

THE BERRY MEDAL FOR 1988 TO LES NUFFIELD

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The success of our association over the years has been the result of the volunteer efforts of literally dozens of people. In order to recognize these contributions, the Leonard G. Berry Medal was inaugurated in 1987. It is to be awarded annually to an individual for distinguished service to the Mineralogical Association of Canada.

In awarding the Berry Medal for 1988 to Professor E.W. Nuffield, we are honoring a man who was instrumental in bringing the Mineralogical Association of Canada into existence.

Our story begins 35 years ago. At that time, Canadian mineralogical research papers were being published in an annual number of the *American Mineralogist* under the title *Contributions to Canadian Mineralogy*. In November 1953, Les Nuffield represented the Canadian fellows of the Mineralogical Society of America at a meeting of the MSA Council, and he was informed that the council had reluctantly taken the decision to discontinue publication of the Canadian number, thereby leaving Canadian mineralogists without a distinctive medium for publication.

Les took it upon himself to write to all the Canadian fellows of MSA in February 1954 to apprise them of the situation and to gather their opinions. He found a strong consensus that there was a need for a Canadian vehicle for the publication of mineralogical research papers. He wrote to Canadian mineralogists again in April 1954, informing them of the results of his poll and passing on some of the ideas that had been put forward. At about the same time, Les wrote to Binks Robinson in Ottawa to enlist the active collaboration of the mineralogists at the GSC and at the Mines Branch, as CANMET was then known. As a result of their correspondence, a meeting of 16 mineralogists was held at the Mines Branch on August 23, 1954. Nuffield was among those present who felt strongly that there should be a national Canadian mineralogical society. He was appointed chairman of a steering committee charged with laying the groundwork for such an association.

Over the subsequent months, Nuffield's committee busied itself with the drafting of bylaws, soliciting charter memberships, investigating sources of funding, and so on. The outcome of its efforts was the incorporation under federal letters patent of the Canadian Association of Mineral Sciences on August 5, 1955, less than one year after the decision to proceed had been taken. The name was changed shortly thereafter to the Mineralogical Association of Canada.

Les Nuffield went on to be elected as the first president of the fledgling association and served two terms, 1956-57 and 1957-58. His presidency saw the first annual meeting held in Quebec City in April 1956, and the first issue of *The Canadian Mineralogist* appear in 1957.

In recognition of these important contributions, the Mineralogical Association of Canada is honored to present the Leonard G. Berry Medal for 1988 to Professor E.W. Nuffield.

J.M. Duke
Geological Survey of Canada

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a happy and, at the same time, sad occasion that brings me to this podium to accept the Leonard G. Berry Medal of the MAC on behalf of Les Nuffield. Happy because the MAC has chosen to honor one of its most distinguished Fellows who, as you heard from President Murray Duke, was instrumental in founding our Association. Sad because the man we are honoring is not able to be with us today to accept our adulation and this well-earned award. Les is not here because he did not want to leave his wife, Islay, who is recovering from recent major surgery. I spoke with Les briefly by tel-



LES NUFFIELD

ephone before coming to St. John's and I will try to relate to you the immense pleasure he feels in being selected the 1988 Berry medalist. Personally, I have a soft spot in my heart for Les Nuffield. He gave me my first (and, so far, only) academic job and propelled me on my way.

Les takes pride in the role he played in founding the Mineralogical Association of Canada and spoke enthusiastically to me about those early days. As you heard from Murray Duke, he chaired the steering committee that led to the MAC's birth and was our Association's first President. Les and Len Berry were friends since university days. Indeed, Les named the mineral *berryyite* after his pal. Although Les did not say so, I suspect from his reminiscences to me that he and Len were close and that Les is particularly proud to have his name perpetuated as a recipient of the medal named after his friend.

Les and Islay, retired from the University of Toronto, now live in Vancouver. Their apartment has a seaward view over English Bay, which has given Les the inspiration to write books, only this time on history instead of mineralogy. One, on the immigration of Islay's maternal family from Scotland to Ontario and Manitoba in the last century, has just been published and another, on an aspect of the history of the Pacific Northwest, is in the works. The man hasn't retired at all. He has just changed careers!

I am pleased to have been asked by Les Nuffield to accept the Leonard G. Berry Medal on his behalf and I will relay to him your congratulations and good wishes.

Steven D. Scott
University of Toronto