

# Micromounters Hall of Fame

## Alfred Gunnar Bjareby

1899-1967

“Old Timer” Inducted in 1985



Gunnar Bjareby began collecting minerals as a boy in his native Sweden. Emigrating to Boston, he spent much of his spare time studying minerals, viewing museum collections and collecting at localities accessible by streetcar, bus or on foot.

An artist by profession he became a micromounter through the appreciation of the beauty of crystallized minerals that were too small to see without a microscope.

He played an essential role in the founding of the Micromounters of New England.

In a series of articles in *Rocks and Minerals* magazine (between 1959 and 1964) he recounted fifty years of mineral collecting. On organized field trips he could often be seen identifying minerals for others, and was noted for his encouragement and for sharing of his knowledge with the beginner.

Gunnar was an avid trader of mineral specimens, enhanced by his ability to read and write in several languages. His remarkable correspondence, such as that with the late Neal Yedlin, often included his beautiful, detailed drawings in color of mineral specimens. Gunnar's micromounts were housed in small cardboard boxes which he made.

His micromount duplicates were cemented to handwritten labels which were shared primarily with New England micromounters, students and novice mineral collectors. In 1973, bjarebyite, a Palermo mine micro-phosphate mineral was named in his honor.

His micromount collection, representing over 1,000 mineral species, went to the University of Chicago.