

Micromounters Hall of Fame

Dr. Carl A. Rilling

1910-1970

“Old Timer” Inducted in 2014



Dr. Carl A. Rilling was a family physician by profession and a micromounter by preference. A member and past president of the Pennsylvania Mineralogical Society and a member of the Leidy Microscopical Society, he was one of the greats of the hobby in the mid-twentieth century, joining other luminaries such as Paul and Hilde Seel, Paul Desautels, Bill Hunt, Bill Yost, and Neal Yedlin when micromounting was rising to a peak of interest and popularity.

Dr. Rilling was an excellent field collector and maker of micromounts, but he made his greatest impact in his associated hobby of photomicrography. In an era just coming to grips with the capabilities of modern cameras he designed and developed his own equipment and techniques for the production not only of superb photomicrographs, but of the three dimensional photography of microminerals. He applied this technology not only to his own collection, but also to that of the Leidy Microscopical Society and of many of his colleagues. He created beautiful stereophotomicrographs of more than 550 specimens of the famous Frank J. Keeley micromount collection.

One of his prime interests was in teaching micromounting to others and promoting the hobby. To that end he created a collection of slides covering the process he used and developed an entire presentation that he gave to interested audiences. His stereo 3D presentations of mineral photomicrographs were welcome at many venues. His slides and equipment still exist.

As a collector, teacher, and pioneer in the field of three-dimensional photomicrography of mineral specimens, Dr. Carl A. Rilling has earned his place in the Micromounters' Hall of Fame.