

## Memorial of Harry M. Mikami 1915–1992

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Harry M. Mikami died of cancer in Pleasanton, California, on August 7, 1992. He had been a consultant in refractories and industrial minerals since his 1982 retirement from Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation.

He was born on December 28, 1915, in Seward, Alaska. After graduating from the University of Alaska in 1937, with a B.S. in chemistry and a minor in metallurgy, he worked as a metallurgist for U.S. Smelting, Refining, and Mining Company in Fairbanks, Alaska, and then as an engineer for American Creek Operating Company, American Creek, Alaska, in 1938 and 1939. He earned an M.S. and a Ph.D. in geology from Yale University in 1942 and 1945, respectively. He then taught mineralogy at Yale in 1945 and ceramic petrography at the Pennsylvania State University Extension in Norristown in 1948 and 1949. From 1945 to 1974 he worked for E. J. Lavino and Company, which became Lavino Division of International Minerals and Chemical Corporation, in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania. He started his work there as a research scientist, becoming director of research in 1965, and then was promoted to director of research and development in 1967. Following the acquisition of Lavino's refractory business by Kaiser Refractories Division of Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation in 1974, he transferred to Pleasanton, California, to become the manager of basic refractories research at Kaiser's Center for Technology. At his retirement in 1982 he was the program manager for refractories of raw materials.

Harry Mikami was a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society, the Mineralogical Society of America, and the Geological Society of America; in addition, he was a member of Sigma Xi, the National Institute of Ceramic Engineers, and the Iron and Steel Society of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers. In 1987 he received the American Ceramic Society Saint Louis Section's Theodore J. Planje Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Field of Refractories.

He was a well-known authority on chromite, having contributed the chromite chapters in the third, fourth, and fifth editions of *Industrial Minerals and Rocks*, and the chromite sections in the *Annual Ceramic Minerals Resources Review of the American Ceramic Society Bulletin*. He wrote numerous papers on basic refractory technology, ranging from chrome-magnesia refractories in open-hearth furnaces to carbon-magnesia refractories in electric-arc furnaces; he also held several patents.

He is survived by three sisters.



### PARTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF H. M. MIKAMI

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- 1987 "Chromite." *Annual Ceramic Mineral Resources Review of the American Ceramic Society Bulletin*, vol. 66 (5), 758-759.
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Patents in the refractories field:

U.S.	2,965,505	Dec. 20, 1960	Synthetic Refractory Chrome Composition
U.K.	912,794	Dec. 12, 1962	Synthetic Refractory Chrome Composition
U.S.	3,297,458	Jan. 10, 1967	Plastic Chrome Ore
U.S.	3,321,322	May 23, 1967	Refractory Composition and Body
Can.	847,422	July 21, 1970	Thermoset Resin-Bonded Refractory Shape, Composition Therefor, and Process for Making Same.