

THE LEONARD G. BERRY MEDAL FOR 1997 TO J. MURRAY DUKE

Mr. President, Ladies and gentlemen,

Murray Duke served as secretary of the Association from 1978 through 1984. He was acting secretary in 1985. He then served as Vice-President in 1987 and 1988, President in 1989 and 1990, and as Past-President in 1991 and 1992. In other words, Murray was an officer of the association for eleven of twelve years. This is a remarkable record of service to the organization, and Murray truly deserves the recognition that the Association confers with the Berry Medal.

Every former officer that I contacted for information about Murray's activities as an officer of the Association had nothing but praise for his efforts. Perhaps the most surprising result of these inquiries was the absence of anecdotes to enliven a citation. Everyone agreed that no matter what needed to be done, Murray could be relied upon to do the job, to do the job extremely well, and to do the job with a total lack of fanfare and apparent effort. Hugh Greenwood recalled that while on council, Murray was simultaneously branch chief, doing research and taking French immersion courses. Dick Alcock recalled that Murray's way was not to ask, "What should we do about this?" Rather his approach was always, "Would you like me to do this about that?"

In addition to holding office in the Association, Murray also served as Chairman of our Finance Committee. He introduced us to professional guidance for MAC investments and streamlined the by-laws. Murray is a native of Montreal and received his education at McGill University, The University of Connecticut, and The University of Toronto. He joined the Geological Survey of Canada in 1976 to work on mineral deposits. His research concentrated on nickel, chromium, and platinum deposits. He became Director of the Mineral Resources Division in 1988 and Director General of the Minerals and Regional Geoscience Branch in 1995. He is an associate editor of *Economic Geology*, a member of the Management Committee, CAMIRO Exploration Technology Division, and a member of the steering committee of the IUGS/UNESCO Deposit Modeling Program.

Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to present Murray Duke as the recipient of the Leonard G. Berry Medal for 1997.

James Nicholls
Vice-President

Mr. President, Fellow Members of the Association, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Needless to say, I am honored to have been named recipient of the Leonard G. Berry Medal for 1997. Like many of my generation, my introduction to mineralogy was through the classic undergraduate text that Len Berry coauthored with Brian Mason. Later, it was through my involvement with the MAC that I came to know Len personally and to better understand his contributions to mineralogy in Canada. This award has a special significance for me because it bears Len's name.

It hardly seems like twenty years have passed since I received a telephone call from Fred Wicks, representing the Nominating Committee, asking whether I would be willing to allow my name to stand for Secretary of the Mineralogical Association of Canada. At the time, I really knew very little about the Association, apart from the fact that it published *The Canadian Mineralogist* on a quarterly basis. However, having had my requests to attend the annual GAC-MAC meeting turned down by GSC management for two years running, and knowing that serving on an association executive was more likely to get me to the meeting than merely presenting a scientific paper, I jumped at the opportunity. Besides, Fred had assured me that beyond taking minutes at one or possibly two executive meetings a year, the duties were not overly demanding. I soon learned that there was a little more to it than that, but I also found my involvement with the Association to be a tremendously interesting and rewarding experience.

The late 1970s was an exciting period in the history of the MAC. By the time I joined the executive in 1978, publication of *The Canadian Mineralogist* had been regularized through the leadership of editors Louis Cabri and John Jambor. The Association had also taken a pioneering step in 1976, at least in Canada, in offering topical short courses at its Annual Meetings. The one cloud on the horizon was the financial situation, which was precarious, to say the least, and it wasn't difficult to imagine any number of scenarios that could have led to bankruptcy. The GAC-MAC Joint Annual Meeting held in Toronto in conjunction with that of the GSA in 1978 was, I think, a turning point of sorts. As some of you may recall, Canada was in the midst of a uranium exploration boom, and the MAC short course on uranium mineralogy proved immensely popular. This, coupled with Tony Naldrett's equally successful field conference on nickel sulfide deposits,

held at the same meeting, gave the Association a much needed infusion of capital.

This windfall may well have gone for nought were it not for the wise counsel of Dick Alcock who, as Chair of the Finance Committee, started the Association down the road to financial self-sufficiency. *The Canadian Mineralogist* was subsidized by a significant publication grant from NSERC at the time. With customary foresight, Dick realized that it was only a matter of time before government purse strings would tighten, and he insisted that we plan for the day when the Association would have to pay for publication entirely out of our own revenues.

Another highlight from this period for me was the Association's 25th Anniversary celebration held at the Joint Annual Meeting in Halifax in 1980. For the occasion, we had invited all those mineralogists who had gathered for the founding meeting of the Mineralogical Association of Canada held in Ottawa in 1954. Among those who were able to attend were Maurice Haycock, Ron Graham and Al Prince, and I very much appreciated the opportunity to meet these gentlemen and to correspond with other of our founding members, including Les Nuffield, Sol Kaiman and Binks Robinson.

In 1981, the Association established the Past Presidents' Medal to recognize scientific excellence in mineralogy and the related sciences. Len Berry was the first medalist, and the presentation at the annual meeting in Winnipeg was one of the more heart-warming MAC events that I can recall. It would have been even more emotional had any of us known at the time that Len would pass away suddenly just a few weeks later.

One of the less positive aspects of this period was intermittent squabbling between MAC and GAC over the formula for sharing the revenue from the Joint Annual Meetings. The situation deteriorated almost to the point of ending the tradition of joint meetings, but common sense and goodwill prevailed, to the benefit, I think, of the entire geoscience community.

Associations such as the MAC play an important role in the scientific life of our country. First and foremost, they provide a means to communicate the results of our research through peer-reviewed journals of the highest quality and, more informally, through scientific gatherings such as our Joint Annual Meeting. They contribute to professional development through short courses, workshops, distinguished lecturer tours and the like. The Associations also have a role to play in promoting the public awareness of science. In my opinion, this latter is a area in which we will have to become even more active in the future.

The accomplishments of the MAC and similar organizations are all the more remarkable when one considers that they are based largely on volunteer effort. The MAC has succeeded because it has been able to rely on a network of extremely dedicated people who somehow make things happen. It is always dangerous to mention names but I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the contributions of some of the key players during the period that I was involved with the Association. These included Bob Gait, Joe Mandarino, Louis Cabri, John Jambor, Bob Martin, Ann Sabina, Dorian Smith, Dick Alcock, Tony Naldrett, Hugh Greenwood, Sandra Barr and Frank Hawthorne, among others. Finally, I would like to thank my wife Sally and daughter Jennifer for their support and forbearance of my extracurricular efforts on behalf of the Mineralogical Association of Canada.

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J. MURRAY DUKE