

Smith family donates mineral museum to YSU

By JIM CALKO
Jambar Reporter

More than 42 years ago, Clarence R. Smith, Sr. started a collection with one mineral from Arizona. Today he has more than 300 rocks, gems and minerals on display in the new Clarence R. Smith Mineral Museum in Moser Hall, the engineering building.

This collection contains many of the world's rare gemstones, such as a 119-carat, Golden Scapolite from Tanzania. There are also diamonds and other gemstones.

The exhibit features fine gemstones only available to collectors such as fluorite, a bluish-green stone.

The exhibit also includes several prehistoric fossil displays. They include a fossilized elephant

tusk, *Therizinosarus* (a cretaceous period dinosaur) eggs, a footprint of an unknown dinosaur and a blue whale flipper.

In addition there is a set of trilobite fossils. One of these small fossils is distinguished by a snout. Ann Harris, professor, geology, said she hasn't seen anything like that in her 40 years of teaching at YSU.

The museum also has on display rocks and minerals exclusively from Mexico, Brazil, Namibia (in Africa) and Ohio. The exhibit features various raw ores, such as nickel and copper; calcites, such as calcite crystals that refract light; and cabochons, such as quartz and opalized wood.

Currently 300 rocks and minerals are on display. However a total of 600 rocks, minerals and fossils has been donated. The



PHOTO BY MARIA BLEAHU / THE JAMBAR

MINERALS: There are several new sights to see in Moser Hall. Here are some of the minerals on display.

museum directors plan on rotating the showcases every six months to use all the donated items.

Clarence Smith Sr. was born and raised in Youngstown. In the winter of 1952 Smith went to Arizona. In 1962 Smith had a mineral shop in his bar. After Smith died in 1970, his collection was moved to Adamas Jewelry in

Boardman. Clarence R. Smith, Jr. owner of Adamas, donated the exhibit.

The museum opened June 16. It will open during the Festival of the Arts July 7 and 8. For more information call, 742-3612, to schedule a viewing, or visit the Web site <http://clarence-smith-museum.ysu.edu>.