



HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

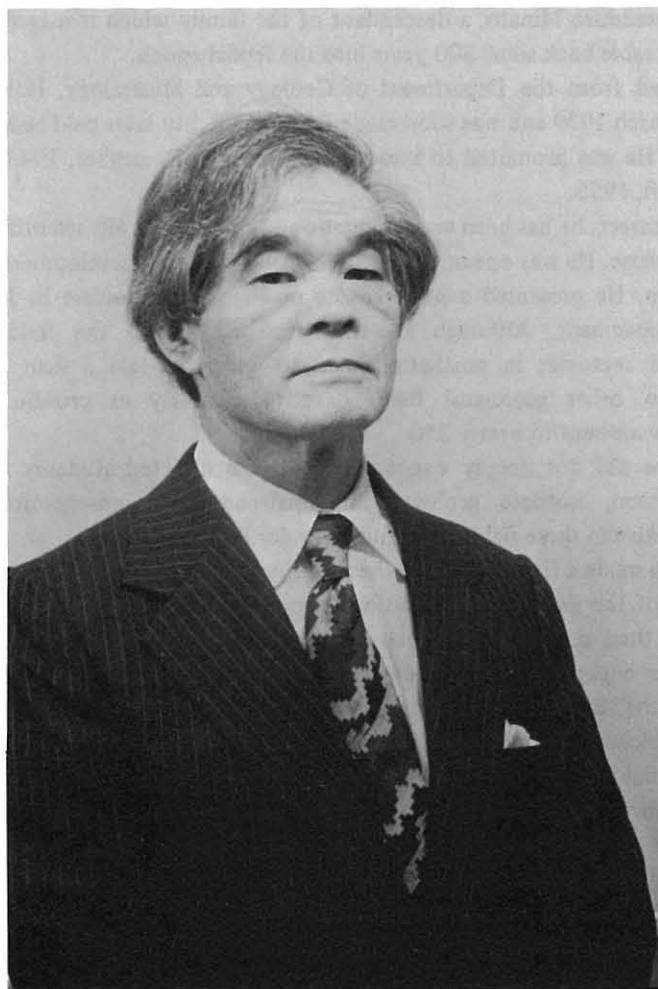
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TO
PROFESSOR MASAO MINATO

IN APPRECIATION OF HIS EXTENSIVE ACTIVITIES
AS A SCIENTIST AND TEACHER
THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CHAIR
OF STRATIGRAPHY

1979



M. Mizato

PROFESSOR MASAO MINATO

Professor Masao Minato, a devoted scientist, a demanding teacher, and one of Japan's outstanding geologists, will retire from the department on the April 1, 1979.

Prof. Minato was born in Akita Prefecture on the November 10, 1915, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Tetsushiro Minato, a descendant of the family which managed mining for the Satake clan, traceable back some 300 years into the feudal epoch.

He graduated from the Department of Geology and Mineralogy, Hokkaido Imperial University, in March 1939 and was soon made first unpaid, but later paid assistant to the late Prof. T. Nagao. He was promoted to associate professor in December, 1943 and appointed professor in April, 1955.

During his career, he has been very energetic and productive. His scientific achievements are great and diverse. He was one of the pioneers in the post-war development of Quaternary geology in Japan. He presented a new scheme of Neogene tectonism in Japan called the "green tuff" movement. Although his main interest lay in the field of Palaeozoic stratigraphy and tectonics in northern Japan, to which he laid a firm foundation, his contributions to other geological fields have been nearly as prolific. His scientific publications now amount to nearly 350.

Although he did not deeply concern himself, he directed students in the fields of palaeogeomagnetism, isotopic geology, micro-palaeontology, geochemistry, etc. Many scientists now active in these fields first studied under Prof. Minato.

Prof. Minato made a field trip to northeast China and to northern Korea in 1941, and he was a member of the geological expeditions organized by the late Prof. J. Suzuki to the Kurile Islands, then a geologically poorly known place, in the summers of 1936 and 1939–1941. He engaged in petroleum exploration in Sumatra and visited the Malay Peninsula and the Banka island to see the tin belt in 1944–1945. He has also made geological excursions to many countries in Eurasia and the Americas, but the major part of his field work has concentrated on Palaeozoic geology in northern Japan, and from his Quaternary Research he has mapped parts of Hokkaido, Okinawa, and other parts of Japan.

In addition to his extensive field trips abroad, he has also visited many foreign universities to give lectures on the geology of Japan, the Asiatic continent and the island arcs of the Western Pacific. He was invited as visiting professor to the University of Stockholm (1958–1959) through the courtesy of Academician Prof. I. Hessland, to the German Academy of Science (1959–1960) by the late Academician Prof. H. Stille and Prof. R. Brinkmann, to the University of Montana (1968–1969) by Prof. R.W. Fields and Prof. A.J. Silverman, and to the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main (1971–1972) by Prof. H. Murawski.

From time to time he has also been a temporary lecturer or taught at a number of Japanese universities other than Hokkaido University, for instance, Hokkaido University of Education, Otaru University of Commerce, Tohoku University, the Earthquake Research Institute of Tokyo University, Tokyo University of Education, Niigata University, Toyama University, Shinshu University, the Water Research Institute of Nagoya University, and Kyoto University.

He received the award for outstanding publication by a young scientist from the Geological Society of Japan in 1943, jointly with the late Prof. H. Yabe, Professors S. Ijiri, T. Shikama and F. Takai a cultural award by Asahi Press in 1952, a cultural prize for books from Mainichi Press in 1952, the Geological Society of Japan prize in 1953, and a cultural prize from Hokkaido Press in 1969.

