Mr Jones, Head Forester, Forestry Lodge, Talybont. - in advance.

Lunch was eaten on the roadside, and we then moved on to Brynrafr where some nice quartz with inclusions was collected, along with marcasite, and Neil Hubbard unearthed several acicular crystals of a bronzy sulphide - possibly millerite. As we walked back to the cars, the entomologists spotted a butterfly colony on a thistle clump, and all mention of minerals momentarily gave way to such terms as 'Painted Lady' and 'Peacock'. Camdwrbach Mine, our next stop was not particularly rich in specimen material, but several micro pieces of cuprite and native copper were collected. The final site of the day was Egeaifraith Mine, but although the dumps have been extensively disturbed nothing much of interest was collected.

Participants started leaving for home in the late afternoon, and those staying a second day retired to the local hostelry in Ponterwyd to pass the evening talking minerals and mining.

Overnight rain greeted the campers with soggy tents and a muddy field the next morning, but the weather brightened towards 10.00am as we set off for Glogfach and Glogfawr Mines.

Our number reduced to 10 woolly clad stalwarts (yes, the weather had changed), we set off in search of wulfenite. We had not long left the cars when spots of rain warned of a cloudburst, and the party wisely donned waterproofs. Seconds later we were drowned, and conditions considerably hampered our collecting, as driving rain fell on hand lenses and specimens, obscuring everything under droplets of water. Several wulfenites were claimed, but none definitely confirmed in the field. Other finds included pyromorphite and cerussite. The party retreated to the cars, and predictably - the rain stopped! We moved on to Logaulas, a mine very famous in its heyday for superb cerussite specimens. Cerussite we did find, but the matrix was friable and large specimens were hard to come by. Lunch was eaten at Frongoch Mine, followed by a short stop for good, large cerussite crystals. Several nice specimens were collected, before moving onto Cwmystwyth Mine for the last stop of the weekend. Four members braved the icy water of Bonsall's Level Fawr, and spent an hour or so collecting underground. Nice hemimorphite micros were collected, and galena and sphalerite also recorded. The party dispersed about 4.30pm, the meeting ending as it had begun - in bright sunshine. A good time was had by all, and the potential of the mid-Wales area for micromount material was amply demonstrated. See you all next year ?

A WORD OF WARNING ! - spotted in the Journal of the Quekett Microscopical Club. " The Microscope 1798 - With a microscope you see the surface of things. It magnifies them but does not show you reality. It makes things seem higher and wider. But do not suppose you are seeing things in themselves " Feng-shen Yin Te.1771-1810

HELP WANTED

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

Mrs Tonny Brinkman
17 Cheviot Street
Mangere East
Auckland
New Zealand

Erich Grundel
3701 S.5th Street
Apt. # 509
Arlington
Virginia
USA 22204

Offers good selectⁿ
inc. cookeite,
spangolite, topaz,
spessartine, zircon,
mimetite, copper,
serandite, uvite,
larger specs. also
available.

OVERSEAS NEWS

Micro News and Views from the S.African society includes the final part of Hugh Heron's article on Shinkolobwe, together with an extensive reference list. Nine members attended their May 'at-home' meeting, and at the July meeting, a 'mass swap' was held with a 100 specimens (10 of a kind) being supplied by a club in Melbourne, Australia. A successful field trip has been held to Stavoren - finds included olivenite, malachite, azurite, scorodite, aurichalcite, and many 'unknowns' - the latter is a species often encountered at British localities (Ed.)

The latest Canadian Micromineral Association Newsletter includes an interesting discussion of limonite pseudomorphing pyritohedral pyrite from Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. A calendar of events in the Canadian mineral world is listed, and John Sinkankas has supplied two locality tips for collecting on the Pacific Coast.

CHANGE OF VENUE - The Midlands Mineral & Gemshow 1982 will not now be held at the Crest Hotel, Coventry. The show is now due to be held at the Coventry Allesley Hotel, Birmingham Rd, Allesley. 25/26 Sept. 10.0-6.00. Contact C.F. Wilkinson for details (0207 32590).

by Trevor Wolloxall.

LOCATION.

Wheal Edward is situated North West of St Just and West of Botallack at grid ref; 362 328. The derelict engine houses overlook the sea midway between the Crowns rock and the ruins of Kenidjack Castle.

The mine is reached by turning off the coast road B3306 at Botallack and following the tarmac road to grid ref; 366 33I where a left turn is taken onto a dirt track. The dirt track is then followed for approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile until the derelict engine houses are reached.

SURFACE REMAINS.

The two remaining engine houses are small by Cornish standards which indicates the impermeable nature of the granite country rock, which did not require the large scale de-watering that other Cornish mines of the day needed.

