Memorial of Jun Ito¹ September 25, 1926–June 6, 1978

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Jun Ito died at A. M. Billings Hospital (The University of Chicago) after a long and painful illness. A

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recurrence of the cancer for which he had been operated on in 1972 appeared 18 months prior to his death, and he courageously under went chemotherapy and continued his methodical activities with singleminded devotion, pursuing his research to the very end. In a memorial service, Professor O. J. Kleppa (who was Director of the James Franck Institute during Jun Ito's first two years at Chicago) encapsulated most sensitively this tragic event: "As a scientist and as a man he showed us by his example how to work, and how to live, and in the end—how to die."

Indeed, Jun Ito was cut short in the midst of a rich and productive life. Some of his most brilliant achievements were realized within the past decade: complete wet-chemical analyses of unusually complex phases (mcgovernite, kraisslite, wyllieite and hendricksite), crystal growth (protoenstatite, orthoenstatite, idocrase), and study of complex systems (CaO-PbO-ZnO-SiO₂). His splendid achievements in successful crystal growth of seemingly intractable phases deluged him with requests for samples from geophysical laboratories throughout the world. Many of his papers are coauthored with other workers and dealt with their problems, but is it not ironic that in many cases the most demanding and difficult aspect of the project was realized in his laboratory? Jun Ito, so scrupulous, so modest, so intent upon his task, kept abreast of the analytic literature and ever improved his techniques. As upon a metaphorical magnificent Cavaillé-Coll organ, he had a vast arsenal of techniques and "stops" at his command: general knowledge of the behavior of the elements in aqueous solutions over a range of Eh and pH values, systematic evaluation of major and minor elements present through emission spectrographic analysis, determination of water content from a variety of techniques, deciphering formal valences of first transition series metals, and the quantitative determination of troublesome components such as Li₂O, BcO, B₂O₃, Mn₂O₃ and As₂O₃. Atomic absorption analysis and X-ray diffraction analysis were also important tools in some of his projects.

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The war years interrupted Jun Ito's educational career, and during those difficult times he contributed to feeding his family by growing vegetables in a small garden lot. In 1945 his scientific education began at the First Imperial College in Tokyo. During this period he was a skilled rugby player, an activity that gave him great satisfaction. Four years later he went to the University of Tokyo where he obtained a Master's degree in mineralogy in 1953, followed by an Instructorship the following year. While at the University of Tokyo he suffered from serious tuberculosis and had to convalesce for two years. During the early stages of his illness to maintain his strength, Jun did much climbing, including Mt. Fuji, and continued his rugby practice. His father, Tei-ichi (renowned crystallographer and 1968 Roebling Medalist), wanted



Jun to be a mineral chemist in the United States working with Clifford Frondel at Harvard, and this began a very fruitful period of five years (1955-1960). During this time he married Yoko Ohsato, an outstanding opera singer then on tour in the United States with an opera company, and presently teaching voice in Tokyo, who bore him two sons, Kenneth (Ken) and Elliott (Elli) also living in Tokyo. The wedding reception was held in the Frondel home, where festivities included a full house with guests dividing attention between the newlyweds and the finale of the World Series. A long and close contact was to develop between Cliff and Judy Frondel, and Jun. But visa problems forced the Ito family to return to Japan, where Jun continued study and lecturing at the University of Tokyo, obtaining his Doctorate (in mineralogy) in 1962 with a thesis centering on the analytical techniques of the complex tourmaline mineral group.

In 1965 he returned to Harvard, where he remained as Research Associate with a brief stay at the National Bureau of Standards until 1974, when the Materials Research Laboratory in the James Franck Institute (The University of Chicago) offered him a post as Senior Research Associate and Professional Chemist. But after Jun returned to the United States, Yoko remained in Tokyo with the children since her talent in teaching voice at a private school and her relative unease in the United States made a more permanent return trip impossible. Their marriage ended in divorce, but Yoko always expressed a fondness for Jun and she didn't remarry. In effect, Jun became more and more a self-made man. During 1971 he married Jean Rogers, a former secretary to Cliff Frondel and Connie Hurlbut, who presently

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lives in Chicago with their lively and alertly intelligent son, John Paul.

Jun's Chicago years were equally productive. Growth of single crystals of refractory silicates and aluminates and thorough wet-chemical analyses of new or hitherto inadequately described mineral species attracted his scientific attention. Several papers were incomplete at his death, including studies on boron-rich humites, micas, and amphiboles from the Franklin marble. Jun often commented on the close interactions he had with students at Harvard, something he perhaps missed at Chicago owing to spatial separation from the other mineralogists. But he attended departmental seminars and interacted with the group on the electron and ion probe analytic facilities through providing wet chemical analyses and a subsequent arsenal of standards. Devoted to his family and always rich with humor and abundant with dedication to his work, the loss of one of the most creative analytic chemists in the world and the very special human warmth, sensitivity, and sensibility left a pronounced gap in the mineralogic community.

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The following material did not appear in the original publication.

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