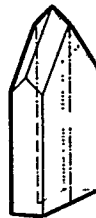
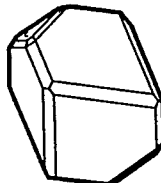
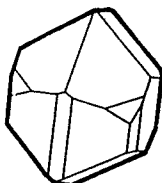
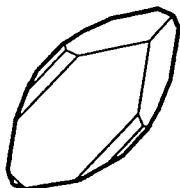




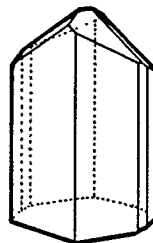
MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND



NORTHEAST MEETING

May 1, 1982

Science Museum, Springfield, MA



PROGRAM

- 9:30 Registration
10:00 Informal Session
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Presentation:

NON-PEGMATITE PHOSPHATE MINERALS

by

Dr. William Henderson, Jr.

- 2:00 Informal Session
4:00 Departure

President - Mrs. Gerry Lindeyer

Vice President - Norman Biggart

Secretary - Mrs. Janet Cares

Treasurer - Ralph Carr, Jr.

Bulletin Editor - John Anderson

Additional Information _____

Mrs. Janet Cares, 18 Singletary Lane, Sudbury, MA 01776 • (617) 443-9180

GUEST SPEAKER - William A. (Bill) Henderson, Jr.

B. A. Harvard University, 1954
M.S. Yale University, 1956
Ph.D. Yale University, 1959



Senior Research Chemist
American Cyanamid Co.
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Micromounter since 1958. Author of articles in "Rocks & Minerals" and "Mineralogical Record". Author of Micromounter column.

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The Micromounters of New England is an informal group with the common interests of collecting, viewing, mounting, studying, grading, and identifying microminerals. Our relatively unstructured meetings may be held in private homes, public halls, churches, or university facilities. Usually on Saturday, though occasionally on a Sunday, members start arriving at the appointed place as early as 9AM, armed with microscopes, lights, assorted known or unknown micros, and usually a brown bag lunch. There is rarely a formal program, though sometimes one locality such as Mt. St. Hilaire, Fracon, or Palermo may be designated for particular attention. At times members may show slides or give a demonstration of special techniques of specimen mounting, testing, photographing, etc.

Though a relatively small group (less than 40) membership participation is high, with more than half the members showing up at each meeting. Our six or more meetings per year are usually alternated between Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Thus every member, no matter how remote, is sure to find at least one meeting close enough to attend. One of the highlights of the year is our July meeting at the home of John and Martha Reiner on the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee. Weather permitting, we set up tables, chairs, and scopes outdoors for mineral work, stop for a pot luck lunch provided mostly by our host and hostess with the help of members, and in the afternoon may have a cooling swim in the lake. After an evening of conversation or slides, we retire early to prepare for a day of collecting at nearby Palermo to round out the weekend. August finds a number of our members setup at the Sunapee Show by invitation of the Capital Mineral Club of Concord, New Hampshire.

Our newsletter, ably edited by John Anderson since 1976, announces the time and place of the next meeting and miscellaneous news items. Additional information may be added on new minerals, tips on equipment, mounting, identification, book reviews, and other matters of interest.

We are able to boast that three of our members have had minerals named after them. All are phosphate minerals found at the Palermo Mine, North Groton, New Hampshire, and described by Paul Moore and his associates from the University of Chicago. Bjarebyte is named after our first Vice President, Gunnar Bjareby, whom the authors call "among the most outstanding of 20th century amateur mineralogists". He was a keen sight identifier and helpful to others with their unknowns. His passing, soon after formation of the Micromounters of New England, was a great loss.

Foggite is named for Forrest Fogg, former co-owner of the Palermo Mine, and described as a "collector of micromounts who has greatly advanced our knowledge of the practically unique Palermo paragenesis". Last, but not least is Whitmoreite, named for Bob Whitmore, the present owner. Of him,

the authors say "Motivated by a keen interest in secondary phosphates; he quite literally overturned the dumps of the abandoned Fletcher pegmatite, bringing to light many fine specimens representing the complex phosphate paragenesis of a now classic locality."

