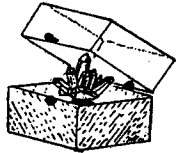


# BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER No.7 March 1983

As we approach this year's British Mineral and Gemshow, in London at the end of March, it is time to reflect upon the beginnings and aims of the BMS, founded two years ago this month.

A nucleus of interested parties numbering about 30, banded together to provide the basis for the first British Directory of Micromounters in 1981. Following the publication of the Directory, which is now in its second edition, the growth in membership has continued unabated, totalling 70 at the end of January 1983. This in itself is a remarkable achievement for a Society which represents an activity barely recognised in the UK two years ago. However, a more striking and important observation is the very high degree of active membership as demonstrated by the success of the First British Micromount Symposium last October, for which well over 50% of the Society managed to turn up, in spite of the travelling distances involved. Long may this enthusiasm continue, for without it the Society cannot exist. Please allow your interest to extend to the Newsletter also - any contributions will be gratefully received, and jottings or notes, comments and criticisms will be just as welcome as short articles or news items. 'DON'T DELAY - WRITE NOW, TODAY !

We look forward to meeting you all at the Society stand adjacent to the entrance to the Club area at the British Mineral and Gemshow (see later in this issue), and also to seeing you on the Annual Field Excursion to the Lake District in May, or at the Second British Micromount Symposium in Leicester on 1st/2nd October 1983. Please note that a reply slip is enclosed relating to all of these events, YOUR HELP IN RETURNING THIS PROMPTLY WILL BE APPRECIATED. Thankyou.

## OVERSEAS NEWS

The South African Micromount Society has written twice regarding the possibility of organising a mass-swap with BMS members. The idea is popular with many other national micromount organisations. Horst Windisch explains the routine as follows: "Ten members of your Society each supply 10 U.K. micro specimens (of the same species) to a central coordinator, who then sends this parcel off to me by airmail small packet. i.e. packet contains 100 specimens 10 of each kind. We do the same on our side and send off the parcel of South African material to the central coordinator. The packets are then distributed amongst the members on each side either by post or by arranging a meeting locally. We have found this a very successful way of trading overseas in the USA, Canada, Australia, and find that each member can generally locate ten specimens of the same kind more easily than ten different."

Would anyone like to volunteer to act as coordinator for this event? I am personally unable to offer my services as the BMS already takes up all my spare time. Perhaps the Symposium would form a good target

date for a first packet - in which case the numbers of specimens could probably be higher. Alternatively where there are several members living in close proximity e.g London, Midlands, Leicester etc perhaps local groups might club together. Horst Windisch's address is : 30, Van Wouw St, Groenkloof, Pretoria, South Africa. 0181.

Also from the SAMS comes their latest newsletter with an article on the Miarolitic Cavities in the Golden Horn Batholith, Washington State, USA. A wide variety of interesting species are recorded - Acmite, Allanite, Astrophyllite, Bastnaesite, Elpidite, Gadolinite, Gagarinite, Magnesioriebeckite, Okanoganite and very attractive quartz crystals.

The SAMS also offered some comments on our article regarding a code of practice for exchanges - the only feedback we've yet had incidentally - come on you Britishers ! In brief - packaging is very important, prefer to have specimens and labels packed together, keep careful records of all despatches and receipts. viz. - Record the name & locality, and give each specimen a rating 3 stars excellent, 2 stars - good, 1 star-acceptable, no stars - rubbish !

Stichting Geologische Aktiviteiten - Ries van Schaik writes from Holland, representing micromounters in the above society. They are also keen to participate in a mass swap, and would like to exchange ten to twenty specimens at a time - and seek clarification of what we in the UK define as a micro. Again - volunteers please - write to F.M.A. van Schaik, Dukasstraat 18, 1962 AH Heemskerk, Netherlands.

The Canadian Micromineral Association newsletter has a fascinating article by Nick Facciola - Modern chemistry is always coming up with new and innovative products to lighten the drudgery of household chores. One of the latest products carries the trademark of '2000 Flushes' automatic toilet bowl cleaner, manufactured by Flusho Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. The plastic container is placed inside the cistern under water. When the bowl is flushed, certain chemicals (the manufacturer doesn't say which) are released, mixing with the water and thus cleaning the bowl on the way.

