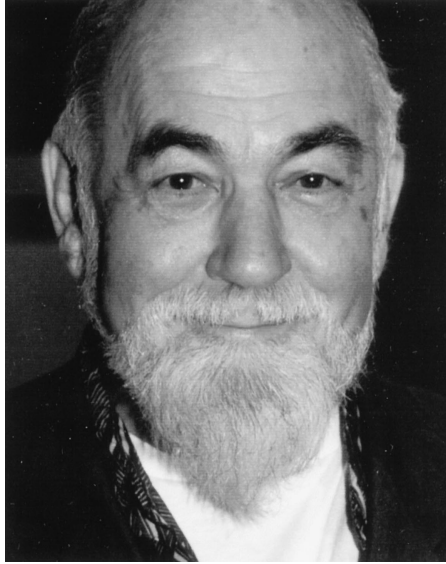


Obituary



Peter Wilkinson (1925–2003)

Peter Wilkinson, retired Senior Lecturer from the University of Sheffield, died suddenly in July of heart failure in Sheffield, England.

Peter was a member of the Organizing Committee for the International Association for Mathematical Geology that met in Prague at the ill-fated International Geological Congress in 1968 and subsequently became a Charter Member. As a geochemist he was interested in the quantitative aspects of chemical analyses of rocks and minerals and developed computer programs for their recalculation. He was very active in different geological computing groups and X-ray user groups and was a fellow of the Geological Society of London and a member of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain.

Born in southeast London in 1925, he attended the Royal College of Science (Imperial College) and graduated with first class honors in 1946. He then turned his attention to the metamorphic rocks in the vicinity of Loch Eriboll (Scotland) an area described as empty, remote, and bleak. That study, which would have served

as his doctoral dissertation, was not complete until in the mid-1960s when his interest was rekindled and a publication resulted (with Jack Soper) on the Moine Thrust Zone. Peter's seminal paper with Jack Soper and A. M. Bell on the use of Skolithos pipes as strain markers in mylonites was described by Fergus Gibb, a colleague at Sheffield, as perhaps his finest paper.

Peter was an expert on the volcanoes of East Africa. In the 1950s he took part in several expeditions to Tanganyika to study the volcano Mt. Kilimanjaro. The results, a definitive work (with Charles Downie) on "The Geology of Kilimanjaro," were published as a monograph by the Department of Geology at Sheffield University. Later in the 1970s, he organized several expeditions to Tanzania to study the volcano Meru. These studies coincided with his hobbies of hiking, mountaineering, and skiing.

Peter was an excellent teacher often entralling his students in the subject with eloquent and enthusiastic presentations. He tended to expend his efforts in teaching rather than publishing results of his research. As a result, his publications, although not numerous, were on select subjects of special importance and interest to him.

In addition to his love of the out-of-doors, Peter enjoyed browsing in old book stores and adding to his extensive collection. He had a passion for music which he shared with his wife, Eva, of 57 years. In his later years, he became intrigued with genealogy and traced his family's history.

Peter will be remembered and missed by his many colleagues, former students, friends, and family. He is survived by his wife, Eva, and sons, Timothy, Colin, and Nicholas, and two grandchildren.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I want to thank Fergus Gibb for information on Peter Wilkinson and for sharing his insight on the teacher, researcher, and the man.

REFERENCE

Gibb, F. G. F., 2004, In memoriam of Peter Wilkinson, 1925–2003: Geol. Soc. Lond., Ann. Rept., in press.

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