

MEMORIAL OF PEGGY-KAY HAMILTON

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Miss Peggy-Kay Hamilton, Research Associate in Mineralogy, in the Department of Geology, Columbia University, passed away on September 19, 1959, at the age of 37. Death came suddenly as a result of a brief illness, followed by a cerebral operation for cancer.

Peggy-Kay, as she was known to a large group of graduate students at



PEGGY-KAY HAMILTON
1922-1959

Columbia University, was a friend, a research adviser, and a constant source of professional information on the solution of mineralogical problems. Technically, she held the post of Research Associate, and was also an assistant on a research project under the joint auspices of the University and the Division of Research of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Actually, she performed the function of a research professor. Few of the graduate students specializing in mineralogy in the last decade have failed to profit from her guidance. Every thesis in mineralogy received the benefit of her informal review before it was submitted.

Peggy-Kay graduated from Vassar College in April, 1944, and entered Columbia in February, 1945, when she undertook graduate work in geology and mineralogy. She received a Master's Degree in June, 1947, and was well qualified to continue for the Doctorate. She preferred, however, to continue as a full time research assistant, devoting her whole effort to various research problems as they arose. Over the years she completed studies equivalent to several doctorates, but could never be persuaded to complete a thesis and undertake the necessary schedule of examinations. Peggy-Kay's first major research effort was devoted to the American Petroleum Institute study of reference clay minerals, known as Research Project 49. The glossary of clay minerals published by the Institute to a large degree represents her work. She also participated in optical and x -ray studies likewise published, and carried a major portion of the editorial work of the project.

With the development of interest in the mineralogy and occurrence of uranium, Peggy-Kay became involved as a full time research investigator in the studies on the origin and nature of uranium minerals. In this work she participated in eleven brochures published by the Division of Raw Materials of the Atomic Energy Commission. Also, she cooperated or assisted materially in several papers that have been published in the *American Mineralogist* and the *Bulletin of the Geological Society of America*. At the time of her death, a paper on the modes of umohoite, largely the result of her investigation, had been accepted by the editor of the *American Mineralogist* for publication.

Those members of the profession who were fortunate enough to know Peggy-Kay respected her for her constant ladylike behavior, her alert interest in mineralogical research, her friendly willingness to cooperate in the solution of mineralogical problems, and her high standard of professional excellence. She was a member of Sigma Xi, and wore a key which she prized highly. Her competence as a mineralogist was well emphasized by the ease with which she was elected a fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America, and likewise a fellow of the Geological Society of America. She was a regular contributor of abstracts for the Mineralogical Society of America.

Peggy-Kay could have occupied more important positions, and on several occasions was offered posts of considerable professional responsibility at double the salary she was receiving. However, she preferred to

remain in New York City, where she was able to live at home with a family she highly cherished. With the death of Peggy-Kay Hamilton, the profession suffers, not only the immediate loss, but many fruitful years of scientific endeavor which would have normally been expected from one who had made such a brilliant start. It is doubtful whether any staff member at Columbia has been more keenly missed on the part of present and former students than Peggy-Kay Hamilton.

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