While replacing the spent container in my cistern at home, I spotted some residue lying in the bottom of the tank. I carefully removed some of this, rewashed it and dried it. The material included approximately 300 angular fragments and perfect rhombs of calcite, mica, norbergite, hornblende, actinolite, pyrite and possibly a few others. All of the fragments definitely originated from Limecrest Quarry, Sparta, New Jersey. .... and some people think minerals don't occupy an important place in our lives ! Any British equivalents ? Ed.

BROKEN HILL-AUSTRALIA - A new publication 'Minerals of Broken Hill' celebrates the centenary of the discovery of the fabulous ore deposit and is a tribute to the locality. The book provides a comprehensive description of all minerals reported, in over 100,000 words, complemented by 170 colour photographs, and over 100 crystal diagrams. Many of the species have never before been photographed or drawn cartographically. Historical and geological aspects of the ore body are discussed, and a bibliography of more than 500 entries provides further research opportunities. The book is well produced, and follows in the footsteps of the classic Min. Record 'Tsumeb Issue', only the book is bound in hard covers and is approximately twice as thick. A very nice 'coffee table book', and an invaluable reference work for Broken Hill enthusiasts. This is sure to become a collectors item in years to come. Copies are available from Dr R. Harker, Lythe Minerals, 2 Wellsic Lane, Rothley, Leics. LE7 7QB. PRICE £32.50

BRITISH MINERAL & GEMSHOW

This event is being staged at the Holiday Inn, Swiss Cottage, King Henry's Road, London NW3 3ST. Dates are Sat/Sun 26th/27th March 1983, 10.00-6.00 and 10.00-5.00. Admission is 75p. The BMS is putting on a display, and volunteers are required to man the stand during the weekend - i.e. IF YOU ARE COMING TO THE SHOW, please come and do a 1 hour stint, or more if you can. It is very enjoyable meeting other collectors, and the interest of the public at Leicester last year was considerable. Please bring your microscope and some micros for display if you can.

Do please complete the enclosed reply slip and return it today - thanks.

ANNUAL FIELD MEETING Leaders D.Middleton, T.Wolloxall, R.Starkey.

This will take place in the English Lake District over the May Day weekend - 30th April/ 1st & 2nd May. Details are as follows:

Sat. 30th Meet at the junction of Grainsgill Beck and the River Caldew grid ref: NY327326 at 10.00am prompt. We shall be moving off almost immediately.

Sun. 1st Meet at Fellside grid ref: NY304374. (PLEASE TAKE CARE TO PARK TIDILY & DO NOT CAUSE A DISTURBANCE.) at 10.00am prompt. Again we shall be moving off from here almost immediately

Mon. 2nd Meet at the ford over Carrock Beck grid ref: NY350350 at 10.00am prompt. The day will finish early at about 3.0pm for the journey home.

PLEASE NOTE: The area is mountainous, and stout footwear will be required, together with good waterproof clothing, warm sweaters etc. Itineraries will be constructed to suit the abilities of the party, but will generally involve up to 5 miles walking and a gain of height in the region of 1000 feet maximum. This should be within the comfortable ability of most people. Packed lunches are required. The 1:25000 scale (2 1/2 inch) O.S. Map sheet NY33 will be found very useful for the weekend. Recommended reading: Mining in the Lake Counties by W.T.Shaw, published by Dalesman.

The Caldbeck Fells area is one of outstanding geological interest, and features of note will be discussed during the course of the weekend. Specific petrological / geological information and guidance will be available throughout the weekend.

The recommended campsite is Hutton Moor End Farm, Troutbeck, Cumbria. Telephone Threlkeld 615. Located just south of the main A66 Penrith - Keswick road, 7 miles east of Keswick. If arriving after dark, the turning is easily located - directly opposite the road to Mungrisdale (signposted on the right). Turn left, and the site entrance is about 300 yards on the left, just beyond the farm. Facilities are very good. The site also has two static caravans available for hire (6 berth) - available for £45 and £40 per week. To book contact Mrs Bell, The Wath, Caldbeck, Cumbria. CA7 8E7. Tel: Caldbeck 204. Accommodation is also available at the Mill Inn, Mungrisdale, nr Penrith, Cumbria. (N.B. Campsite grid ref: NY365271)

SPECIAL NOTE The weekend will necessarily take place within the Lake District National Park, where special provisions relating to mineral collecting are in force. Negotiations are in progress with the Park Special Planning Board, and we should have a good weekend. It is MOST IMPORTANT that the leaders instructions are followed without dispute, and that no bad publicity should result from our visit. We look forward to seeing you there - and again PLEASE RETURN THE REPLY SLIP so we can gauge numbers etc. Contact Roy Starkey in case of difficulty.

