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PROFESSOR MITSUO HUNAHASHI

Professor Mitsuo HUNAHASHI was born on August 3, 1911, in Sapporo, as the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Hachigoro HUNAHASHI. Mr. H. HUNAHASHI, his father, was the head of the Toyohira village then on the outskirts of Sapporo.

After attending the primary school attached to the Sapporo Normal College, Professor HUNAHASHI entered the Sapporo First Middle School. During this time he contracted tuberculosis and was forced to abandon his school education. It took him more than ten years to recover from this illness during which time he bravely and patiently fought against this notorious disease. In the meantime, he began the difficult task of self education and eventually succeeded in obtaining a Middle School Teacher's Licence after passing a number of severe examinations. Even at this early stage in his career his extraordinary ability and strength of will were apparent.

During this time of self education Professor HUNAHASHI became interested in Geology. His intention to study petrology brought him into contact with the late Professor Jun SUZUKI and since his teacher's licence qualified him to enter University, he was admitted to the Department of Geology and Mineralogy, Hokkaido Imperial University in April, 1939, after spending some years as a special student at the Department.

Professor HUNAHASHI was undoubtedly a brilliant student. His first project, the mapping of the Horokanai region within the Kamuikotan metamorphic belt fulfilled the requirement of the second year grade. For his graduation thesis he worked on the migmatites and gneisses in the Horoman region, Hidaka Mountains. He was introduced to, and guided, in these studies, by the late Prof. SUZUKI, under whose instruction, coupled with the superb fields themselves, enabled Prof. HUNAHASHI to lay the basis for his future petrological work. His patient and careful work in these fields produced excellent results and proved his capability in original research.

Professor HUNAHASHI graduated from Hokkaido Imperial University in December 1941 and was made a research assistant at the Department of Geology and Mineralogy in February, 1942. Subsequently, in October 1945, he became an associate Professor, and after gaining his D.Sc. in October 1961, he was appointed Professor of Ore deposits as the successor of the late Prof. SUZUKI.

In the meantime he suffered a relapse of tuberculosis followed by asthma. Notwithstanding subsequent attacks of asthma in the years since he has never lessened his research and has published to date more than seventy scientific articles. His former students are now engaged in research in many different countries.

In viewing his scientific achievements, Professor HUNAHASHI's career may be divided into three stages.

The first stage was when he worked mainly on the Hidaka Metamorphic rocks which was the direct continuation of his undergraduate studies. The result of this research led to the publication with his colleague Prof. S. HASHIMOTO, of "Geology of the Hidaka Zone" (1951), and was culminated by his doctoral dissertation of "Alpine orogenic movement in Hokkaido" (1957). In this last article Professor HUNAHASHI carefully analyzed all the known facts about the Hidaka rocks and presented an original, and comprehensive scheme of the "Hidaka Orogeny", which was much appreciated by geologists in Japan and abroad. In 1965 the well-known book, "Geologic Development of the Japanese Islands" appeared, in which, together with Professors M. MINATO and M. GORAI, Professor HUNAHASHI, gave a detailed discussion of the metamorphic belts in Japan, based on his own experience with the Hidaka metamorphics.

While researching Hidaka geology he investigated cupriferous iron sulphide ore deposits there, and gradually became interested in the field of ore deposits. This stage marked a turning point in his interest towards economic geology, which at first centred on the study of epithermal ore deposits in the "Green tuff region". Later his interest was focused on the alteration of country rocks by the impregnation of ore solutions in which he investigated the genesis of ore veins.

During the third stage of his career, Prof. HUNAHASHI has concentrated on optical studies of plagioclase feldspars and quartz. In these studies he has been working with Drs. C.W. KIM and T. TSUCHIYA on the measurement of the composition and fabric of a large quantity of plagioclase grains in metamorphic and plutonic rocks. This research has shed new light upon the crystallization of plagioclase porphyroblasts with respect to their intergranular coordination and has established a distinct relationship between several petrographic features of co-existing plagioclases and the ages of granites and gneisses in which they occur. Analyses of quartz fabrics in epithermal gold-silver veins, in conjunction with Dr. J. WATANABE, has led to a deeper understanding of the structural control of ore deposition.

Prof. HUNAHASHI is a rather quiet, kind man with a gentle and mild personality. As a teacher, he can, at times, be strict to his students, although he always has their interests at heart and his guidance is such that many of them have been inspired with original ideas in their respective fields of research.

Prof. HUNAHASHI enjoys gardening, but apart from his pastime his much interest lies in research. In this respect he often remarks that there have been many fields of research that he could not finish to his satisfaction that he will continue his various researchs in the future.

Professor HUNAHASHI will observe the day of his retirement from the chair of Ore Deposits on March 31, 1975.

The staff of the Department of Geology and Mineralogy all wish him the best of health, and would like to dedicate their papers to him in volumes to commemorate the occasion of his retirement.

Professor Mitsuo HUNAHASHI
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