The first meeting of our group was November 6, 1966, attended by enthusiasts from various New England states and beyond. In January of the following year, a constitution was adopted, the present name approved, and a slate of officers elected. Heading the slate was Gilbert George, who perhaps more than anyone else was responsible for organizing the MMNE, and who remains active today. As Vice President we chose the late Gunnar Bjareby, and as Treasurer the late Walter Chick. Effie Grey was Recording Secretary and Ralph Carr Corresponding Secretary, a position he still retains. Besides Gil and Ralph there are three other charter members who remain active in the club: Fred Colby and Steve and Janet (then Miss Walkley) Cares.

Among our memories are: Gil George's early writeups on Rhode Island roadcuts, St. Hilaire, and Palermo, complete with excellent crystal drawings....Informative talks by Gunnar Bjareby on mineral recognition.....Collecting trips to St. Hilaire, Palermo, and other localities.....Gil's slides of St. Hilaire micros.....Finding a choice specimen in the giveaways supplied by the Cares' and others.....Visits by Neal Yedlin, "Mr. Micromounter".....Mineral swaps by mail with other clubs.....Pete Dunn's talks and demonstrations during meetings at Boston University before Pete's departure for fame and fortune at the Smithsonian.....Collecting at Grant's Mills, Rhode Island for parisite and what we then called danalite, later found to be genthelvite.....Visits by Paul Moore to our gathering at the Sunapee Show.....The conception and planning for our Northeast Meeting at the Springfield Science Museum, May 1, 1982.

Janet Cares

THOUGHTS OF A NEW MICROMOUNTER

Patricia Barker

I have always been rather smug about the fact that I have been a mineral collector from childhood. Often people say to me, "I was stationed in good collecting areas during my military service, but I wasn't interested in minerals then, unfortunately." Or, "In my childhood I lived in such and such a place but never knew anything about the minerals found there." Happily, I have always been interested in minerals and have missed very few opportunities to collect.

But, in another way, I have been missing the boat. In 1948, 1949, and the early '50's when, as a member of the Boston Mineral Club, I went on field trips to Ruggles, Palermo, Newry, etc., in kid-like fashion, I was only interested in big showy specimens. I recall how Gunnar Bjareby used to try to encourage me to collect the choice and rare micros available in New England. How I wish I had listened!

In college I became especially interested in chemical and optical mineralogy. It would have been a good opportunity then to pick up a secondhand scope, but I was collecting more and more hand-sized specimens, and there never seemed to be time enough to get them incorporated into my elaborate cataloging system. And it was easy, if trite, to say, "I only like specimens I can see."

All my married life I have had a steady selection of worldwide collecting areas available. I thought I had all I could handle to keep up with macro-specimens, let alone worrying about micros. But later I had several opportunities in England and Germany to become friendly with micromounters and learn the advantages of collecting minute specimens from traditionally "all-worked-out" areas. Now, at a rather belated hour, I have seen the handwriting on the wall.

After a lifetime of collecting minerals, It took a certain amount of courage on my part to admit that I didn't know the least thing about this new facet of mineral collecting. Micro-minerals seemed as strange and unidentifiable as if I had suddenly taken up fossil collecting and tried to learn all about paleontology in one crash program!

Thanks to John and Margaret Stewart, Steve and Janet Cares, John Reiner and others in the New England Micromounters, I am slowly learning, by studying their give-aways, to recognize more and more minerals.

What a struggle I'm having, learning to recognize old familiar minerals in new and strange guises. What a problem mounting the wretched little objects! All the wonder glues known to modern science can't seem to help me. No sooner do I get a tiny crystal gloriously oriented and seemingly set

on its cork stand, when over it slides, a hideous mess of semi-wet glue. All my efforts at trimming specimens seem to lead to disaster, too, and the precious crystals fly off into space, never to be seen again.

But I'm going to stick with micro-mineral collecting, despite the frustrations. As more and more mines are closing, as costs of traveling to collecting areas mount, and as space in my home diminishes, I really am committed to this hobby! For as long as there is a road-cut somewhere or an old quarry dump, there will be tiny crystals waiting to be collected.

