Crystallographers


This section is intended to be a series of short paragraphs dealing with the activities of crystallographers, such as their changes of position, promotions, assumption of significant new duties, honours, etc. Items for inclusion, subject to the approval of the Editorial Board, should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the International Union of Crystallography (J. N. King, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England).

Leonard G. Berry, Professor Emeritus of Mineralogy and Crystallography at Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, died on 29 June 1982. Born in Toronto, Ontario on 17 August 1914, he earned his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto in 1941. Professor R. B. Ferguson writes that in 1944 L. G. Berry became mineralogist and crystallographer at Queen’s University, a position he retained for the rest of his life. He was a member of the Canadian National Commission on Crystallography from 1948 to 1970 and served as its chairman from 1966 to 1970. He was active in Canadian, American and international mineralogical organizations, and was Editor of The Canadian Mineralogist from 1950 to 1975. He was awarded medals, fellowships and honorary memberships by numerous mineralogical associations throughout the world. He was perhaps best known to crystallographers as Editor of the Powder Diffraction File of the JCPDS, 1969–76, preceding which he had been Associate Editor for Minerals for twenty years. His principal research interest was in the descriptive crystallography of minerals, especially the sulfosalts. He was the co-author of three books on mineralogy. Crystallography lost one of its last links between the classical and the modern with the death of Len Berry.

Professor Gabrielle Donnay, Department of Geological Sciences, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, has been awarded the Past-Presidents’ Medal of the Mineralogical Association of Canada. She is thought to be the first woman to receive a gold medal from an earth science organization.

Book Reviews

Works intended for notice in this column should be sent direct to the Book-Review Editor (J. H. Robertson, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, England). As far as practicable books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.


The large-scale practice of crystallization dates back to antiquity, and today this unit operation is one of the major processing techniques of the chemical industry. It is only in recent years, however, that serious and sustained attention has been paid to this old-established and long-neglected branch of chemical engineering. In the past two decades there have been some significant developments in equipment design and operating techniques and new uses are continually being found for crystallization on the industrial scale. The triennial international symposia (this publication refers to the eighth) have played a significant role in stimulating interest and activity in these and allied topics.

The communications presented at this eighth Symposium, held in Budapest in 1981 under the auspices of the European Federation of Chemical Engineers’ Working Parties on Crystallization and, on this occasion, in collaboration with the Hungarian Chemical Society and Academy of Sciences, give a clear indication of trends in research and practice throughout the industrialized world.

The 45 main papers are divided into five groups: Theoretical fundamentals, Secondary nucleation, Impurities and admixtures, Modelling and design of crystallizers, and Industrial crystallization. Each group is prefaced with an invited review paper. Some 50 shorter (two-page) notes are included on the papers presented at the poster sessions.

This valuable collection of papers not only gives a fair summary of current research trends, it also points the way ahead. It is clear, for example, that more work is necessary in the area of nucleation, particularly secondary nucleation, before the complex behaviour of an industrial crystallizer can be understood. The urgent need for more quantitative information on the effect of impurities (including the solvent in growth from solution) on both crystallization and nucleation is also apparent. Further, it is interesting to note the steadily increasing amount of work being carried out on industrial crystallization from the melt, a separation process that is bound to increase in importance in these energy-conscious times. The oldest of the unit operations has taken on a new look.

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Books Received

The following books have been received by the Editor Brief and generally uncritical notices are given of works of marginal crystallographic interest. Occasionally a book of fundamental interest is included under this heading because of difficulty in finding a suitable reviewer without great delay.