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Memorial of Roger G.J. Strens

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Roger Strens, a Senior Research Officer in the Department of Geophysics and Planetary Physics of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, died suddenly on January 11, 1980. As he had generally been in good health, his death, which resulted from an unusual combination of circumstances, was a devastating blow to his family, friends and colleagues.

He was born on May 11, 1938 in Brussels, Belgium, but within a few years his family moved to England, and he attended several schools in and around the London area. In 1956 he entered the Department of Geology at Nottingham University, obtaining a B.Sc. in 1959, and following graduate work with Dr. R. J. Firman, a Ph.D. in 1962. During his years at Nottingham he was a keen field geologist, but became increasingly interested in mineralogy, and made a detailed study of the mineralization of the Borrowdale–Honister area of the English Lake District as part of his thesis work.

The academic year of 1962–63 was spent as a Research Fellow in the Department of Geology, Univeristy of Texas at Austin, and the following year as a Research Geologist in the Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of California at Berkeley. In both positions he gained experience in experimental mineralogy and petrology, working on the synthesis and properties of $Ca_3V_2Si_3O_{12}$ (goldmanite) and several members of the epidote family.

Roger returned to England in 1964 to take up a Research Fellowship in the Department of Mineralogy and Petrology of the University of Cambridge. In a highly productive period of two years he published several papers on stability, electronic spectra, and cation ordering in a number of minerals. Some of the spectroscopic studies were made in collaboration with Roger Burns, and also G. M. Bancroft and A. G. Maddock. The next move took Dr. Strens to the Department of Earth Sciences at Leeds University, where he was Lecturer in Geochemistry, replacing Professor P. G. Harris for one year. In 1967 he accepted an appointment at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, as a Guest Member of Staff in the Department of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, and two years later obtained the post of Senior Research Officer, which he held until the time of his death. During a period of twelve years he developed a distinctive brand of mineralogical research in a Department dominated by solid earth geophysicists. Despite being surrounded by a number of large, estab-

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