Patricia Barker

SWAPPING MICROMOUNTS

John Renier

As Micromounters, let us take a trip around the world. For many years I have greatly enjoyed swapping minerals with people. Through the listings of those collectors of other lands who desire to learn more about and acquire more minerals, fossils or rocks you may find helpful these few ideas I pass on to you.

I have used two very good sources of information about people wishing to trade. Rocks and Minerals Magazine has a 'swapping corner listing people interested in contacting other collectors. My other source is the International Thumbnail Mineral Collectors, Inc. This is a world-wide group of people who correspond and swap with each other. Many of these folks meet at the Tucson Show each year. Others who travel world-wide find many friends in other countries who would be happy to help them explore their mineral collecting areas.

I have served as Vice-president and at present as NE - USA Regional Director of ITNMC, Inc. I find it a fine organization to belong to. Many hundreds of my Thumbnails of Micro specimens have been acquired through this group. At present I am trading with collectors in Italy, France, England, Germany and Czechoslovakia. Many of my minerals from Australia and New Zealand are the result of trades with the Curator of New Zealand's Mineral Museum along with three other people of New Zealand, all members of ITNMC.

As I am interested in Phosphates, I now have several hundred fine specimens from foreign lands. Why not give it a try?

Historical Notes on —
THE HARVARD MICROMOUNT COLLECTION

Carl A. Francis

Harvard University has had a significant micromount collection since 1913 when the A.F. Holden Collection was received by bequest. Albert Fairchild Holden, a member of the class of 1888, became interested in minerals while managing mining properties in Utah and began collecting minerals in 1895. Being a man of means (the Holden family still owns the CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER) he was able to assemble an important collection in the eighteen years before his untimely death at age 47.

It had long been Holden's intention to leave his collection to his Alma Mater, so he corresponded regularly with Professor Wolff, Palache's predecessor as curator, to avoid acquiring specimens already represented at Harvard. A perusal of his catalogues shows that many specimens were obtained from the then prominent mineral dealers Lazard Cahn and A. H. Petereit. When the collection arrived in 1913, it comprised, "about six thousand specimens, of which four hundred are large-size exhibition type, and the remainder smaller, mostly crystals or groups. It is very complete as regards species and varieties, and in general has a very high standard of excellence, with many unique specimens or sets." (Mineralogical Magazine 17, 117-118)

Holden's micromount collection has an interesting history. According to Dr. L. C. Wills (Rocks & Minerals, 1931), George Washington Fiss and the Reverend George Rakestraw began micromounting independently in the Philadelphia area in 1870. In 1897 Rakestraw sold many of his choice mounts to Clarence S. Bement who used them as the nucleus of his own extensive collection. (Bement assembled a magnificent collection of hand specimens which was given to the American Museum of Natural History by J. P. Morgan in 1901.) Bement also arranged to have Fiss prepare mounts for him. The best were returned to Bement and duplicates were retained by Fiss. In 1911 Fiss bought Bement's micromount collection and culled from it those specimens which were superior to his own. For these, he substituted his inferior duplicates and sold the Bement-Fiss Collection of 2,300 mounts representing 475 species to Holden. (The Fiss Collection is now at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.)

Holden did actively increase the collection. He had a special cabinet with very shallow drawers built and his own label printed for the "rakestraw" lids. He even had a checklist for his collection - some 60 years before Fleischer's Glossary of Mineral Species appeared. Holden used the two-inch thick bound catalogue of the Foote Mineral Company to keep track of the species he had represented.

The collection was kept in Professor Palache's (later Prof. Hurlbut's) office until the recent remodelling on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the museum building. There is some evidence that Palache used and enlarged the collection. Specifically, there are a substantial number of mounts labeled in the

same handwriting, dated in the mid-twenties to late thirties, and carrying the names of such prominent collectors as W.C.Hart, F. J. Keeley, J. Melhase, and L. C. Wills. These apparently are mounts made by Lazard Cahn (American Mineralogist 26, 174-177). Palache writes, "I was able to send him from time to time material of new minerals or new finds to add to this collection. Not only did he write most appreciately of such additions but never failed to return to our collection some of the best mounts."

