

OBITUARY – MAURICE STONE (1927–2021)

GEOSCIENCE IN SOUTH-WEST ENGLAND, 2022, 15, 40.



Maurice Stone was born in Liverpool on May 22nd 1927. He attended Barlow's Lane School in Fazakerley and then, from 1939, Ormskirk Grammar School where he met his future wife, Doreen Almond. They were soulmates for 82 years deferring marriage until Maurice was qualified as, in 1945, he was conscripted into the Army eventually becoming a member of the Royal Army Education Corps and receiving a training in teaching that contributed to his eventual excellence as a University Lecturer. In 1949 he entered the first year Geology Class at Liverpool University and, in 1952, gained an Honours BSc in Geology under Professor R. M. Shackleton, later FRS. He also married in 1952 and began a year's research at Liverpool University under Shackleton on the Aberfoyle Anticline at Callander (Perthshire) which was subsequently to form the basis of his second paper in 1957. In 1953, he was appointed to a lecturing post in geology at the then new University College of North Staffordshire which later became the University of Keele.

Significantly, from there in 1956, Maurice published his first paper (with J.L.M. Lambert) on the recumbent folding in the Mylor Slates near Porthleven, Cornwall, showing his new area of interest. His work was assisted geographically by his appointment, in 1959, as a Lecturer in Geology in the University of Exeter. Here he taught structural geology, mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry. He became a Founder Member of the Ussher Society in 1962 (serving on the Committee in 1966–1967) and returned to the Mylor Slates in a 1962 paper that marked the very first Part that launched the Proceedings of the Ussher Society, followed by two further papers in Volume 1 but on the Cornubian granites. Most of the 45 papers which he published concerned the geology of South-West England, with a third (15) of them being published in the Proceedings of the Ussher Society. He joined the Mineralogical Society in 1963 and, in 1965, he gained his PhD from the University of Birmingham on the Structure and petrology of the Tregonning-Godolphin Granite which was supervised by Mr David Lacy.

Maurice was known as an outstanding teacher, patient, clear, well-prepared and delivered and was promoted to a Senior Lectureship. He was also a most conscientious internal and external examiner and incredibly modest about his work. His main interest shifted away from structural geology (including unpublished work in quartz petrofabrics, then difficult to interpret) to the petrology and geochemistry of the Cornubian granites and their contained and aureole minerals on which he became an expert. Thus, with Colin S. Exley, he wrote the definitive accounts of the granites in the 1982 *Igneous Rocks*



Figure 1. Maurice Stone at graduation in 1952. Image kindly provided by the family.



Figure 2. Maurice Stone in 2014. Image kindly provided by the family.

of the British Isles (Edited by D. S. Sutherland). His wide-ranging granitic work mostly involved topics associated with the granites of Devon and Cornwall, such as the lithium content of the rocks and micaceous elements of which have become of substantial economic interest. He also helped confirm the long-suggested identity of clasts in Permian rocks as being derived from the now eroded volcanic phases associated with the magmatism of the granites such as those of Dartmoor or Godolphin. He formally retired

in 1991 but continued as an Honorary Research Fellow in the Exeter University Earth Resources Centre until 1999, publishing his last paper in 2000.

Maurice loved classical music and stage-managed, for five years, operas performed by the Exeter University Opera Group. He also combined photography, oil painting and water-colouring to record the extensive range of places that he, Doreen and the family visited over 44 years of widespread caravanning in the British Isles and mainland Europe. He died on the October 8th 2021, having been married for 69 years. His family was always very important to him and he is survived by Doreen, their four children (Christine, John, Jacky and Ian), eleven grandchildren and twenty great grandchildren. I thank the family for much of the information about his life, especially that provided by Ian Stone.

Bernard Elgey Leake
Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales