

Professor Dr. Gerard V. Middleton (1931-2021)



With much regret I just found out that my dear Professor Dr. Gerard V. Middleton passed away last November. Gerry Middleton was born in South Africa and educated in England. He obtained his doctorate degree from Imperial College, London (1954). Gerry emigrated to Canada in 1954, and taught at McMaster University from 1955 to 1996. Over his career his main fields of research in geology were physical sedimentology, data analysis, and

the history of geology. He published over 100 papers in scholarly journals, and several books, including the famous *Origin of Sedimentary Rocks* (1972 and 1980; with H. Blatt and R. Murray) and *Data Analysis in the Earth Sciences using MATLAB* (2000).

In sedimentology, his most influential publications were on turbidity currents and their deposits, and on the origin of physical sedimentary structures. In 1998 he received the Distinguished Educator Award from AAPG. His last major work was as editor of *Encyclopedia of Sediments and Sedimentary Rocks* (2003), and his last paper was written in 2007: *Chronology of events in geology in the 20th century* (North-eastern Geology & Environmental Sciences). During the last five years he

had studied the source of stones used for building in 19th-century in southern Ontario (Canada), and the sedimentology and wines of the Niagara region.

Gerry was known by his extraordinary memory ... when in classroom, he was able to quote references and details from countless papers related to the subject he was lecturing. Gerry was always very sincere with his comments (technically and personally), adding always a sharp comment or a joke.

Another anecdote that comes to my mind is about beers ... Gerry was very well versed in the art of beers and I remember one time when I knocked in his office with a bottle of Venezuelan beer (Polar). Some days after that, I asked about his ranking for the beer and I was shocked when he said: only an Argentinian beer was worse than that.

He was an emeritus professor in the School of Geography and Earth Sciences at McMaster University (Canada). Gerry died on November 2, 2021, at the age of 90. His legacy and devoted life to earth science education will never be forgotten by current and future generations of geoscientists.

Jhonny E. Casas
AAPG Education Director