After the retirement of Professor Palache, the collection was little used until the mid-1960's when it was viewed by Neal Yedlin. He wrote enthusiastically about it (Rocks and Minerals 40, 347-348) and concluded, "When Arem completes his work - i.e., cataloguing - this collection should again be classed as one of the foremost 'originals' in the country."

Responding to what he perceived as a serious erosion in the descriptive aspects of mineralogy in the late 1960's following the overwhelming success of the Apollo program, Prof. Frondel lent to Julius Weber the entire micromount collection to assist in the preparation of the illustrations for the ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MINERALS. Frondel's magnanimity in making such an unprecedented loan reflected the importance he attached to the project. In the foreword to the ENCYCLOPEDIA he stated it clearly:

For those to whom recourse to mineral collections is inconvenient or, in the case of rare minerals, unavailing, or for those who wish only a quick reference or overview, the color plates of this useful encyclopedia are invaluable.

The collection was returned in 1979 in disarray. Mrs. Hurlbut completely realphabetized it and Walter Bagley continues the cataloguing. Although it remains available for use, the Bement-Fiss- Holden-Harvard Collection is now considered an historical collection and will be preserved essentially as is.

Micromounts, particularly those of rare species, remain an important part of the Museum's collections. A new collection has been started and, as a result of gifts from Walter Bagley, Janet and Steve Cares, Forrest Fogg and Bob Whitmore, now numbers about 250 mounts. There is every prospect for the collection to grow, increasing in species and locality representation, increasing in quality, and hence increasing in usefulness.

Micromounters are invited to consult the Museum's collection and contribute to it as opportunity permits.

Carl A. Francis

PHOSPHATES IN QUARTZ

Bob Whitmore

In 1979 I started to explore the quartz core at Palermo. The reason - there was a small dump just South of a large Albite XL' that was producing good goyazite XL's in 1978. A number of mineral collectors dug here all summer.

During that year we found several very good mineral specimens including hydroxylapatite, childrenite goyazite, hydroxylherderite, mitridatite, and wardite. All these pockets were in Quartz.

First we had to blow down the large albite XL; the estimated weight was 125 tons. This filled the huge hole very fast. By the time I was getting Quartz pockets the hole was fully filled. The next step - we hired a front loader to take the rubble out to the dump. The pit was very high and the work was slow. It wasn't like the first time we cleaned the pit. Then we had a man who knew his machine and worked with ease, but this time the operator didn't know how to work in a mine - and I was paying for it. This was rough...no minerals and the cost was high. I decided to stop work that year and wait for Spring.

In the Spring of 1979 a beryl company offered to buy beryl at 55¢/lb. if I would ship 15 tons. While working the Quartz I collected beryl all summer. By the end of November I had collected about 7 tons. Chandler Mining Co. also saved beryl that year. They collected about 10 tons. We went to the beryl company telling them we had their ore. This turned out to be a disappointment. They told us they now wanted 30 tons before doing business.

The best thing that happened that year was collecting some phosphates in hydro-thermal veins. These were next to the beryl seam. We hit a large pocket of hydroxyl herderite XL's. Some XL's were up to 1/2 inch long and of red, brown color.

I found two different habits of XL's. This pocket was on the contact with Quartz and the secondary zone. There were other pockets of herderite in beryl XL's, and had bertrandite with them. Also in the secondary zone itself there were pockets of moraesite which were the best I have ever seen at Palermo.

In the Spring of 1980 I was anxious to get back to the Quartz pockets. This turned out to be the most productive year I had in finding good minerals. The Quartz started to produce super good XL's of goyazite, apatite, childrenite, hydroxyl-herderite, strunzite and wardite. I have never seen strunzite in Quartz before this year. It was something new and interesting to me.

The goyazite XL's were up to 5/8" in size. Quartz pockets up to the size of soft balls with apatite XL's almost an inch long. Most of the time you could find Brazilianites sprinkled all around on the Quartz XL's. This was a good year.

