

## Museum Notes

A gift of approximately 10,000 fine rock, mineral, and fossil specimens was presented to the Iowa State Museum at the Historical Building recently. This collection is the result of 16 years of effort by Mr. and Mrs. Hubert W. Ward, of Des Moines, and was donated in memory of Mrs. Ward who passed away in December of 1961.

In 1945, the Wards became interested in the hobby of rock collecting, and spent many of their vacations and weekends traveling about the United States in search of rare and beautiful rocks and minerals. They helped to organize and became charter members of the Central Iowa Rock and Mineral Society. Sometimes buying and trading, but more often finding their specimens on their numerous field trips, they gradually accumulated through the years an impressive and valuable collection which contains material from nearly every state and from many foreign countries.

Of particular interest in the collection are fine specimens of crystalline quartz, fluorite, and selenite, some of which were formed in the shape of flowers. Mrs. Ward became skillful at cutting and polishing thin sections of the rock and prepared many pieces of petrified wood and agate in this manner.

Not wishing to have their work eventually go piecemeal to various collectors, the Wards agreed that it should be given to a museum. Mrs. Ward was particularly interested in placing the collection which contains a large amount of Iowa material in the Iowa State Museum in Des Moines, where it could be used to teach young people in the identification and importance of our mineral resources.

A number of the finest specimens will soon be placed on permanent display and much of the remainder will be utilized in study collections for the use of school groups.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.