

Micromounters Hall of Fame

Paul Seel

1904-1982

Inducted in 1981



A mineral collector since boyhood in Germany, Paul acquired his first micromounts from John Grenzig in 1928 and became an ardent micromounter in 1938 with acquisition of his first microscope.

A president of the venerable Leidy Microscopical Society, Paul served as curator of the important F. J. Keeley Micromount Collection.

He was president of both the Eastern Federation and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. He inaugurated micromount workshops at the American Federation's annual gem and mineral shows. His activities included lectures at mineral symposia, mineral clubs, mineral shows and strong support of the Baltimore Micromount Symposia.

His specialized collections of diamonds and quartz are superb. An authority on both minerals, his diamond crystal collection is the world's largest. He developed a slide program on diamonds incorporating his original sketches which are classic and now reside at the Denver Museum of Natural History. The program was widely distributed through the various Federations of Mineralogical Societies, and others.

Paul, a resident of Philadelphia, the "cradle" of micromounting, gathered an important collection of micromounting memorabilia, including Zentmayer and R. J. Beck microscopes, various micromounting accessories, tools, and micromounts made by early micromounters and famous mineral collectors. He also has compiled historical data on micromounting and micromounters.