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Memorial for Shigeho Sueno, 1937–2001

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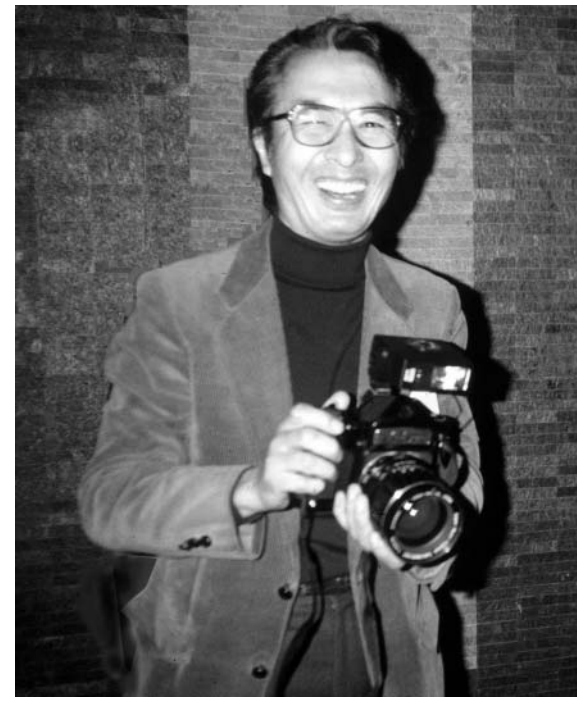
Shigeho Sueno, Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America, passed away in Tsukuba, Japan, on March 11, 2001. At the date of his retirement in March 2000, he was a Professor of Mineralogy at the University of Tsukuba and was well known to many members of MSA and the international mineralogical community. He received his B.Sc. degree from Chiba University and his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Tokyo where he worked with Professor R. Sadanaga. In 1970, he accepted a postdoctoral appointment in the Department of Earth and Space Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. In a very productive four years at Stony Brook, he collaborated extensively with the three authors of this Memorial and also with Maryellen Cameron, Ken Cameron, Joan Clark, John Konnert, Ted Bence, John Delano, and Walter Hamilton. One of the main features of this work involved high-temperature, single-crystal diffraction studies over a wide range of mineral structures. Shigeho was the principal person involved in the design and construction of a single-crystal furnace for diffraction experiments that was capable of temperatures to 1100 °C, and which design was subsequently adopted and sold by several x-ray equipment companies. The data produced at Stony Brook using this device are still the most comprehensive of their kind and have encouraged many other investigations of mineral properties at non-ambient temperatures and pressures.



Upon completing his postdoctoral work at Stony Brook, Shigeho spent a year in Germany where he worked with Professor H. Jagodzinski at the Institut für Kristallographie und Mineralogie der Universität, Münich. He then returned to Japan in 1975 and was appointed Associate Professor in the Institute of Geoscience at the University of Tsukuba. He was promoted to Professor in June 1988. Shigeho led a productive research group at the University and published over 130 papers on various subjects including x-ray diffraction and ion microprobe studies of earth, meteoritic, and planetary materials, as well as crystallographic studies of the YBCO high Tc superconductors. He was President of the Mineralogical Society of Japan in 1994-07, Vice President of the International Mineralogical Association in 1996–2000, and elected Fellow of MSA in 1995.

Shigeho maintained his ties with the group at Stony Brook and eventually established a cooperative program that resulted in exchange and collaborative research among the staff of the two institutions. He was very generous with his knowledge of mineral structures and was among the first mineralogists to use high-pressure diamond anvil cell methods at the Photon Factory in Tsukuba, Japan. He is also well known for designing various types of high temperature-high pressure devices that allowed collection of X-ray intensity data on minerals and other solids at high temperatures and pressures. Shigeho was a loyal friend to those of us who were fortunate to know him well and was devoted to his family. He had a dry humor, an unconventional and refreshing way of viewing the world of science and different cultures, and a love of travel that took him to different parts of the world. He will be missed.

Shigeho is survived by his wife, Tokiko Sueno, and three children, Shunichi, Mikio, and Keiko.

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