

## Memorial of George T. Faust August 27, 1908–February 7, 1985

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George T(obias) Faust, past president of the Mineralogical Society of America, died February 7, 1985, at Morristown Memorial Hospital, Morristown, New Jersey, after a long illness. He had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease).

George was born August 27, 1908, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, son of Charles and Anna Faust. His father was a skilled cabinet maker, who trained George in the art and hoped that he would be joined by his son, but George, like many other young Philadelphians, had fallen under the influence of Sam Gordon and the enthusiasts of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Club, and had become an ardent mineral collector. He received the B.S. degree in geology and chemistry in 1930 from Pennsylvania State University, where he was especially inspired by Professor Arthur P. Honess, then went on to the University of Michigan, from which he received the M.S. degree in 1931 and the Ph.D. degree in 1934. He worked closely with Professors Walter F. Hunt and Albert B. Peck, but his course of study was most influenced by Dean Edward H. Kraus, who insisted that the future of mineralogy lay in the quantitative application of thermodynamics and physics and that George must therefore undergo rigorous training in those disciplines.

His doctoral thesis was on the phase relations of the iron analogue of orthoclase in the system  $K_2O-Fe_2O_3-SiO_2$ . It is hard to realize today that at that time such studies were virtually restricted to the Geophysical Laboratory in Washington. Faust went there to learn the methods and successfully completed the research; the data in the two resulting publications stand unchanged nearly fifty years later.

From 1935 to 1938, George was Assistant Professor of Mineralogical Ceramics at Rutgers University; from July 1938 to August 1940, he was chemist-petrographer for the U.S. Bureau of Mines at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he worked on problems of clay petrography. From September 1940 to February 1942, he was mineralogist-petrographer at the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Beltsville, Maryland, working under Sterling B. Hendricks on problems of petrography in the system  $CaO-P_2O_5$ . In February 1942, George joined the Section of Petrology, U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C., working under Clarence S. Ross; there he was to remain, except for a few months of teaching at Indiana University in 1946, until his retirement in 1977.

George Faust's breadth of interest in mineralogical and petrological research is exemplified by his 52 published



papers and 61 published book reviews. He developed an accurate method for the differential thermal analysis of minerals; his papers on thermal analysis of quartz, aragonite, and calcite are notable for the accuracy of the measurements and for the thorough specification of the materials he had studied. He made numerous contributions to the study of clay minerals, including redefinitions of stevensite and griffithite. He described the new minerals huntite, pecoraite, and schoenfliesite. Several important papers clarified the geochemistry of the serpentine group of minerals.

Faust's work with Eugene Callaghan on the petrology of the Currant Creek, Nevada, magnesite deposits led him to his important paper of 1949 on dedolomitization and its relation to the origin of Mg-rich hydrothermal solutions. In later years, George spent many summers mapping the Watchung basalts of New Jersey and continued this work from his retirement home at Basking Ridge, New Jersey. Regrettably, although two papers have appeared, including perhaps the most detailed study of jointing in basalts ever published, his illness prevented his

completion of his major report on this area; it is hoped that this can be salvaged.

George Faust was a fellow or member of many professional societies: Mineralogical Society of America (councillor, 1951–54; vice-president, 1964; president, 1965; archivist, 1961–66, 1973–85); Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft; the mineralogical societies of France, Great Britain, and Italy; Geological Society of America; Geochemical Society (treasurer, 1955–61); American Geophysical Union; American Crystallographic Association; Geological Society of Norway; Clay Minerals Society; Washington Academy of Science; Geological Society of Washington. But George did not just belong to these societies; he contributed enormously to their work, serving on literally dozens of committees. To mention a few of these activities: he was secretary for many years of the Commission on Data of the International Mineralogical Association; he was a member of the Glossary Committee of the American Geological Institute, of the D.T.A. Committee of the International Clay Group, and of the Nomenclature Committee of the Clay Minerals Society. He also served as North American editor of *Neues Jahrbuch für Mineralogie, Monatshefte* and *Abhandlungen*, and editor for the American Geophysical Union, and as a valued abstractor for *Chemical Abstracts*.

George also served his church, the Calvary Lutheran Church of Silver Spring, Maryland, for many years, as secretary-treasurer, vice-president, and president.

George was elected honorary fellow of the Deutsche Mineralogische Gessellschaft in 1974. The mineral faustite, the zinc analogue of turquoise, was named for him in 1953.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Shafer Faust, by two sons, Charles R. and Andrew S., by three daughters, Marilyn Magnus, Julianne Mackey, and Martha Becker, by a brother, Russell, by a sister, Anna-May Schaut, and twelve grandchildren.

George Faust will be remembered by his many friends for the thoroughness and uncompromising integrity of his scientific work, his genuine modesty, his unassuming willingness to shoulder burdens without complaint, and for his many kindnesses to his associates.

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<sup>1</sup> To obtain the complete bibliography of George T. Faust, order Document AM-86-306 from the Business Office, Mineralogical Society of America, 1625 I Street, N.W., Suite 414, Washington, D.C. 20006. Please remit \$5.00 in advance for the microfiche.

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