

**THE LEONARD G. BERRY MEDAL FOR 1996
TO
SOL KAIMAN**

*Mr. President,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

The Leonard G. Berry Medal is awarded for distinguished service to the Mineralogical Association of Canada. The Association officially came into being in 1955, and to be able to present this award to a founding member of the organization is a privilege most rare.

Sol Kaiman was born in Toronto on November 26, 1920, and received his Honors B.A. from the University of Toronto in 1942. That summer, he worked in Saskatchewan for the Geological Survey of Canada, with fellow assistants S. Ferguson and J.M. Harrison, under party chief W.D. Harding. It must have been good company, for Jim Harrison was later to become Director (1956–1964) of the Geological Survey of Canada. From 1942 to 1945, Sol served in the Canadian Army (Royal Canadian Artillery), following which he returned to the University of Toronto and, after studying mineralogy under the late M.A. Peacock, received his Master's degree in 1946. In August of that year, he joined the Mines Branch, now known as the Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology (CANMET), in Ottawa, where he worked as a mineralogist until his retirement in late 1979.

Sol's formal role in the Mineralogical Association of Canada began in 1954, when he served as acting Secretary at the founding meeting of the Association. He continued in this position during the formative stages of the organization, and in 1956 he was elected as the Association's first Secretary. The preceding few words do not convey adequately the many hours and many evenings that were spent by Sol in doing the groundwork essential to the formation of the Association. He not only took on these duties willingly, but his encore was that he carried out the duties of Secretary for ten years, until 1966, thus being the longest serving of the initial group on the Executive Committee. Lest we forget the amount of effort involved, it is perhaps worth a reminder that throughout that period the Secretary was also responsible for maintaining the subscription records and for distributing *The Canadian Mineralogist*. Notwithstanding his decade-long contribution, Sol continued to assist the Association in the 1970s by serving for several years on the Audit Committee and by participating in the revision of the Association's by-laws. Sol's important role in the birth of our

Association was accorded recognition in 1967, when he was made an Honorary Life Member, and it is a pleasure to be able to highlight his significant contributions by presenting him with the Leonard G. Berry Medal.

James Nicholls
Vice-President

*Mr. President,
fellow members of the Association,
ladies and gentlemen,*

To say I was surprised to be named as the 1996 recipient of the Leonard G. Berry Medal would be a gross understatement. After all, many years have passed since I was active in the Association, and my service had already been recognized in 1967 by the presentation of a scroll signifying life membership. However, this occasion does afford me the opportunity of recalling the olden days, and of having my reminiscences recorded in *The Canadian Mineralogist*.

A meeting of Canadian mineralogists was held at the Mines Branch, in Ottawa, on August 23, 1954, to discuss the future publication of "Contributions to Canadian Mineralogy", which had been published by various sponsors since 1921. It was decided that in order to perpetuate the journal, it was necessary to form a national organization that would be responsible for the publication. A steering committee for the proposed Association was elected. I can boast of having been part of these activities, if only as the acting secretary. If not as a parent, at least I was there for the conception and birth, and how the baby has grown! We can all be proud of *The Canadian Mineralogist*, which from its inception has continued to improve a quality to this day, when it is recognized internationally for its excellence.

One of the early challenges arose when we undertook to draft a constitution. As a model, we first tried to use the by-laws that Syd Forman obtained from an agricultural society – you might say we attempted to convert cows to corundum. We discussed the requirements for incorporation with a Mr. Francis at the Department of the Secretary of State. This

gentleman, a specialist in the field of the Companies Act, was just about to retire. How fortunate we were that he should offer to help us. We consulted with him repeatedly at his home, after each revision of the proposed by-laws, and on August 5, 1955, Letters Patent were issued for the incorporation of the Canadian Association of the Mineral Sciences. The name was changed soon after to the Mineralogical Association of Canada. Mr. Francis provided his advice lovingly, and the price was right... he didn't charge us a dime.

During the early days in the life of the Association, it was my good fortune to work with some of Canada's foremost scientists in their roles as officers of MAC. Communicating with prospective members, billing for annual dues and distributing the issues of the journal were among my main duties. An assessment of the position of the MAC secretary by Les Nuffield (the first president and former Berry medalist) prompted his comment: "You may not be the best mineralogist in Canada, but you will probably be one of the best known". Incidentally, this was the age before subscription managers and before computers. The day-to-day business of the Association was handled by the treasurer and the secretary, and was done by hand. The acquisition of an addressograph machine therefore represented a major technological advance!

I was reminded of our first annual meeting, which took place in Quebec City in 1956. Upon arrival at Laval University, we discovered that no arrangements had been made for us with the other participating Associations: there was no indication that we were expected, indeed a room had not been reserved for our business meeting. Through the good offices of a local member (I believe it was René Béland), this situation was quickly remedied, but it made us realize that we had a long way to go to achieve recognition as a distinct scientific society. One day, we received a letter of complaint from a man in Calgary. He claimed that he paid the annual membership fee several years earlier but had received no issues of the journal. Neither Hal Steacy (treasurer) nor I could find any record of this person. Our puzzlement only intensified when, to prove his claim, he sent a photocopy of his cheque, which was for the correct amount and showed our endorsement. Fortunately, the cheque itself provided the clue to the mystery. The date corresponded to that of our annual meeting in Calgary, and the amount was the same as that which had been charged for the annual dinner. We concluded that the cheque was probably for the dinner rather than for membership. We notified him of this suspicion and heard nothing further. Case closed.

That this award bears Len Berry's name has special significance for me. I respected him as a role model and friend. I first met him in 1938 when he was our



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demonstrator in the blowpipe analysis lab at the University of Toronto. After I came to Ottawa and particularly after the creation of the MAC, we met frequently during his term as editor of the journal and president of the Association. Also, MAC and MSA annual meetings provided opportunities for socializing with Len and his wife. At the 1967 meeting of the MSA, my wife and I had dinner with the Berrys at a famous New Orleans restaurant (the name of which appears in the title of an Agatha Christie novel). This experience unfortunately did not live up to our expectations. However, we did enjoy an evening cruise down the Mississippi on a paddle-wheeler. My wife has her own special memory of this trip. We arrived on Sunday in time for the formal cocktail reception that evening. When she unpacked her party shoes, she saw, to her dismay, that one was black, the other brown, and both were for the left foot! It was too late to purchase a new pair, so she wore an evening gown and a pair of grey, flat-heeled Hush Puppies!

It was an honour to have been permitted to serve the Association as secretary, and I am doubly honoured on being awarded the Berry Medal. I extend my sincere thanks to the selection committee and to the MAC.

Sol Kaiman