

Micromounters Hall of Fame

Ben Chromy

1904-1985

Inducted 1982



His early interest in crystallography led to visits to the Smithsonian's Mineral Hall and to membership in a mineral club. Later he was co-organizer, first secretary and president (1954) of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

His initial exposure to micromounting came during World War II with the acquisition of a micromount collection. It had belonged to a Butte, Montana geologist.

He was a regular contributor of articles in hobby magazines. For years, he authored a regular column for micromounters entitled "the wee ones."

A noted photomicrographer, he illustrated his lectures and articles. Pleasure was given to his friends at Christmas time when they received a color photograph of one of his specimens. His micromount exhibits were unique, typically of micromounts in boxes plus back-lighted color slides together with an enlarged photograph of each specimen. They won many awards.

He led in presenting the story of micromounting to the various federations of mineralogical societies. Ben was the donor of the original micromounters trophy for the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). This award was a stimulus to the hobby.

For many years, he has given lectures about micromounts, illustrated with his color slides, to mineral clubs, and to major and local shows.

Ben has been equally generous to his micromounter friends, to schools and club groups, especially in sharing specimens and knowledge with the young and the beginner. His collection of micromounts, all superb examples of the art, exceeds 3,000 specimens.