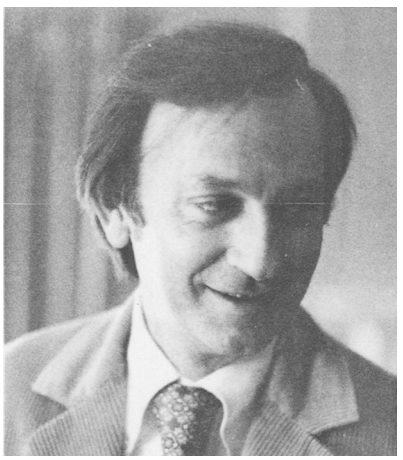
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DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

The Distinguished Member Award of The Clay Minerals Society was made posthumously to Professor John Hower at the 27th annual meeting of The Clay Minerals Society in Columbia, Missouri, October 8, 1990. The following citation was read on behalf of the recipient and presented to his widow, Mrs. Joann Hower, by Stephen P. Altaner.

CITATION TO JOHN HOWER

STEPHEN P. ALTANER



It is a great honor to be presenting the most prestigious award that The Clay Minerals Society bestows on its members, the Distinguished Member Award. Today the award will be given posthumously to a most deserving recipient, John Hower.

John Hower received his bachelor's degree in Physics from Syracuse University in 1952 and his doctoral degree in Geology from Washington University (St. Louis) in 1955. After that, he spent two years at Pan American Research Lab in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 1957, he began teaching at the University of Montana. In 1960 he joined the faculty at MIT and in 1961 he returned to the University of Montana. In 1965 he moved to Case Western Reserve University, which began an extremely fruitful scientific time for him. He was the director of the Geochemistry Program at NSF for two years starting in 1976. The University of Illinois lured him away from NSF in 1978 and he became Head of the Geology Department there. In 1983 he passed away.

John was an extremely active member of The Clay Minerals Society. He is perhaps the only person to host The Clay Minerals Society meeting on two different occasions, in 1974 at Case Western Reserve University and in 1981 at the University of Illinois. He was the society president in 1976 and an associate editor of *Clays and Clay Minerals* for five years beginning in 1972.

John is perhaps best known for his research into the diagenesis of shale from the Gulf Coast. He helped to catalyze a research group at Case Western Reserve University that included Jim Aronson, Eric Eslinger, Ed Perry, and Sam Savin, and produced a multi-faceted study of shale diagenetic reactions. The series of publications which resulted from this research provided a spark for an enormous amount of subsequent work in this and related areas. He is also well known for his collaborative work with Bob Reynolds on the structure of mixed-layer illite/smectite. John and Bob created a dynamic research team, each one acting as a creative sounding board for the other and producing groundbreaking research at the same time. Other important research contributions include his involvement in the first studies to date clay minerals radiometrically, and in pioneering studies that used nuclear magnetic resonance to study clay mineral structures.

John was a truly dynamic and dedicated individual. This trait was best exemplified by his interactions with

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colleagues and students. He fostered independent thinking by using an approach of active dialogue. He also became a good friend to most of these people. An abbreviated list of John's students includes scientists well known to The Clay Minerals Society community such as Dennis Eberl, Ed Perry, Dave Pevear, Gray Thompson, and Bruce Velde. There are countless other scientists who have been strongly influenced by him. I became infected with his spirit of scientific curiosity while he was my advisor at the University of Illinois. Although he was extremely busy with duties as the Head of the department, I remember countless meetings to discuss my research progress. He was always keenly interested in the data, interpretations of the data, and the most productive next step for the research. My discussions with his former students, postdoc's, and research colleagues reveal to me that my experience was not unique. His ability to see the forest through the trees impressed me greatly. At departmental colloquia, John always seemed to ask questions that cut to the heart of the matter at hand.

Although he loved research, John also was devoted to excellence in teaching. He had a remarkable ability to explain. If there were questions from students, he would think for a moment and come up with a completely different way to explain the same concept.

He also loved to play practical jokes. I remember him periodically firing a miniature toy cannon in his office and creating an uproar among the secretaries as a result. Another time he filled a water rocket with baking soda and vinegar. To John's chagrin, it flew out of control and smashed through the window of another professor.

John's wife, Joann and his three children (Brigitt, Mark, and Gretchen) were of tremendous importance to him. It is clear to me that Joann played a major positive role in John's life. I know that Joann and Brigitt, who are both here today, as well as John's entire family, deeply appreciate this award to honor a remarkable individual.

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