

## **Memorial of Davis M. Lapham May 5, 1931–December 20, 1974**

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Dr. Davis M. Lapham, Research Mineralogist and Chief of the Mineral Resources Division of the Pennsylvania Geological Survey, died at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on December 20, 1974. He had been in failing health for several years, but he diligently carried on his project research and his generous tutelage of young, aspiring mineralogists to the very end.

Born in Glens Falls, New York, on May 5, 1931, Dave Lapham became seriously interested in minerals there while still a high school student. He was inspired by Elmer B. Rowley, a widely known collector. Dave, as he preferred to be called by all whom he met and worked with, went on to major in geology at Middlebury College where he received an A. B. in 1953. His graduate studies in mineralogy were carried out under Professors Paul Kerr and Ralph Holmes at Columbia University, from which he received his M.A. in 1955 and his Ph.D. in 1957. On May 13, 1957, Dave Lapham joined the Pennsylvania Geological Survey in Harrisburg, the beginning of an outstanding career of accomplishments and dedicated service. In 1964 he was married to Nancy, and they were blessed with a beautiful daughter, Heather.

Whatever work Dave Lapham undertook, it was marked by creativity, thoroughness, and quality. While still a graduate student in 1955, the New York Mineralogical Club awarded him the Kunz Memorial Prize for his paper "Epidote from Hawleyville, Connecticut." This comprehensive study led into his doctoral thesis on chromium chlorites. As an outgrowth of his graduate studies, Dave pursued intensive research on the chlorite and serpentine minerals of Pennsylvania. He came to be recognized as an authority in this area of mineralogical research and was called upon to assist in the study of serpentine minerals which originated from the Mohole deep-sea drilling project.

Dave Lapham was the author or coauthor of over fifty publications. Some of the most important categories of his scientific contributions were: (1) research on chlorites, serpentines, and basic rocks of south-eastern Pennsylvania, (2) field and laboratory research of Pennsylvania's minerals, and (3) research



on the mineralogy and genesis of the Cornwall, Pennsylvania, magnetite deposit. His "Mineral Collecting in Pennsylvania" (coauthored with Alan R. Geyer) incorporated scientific thoroughness and an orientation for the interests of the layman; this book set a standard, and its popularity continues undiminished amongst people in all walks of life. Dave Lapham's last major publication, "Geology and Origin of the Triassic Magnetite Deposit and Diabase at Cornwall, Pennsylvania" (coauthored with Carlyle Gray), is a monumental piece of research work which will stand as a lasting tribute to Dave Lapham's analytical and creative abilities.

Dave Lapham was an active participant in numerous professional societies, both at the national and local level. He was a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America as well as the Geological Society

of America; he was a member of the Geochemical Society. Dave was one of the founders of Friends of Mineralogy and was active in its development and growth. He was largely responsible for the organization's nation-wide program of locality preservation and was instrumental in guiding the educationally-oriented activities of the organization.

To simply enumerate Dave Lapham's anniversary dates, the locations of his studies, and the list of his scientific achievements would be a great disservice to this outstanding personality. Of Dave Lapham it can truly be said that he epitomized the dictionary definition of the Renaissance man: "A highly cultivated man who is skilled and well-versed in many, or ideally, all the arts and sciences." His interest in minerals was matched by his love of music; he was an avid reader, while art and the social needs of his neighbors also received his close attention. Here was a man not only of the highest intellectual and moral standards, but a man of modesty and concern for others. He was never too busy to give unselfishly of his time and attention to all who came for advice or guidance, whether they were scientific colleagues, young collectors, or aspiring geologists. He frequently met with mineral clubs, and had the facility of effecting closer ties between professional and non-professional groups.

Dr. Davis Lapham leaves a legacy as a scholar, a dedicated scientist, and a compassionate fellow man. He was truly a gentleman. We have been privileged to be with him and are the richer for it.

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### Memorial of Robert L. Parker May 1, 1893–May 5, 1973

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Professor Robert Luling Parker, Ph.D., retired keeper of the mineral collection of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in which he had also lectured in mineralogy and crystallography, died in Zurich on May 5, 1973, after short illness, only four days after his 80th birthday. With him, this institution not only lost an outstanding representative of the classic branch of these sciences, but also a highly esteemed associate upon whose competent advice and kind help his colleagues could always rely.

Parker was born on May 1, 1893, in London, as second son of a surgeon, and went first to school at Bedford. After the retirement of his father, the family moved to Paris, where he attended the Lycée Henri IV, a college of ancient renown. There he received, besides a complete command of the French language and a solid background in mathematics, an excellent general education. After the baccalauréat the family moved to Germany, to Freiburg i.Br., where Parker intended to study organic chemistry under the then

well-known Professor Ludwig Gattermann. But soon World War I broke out and Mrs. Parker with her two sons—the father having died in the meantime at Freiburg—had to leave Germany and to reach the nearest frontier in order to avoid internment. By doing so, they came to Switzerland and settled in Zurich, where Parker first intended to continue his chemical studies. At that time the head of the Department of Chemistry of the University was Alfred Werner, famous for his work on complex compounds, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1913. As this highly specialized branch of chemistry did not meet Parker's interests, and as it seemed hardly possible to work in Werner's laboratory on a subject unrelated to his line of work, Parker decided to change his program. As a student of chemistry, and in accordance with the then prevailing and time-honoured custom, he had also attended the classes of mineralogy and petrology, given by Professor Ulrich Grubenmann. In him Parker had met not only an excellent and benevolent