Micromounters Hall of Fame

Philip Evanoff "Old Timer" Inducted in 1996



Phil went on his first mineral collecting trip to the talc quarry in Miquon, Pennsylvania, on July 4, 1933. He found a one inch magnetite crystal. Four days later, he was hooked when he found a 1 x 11/2 inch tourmaline (schorl) crystal at the famous Leiper Quarry in Avondale, Pennsylvania. Later, he collected his first micro crystals on the dumps of the classic Wheatly Mine near Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. By early 1936, he had built a small micro collection without owning a microscope. In the summer of 1936, he met William (Bill) Van Horn and began attending meetings of the "Tuesday Night Club." From Bill, Phil learned various techniques of preparing and mounting micromounts as well as how to make micromount boxes and cabinets.

Perhaps more importantly, he learned the esthetics of crystals, which made for a deep appreciation of beautifully crystallized micromounts.

Micromounters Hall of fame members Bill Hunt and Bill Yost were contemporaries in Philadelphia area micromounting. Phil has a micromount collection of over 8,000 catalogued specimens, with about 2,000 awaiting work to add to the collection, Species total about 625 (limited to esthetic or well formed single crystals). New additions were acquired by trade, field collecting,, or purchase of matrix containing micros. Phil regularly attends micromount conferences in California, Tucson, Canada, Cleveland, and Baltimore. he has made presentations at the Cleveland and Canadian conferences, several Ohio mineral clubs, and the Indiana Chapter of F. M. Phil is known among his peers as a micromounter's micromounter, and noted for his extensive experience in micromounting. He is also an honorary lifetime member of the Leidy Microscopical Society of Philadelphia.