

THE PAST PRESIDENT'S MEDAL AND BERRY MEDAL FOR 1993 TO LOUIS J. CABRI

Louis Cabri is a scientist who has attained international recognition for his work on sulfides and tellurides, on the platinum-group minerals and, more recently, on the mineralogical application of micro-beam trace-element analytical techniques such as micro-PIXE and SIMS.

Louis graduated with a Ph.D. from McGill University, and joined the former Mines Branch (now CANMET) in 1964; he published his first paper on platinum-group minerals (PGM) two years later. In the 1970s, Louis focused on PGMs and PGM deposits. The characterization of PGMs was not an easy task, particularly in those primitive times.

In the early 1980s, Louis turned his attention to proton-microprobe analysis of trace elements in sulfide minerals. Such analyses are of considerable economic importance in enhancing mineral-processing techniques. Despite the lack of facilities, living in Canada proved to be a surmountable obstacle for Louis. He used his international network of contacts to gain access to proton microprobes in other parts of the world, and showed that micro-PIXE is an important tool in ore-deposits mineralogy.

Louis's high productivity and innovative capability have been widely recognized by several major awards. In 1966, barely out of graduate school, he was the recipient of the Lindgren Award of the SEG. In 1977, he was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, and in 1982, he was awarded honorary life-membership in MAC. In 1991, Louis presented the Hallimond Lecture of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain. He is clearly a scientist of outstanding ability.

However, this represents only half of Louis's activities, and it will be a long time before anyone equals his record of service to MAC. Among the positions that Louis has held are: Chairman of the Membership Committee 1971–1975, Council Member 1973–1975, and ex-officio Council Member to 1982, Co-Editor of *The Canadian Mineralogist* 1975–1982, Vice-President 1982–1983, President 1984–1985, Past-President 1986–1987, and Chairman of numerous committees. The energy and enthusiasm that Louis has given to the Association have dramatically increased its membership, and have established *The Canadian Mineralogist* as an internationally recognized mineralogical journal.

In the early days, if you ran into Louis at a meeting and you were not a member of MAC, Louis knew and was hard to resist. I myself was intimidated into joining MAC by Louis. Those of you who meet Louis for the first time at this meeting will find out that he is *still* promoting membership in the MAC, even though he has not been Membership Chairman since 1975.

In 1975, Louis joined John Jambor as Co-Editor of *The Canadian Mineralogist*. These were challenging times, with the goal of moving the journal into the ranks of the well-established mineralogical journals. For the next eight years, with John until 1977 and then with Bob Martin, Louis built up the Journal, attracting a wider and wider group of contributors. In the course of this, he handled 665 manuscripts and produced eight Special issues.

In 1982, Louis stepped down as Editor to become the Vice-President of MAC. During his term as President, the relationship between MAC and GAC was strengthened, so that ongoing planning could be established, and we have since benefitted greatly from these developments.

Louis is an inspiration to us all. It is no accident that he is receiving two medals today. His outstanding contributions to our science *and* to MAC deserve our recognition, and it is a pleasure to be able to give this today.

Frank C. Hawthorne

Mr. President, Frank, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To say I was bowled over when Frank Hawthorne first phoned about the Past Presidents' Medal, followed soon after by a phone call from Fred Wicks about the Leonard G. Berry Medal, is an understatement. After the surprise, joy, pride, and related emotions had abated, the thought of making two consecutive speeches while keeping the audience from slowly disappearing began to worry me: fortunately, the worry was somewhat alleviated when your wise President informed me that "one speech will do".

I appreciate and am grateful for the honours bestowed on me by the Mineralogical Association of



LOUIS J. CABRI

Canada, particularly because this is recognition *chez nous, et parmi nous*. There is no question that I have always felt *chez moi* at MAC meetings and functions, not because everyone calls himself or herself a “mineralogist”, but because you all practice or use mineralogy, and recognize mineralogy’s fundamental importance, that reaches beyond the earth sciences, no matter what you call yourselves. In addition, it is particularly sweet to be recognized by one’s peers at “home”.

