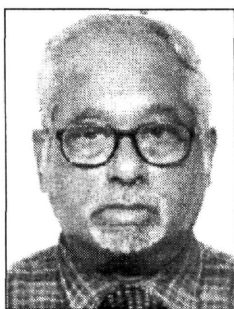


Dhanapati Haldar
(1941-2007)



Born on 16-9-1941, Dhanapati Haldar breathed his last on 11-4-2007 owing to a heart ailment at Kolkata. He is survived by his wife Pantha Haldar. Dr. Haldar was a devout geoscientist till his death. He served the Geological Survey of India with distinction and retired as Director on 30-9-2001. At the time of his superannuation, he was in charge of the International Wing in the office of the Director General, Geological Survey of India.

Dhanapati Haldar was born at Shibaniipur, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal in a respectable family. After passing School final examination in 1957 in first

division with distinction he studied in the Presidency College, Calcutta for six years and obtained First class in M.Sc. (Geology) in 1963. He qualified in the UPSC Geologists' Examination in 1964 and joined GSI in 1965 as Assistant Geologist. The very next year he qualified for Class I post (Geologist) in the UPSC conducted competitive examination. He got his first posting in GSI in petrology Division under Dr. M.V.N. Murthy. Subsequently he served GSI at different places in different capacities, and obtained his Ph.D. (Geology) from the University of Calcutta in 1977. He was promoted as Geologist (Sr.) in 1978 and then as Director (Geology) in 1992.

His major scientific fields of interest were petrology and geochemistry of layered complexes of mafic-ultramafic rocks of Nausahi, Orissa; kimberlites, ophiolites of Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands and Quaternary and Recent volcanics. He also made significant contribution in mineral exploration for diamond, chromite, gold, PGE, etc. He led scientific expedition teams to the island a couple of times. Research work of Haldar's team on the Barren Island volcanism, and petrological and

geochemical studies of the Barren Island and nearby Narcondam island volcanics are significant.

He has more than 40 scientific research papers to his credit published in reputed journals. His indomitable spirit and interest in scientific pursuit was such that even after retirement, he contributed papers and went, on his own to seminar, symposia and conventions in different parts of the world. He has many awards and honours conferred on him — National Mineral Award (1986), Dr. J. Goggin Brown Memorial Gold Medal (1998), Silver Medal for the best paper in MGMI Transactions (2000), Asiatic Society Medal (1977), Fellowship of West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology.

On superannuation from GSI, he guided research students of the University of Calcutta as Emeritus Scientist of the CSIR till 2006. As I had the opportunity to see him from close quarters since 1957 as a student, colleague in GSI and friend. Dhanapati Haldar was a loveable human being, affable, affectionate, ever-helpful and respectful to elders and the superiors.

Kolkata-700 060 RANESH CHANDRA DEY



Rita Auden
(1942-2008)

I deeply regret to record the death of Dr. Rita Auden, younger daughter of Dr. John B. Auden, the last of the British geologists recruited to the Geological Survey of India. Rita was born at Simla on August 22, 1942 and spent her childhood with her parents in India. Her mother Sheila Auden was the granddaughter of Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee, the first President of the Indian National Congress. I had the good fortune of going through the voluminous correspondence Rita had with her father while studying in London. A noble lady, a humanitarian doctor, devoted to the service of the poor, maimed and the needy. She was the favourite of the noted poet W.H. Auden. A Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons at the London Hospital she had made a name for herself. Many colleagues of Dr. Auden will be sad to learn the demise of his sprightly daughter who had cheered many field camps with her merry laughter. The community of Indian geologists send their deep condolences to the surviving members of the family. — BPR