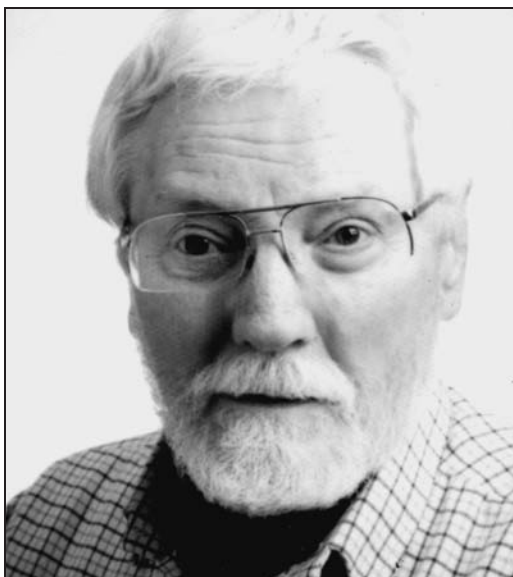


Obituary

Dr NEVILLE BRADSHAW (1937– 2005)



Neville, or 'Nev' to his friends and family, grew up in Lancashire, attended Colne Grammar School, and then Manchester University where he graduated with a 1st Class Honours degree in Geology (1958) and a PhD in Mineralogy and Petrology (1962). In January 1962 he was recruited into a British Government (Overseas Geological Surveys) post of Mineralogist to the Tanganyika (Tanzania) Geological Survey in Dodoma. The G.S. was somewhat unique in that it developed and provided a source of many very competent earth scientists who went on to occupy senior career positions worldwide in public, international and private mineral industry fields. Neville was certainly included in this 'band of brothers'.

In Tanganyika as it then was, Neville took charge of the Mineralogical Laboratory which provided support to the regional mapping programme mineral resource evaluation work and meeting the public and other institutional demands for specimen identification including diamonds and gemstones. After one 'tour of duty' during which we saw the transition from British

Protectorate to full independence, Neville took up a position with the Institute of Geological Sciences in London as Senior Scientific Officer where he continued to use a variety of mineral identification tools: XRD powder photography, DTA and XRF. He also conducted training courses in optical mineralogy techniques.

His real international career started in 1970–1972 when he joined a United Nations team to assist the Government of Ecuador and their fledgling Geological and Mining Institute in the establishment and integration of their laboratories to support basic geological needs as well as the development of their minerals industry. At that time, one of the major tasks was to evaluate an 8000 km² area in the south of the country by mapping and geochemical sampling. He then joined a substantial UNESCO/United Nations team in Burma (1972–76) where, apart from mineral-resource exploration work on many fronts, a major objective was to establish a permanent training programme leading to a Diploma in Applied Geology for Burmese graduate students. As well

as hands-on practical work, Nev developed lecture and laboratory courses over a wide range of mineral-associated procedures and techniques.

From 1977 to 1979, Neville, working for the IAEA, joined URIRAN, a private company exploration unit associated with the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran in Tehran. He also carried out consultancy assignments in Chile and Bolivia. From 1979 to 1980 he was a member of a UN team in Kerala (India) supporting exploration and identification work and techniques principally related to gemstone investigations.

The two most challenging and difficult assignments of Nev's career followed; from 1980 to 1983 in the jungles of eastern Liberia and from 1983 to 1986 in the Kangari Hills and Sula Mountains of Sierra Leone. Working for the UN Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (managed by UNDP and largely Japanese funded), Neville did an outstanding job in developing and refining mineral-sampling

techniques which in turn led to improved and more reliable exploration techniques relating to both primary and secondary gold deposits.

Neville then returned to his beloved Lake District area of England and became involved in various environmental projects, (local footpaths group, The Green Party and Local Parish Council) as well enjoying favourite walks along Hadrian's Wall. He was throughout his career the most perfect Earth scientist – never leaving stones, or minerals, unturned. With a keen and enquiring mind, Nev always carried out thorough research and innovation in the constant quest for improved mineral-related sampling and identification techniques. Also an avid reader, Nev could argue and discuss a wide variety of issues from an extremely well informed viewpoint. He is sadly missed by his family, Jill, Amy, Paul and William as well as his friends and professional colleagues.

P. M. FOZZARD