

MEMORIAL TO LEONARD G. BERRY

Leonard Gascoigne Berry, professor emeritus of mineralogy and crystallography, Department of Geological Sciences, Queen's University, died suddenly on June 29, 1982. His scientific, educational and administrative contributions to his profession had made him Canada's pre-eminent mineralogist.

Len's undergraduate and graduate degrees were taken at the University of Toronto. His association there with Martin A. Peacock stimulated an absorbing interest in sulfides and sulfosalts, culminating in publication of the Geological Society of America Memoir 85, a compendium of X-ray powder-diffraction data on ore minerals commonly known as the Peacock Atlas. This work was completed by Len and R.M. Thompson in 1962. His interest in the characterization of materials by X-ray-diffraction methods also led to a close association with the Joint Committee on Powder Diffraction Standards. He was their associate editor for minerals from 1956 to 1976 and editor from 1969 to 1976; he had continued his study of the problems peculiar to mineral identification with this committee until his death.

His career at Queen's called on all his many talents. He arrived as lecturer in the Department of Mineralogy in 1945 and, during the next 35 years, initiated thousands of students into the twin mysteries of mineralogy and crystallography. His own personal interest in and enthusiasm for these subjects could be seen to extend far past the classroom door; amateur mineral collectors and cryptocrystallographers among the students spent many informal and intriguing hours with him examining specimens from his more specialized collections, or contemplating the merits of the second setting in the monoclinic system. His interest in undergraduate education also resulted in the publication of two textbooks, written in collaboration with Brian Mason. These books, *Mineralogy: Concepts, Descriptions, Determinations* (1959) and *Elements of Mineralogy* (1968), became the standard textbooks for a generation of undergraduate students; after a combined total of 24 printings and 83,700 copies, both are still in print.

Despite large classes and a rigorous teaching schedule, he was intimately involved in the administration of the department, functioning from 1955 to 1970 as chairman of undergraduate studies and, from 1970 to 1977, as chairman of graduate studies. He also served

the larger Queen's community as a member of Senate from 1970 to 1973 and as chairman of the Mathematics and Physical Sciences Division of the School of Graduate Studies from 1975 to 1978. Tribute was paid to his personal scholarship in 1968 when he was appointed the Miller Memorial Research Professor, which he remained until his official retirement in 1979.

In 1950 he succeeded Martin Peacock as editor of *Contributions to Canadian Mineralogy*, which evolved into *The Canadian Mineralogist* in 1957. He remained editor of this journal until 1975. His important contribution to the journal and to the association was honored in 1976 by publication of a special "Berry Issue", and in 1982 by presentation of the first Past President's Medal of the association. When Len rose at the annual meeting in May to accept this award, he was immediately accorded a spontaneous standing ovation by the mineralogists present.

This editorship gave him a unique opportunity to benefit simultaneously the Queen's library, the M.A.C. coffers, and Canadian mineralogists. This he accomplished by initiating the Queen's periodical exchange, whereby the Queen's library buys subscriptions to *The Canadian Mineralogist*, and then trades them for subscriptions to foreign mineralogical journals. This exchange has made a significant cosmopolitan contribution to the eminence of the Queen's geology library, and has given Canadian mineralogists a world-wide readership for their publications.

Len was a Past President of both the Mineralogical Association of Canada (1976) and the Mineralogical Society of America (1964). He was a founding member of the International Mineralogical Association in 1957. From 1960 until now he was the treasurer of this association, sailing it calmly and efficiently through the shoaly financial seas of an international scientific society. His other memberships and fellowships included the Royal Society of Canada, Geological Association of Canada, Geological Society of America, Mineralogical Society London (Honorary), Mineralogical Society of Japan, Walker Mineralogical Club (Honorary), and Clube Mineralogica Brazil (Honorary).

His contributions to mineralogy were recognized by several awards, starting with the undergraduate Coleman Gold Medal at the University of Toronto. He was a Guggenheim Fellow in 1953-54, and received the Willett G. Miller Gold Medal of the Royal Society of

Canada in 1963; the citation for the latter award was prepared by his colleague for so many years at Queen's, J.E. Hawley. More recently, he was honored by the Soviet Mineralogical Society, which made him an honorary fellow this spring, and, as mentioned earlier, by the Mineralogical Association of Canada. It seems appropriate that this final honor came from this particular organization, which he had nurtured for so many years.

Len retained his famous youthful appearance and cheerful disposition to the end. He will be remembered by all his friends, students and colleagues for his unassuming competence, his

unfailing co-operation, his courteous kindness, and his refreshing wit. He is survived by his wife, two children and four grandchildren, to whom we extend our most sincere sympathy.

A student award in mineralogy at Queen's is being established by friends and associates in his memory; contributions may be made to Queen's University, earmarked for the Leonard G. Berry Memorial Fund, and sent to the Department of Geological Sciences.

Mabel I. Corlett
Queen's University.