SECOND BRITISH MICROMOUNT SYMPOSIUM - 1983

The 1983 Symposium will be held in the Department of Geology, University of Leicester on Sat/Sun 1st & 2nd October. The format will be similar to last year, although details are not yet finalised. Lessons learnt last year should help to ensure that the 1983 event is even more successful, and certainly the additional bench space for swapping and microscopes, plus the benefit of two separate rooms for lectures and practical work will prove most popular. Numbers of delegates will be limited, and registration is invited immediately. Please send cheque / postal order with booking, made payable to British Micromount Society. Registration Fees £5.00 per person, £7.00 for husband & wife. Free refreshments will be provided during the weekend, but not Sat/Sun lunch, nor Sat evening meal. It is proposed to make a block booking at an adjacent eating establishment for Saturday evening meal - please indicate if you wish to participate on the reply slip. Further details will be circulated to delegates with the information pack during the summer. If you are interested in giving a short talk or demonstration please write giving details. All offers will be considered, but the organisers reserve the right to edit or balance the programme as necessary. If you would like to speak PLEASE LET ROY STARKEY KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Thankyou.

FOR SALE

Boxed sets of 8 good quality Cornish Micros, including Apatite, Scorodite, Pyromorphite, Heulandite, Goethite, Pharmacosiderite, Childrenite, Francolite. All well crystallised. Price £3.50 post paid. Contact Roy Starkey. (address in Directory)

Irish Zeolites - many available including recent new minerals. Contact Harry Foy, 19 Wynard Park, Belfast, BT5 6NS. N. Ireland. Telephone 0232-795117 evenings. Prices 30p - £1.00 approx.

ULTRA-VIOLET LAMPS - I have approached Ultra-Violet Products Ltd, regarding possible discounts for BMS members when purchasing UV lamps, and am pleased to be able to report that a discount of 25% will be allowed when ordering 5 or more units. This is an extremely generous offer, and I am sure that many members will be interested in taking advantage of it. Please write direct to UVP for details of the product range and prices, mentioning BMS. The address is: Paul C Ellwood, Sales Manager, Ultra-Violet Products Ltd., Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 4BN. Members living in close proximity should therefore decide their requirements and place a joint order. Ed.

Simkev Minerals - The latest listing includes Boulangerite, Collinsite, Hutchinsonite, Kidwellite, Matulaite, Vauxite, and a fine selection of species from the Franklin-Sterling Hill area, New Jersey, USA. If you would like a copy of the list contact Rod Lee, 942 Chevrolet St. Oshawa, Ontario, L1G 4H8. Canada. Tel. (416) 728-4727.

MICRO-TRIMMER- Doug Morgan tells me that another batch of micro trimmers will be available during March 1983. Price is £15.50 each, plus £1.20 postage.

If you want a trimmer please contact Doug without delay as only a limited number are available.

A.D.Morgan, 44 Norman Rd, Northfield, Birmingham. B31 2EW.

N.B over twenty of these trimmers are now in use by BMS members !

BRITISH MICRO LOCALITIES - No.3 Loanhead Quarry

by Max Wirth

Grid Ref. Sheet 64

NS365555

The prehnite from quarries around Glasgow has long been sought after by collectors, but the best known of these, Boyleston in Barrhead has been out of production for several years now. Another quarry has proved even more fruitful to the few mad mineral hunters in Scotland, this is Loanhead quarry near Beith, some 15 miles SW of Glasgow. The carboniferous age basalt had a fault line running through its middle though this is hardly discernible now. Until a few years ago the entrance to the quarry was too dangerous to allow collecting, but it is now quite safe (as operating quarries go !). Permission to collect must be obtained in advance from the owners : Kings & Co.Ltd, 19 Woodside Crescent, Glasgow G3. My friends and I only collect on a Sunday when little work is done.

Prehnite is found in a variety of forms and is generally too large for micromounting. However some pieces have exceptionally well formed individual small prehnite crystals and the prehnite itself may support beautiful little calcite or analcime crystals.

Thomsonite is represented in all sizes from flat sprays 50cm long down to micro-vughs with beautifully crisp needles. Thomsonite in the 2cm size range comes in sprays of roughly square section prisms with multiple terminations, often speckled with minute brown to green garnets. These garnets sometimes adorn pseudomorphs of 'something' after analcime. The tiny thomsonite vughs may also be associated with bright green epidote blades and a hairy amphibole which I believe to be anthophyllite.

