

IN MEMORIAM

John Stuart Anderson

(9 January 1908–25 December 1990)

I am proud to have known and worked with John Stuart Anderson during the last 6 years of his life, the first 6 years of my postdoctoral career. Professor Anderson was active in our laboratory up until the end of 1988, while maintaining his thorough literature awareness. He was as intensely curious and enthusiastic as the rest of us when, in late 1986, high-temperature superconductors focused our scientific lives. His last experiments involved oxygen diffusion kinetics and mechanism in the 1:2:3 high- T_c superconductor, though his head was turned briefly by the claim of cold fusion in 1989.

The paper which my colleagues and I dedicate to his memory would have appealed greatly to Prof. His uncanny ability to unscramble unit cells from seemingly intractable XRD data and his self-imposed rule of never resting until the last diffraction line was indexed exemplify both the high standards and the doggedness of the man. It could be said that our paper has aspired to his example in these respects. If there was one scientific weakness it was his tendency in his latter years to "undercook" specimens. But who would not forgive him this unwillingness to hasten toward equilibrium after almost 60 years in the laboratory!

I will leave it to my senior colleagues to extol his many achievements. I can only speak for his final few years. He was, right to the end, sharp in mind and unerringly accurate in his memory. The depth of his knowledge of inorganic chemistry and the breadth of his other academic interests and expertise truly qualified him as a universal scholar, a rare breed.

The last 2 years of his life were progressively consumed by his struggle with cancer of the throat. They were difficult years for him, as well as for his family, friends, and colleagues. Yet, through it all he showed remarkable good humor and concern for we who were to outlive him. If the greatness of a man's life is tested by the way he bears the suffering and uncertainty of his dying, then I can report to those who knew him that John Stuart Anderson was a great man.

JOHN G. THOMPSON
*Research School of Chemistry
Australian National University
Canberra, ACT 0200
Australia*