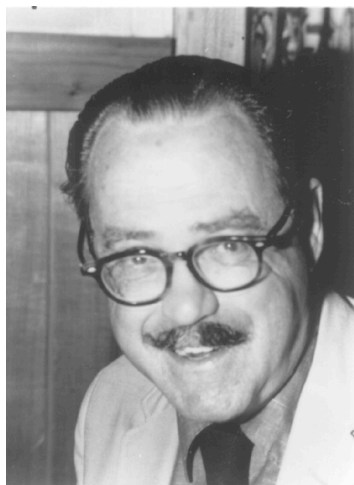


# Micromounters Hall of Fame

## Philip Cosminsky

1906-1981

“Old Timer” Inducted in 1984



Phil Cosminsky became interested in minerals early in life. The northern Virginia trap rock quarries were near his Falls Church, Virginia home. They are noted for micro minerals, especially zeolites, and collecting there doubtless had much to do with his bent toward micromounting.

As an enthusiastic field collector he visited classic localities of Eastern North America, and contributed articles on them to “Rocks and Minerals Magazine”. Most active micromounters of the 1940’s and 1950’s have a prized micromount with Phil Cosminsky’s name on the label.

Although often acquired in trade, in the true micromounter tradition if one had nothing to trade, he received a fine Cosminsky micromount anyway; indeed Phil sought out those relatively new in the hobby, not only to share specimens but to share knowledge.

Phil was a strong supporter of the early Baltimore Micromount Symposia where his humorous lectures were eagerly awaited.

Health problems in his later years made field collecting and attending symposia virtually impossible; nevertheless he continued to make significant contributions to micromounting and mineralogy. After moving to Harrisonburg, Virginia, he learned that James Madison University needed study specimens for their mineralogical collections. Contacting his many friends about this need resulted in a fine response. Additionally he obtained or mounted over 800 micromounts for the University and built a cabinet to house them. He also gave seminars on mineral collecting and micromounting to the University Geology Club.

Phil was a superb cabinetmaker; fortunate indeed were the micromounters who persuaded him to build them a cabinet. His micromount collection, housed in exquisite walnut and rosewood cabinets, is now at James Madison University.