The rarest mineral is greenockite and indeed we have only found about three grains so far. It is well crystallised but completely embedded in matrix between the basalt and the prehnite or calcite. These grains are maybe 1-2mm in size, cloven (or should it be cleaved?) and of course bright orange ... the only way they are spotted.

An interesting and somewhat unexpected find was harmotome in a twinned form much resembling phillipsite. The Royal Scottish Museum confirmed it as harmotome. I have only found two specimens mm-size tetragonal prisms with the twinned termination and sitting on prehnite.

I also found a hairy specimen of natrolite but I am not proud of it. Quartz contains the nice little dagger shaped goethite needles. In some places chalcocite with associated malachite staining occurs, but not in micromounting quality. Analcime is also generally too large and of poor quality.

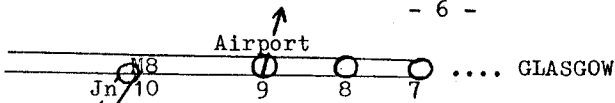
All in all this is a very good hunting ground and my micros still contain some things I have not identified.

If you are in the neighbourhood, go to the Gateside Quarry about two miles further SW (NS373534). I have never asked for permission since most of it is abandoned. This is a limestone quarry full of fossils. The inside of some fossil shells are lined with brown calcite or aragonite, on which sits perfect quartz, on which are tiny white pimples (sprays at x40) of strontianite.

PTO for location map ....

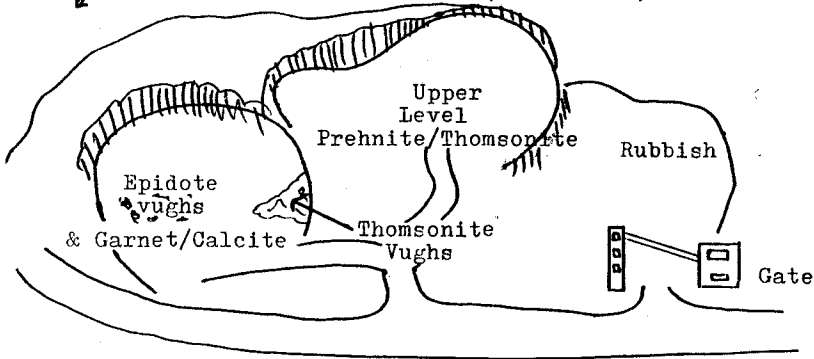
SUBSCRIPTIONS ! If YOU have not yet paid your 1983 subscription (£3.00) please do so today. This is the final reminder. Thankyou.

SERVICES TO MEMBERS The newsletter exists for your benefit. If you have something for sale or want to buy/exchange etc, please write & tell us - no charge for insertion. Microscopes, specimens etc -



Signposted to Beith 14 miles, via Linwood, Johnstone.

One mile before Beith Loanhead Quarry is clearly visible on the left hand side (south side) of the road.



Location Map for Loanhead Quarry. NS 365555.

# Hampshire Micro

57 NEW MARKET SQ., BASINGSTOKE,  
HAMPSHIRE, RG21 1HW, ENGLAND  
TELEPHONE (0256) 62871

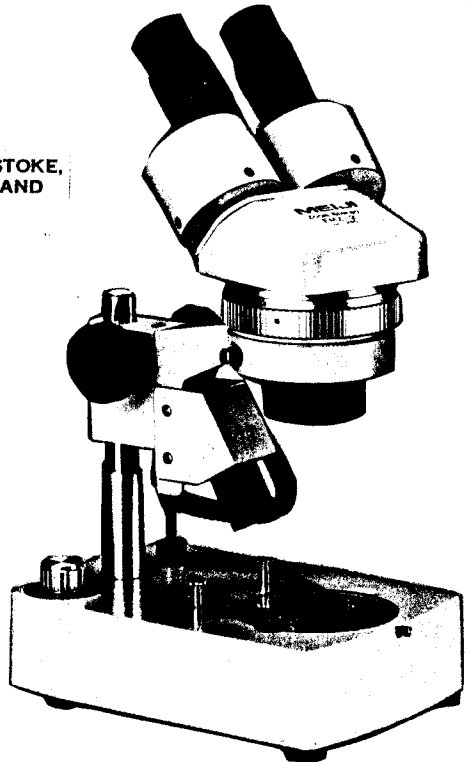
Hampshire Micro specialize in the supply of stereomicroscopes, compound microscopes, micro light sources and general microscope accessories to the dedicated amateur.

