

## **Memorial of Charles B. Sclar, 1925–2001**

**BOBB CARLSON**

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Charles B. Sclar, professor emeritus of geological sciences at Lehigh University, died Saturday, January 13. He was a professor at Lehigh since 1968, retiring in 1990.

A mineral, "sclarite," was named after him in 1988 in honor of his research into the origin of the zinc ores of Franklin and Sterling Hill in Sussex Hills, N.J. Sclar and his students had extensively studied the area's zinc ore deposits for 20 years. The discoverers of the mineral were scientists at the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum of Natural Science in Ottawa, Canada.

Sclar was one of the principal investigators for NASA on the Lunar Sample Analysis Program of the Apollo Program, from its inception in 1969 until 1978. He was one of only 142 scientists around the world who were given samples from the rocks and dust collected by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin from the Sea of Tranquillity on the moon in July 1969. Sclar studied returned lunar rock samples from all the Apollo missions to learn if they have been subjected to shock waves generated by impacting bodies such as meteorites. His findings supported the theory that the predominant crater-forming process on the moon was high-velocity bombardment by meteors rather than internally generated volcanic activity.

"Charlie Sclar was recruited to Lehigh University to elevate research activity in geological science," said Bobb Carlson, Dean of Lehigh's College of Arts and Sciences. "He did that with great enthusiasm, both through his own mineralogic and petrologic studies, and by establishing a high professional standard for others within the Department of Geological Sciences. During his tenure as chairman, and as a direct result of his relentless effort, the department developed a strong record in graduate studies and research. He was an indefatigable proponent for geological sciences, a demanding and proud mentor to young faculty, and an enthusiastic teacher, who strove to reveal his fascination with science to students."

Sclar specialized in mineralogy, igneous and metamorphic petrology, metallic mineral deposits, geochemistry, and high-pressure petrology. He served as chair of Lehigh's Geological Sciences Department from 1976 to 1985. He was faculty co-chair of the Lehigh University Forum (the campus government) from 1988–1989. While at Lehigh, he supervised 21 students earning master's degrees and 10 doctoral dissertations.

Sclar held two U.S. patents and was the author or co-author of more than 50 papers in scientific journals or books. He was named a Fellow of the Geologic Society of America and a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America. He was a member of many other geological societies and a long-time member of the Lehigh Valley Chamber Music Society.

He presented more than 100 papers at technical conferences and is the author or co-author of many government reports. In 1985 he gave a series of invited lectures at the Beijing University of Iron and Steel Technology and the Geological Academy in Tianjin, People's Republic of China, giving 17 lectures within two weeks in China. He also worked extensively as a consultant for the mineral industry.

Prior to coming to Lehigh he was associate chief and director of the High-Pressure Laboratory of the Chemical Physics Division of the Physics Department at Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio. He was a researcher at Battelle for 17 years. From 1949–1951 he was a member of the geology faculty at Ohio State University.

Born in Newark, N.J., he earned his B.S. degree from the College of the City of New York where he was the Ward Medalist in geology, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University, where he was the James Dwight Dana Fellow.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth C. Sclar of Lower Saucon Township, and his son David A. Sclar of Pullman, Washington. A son, Phillip J. Sclar, predeceased him.