

PRESENTATION OF THE 1960 MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF AMERICA AWARD TO DONALD L. GRAF

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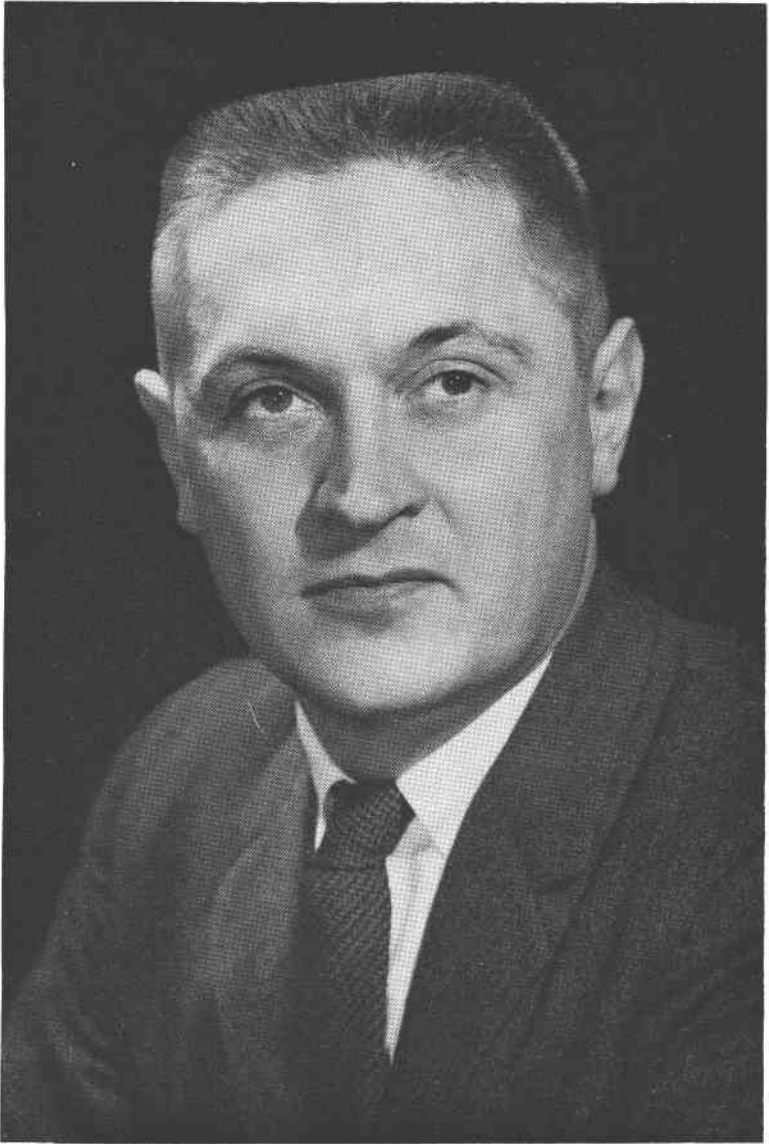
Mr. President, Fellows, and Members of the Mineralogical Society of America, and Guests:

Donald L. Graf is this year's recipient of the Mineralogical Society of America Award. In a presentation of this sort it is usually stated that the proceedings give a great deal of pleasure to the presenter. This must, in some people, be due to a pleasurable sensation produced by the inverse audiovisual experience, in others to a vicarious association with the person being honored, and in still others to a generally false feeling of equality or even superiority induced by their unique task and elevated attitude before an unparticipating and seated audience. Then there are those whose expressed feeling of pleasure is a downright lie.

How can I say that what I am doing is a pleasure? I am playing the part usually reserved for staid, mature, and what many of the younger people would even call "elderly" duffers. The Mineralogical Society of America Award has been called the young man's award. In 1955 I found myself in the seat Don now occupies. Can one find pleasure in having aged so in 5 short years?

Donald Graf received his undergraduate degree in Geologic Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines, and his M.A. and Ph.D. at Columbia University. His only place of business has been with the Illinois Geological Survey, since December, 1948. The 1960 Award is given to him for significant research on the calcium-magnesium carbonates. I shall not dwell on details of his work, but will assume that those really interested know them. I would rather quote to you directly from Oscar Hammerstein II, who said the following about Richard Rodgers:

"His melodies are clean and well defined. His scores are carefully built, logically allied to the stories and characters they describe. No overgrown forests or weed-clogged meadows of music here, but neat rows of tenderly grown flowers on well-kept lawns. Pseudo-artists and dilettante critics might interpret these comments as disparaging. The impulsive creator of overgrown forests of music might seem a more powerful and more important and more rugged fellow. Speaking for myself, I am bored with undisciplined talent. The intertwining vines and aimless vegetation that spring from careless genius are of little use to a world which suffers from obscurity, and not too much clarity. Life is so short that no musician has the right to expect any appreciable number of people to devote any appreciable part of their listening lives to the wild free notes that dribble from his talented but casual fingers. A large



DONALD F. GRAF

number of musical compositions, a large number of grand operas and light operas, are too long, too carelessly put together, and fail for this reason. They are not above the heads of the public. They are just not worthy of the public because the creative artist involved has been too self-indulgent actually to finish off his job."

Don not only has shown the ability of finishing off a piece of research very well indeed, but he has shown the growth and desire necessary to continue to attack new problems with new approaches. This Award is intended for a man whose accomplishments represent points on a rising curve, and I am sure that Don is a long way from an inflection.

Mr. President, I have the privilege of presenting to you, Dr. Donald L. Graf, as the 10th recipient of the Mineralogical Society of America Award.

PRESENTATION OF THE AWARD BY PRESIDENT MURDOCH

Donald Lee Graf, able and industrious worker through whose researches the complexities of the carbonate rocks are being untangled: it is my pleasure as President of the Mineralogical Society of America, to present to you the Society's Award for 1960, with the firm expectation that you will continue successfully to investigate this and other mineralogical problems.

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ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
AMERICA AWARD

DONALD L. GRAF, *Illinois State Geological Survey, Urbana, Illinois.*

I suppose we all wonder at times whether our activity in a particular corner of science is of any interest or use to anyone else. When no one comments on an error in a published paper, this can be more discouraging than losing the argument that should have developed. Recognition from one's society, such as you have just bestowed upon me, is therefore particularly heartwarming as evidence of one's relationship to the larger scientific community. I appreciate very much the encouragement that you have given, and can only hope that in the years ahead it will prove to have been warranted.

It has been my good fortune to be employed by an organization, the Illinois State Geological Survey, that has generously supported a pro-