

Micromounters Hall of Fame

Stephen Whitney & Janet Walkley Cares

Stephen: 1909-2006; Janet: 1921-2011

Inducted in 1999



Stephen and Janet began mineral collecting independently and became micromounters primarily through the influence of the late Gunnar Bjareby. Just before their marriage in 1967, they became charter members of the Micromounters of New England (MNE). They specialize in the microminerals of Mont Saint-Hilaire, Palermo, and the Black Hills of South Dakota. They were the first to report several minerals new to Mont Saint-Hilaire, and some new to science. The mineral caresite-3T, which they collected at the locality, is named for them.

Steve established a contemporary micromount collection at Harvard University with over 6,000 mounts, many donated by the Cares. He overseaw giveaways for MNE, contributing many of his own or Janet's specimens. He was known for his talent in mineral recognition, aided by study of his collection of about 6,000 specimens, mostly self collected. For viewing convenience, he devised a small miter box to enable him to cut pedestals so that all specimens were at a relatively uniform height.

Janet's collection of 1,100 specimens was in slightly larger boxes than usual, but required magnification for full appreciation. Her main interest was in developing simple tests for microminerals using readily available chemicals and equipment. Janet served as treasurer of the Micromounters of New England for a number of years, and in 1982 was one of the organizers of their now annual Northeast Meeting. She entered all of Harvard's contemporary mounts, in addition to over 3,000 historic mounts, into a computer database.

Together, they donated most of their larger specimens to Harvard University, where their micromounts are now housed.