I joined the MAC as late as 1964 (I think at \$4.00/year!), only because Sol Kaiman, the MAC’s founding Secretary, suggested that I should as I was now a colleague, having recently joined the Mines Branch in Ottawa. Further involvement was minimal, restricted to refereeing a few manuscripts that had been submitted to *The Canadian Mineralogist* and sent by Len Berry to Al Prince, passed on to Ernie Nickel, and sometimes on to me. In 1972, Jack Gower (UBC) died, and Ron Graham, then President of MAC, asked if I would complete Jack’s term as Council Member for that year. I can still remember the

first Council meeting I attended in that small room behind the cafeteria at the Royal Ontario Museum. Thus began a most enjoyable and rewarding journey that took me to MAC annual and committee meetings across Canada, where I met and learnt to appreciate and respect a lot of very fine people. During that time I enjoyed, for example, being involved with Don Harris (then Subscription Manager) in preparing for mailing issues of *The Canadian Mineralogist* using the primitive addressograph method.

When I heard that Len Berry was to become Editor Emeritus of *The Canadian Mineralogist*, but that the journal would continue to have coeditors, I indicated to John Jambor that I was interested to help. John was by this time already acting as production editor, as well as scientific editor, so that the division of duties was readily achieved, as I was interested in the scientific part only. Thus, when Joe Mandarino, as President, phoned on behalf of the MAC to formally invite me to be scientific editor, he had an easy time. The Board of Associate Editors had just been formed, and I began right away with designing referee forms, thank-you cards, new rules of procedure, bilingual abstracts, solicitation of outstanding papers, and all the minutia necessary for an aggressive attempt to further improve the journal’s quality as well as increase its international exposure and readership. This was not always easy, as some of you may appreciate, and the most distressing situations were those when authors felt personally victimized and persecuted – usually because they had ignored factual comments made by the referees or the Associate Editor, reviewed and summarized by me. Some authors, indeed, held me accountable, and some even resigned from the MAC because their manuscript had been rejected. Fortunately, I can only remember two such cases, but they were not pleasant. Though it means more work and more direct involvement with each manuscript, I am very pleased that Bob Martin is maintaining our tradition of hands-on, careful, and thoughtful attention to details for all manuscripts, in contrast to the procedures extant in practically any other journal of standing, which appear to rely more on several Associate Editors or subeditors or paid editorial assistants, resulting, inevitably, in less uniform standards. During that period, I had also teamed up with Murray Duke (Secretary) to resurrect the previous proposal by Joe Mandarino (*circa* 1975–76) that the MAC institute a new medal for outstanding contributions to the mineralogical sciences in Canada, and it was a distinct pleasure to see the first Past Presidents’ Medal awarded to Len Berry in Edmonton in 1982. It was especially timely, as Len unexpectedly died shortly after the presentation. After seven enriching years as scientific editor, I asked Tony Naldrett (then President) if I could step down. Fortunately, we were able to convince Bob Martin that he should

continue alone, with the help of the MAC's first paid assistant, finally possible due to the outstanding work of Dick Alcock, Anne Sabina, John Jambor, Joe Mandarino, and many others in producing a financial turn-around. My idea of quietly joining the ranks of the "has-beens" was quickly discarded owing to the salesmanship of Dorian Smith (then Past-President), who somehow tracked me down to a small London (UK) hotel and convinced me, by transatlantic phone, to stand for Vice-President. So I was back on Council, this time as an officer. Those were busy years on Council; our main problem was reconciling differences with the GAC, which happily proved successful, and indeed, I should tell you how far we sometimes had to go toward this end. The one incident that sticks in my mind involved my kissing in public, as a gesture of goodwill, the poorly shaven cheeks of Denis St-Onge (President, GAC) at the GAC-MAC in Fredericton in 1985, and there is a photograph to prove it!

It may also be appropriate to mention that I was responsible for proposing, designing, and arranging for the minting of 50 Leonard Berry Medals, to be awarded annually for service to the MAC. Now that I am on the receiving end, it seems somewhat unfair and selfish, because it is I who have derived so much benefit from all those with whom I have worked on different Councils, with different coeditors, Boards of Associate Editors, as well as directly with authors, and sometimes with referees. It is to all of you that my thanks go for this honour today. However, to show our President that in some ways I haven't changed, I have a suggestion for him, which means extra work, Peter. I strongly urge the present Council to more prominently list the many that have served over the years as officers, council members, editors, committee chairs, *etc.*, as well as the medal winners, and indeed, the medals themselves. How else are new members to know our traditions and our history? How else can we expect good nominations from the membership at large for elective positions or for medals? We should be proud of all those who, over the years, have given us or continue to give us their best shot. I believe, Mr. President, that this was only done twice before, in 1974 and 1985. Mr. President, do make this an annual listing, please.