We understand the particular needs of the amateur and are happy to advise on the choice of new equipment or the repair and maintenance of existing microscopes.

10% discounts available on list prices

to MicroMount Society Members:

Full details on application.



Hampshire Micro will be at the BM & GS in London 26/27th March 1983.

MINE OF INFORMATION - £1.20

I recently came across a most useful publication in W.H.Smith, it is 'Museums & Galleries in Great Britain & Ireland', published by ABC Historic Publications, World Timetable Centre, Church St, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. LU5 4HB. ISBN 0 900 486 34 1.

The booklet contains 128 pages packed with information regarding locations of museums and galleries, opening times, items on display or in reference collections. An alphabetic listing is supplemented by a gazetteer and a subject index. Over 100 local museums with geology/mineralogy exhibits are listed, and this should form a good basis for private research prior to, or whilst on field excursions. Telephone numbers are provided, and presumably a quick 'phone call will establish contact with the person curating the geological items and establish what is available in the way of information and expertise.

I am a firm believer in seeking out one's own localities from the scientific literature and museums etc, and commend this as being the best way of discovering new and exciting finds. The guide is to be recommended.  
R.S.

BRITISH MICRO LOCALITIES - No. 5

Porthkerris Quarries

by Paul K Monk

Grid Ref; Sheet 204  
SW 806 231

These quarries are abandoned and are next to the sea on the eastern side of the Lizard, Cornwall. Access is open but complicated.

From St. Keverne, take road to Porthoustock. Then on Porthoustock to Porthallow road take very narrow turning to Pencra Head. (801223). Continue past M.O.D. Radar Station. The road soon becomes VERY steep and continues down the cliff. Park in the vicinity of the M.O.D. Torpedo Testing Range Station. The quarries are to the north of the station.

Geology. The rock is mainly the Traboe type hornblende schist, with a small area of serpentinite to the north at Porthallow.

- Minerals. 1. Small perfectly formed red adularia crystals are found on joint faces.
2. Calcite encrusts some adularia.

Safety. The quarry faces seem very stable, but I am not certain of the status of the area during torpedo firing trials !

CORRECTION PLEASE !

Max Wirth has written to say that the micro identified as ? Phillipsite has been examined by the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh, and is in fact another variety of Thomsonite. Apparently Phillipsite has not been authenticated from Scotland. Many thanks to Max for this information - please change your labels ! The above note refers to Roy Starkey's micro sets from Isle of Skye.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1983 !

IF A RED 'X' APPEARS HERE  YOU HAVE NOT YET PAID THE SUBSCRIPTION FOR 1983. PLEASE FORWARD £3.00 IMMEDIATELY. THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER YOU RECEIVE IF PAYMENT IS NOT MADE. THANKS.

THIRD SUPPLEMENTARY LIST TO THE 2nd EDITION OF THE DIRECTORY.

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No spec. group; 6 years;1 year m/m;  
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East Kilbride  
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& Lap Soc.,Scotland Min & Lap Club.

Michael Edwards  
57 New Market Square  
Basingstoke  
Hampshire RG21 1HW  
Tel. 0256 62871

Surface only;British only; No spec.  
area/group;Just starting m/m;  
Meiji zoom; Fellow of Royal  
Microscopical Society.

Ammendments:

Richard & Bridget Belson have moved from 9 to 11,Waldemar Avenue,  
Norwich.

Steve Dyson to read Mr & Mrs Steve & Debra Dyson.

Mrs D.H.Merritt to read Mr & Mrs C.P. & D.H. Merritt.

FINAL REMINDERS !

1. Subscriptions - please pay NOW if yours is outstanding (see page 7).
2. Please let Roy Starkey know if you would like to volunteer to organise a first 'Mass Swap'.
3. PLEASE return the reply slip today ! It will greatly help in organising & planning of events.
4. We look forward to seeing you at our stand at the British Mineral & Gem Show in London - please bring a microscope if you can help on the stand for a short time. All offers appreciated!
5. We hope to see you on the Field Excursion and at the Second British Micromount Symposium - remember registration opens now !

As we are now heading out of the darkness of winter and into the light evenings again, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a successful 1983 in the field, and hope that you will let us know of your finds. All contributions for the next newsletter gratefully received. Roy Starkey.

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

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