He received a doctorate from Hokkaido University in 1948 and was presented with an honorary Ph. D. from the University of Stockholm in 1974.

He has been a member of the Committee for Geological Research of the Science Council of Japan ever since its inception. He has also been a committee member in similar organizations on Quaternary geology, research in the Pacific, etc. At present he is a member of the Subcommission on Carboniferous Stratigraphy and the Subcommission on Permian Stratigraphy, both Subcommissions of the International Union of Geological Sciences. He is vice president of the International Association for the Study of Fossil Cnidaria of the International Palaeontological Association. He was President of the Geological Society of Japan (1972–1974) and the Japan Association of Quaternary Research (1970–1974). In 1972, he was elected foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Science.

In 1966 he acted as Convenor for the Geological section of the 11th Pacific Science Congress in Tokyo. He attended as a Japanese delegate the 5th International Carboniferous Congress (Paris, 1963), the 23rd International Geological Congress (Praha, 1968), the General Meeting of the Upper Mantle Project (Moscow, 1971), the 1st International Symposium on Fossil Cnidaria (Novosibirsk, 1971), and the 2nd International Symposium on Fossil Cnidaria (Paris, 1975).

In 1967, Japan was chosen as the location for an international field trip sponsored by the American Geological Institution. Prof. Minato was appointed director for this geologic excursion and guided some 20 eminent American geologists to the main geologic fields in Japan in cooperation with many of his Japanese colleagues.

In addition, he has hosted many distinguished scientists visiting Japan and Sapporo, Academician I. Hessland (Sweden), Academician S. Hjelmqvist (Sweden), Academician N.A. Shilo (USSR), Prof. C.L. Rowett (USA), Dr. L. Aguirre, Dr. R.O. Osorio (Chile), Academician H.K. Erben, Prof. W. Schwan, Dr. A. Schriber (Germany), Prof. C.H. Cheong (Korea), Miss S. Watanabe (Argentina), and many others in the spirit of International scientific cooperation.

During about 40 years of service at Hokkaido University, no less than 165 students did their graduate theses under the guidance of Prof. Minato. Some 40 persons received doctorates under his supervision. His students are now actively working in the applied field of civil engineering geology and mining and at various research institutions both at home and abroad.

He was a committee member involved in the establishment of a university museum and in the care of foreign students at Hokkaido University.

He has also contributed substantially to local government through an advisory board and to the field of applied geology.

He is editor in chief of the journal "Pacific Geology", which he created in 1968 for promoting geological sciences in the Pacific.

He is also one of the founders of the Association for Geological Collaboration in Japan, a new geologic society established two years after the end of World War II. This association was started by those geo-scientists who wanted to reconsider their involvement in the war. The society has grown steadily and now has about 3,000 members.

Apart from many influential scientific publications, he also wrote many essays and newspaper columns. It has also been his great concern to explain geology to the public, and his awards from various press agencies attest to his great success in this field.

In honour of Prof. Minato many new taxa have been named after him in the field of Palaeontology. Of them, only two generic names are mentioned here:

Minatothyris Vandercammen, 1957 (Devonian Brachiopoda)

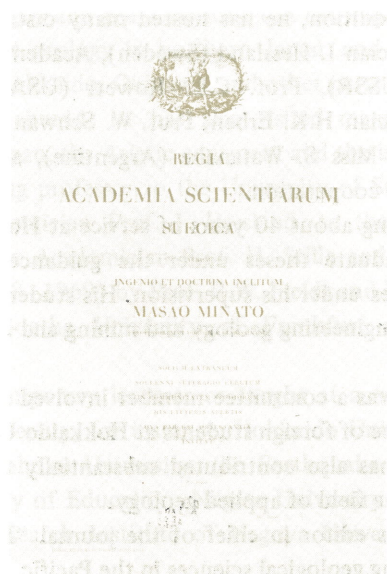
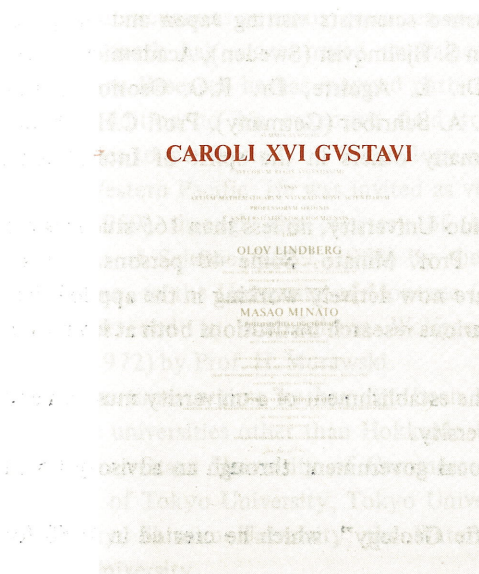
Minatoa Flügel, 1974 (Carboniferous Rugosa)

Prof. Minato is a talkative person. His speech is always witty, and he is very kind to everyone he meets.

When young he was an enthusiastic mountaineer, did oil painting and played the piano, but later he became more and more concerned with geology. Yet one is often struck, even from a short conversation with him, by his broad and correct knowledge in many fields of science and the arts. He is not in the least narrow-minded, and his socialistic way of thinking is quite persuading.

For his devotion to science, the support from his family, especially from Mrs. Minato, must have been immense. Many people will long remember the warm, cozy atmosphere of the Minato family home.

Prof. Minato is in good health and his eager attitude toward science shows no signs of fading. We certainly expect to see many more important contributions from him even after his retirement.



SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROFESSOR MASAO MINATO

1. Articles in Foreign Languages

Palaeontology

Foraminifera

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Coelenterata

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