

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

MICHAEL WYATT (1929 – 1956)

The totally unexpected death of Michael Wyatt on September 16, 1956, came as a very great shock to friends and colleagues who had known him as Assistant Professor of Mineralogy. Dr. Wyatt was born on February 19, 1929 at Manchester, England. After he had received his elementary schooling at Kingsmoor School, Glossop in Derbyshire, he entered the University of Manchester and as a result of his studies there he received the Bachelor of Science degree with First Class Honors in 1949. Our late colleague was then awarded a Research Fellowship by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and with this proceeded to Cambridge University where he was principally concerned with a study of the Monadhliath granite and its aureole under the direction of Professor C. E. Tilley, F.R.S., of the Department of Mineralogy and Petrology; these researches at Cambridge led to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1952. During the period spent as research worker at Cambridge he acted as part-time Demonstrator in crystallography, X-ray work, and crystal chemistry.

In September of that year Dr. Wyatt came to Stanford as Instructor in Mineralogy and two years later was promoted to the position of Assistant Professor of Mineralogy in that field. During his four years at Stanford University he taught mineralogy and crystallography most competently, and at the same time initiated a valuable course in Paragenesis of Minerals, a course that enabled him to apply fully the results of his Cambridge training.

Dr. Wyatt's research interests turned principally towards studies of calcsilicate minerals and rocks, and the mineralogy of phosphatic beach sands. At the time of his death he had completed, in collaboration with others, a study of a scheelite deposit at Gabbs, Nevada, and a paper on some aspects of this work was read before the Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America at New Orleans in November 1955. Furthermore he was continuing his long-term study of Mexican phosphatic sands for commercial interests, "Zircons as provenance indicators", a phase of his doctoral research was published in the American Mineralogist in 1954, and a second paper "The Monadhliath adamellite", another aspect of his Cambridge studies, was read for him before the Geological Society of London on March 14, 1956.

As a teacher Dr. Wyatt was held in considerable respect, and by reason of his cheerfulness gregarious habits, and wide interests he made many friends both in the class-room and out of it. Close association was maintained with his colleagues in his particular discipline in the United States and in Gt. Britain, and he was a Fellow of the Geological Society of London, and a Member of the Mineralogical Societies of Gt. Britain and America.

Dr. Wyatt is survived by his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Wyatt of Battle, Sussex, England.

The Academic Council of Stanford University here records its appreciation of Dr. Wyatt as an able colleague and as a respected member of the Stanford Community. Be it resolved, therefore, that this memorial be entered in the minutes of this Council, and a copy be sent to his parents.

F. L. Humphrey
E. Hutchinson
C. Osborne Hutton, Chairman