

Micromounters Hall of Fame

Richard W. Thomssen

Inducted in 1985



One of the very few professional geologists who is also a micromounter, Dick Thomssen has contributed significantly to mineralogy as well as to micromounting.

His first mineral specimen was collected at the age of nine, and he was using his own Dana's System, Vol. 1 at fourteen. At fifteen he "graduated" from cabinet specimens to micromounts using his own stereo-microscope.

He has collected at many of the classic mineral localities in North America and has written articles on several of them, including specific minerals for which a locality is noted.

He co-authored the description of two new mineral species: brannockite and yedlinite.

As an associate editor, then President [1984-1988] of the Mineralogical Record, Inc. Dick has made noteworthy contributions to the development of this world-renowned mineral magazine. He also has collected at little-known mines and prospects, sharing his knowledge of them among his many friends, and frequently sharing mineral specimens as well.

Dick, like the late Neal Yedlin, is a "people person" who enjoys talking about micromounting and minerals, giving information and advice from his considerable store of professional and hobby knowledge. He is among the top practitioners of the micromounting art, indeed he may well be the very best.

A great many micromounters are fortunate to have received one of his superb mounts with its near-perfect hand lettered label. Dick is considered by many to be the micromounter's micromounter.