

## OBITUARY

### S. R. NOCKOLDS

(1909–1990)

*(Prof. S. R. Nockolds was an Honorary Fellow of the Geological Society of India, elected in the year 1974. We reproduce below by permission of the Geological Society obituary note on Prof. Nockolds which has appeared in the Annual Report for the year 1990—Ed.)*

Stephen Robert Nockolds, known as 'Nocky' to his geological colleagues, was born in St Columb Major, Cornwall, and educated at Felsted School and the University of Manchester (1926–1930). He gained his PhD at Cambridge University in 1932 and in the same year married Hilda Jackson.

By 1932 he had already published two papers on the geochemistry of contaminated granites, a theme he was to follow. From Cambridge he returned to Manchester as Assistant Lecturer until 1937 when he took a lectureship in the Department of Mineralogy and Petrology at Cambridge and became *ad homine*i Reader in Geochemistry in 1957, an appointment which he viewed as lightening his lecture load but increasing his commitment to research and publication.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1934, received the Lyell Fund in 1942 and was awarded the Murchison Medal in the year of his retirement 1972. He became a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge in 1950, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1959.

His early studies of igneous contamination centred on the Isle of Man, Alderney and Loch Awe, and he published '*The contaminated tonalites of Loch Awe, Argyll*' in the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society in 1934 (v.90, pp. 302–321). The study of contamination was extended to hybridism, and the Tertiary volcanic complex at Carlingford, Ireland was chosen as a likely profitable site. He wrote a series of six papers (1935–1950) detailing the reactions of the granites with gabbros and with Carboniferous Limestone, and on mineral chemistry. Behind the 1950 paper lies the story that one day, when seated with his wife on a syenitic outcrop eating their packed lunch, she exclaimed 'what are these little pink spots in the rocks?' And so eudialyte was discovered in the British Isles. At much the same time, he published in 1941 in the QJGS (96, 451–511) a much quoted paper on the Garabal Hill - Glen Fyne Caledonian igneous complex in Scotland in which he found that crystallization differentiation, rather than contamination, better explained the gabbro to granite series there.

At Cambridge, he perfected the techniques of mineral separation and developed, with Ron Allen, his laboratory assistant, the trace element analysis of rocks and minerals by emission spectroscopy. Together, they wrote a series of papers published in *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* (1953–1966), which have laid the foundation of modern trace element analysis and interpretation.

His second great contribution to science arose from his skill as a writer of clear and concise papers and his generous personality. He took up editorship of

the Geological Magazine in 1950 and it flourished in his care for 24 years. Cambridge University Press enlisted his help to revise a new edition of Harker's 'Petrology for Students', Harker having been one of his mentors. Nockolds also became a founder editor of the Journal of Petrology (1960-1976) and served as an editor of *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* (1950-1969).

To all who came into contact with him, he was the perfect gentlemanly geologist: warm and cordial to those who knocked on his door; ever willing to discuss a problem while puffing his pipe, or to help re-phrase a poorly written script, or merely to proffer sage advice. His garden around the Old Manor House in Linton near Cambridge was his main recreation, and visitors to the house were guaranteed a delightful promenade through colourful flower beds before being dined in the splendid rooms of the Manor House. Such pleasures disintegrated when his wife fell ill and, after years of nursing by him, she died in 1976. Then illness struck him. He contracted Hodgkin's disease but, as a result of most careful nursing by Patricia Horsley, he made a remarkable recovery. He married her in 1978 and moved to Keyingham near Hull, where he organised another delightful garden and took up an interest in archaeology. He died peacefully there on 7 February 1990, a much-loved man who influenced so many. The Society extends its sympathy to Patricia and to his three step children.

MJLeB

### LADY FRANCES MARY FERMOR

(1898-1990)

*(We reproduce below the obituary note on Lady Fermor, the wife of the noted geologist Sir Lewis Fermor, who made outstanding contributions to our knowledge about the geology and mineral resources of India. The note is reproduced by permission of the Geological Society—Ed.)*

Lady Fermor died suddenly and peacefully at Sidmouth on 21st November 1990 at the age of 92. Born Frances Case, she spent the early years of her childhood on her parents farm at Fiddington in west Somerset. Later years were spent on farms in Somerset, Gloucester and Wiltshire. On leaving school she took a typewriting course and joined the staff of the local bank.

Seeing no future in this, she left to work in a craft shop, the Bristol Guild of Applied Art; this was during the twenties which saw the rise of Art Deco. Within a year Frances was a partner and within five years had built the business into a major enterprise. She then took a break, sailing to India in 1926 to visit her brother Robert who was working for the Indian railways and with him she travelled widely on the subcontinent.

Returning to England she took up nursing and became a fully trained State Registered Nurse in 1932. The following year she married Lewis Leigh Fermor whom she had met in India. This brought about a return to the East and a development of interest in geology as she travelled with Leigh, then Director of the Indian