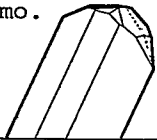
In 1981 I continued in the same area of Quartz. Still finding good goyazite, apatite and brazilianites. But now I have the pit filled again so I must pay for the fun I've had for the past two years.

I do have some new ideas for exploration in 1982 and 1983. For example; pump out 40 feet of water and explore the largest quartz pocket I have ever seen at Palermo. Two people could work in it and never get in each other's way. This is where the francolite XL's came from in 1958. Or, I could work another triphylite XL that I've been hiding for the last two years.

There are still many fine minerals to be found at Palermo.

Bob Whitmore

Whitmoreite



TIPS ON COLLECTING MICROMINERALS AT NEWRY, MAINE

Vandall T. King

The pegmatites at Newry, Maine have yielded about 117 different species. Some are very rare and are known in a single specimen while others can be found without much searching. The key to successful mineral collecting everywhere is to become familiar with the appropriate matrix in which minerals of interest are found. "Newry, Maine: A pegmatite phosphate locality" (Miner. Rec. V.6. page 189 - 205) describes many of the phosphates at Newry.

The principle matrixes which provide interesting microminerals at Newry are:

1. Cleavelandite
2. Beryllonite
3. Blue massive Elbaite with Siderite
4. Lepidolite
5. Siderite without Elbaite

Massive triphylite-lithiophilite is not an important source of microminerals at Newry.

1. Cleavelandite variety of albite is abundant at the Nevel Quarry, Dunton Gem Mine and Rose Quartz Crystal areas. The blades of feldspar join together and form cavities where late minerals crystallized. The prevalent minerals found in the interstices include; quartz, fluorapatite, hydroxly-herderite, lepidolite, etc.

2. Beryllonite is an unusual mineral which is found in few localities. At the localities it does occur, little alteration is found. At Newry unaltered material is the exception. The mass is usually vuggy and a definite sequence of alteration is found.
 - a. Original tan to pale yellow beryllonite.
 - b. Amber botryoidal hydroxyl-herderite.
 - c. Red-brown to brown botryoidal or crystallized iron-rich roscherite.
 - d. White acicular non-fluorescent moraesite.
 - e. White acicular green fluorescent uralolite.
 - f. White transparent bundles of hydroxyl-apatite acicular crystals.
3. Blue massive elbaite is found in distinctive vug-lining specimens at several localities; notably Varutrask, Sweden; Sapucaia, Minas Gerais, Brazil; and Newry. These vugs at Newry contain a distinctive suite; white quartz, rose quartz, rhodochrosite, siderite, diadochite, autunite, arsenopyrite, pyrite, fairfieldite, chalcopyrite, etc.
4. Lepodolite is abundant in the replacement units at the Dunton Quarry. Included within this material are; beryllonite masses, cassiterite, manganotantalite, microlite, cassiterite, quartz, albite, etc.
5. Siderite without elbaite is a distinctive matrix. For the most part, the previous matrixes were mostly found at the Dunton Quarry. Siderite there can produce strunzite, laueite, and fairfieldite-messelite. At the Bell pit a host of fine microminerals are found in it including; siderite crystals!, fairfieldite-messelite, montebrasite, eosphorite, fluorapatite, hydroxyl-apatite, wardite, perhamite, rochbridgeite, strunzite, jahnsite, whitmoreite, augelite, goyazite, etc.

Most of the microminerals at Newry are phosphates. The crystals actually embedded in matrix have not yet been mentioned. Many additional minerals of this type are found in cleavelandite. Some of the minerals mentioned here are not restricted to any one matrix but may be prevalently found in one.

Vandall T. King

NOTES ON MICROMOUNTING IN RHODE ISLAND

Gil George

Mineral collecting in Rhode Island during the heyday of the massive federal road construction (when I first started) was very good. Many of the old collecting sites were barely scratched and there were few collectors around. It was an easy matter to find most of the minerals listed for an area. Many of the dumps had not been touched. Now the sheer numbers of collectors have depleted the easily found specimens - not that all the dumps are depleted of good micromount material! The dumps of most sites still contain much good material, but now one has to work harder to find it. The real problem is that many of the areas are now posted and closed to collecting. Homes have been constructed close to many of the areas and people do not want strangers roaming around their land.

