



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY Pennsylvania Chapter NEWSLETTER

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THE JAY LININGER AUCTION at GETTYSBURG, PA.

by Arnold Mogel

Last week it was my privilege to participate in and auction off the Minerals from Jay's life-long collecting. By far, it was one of the best Mineral Collections of Pennsylvania Minerals ever assembled by a private collector!



The work began some time back, beginning with the preparation and packing of the collection, then transporting it to the Yingling Auction House in Gettysburg, PA. I got involved on Wednesday, May 4th, arriving early in the morning to help load the trucks. The day was bright and sunny - a bit cool. I was thankful for this. Late morning, we all arrived at the Auction House. Unpacking began and the task of arranging the lots of minerals into numeric order ruled the day. The next two days were used to finish getting ready for the auction and, of course, previewing the collection.

Many of the FM membership came by to preview the sale. Some introduced themselves to me, and many pleasant conversations ensued. By

auction time on Friday afternoon you could cut the tension with a knife, as bidding was about to begin. All sat in silence, as Paula Lininger thanked all who had helped with preparing Jay's collection to sell. The audience listened, half wondering if they'd get lot 561, lot 234, or whatever.

Paula then said, "Let the games begin!" The auctioneer took his cue, and began to sing out the bidding price "give me 30", "I have 30", "give me 40", and so it went lot after endless lot. A day and a half later, at 4PM. on Saturday, all had been sold. People paid their bids, shook hands and began to depart.

All left with something, if they didn't take specimens, they took memories. Some said it was the auction of a lifetime - others felt it was the auction of a life. Me, I figure Jay just had one last way of bringing the Mineral Collector Community together for one great last bash, and had a few laughs doing it!

