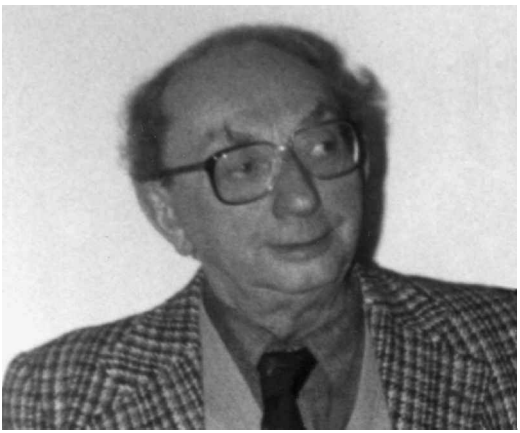
progressively debilitating illness, during which, with devoted support, she bravely gave the semblance to most people of a normal life for many years.

As befitted Sir Kingsley, a large congregation commemorated with thanksgiving his remarkably fulfilled life at a funeral service on 11 April 2001 in Durham Cathedral, followed by a reception in Hatfield College, for both of which establishments he maintained great affection in all their aspects to the very end.

BRIAN L. HODGE

Andrew F. Seager, 1920–2000



Andrew Ford Seager was born in west London in 1920. His mother was a music teacher and his father a solicitor. He attended St Paul's School and, in 1939, went on to read geology at King's College, London. At the outbreak of the second world war, however, King's was evacuated to Bristol University and it was there that he spent his undergraduate years. He suffered from asthma, particularly as a child. One result of this handicap was that in his childhood he spent more than average time in his local library where he found and read L.J. Spencer's *The World's Minerals*. It was this chance discovery which kindled his lasting passion for mineralogy.

On graduation, in 1942, he was drafted into a branch of Operational Research attached to Fighter Command and worked on armaments at Stanmore. After the war, rather than stay in Operational Research, he took up the post of Assistant Lecturer in the geology department at Birkbeck College and remained there happily for the rest of his professional life. He gained his PhD in 1953 for a thesis on 'The relation of habit to structure and growth in crystals', the work for which and the writing-up were done simultaneously with the preparation of courses and his baptism in teaching undergraduates. Developing the themes of his PhD work, his subsequent publications were concerned mainly with the significance of morphological and especially surface features of minerals, including the baryte group, cerussite, hematite, magnetite, pyrite and galena. In a later series of publications he described and discussed the paragenesis of a suite of zeolites developed in metabasites and serpentinites of the Lizard, Cornwall and, with colleagues at Birkbeck and Cambridge, determined and discussed the age of the suite. He also published work on the space group of tetrahedral diamond and the crystallography of sucrose. He was promoted rapidly, achieving a readership in mineralogy in 1963 and became head of the geology department in 1970. Under his guidance the department moved to new premises and enjoyed a period of sustained prosperity.

He played a full part in the work of the Mineralogical Society which he joined in 1943: he became a member of the Applied Mineralogy, Clay Minerals, and Geochemistry Groups; he was

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Publications Manager of the Society from 1956 to 1960; Treasurer from 1960 to 1966; and was a Vice President from 1966 to 1970. The bulk of his professional effort, however, went into his teaching and associated work. He brought an infectious enthusiasm to his teaching of crystallography and mineralogy which not even the most worldly-wise of Birkbeck's mature students could resist. He loved teaching at Birkbeck and took deep pleasure in his students' achievements. Furthermore he gave time freely and unstintingly to the pastoral care of his students. But the time spent in teaching and caring for his students and for the geology department, together with the very full part he played in College life, cut deeply into his research time and undoubtedly curtailed his research output. In the list of his professional priorities, the interests of his students and of the geology department came first and his research output came second. Students realized this and were sincerely grateful for the choice he made.

Andrew retired in 1982 and was appointed Emeritus Reader. He was then able to enjoy the pursuit of his three main leisure interests – extending his remarkable mineral collection, watching birds and astronomy. For the last three years of his retirement, however, he fought a battle against cancer which he eventually lost on 3rd August, 2000. He was fortified by his deeply held Christian faith and remained cheerful throughout his illness. With the exception of the last six weeks, the quality of his life thankfully remained good. He is survived by his widow Delia, his son Chris and his daughter Nicky. He was beloved by his colleagues and deeply respected by the numerous students he cared for and taught. The depth of his concern touched and influenced us all in the department of geology at Birkbeck College.

BRIN ROBERTS AND JOHN T. TEMPLE

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