

# Micromounters Hall of Fame

## Paul Desautels

1920-1991

Inducted in 1981



A mineral collector, Paul was converted to micromounting in 1944 through association with Paul Seel while both were studying at the University of Pennsylvania.

Paul was a Chemistry Professor at Towson State College in Baltimore, Maryland when in 1951 he founded the Baltimore Mineral Society. The Society has become a world leader in micromounting. Later, in 1957, he organized the annual Baltimore Micromount Symposia, the initial one being held at Towson State College.

He was a perennial lecturer on mineralogical themes at the Baltimore Micromount Symposia, Pacific Coast Micromount Conferences, Tucson Gem and Mineral Shows and at uncounted other mineral shows, symposia and mineralogical events. He developed a series of slide programs on subjects that included twinning, pseudomorphs and micromounting which were made available to mineral clubs by the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Paul imparted more mineralogical knowledge to micromounters than any other person. He changed careers in 1958 when he accepted a position at the Smithsonian Institute where he became Curator of Gems and Minerals for the National Museum of Natural History.

His micromount collection, noted for the perfection of each mount, was given to the Smithsonian where it forms the nucleus of the micromount collection of the National Museum of Natural History.