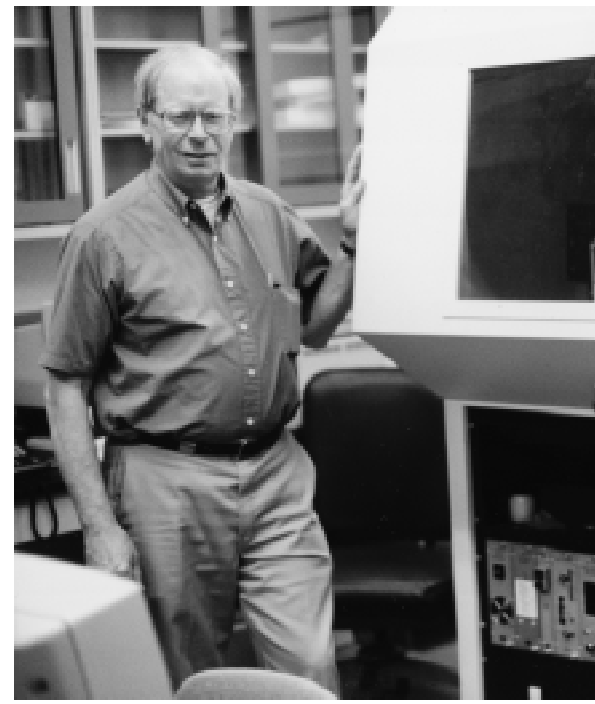
PREFACE

Dedication to Charles T. Prewitt



This special issue of *American Mineralogist* is dedicated to Charles T. Prewitt on the occasion of his retirement as the sixth Director of the Carnegie Institution of Washington's Geophysical Laboratory, and his appointment as Staff Member at the Geophysical Lab. The collection of papers in this volume represents topics of interest to Charlie, as well as contributions from friends, colleagues, and former students and postdoctoral associates. Charlie Prewitt's broad scientific interests and international influence on mineralogy is amply reflected by this volume.

Prewitt's distinguished career reflects the diversity and impact of the mineral sciences. Following a S.B. in geology from M.I.T., Charlie remained in Cambridge to pursue advanced degrees under Martin Buerger. His Ph.D. thesis on the crystal structures of wollastonite and pectolite was completed in 1962 (thanks, in part, to help from his wife, Gretchen, who assisted in the tedious manual diffractometry). Immediately following his doctorate, Charlie joined DuPont as a research scientist. There, in collaboration with Bob Shannon, he developed the crystal chemical systematics that led to the much-cited Shannon and Prewitt tables of effective ionic radii. It was also during the DuPont years that his son, Daniel, was born.

From 1969 to 1986 Prewitt was Professor of Crystallography at the Stony Brook campus of the State University of New York, where he began one of the country's preeminent programs in crystal chemistry and high-pressure research. His tenure was distinguished by extensive service to the Earth science community, including membership on U.S. National Committees on Geology and on Crystallography, and several offices in the Mineralogical Society of America, including President in 1983–1984. It was also during this period that he forged important international ties through visiting professorships in Japan, Australia, and the United Kingdom. In the process he was instrumental in establishing the new field of mineral physics.

As Director of the Geophysical Laboratory from 1986 to 1998, Prewitt had a dramatic impact on the content and scope of the Lab's research program. He was Co-Director of the NSF-sponsored Center for High-Pressure Research, in collaboration with Stony Brook and Princeton, and he championed an expanded view of mineralogy in the context of materials research. Under his direction, the Lab moved to new facilities and increased its scientific staff to more than 50 researchers. He supported new research programs in high-pressure physics and astrobiology, and helped to establish a summer intern program for undergraduates. Now, as staff member, Charlie has returned full time to the scientific research he loves. We look forward to many more years of collaboration and friendship.

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