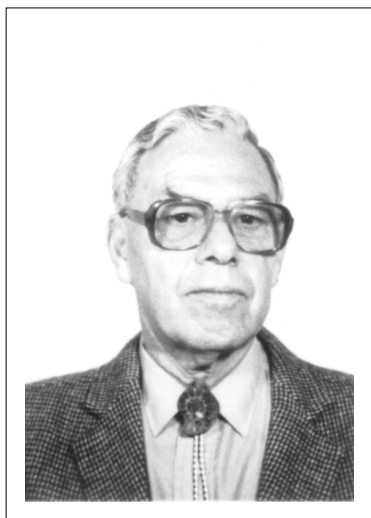


# Micromounters Hall of Fame

## Alexander Kipfer

1922-1998

Inducted in 1989



An avid mineral collector, Alexander Kipfer was in good part responsible for the explosion of interest in micromounting in Europe. Best known in the United States through his 1972 book *The Micromounter*, which had an initial printing of 7,000 copies. This book, his 1974 book *A New Hobby: Micromounts*, and in the same year his *Mineral Index* were all influential in bringing the hobby to many others.

In addition, he published numerous papers on mineralogical subjects. He maintained regular correspondence or personal friendships with many micromounters including several of those already elected to the Micromounters Hall of Fame.

A resident of Switzerland since 1928, in 1962 he began to specialize in the collecting of micromounts of Swiss minerals at a time when micromounting was unknown in Europe.

In 1983, pressed by poor health, he gave his “scientific sample collections” to the Museum of Natural History in Berne, Switzerland. Certain sample sets went to interested private collections and his systematic collection to a Munich dealer.

He continued to conduct research on the history of mining. He has been or is a member of: Studienkreis Zürcher Mineraliensammler, Swiss Association of Mineral Collectors (SVSM), Friends of Mineralogy and Geology, Federal Republic of Germany (VFMG), Swiss Society of Mineralogy and Petrography (SMPG), Urner Mineral Friends, Switzerland (UMF), Swiss Society for Research on the History of Mining (SOHB).