

## INTRODUCTION

It has been 10 years since the appearance of a special number of *The American Mineralogist* published to honor individual mineralogists (see inside back cover). The addition of Paul F. Kerr to the select list of American mineralogists so recognized is both deserved and fitting, inasmuch as it emphasizes not only his many and manifold contributions to mineralogy and its development but also italicizes the esteem in which he is held by his colleagues and his erstwhile students. With the latter this editor came very close to being numbered, for in 1939 the possibility of beginning graduate studies in mineralogy at Columbia University developed.

Although I did not avail myself of this opportunity formally, in another sense I *have* been Paul Kerr's student, as have hundreds of other mineralogists, through study of his varied and versatile contributions to our science. In partial testimony there repose on my book shelves copies of the several editions of his textbook, *Optical Mineralogy*, threadbare and dogeared from constant use. Thus it becomes particularly gratifying to me to be able to contribute to this volume, both to its content and its construction. However, its chief architects have been Ralph J. Holmes and William J. Croft.

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