There were two incline shafts, the Cardognagh and the Wheal Edward of which the Wheal Edward incline is the only one still visible today. Also visible are several large spoil heaps which occasionally yield some interesting micro-mount size mineral specimens, the most productive of the spoil heaps is at the far end of the dirt track.

MINERALS. (U) = collectable underground (D) = Collectable on dumps.

Meta-Zeunerite. (U).

Occurs in light green tabular crystals up to $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in size. It is particularly abundant at the bottom of the air shaft. See diagram.

Torbernite. (U).

Also occurs at the bottom of the air shaft in the form of green tabular crystals up to a $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in size. It is very difficult to distinguish from Meta - Zeunerite

ZIPPAEITE (U).

Occurs in small micro sized botryodal crusts pale yellow in colour, and is found between the joint faces of the country rock. When examined under the microscope small radiating needles are observed.

Connelite/Tallingite (U).

Is found as small micro sized crusts the colour ranging from dark to light blue between the joint faces of the country rock. The coatings and crusts appear to be botryodal in form under close examination.

Meta-Saleeite. (U).

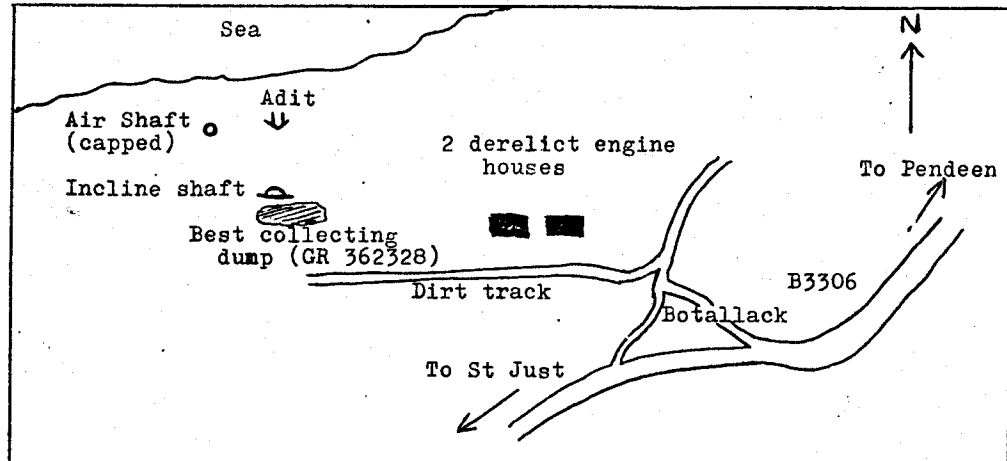
It is found as small pale yellow crystals up to $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in size. Can be detected with the aid of U/V lamp.

Goethite (D).

Is found as beautiful hair brown sprays on quartz and makes excellent micro mounts. It is obtained by breaking down the large number of hematite boulders that are evident on the dumps.

(Editor's note - we would welcome any similar contributions from members, please keep to one A4 page approx of typescript, and provide a sketchmap - see overleaf).

Location map for Wheal Edward.



VISITING LECTURE SERVICE

As discussed at the Leicester Show in March, it is proposed that the Society offers a visiting lecture service to other Societies and Clubs, and to this end two sets of slides illustrating the preparation of a micromount have been produced. These sets of slides will be available for loan, either to members for the purpose of giving talks, in the role of guest speaker, or to clubs wishing to borrow them together with accompanying explanatory notes. It is envisaged that members will take along a microscope and some micros to provide some practical back up to the talk and slideshow. We obviously have to recoup the outlay on the slides, and for this reason we shall be charging £1.50 for the hire of the slides, i.e. members must collect this amount over and above any personal expenses incurred. So far talks have been given to the West Midlands Mineral and Gemstone Society, the North Worcestershire Mineral and Lapidary Society, and another is programmed for the Birmingham branch of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain. If you are prepared to offer your services as a guest speaker, please let me know as soon as possible, giving details of the geographical area you feel that you can cover e.g. 50 mile radius of Manchester. Thankyou.R.Starkey.

FINAL REMINDERS

Please send in any items of news, short articles, locality features, cleaning tips etc., for the next newsletter - anything welcome. We shall be trying to publish a bumper swap list edition again at Xmas, but unless the response is better than last year, the idea is not viable. Everyone has spare material, so please put pen to paper, and SEND IN YOUR SWAP LIST - and WANTS LIST ! Deadline for next newsletter 20th Nov.

We look forward to seeing you in Matlock - remember to bring your microscope, some micros for exchange, and slides etc of interest. Please arrive early if you can on both the Saturday and Sunday.

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ENGLAND. DY1 2RD. Tel: 0384 - 59983

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Thankyou.