Many sites were closed to collectors because of a few over ambitious collectors. The distinction between merely collecting and mining is a fine line. Any collector using hand tools has been considered a collector and those that used dynamite was considered a miner, actually anyone cutting into solid rock should be considered a miner. Mining someone's property without permission has led to many areas being posted and closed to collecting. Every year we hear of someone raping another site and of that site being closed to collecting, and yet without these people, many of the outstanding specimens of recent years would not have ever been found and therefore lost to science.

Road building in the United States certainly brought the study of the sciences to the forefront in past years. The blasting of rocks for the superhighways opened up many sites to collecting. Anyone who had the time and interest found many outstanding specimens at these road cuts. This meant walking many miles and closely observing the rocks for pockets. Every spare moment had to be spent looking over freshly blasted rock! For almost as soon as an area had been blasted, it was scooped up and dumped in a low area and immediately covered! I have often wondered how many rare and outstanding mineral specimens were lost to science in this manner. The men blasting the rock had neither the time or the knowledge to know what they were blasting. A similar situation occurs when rock is blasted for road metal or for crushed stone or aggregate.

During this time, many more people became interested in the sciences by increased exposure to the growing numbers of collectors. This led to weekly field trips which ultimately led to the closing of many of the sites. When I first started, mineral specimens cost little and many could be bought and broken up into micromounts. Then the prices got out of hand and soon even micromount specimens cost more than the old hand specimens used to. There used to be many more micromount dealers in the past than there are now. The high cost of postage and the cost of transportation to get to the collecting sites has led many former dealers to stop

selling. Many former collectors found that the only way to continue to build up their collections was to turn to a dealer and to sell their surplus specimens. As long as advanced collectors with money to spend can be found, the high price of specimens will continue.

The sites of road cuts in Rhode Island that were memorable are route 113 at Grant Mills in Cumberland, route 102 in Burrillville; route 195 in Johnston; route 295 in Cranston; Smithfield and Lincoln; route 95 & 295 in Warwick; route 95 in Warwick; also in E. Greenwich, in Richmond and in Hopkington!

Route 113 at Grant Mills in Cumberland produced large and outstanding specimens of genthelvite (formerly called danalite), as well as many outstanding micromounts of anatase, brookite and parisite. Micros of genthelvite and parisite can still be collected here, with diligent searching. Genthelvite in large crystals were also found nearby in the outcrops of the Quincy granite. They can still be found deep in the woods of the area—the only problem is, like most of the East, the land is private property and is being developed as homesites. No systematic search was ever conducted of the area, but minor looking produced large crystals in a quartz vein.

Route 102 in Burrillville produced many interesting specimens, but no longer. Route 195 in Johnston produced specimens of scheelite, talc and wolframite—but no longer. Route 295 produced many outstanding specimens—but no longer. The interesting specimens were cerrusite, pyromorphite and wulfenite from an altering lead vein. Route 95 also produced many good specimens at different locations—but no longer. The Westerly bypass was one of the best areas in recent years in the number of different minerals found. Many of these minerals were noted as being found in the granite quarries of the area, when they were being worked. These quarries like many other areas are closed to collectors. The minerals found that were of interest are allanite (in large crystals), chabacite, garnet, laumontite, olivine, prehnite and many more.

One of the most common and yet outstanding minerals found in micro specimens in Rhode Island has to be anatase and brookite. These are found from end to end of the state in many locations. They are formed from the alterations of the primary mineral ilmenite, which seems to be found in much of the rock of Rhode Island. Most of the sites where it was found are depleted, except for the sites on route 122 and 295.

The future of mineral collecting in Rhode Island as well as everywhere else seems to be greatly reduced, with the closing of many of the collecting sites and the stopping of the road programs. Future collecting seems to be restricted to new construction sites and, even here, vandalism has made many construction

firms hesitant to allow collecting and, of course, insurance companies frown on collecting too. This does not leave much to the old time collector. In fact, even fee sites are few and becoming fewer as the high price of energy, blasting and labor continues to rise. I am glad that I started when conditions were so much easier.

Gil George



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