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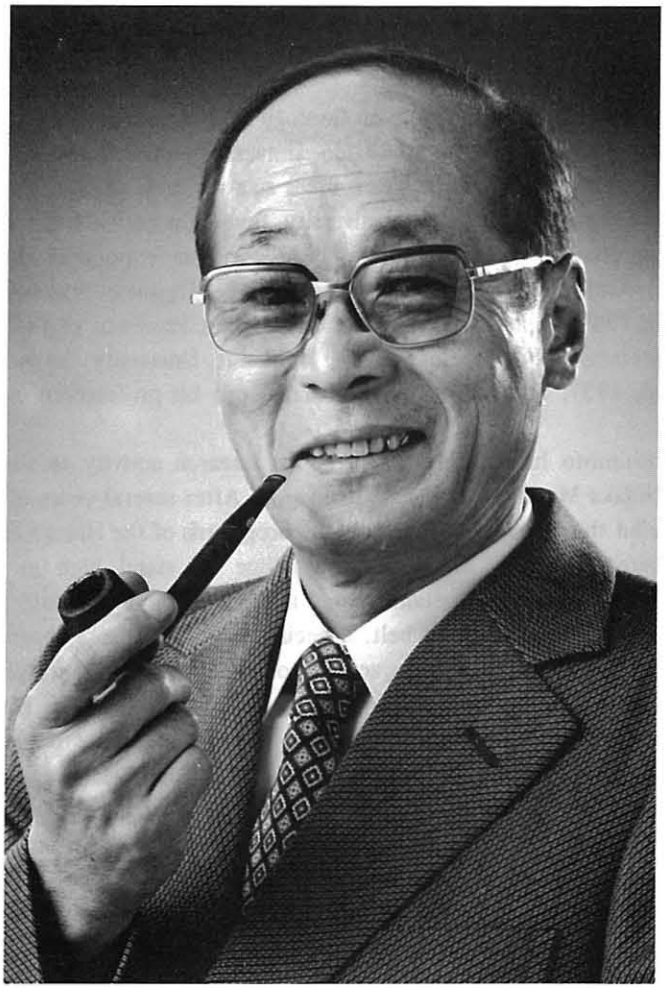
TO
PROFESSOR SEIJI HASHIMOTO

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 GEOLOGY

1981



S. Hashimoto

PROFESSOR SEIJI HASHIMOTO

Dr. Seiji Hashimoto, Professor of Geology at Hokkaido University, who has been active in teaching and in geological research for some forty years, will retire from the chair on April 1, 1981. A number of his colleagues and students greatly appreciate the opportunity to dedicate this volume to him.

Professor Hashimoto was born in Sapporo on January 19, 1918, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Naoya Hashimoto.

He graduated from the Department of Geology and Mineralogy, Faculty of Science, Hokkaido Imperial University (now Hokkaido University) in December, 1941. He then joined the Research Institute of Natural Resources as a research assistant in January, 1942. One year later, he returned to his mother university, first as an unpaid assistant; he became a paid one four months later. In February, 1947, he was appointed Professor of the Preparatory Course of Hokkaido University. When the Japanese university system was largely changed in 1949, he accepted the post of Assistant Professor of the Department of Geology and Mineralogy, Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University; he was promoted to Professor in April, 1957. Since then, he has carried out his professorial duties with great energy.

Professor Hashimoto has devoted much of his research activity to the study on the geology of the Hidaka Mountain Range in Hokkaido. After several years of hard work, he successively revealed the sequence of events in the orogenesis of the Hidaka Mountain Range in which it emerged from a Mesozoic geosyncline to stand high in Late Tertiary, accompanied by the intrusive, metamorphic, migmatitic and plutonic activity which occurred in the depth of the orogenic belt. Especially, he has taken a profound interest in the complex sequence of basic plutonic activity of the Hidaka Metamorphic Belt and so clarified its details that no other plutonic events can be compared with Hidaka's. On this issue, he has stressed the importance of chemical studies and done no less than several hundred chemical analyses of the Hidaka rocks. In 1960 he received his Doctor of Science Degree on the basis of his successive efforts on the Hidaka Metamorphic Belt.

During the course of his studies on the Hidaka Orogenic Belt, Professor Hashimoto noticed that it was very hard to carry on research without comparative study of various non-Japanese mountain ranges elevated during the Alpine phase. A geological reconnaissance to the Great Himalayas was first made by him when he joined the Manasulu Expedition Team organized by the Japanese Alpine Club in 1955. Since then, fifteen of his students have been successively engaged in the field work there. The results that were the outcome of their work were summarized in a large and outstanding book entitled Geology of Nepal Himalayas which was prepared and printed under the supervision of Professor Hashimoto in 1973. In the following year he and his students were honored with the Prince Chichibu Scientific Award for their publication. Subsequently, he visited Chile in 1972, to carry out field work and to discuss Alpine Orogeny with foreign scientists. In 1977, he visited New Zealand for comparative study of Orogeny.

It is noteworthy that Professor Hashimoto has continued to lay stress on field work throughout his scientific carrier, because his philosophy has always been that theoretical

considerations must be tied to geologic relations and structures observed in the field.

Having completed his field work in the Hidaka Mountains, Professor Hashimoto then studied a number of glacier cirques, moraines and glacier striae made by the erosion or deposition of the Pleistocene glaciers. Further, he had the chance to observe some attractive mountain glaciers in Nepal. In these surroundings he made close contact with glaciological study. In the summer of 1960 and 1964, Hokkaido University sent an expeditionary team of three physicists, two geologists and a meteologist to Alaska for various glaciological investigations. Professor Hashimoto participated in this programme as a subleader, and the outcome of the work performed there was published in 1966.

Professor Hashimoto also found time to train many students. His teaching career was long and distinguished, and often extended to other schools in Japan and abroad. As a teacher, he is very kind and gentle to his students and his teaching principle is that young students should cultivate their own originality. More than twenty-five students did their graduate thesis work under the guidance of Professor Hashimoto and ten persons received doctorates under his supervision.

During his tenure of the Professorship of Hokkaido University, he assumed several important posts, including Dean, Department of General Education (1977–1978), Membership of the University Senate (1977–1978), Membership of the Foreign Students' House Committee, Himalayan Committee, International Exchanges Committee and the Entrance Examination Committee etc. Most remarkably, he devoted his energy to the carrying out of an ideal plan for the future of the Department of General Education during his two years as Dean of the Department.

Apart from his research, instruction and service to the management of the university, he is a talented man in many other fields. He is still an expert not only in mountain-climbing and skiing, but also in painting and sculpture. We cannot help admiring his many abilities besides his academic activity. His personality is characterized by an unassuming, imperturbable and sincere attitude to all those who have had contact with him. Accordingly he seems to be one of the most cheerful and profound individuals we have ever met.

He still seems to have the energy and strength of a man half his age. His colleagues and students sincerely hope that he will remain healthy enough to continue his geological and personal activities, now as before his retirement.

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