Now a few words regarding the award of the Past Presidents' Medal. I really feel at a loss as to why the Past Presidents' Committee decided that I deserve this award, as our country has so many outstanding scientists in the broad field of the "mineralogical sciences". Maybe it is appropriate to briefly relate how I eventually, rather late in life, came to be interested in research? My early school years were spent in various countries (Egypt, Brazil, USA, South Africa), and then I went to the University of the Witwatersrand, where

I received the essential grounding in chemistry and the geological sciences, necessary for field and exploration geology. Five of us began the four-year course, but only two of us graduated. Professors that left lasting impressions with me were H.B.S. Cooke, T.W. Gevers, E. Mendelssohn, and W.J. van Biljon. I also spent two summers working as a student assistant at the Bernard Price Institute of Geophysical Research. Although I was introduced to the activities of research scientists at the BPI, on graduation, I opted for field work. After four years of working under rather primitive conditions in the Gold Coast (Ghana now), Sierra Leone, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and South Africa, I felt the need for a higher degree, so I applied to McGill University as that was, to me, the *only* university of renown in geology at the time; I do remember that Queen's was also considered, but only as a second choice. Coming to Montreal as an immigrant in 1959, with my new bride, was a great adventure. The reign of Duplessis was just about to end, and the city was going through a great construction boom (*e.g.*, Place Ville-Marie). Jim Gill had just taken over from Tom Clark as chairman, and they were offering this intriguing M.Sc. (Applied) program, which was just what I wanted, as it was to give me the mining engineering background I needed as well as teach me modern exploration methods, on the geological side. Somehow, over those two years of exposure to staff, graduate and postdoctoral students, which, by the way, came from all over the world, but especially from South Africa (25% of the geological postgraduates in 1959), I felt the desire to do an experimental thesis for a Ph.D., something I had never even dreamt of when I originally decided to come to Canada! Fortunately for me, Lloyd Clark took me under his wing and taught me how to build furnaces and other tricks "à la Geophysical Laboratory", and Mike Frueh and Roger Webber allowed me to play with various cameras in their X-ray diffraction laboratories. Those were exciting years of seven-day weeks, interacting not only with geologists from varied backgrounds, but also with other graduates in the Post-Graduate Students Society, followed each summer by usually very rewarding jobs.

Following McGill, my first preference for a teaching position was not possible at the time, so the choice was either to accept a position with an exploration company or else to take a low-paying job with the Mines Branch (now CANMET). I had little hesitation. At that time, Ernie Nickel was leading a newly formed multidisciplinary team of scientists to do fundamental research in sulfides, backed by outstanding technicians and an understanding management. I couldn't resist, nor do I regret it now. Interesting years, when at first the experimentalist was king, followed by a deeper appreciation of mineralogy and crystal structure, a passion for the platinum-group minerals, a search for

trace platinum-group elements and for sensitive microbeam techniques for the quantitative analysis of samples for the precious metals, introduction to the methods and the culture of nuclear physicists, practical applications of our findings to industry, and scientific collaborations within Canada and around the world. The research culture and the pressures in our profession have recently changed dramatically, at CANMET, in Canada, and, I believe, around the world. However, whereas we must adapt and continue to progress, we should always remember to remain true to the old-fashioned ethics and the scientific method.

Finally, in closing, I just want to thank you again for both these honours, which I cherish very much.

Vous êtes trop indulgents, as was said by the late Gabrielle Donnay, in a similar situation in 1983. I also wish to acknowledge and publicly thank my wife Mimi, who, unfortunately, few of you have met (since she has only once accompanied me to a GAC-MAC meeting), because she has so graciously and selflessly permitted me, over so many years, to spend so much time to follow my professional pursuits. I am truly sorry she is unable to be here today, as she rightfully should share these honours with me.

Thank you, Mr. President, Frank, ladies, and gentlemen.

Louis J. Cabri