

THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST, VOL. 55, MARCH-APRIL, 1970

PRESENTATION OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF AMERICA AWARD FOR 1969 TO W. G. ERNST

ROBERT G. COLEMAN, *U. S. Geological Survey,*
Menlo Park, Calif. 94025.

Mr. President, Members of the Society, and Guests:

It's not often that a young man can generate enough steam to make an impression on the older geologic establishment, particularly when one picks such a sacred cow as the "Franciscan Problem" in California, but ten years ago Gary Ernst entered this arena and things haven't been the same since. Fortunately for the Franciscan researchers, Gary chose U.C.L.A. as his place for teaching and work. In the last decade, that he and his students have applied themselves to the petrology of blueschists, numerous authoritative publications have provided us with facts and concepts that have had a strong influence on the research related to blueschists and their tectonic environment. I think that his most important contributions have been imaginative application of the hard won experimental, mineralogic, and petrographic facts toward a viable theory on the evolution of metamorphic terrains along continental edges.

Gary Ernst completed his undergraduate training at Carlton College in 1953 and followed a familiar route to the University of Minnesota where he obtained his Masters degree in 1955. Participating in the arrangement for graduate research between the Geophysical Laboratory and Johns Hopkins University, Gary completed his Ph.D. degree in 1959 under the guidance of Francis Boyd and Hans Eugster. During this period of developing his skill as an experimentalist, he also sharpened his perception in field geology as a member of the now famous Bill Pecora U.S.G.S. Training Station in the Bearpaw Mountains of Montana. The published studies of alkali amphiboles completed during his stay at the Geophysical Laboratory were a delight for those who had previously puzzled over the natural occurrence of these minerals.

His continuing work on the crystal chemistry and stability relations of amphiboles has provided us with a series of papers and a book that have gone a long way in developing order into the petrologic interpretation of this important mineral group. While he continues his laboratory studies, Gary spends most of his summers carrying out careful field investigations intimately related to his experimental work. To participate and make significant contributions in both field and laboratory studies, in these times of specialization, takes a person of unusual talent.

Knowing that a single person's efforts in this complex area of research can be diluted or sometimes meaningless, he has shown an unusual capacity for scientific leadership. The participation of his students as full partners in his research and the bringing together of a Japanese-American group effort on the metamorphic rocks in Japan and California have resulted in significant publications of joint research.

The future of mineralogy in the geologic profession cannot be denied when such a versatile young man as this continues his research.

Mr. President, it is with much hope that I present Dr. W. G. Ernst, recipient of The Mineralogical Society of America Award for 1969 on this, our 50th anniversary.

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ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA AWARD FOR 1969

W. G. ERNST, *Department of Geology and Institute of Geophysics
and Planetary Physics, University of California,
Los Angeles, Calif. 90024.*

Bob, President Turner, members of the Society and guests:

I am immensely honored by this award and accept it most humbly. However, my pleasure is tempered by the realization that there is a measure of random chance and capriciousness inherent in the process of being selected from a long list of eligible candidates, and by the knowledge that among my contemporaries are many whose intellectual accomplishments far outweigh my own.

Although previous recipients have not touched on pre-award premonitions, I must admit that occasionally—while staggering around in the formidable July heat of the rather aptly named Diablo Range—I have wondered how it might feel to be chosen to receive the M.S.A. Award. In such day-dreams, of course, I always modestly declined the honor, pointing instead to my numerous more worthy scientific colleagues. The only other, and much more recurrent, non-geological theme which I recall being with me during my summers mapping in the Franciscan was the commonly held view that only "Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun," which framed my speculation regarding the M.S.A. Award in proper perspective. Needless to say, when surprisingly enough, the honor did indeed come, I fervently and genuinely professed unworthiness, but speedily accepted. So much for day-dreams!