

## *Donald Raymond Hunter (1927–1999)*

Donald Hunter was born in London, and matriculated at the Bournemouth Collegiate School. He went on to King's College, University of London, with the intention of specialising in physics and mathematics, but became increasingly attracted to geology, in which he graduated with a BSc Hons in 1947.

After a short time working on the Witwatersrand gold mines, he joined the Colonial Geological Surveys in 1949, and spent the next 21 years in Swaziland, where he became Director of Geological Survey and Mines. In his first eight years there he completed the geological mapping of about two-thirds of the country, concentrating on the Archaean granitoid terrain. This work formed the basis of his University of London MSc in 1954, and a PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1968. He was also responsible for the assessment of mineral deposits, especially gold, in north west Swaziland.

Swaziland became independent in 1968, and in 1970 Don Hunter resigned his position in order to accommodate the appointment of Swazi nationals. In 1971 he was awarded an OBE.

From 1970 to 1974 he worked in the Economic Geology Research Unit at Wits University, and in 1975 was appointed to the newly-created chair of geology at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg — a position he held for 17 years until his retirement in 1992. During this time he developed research interests in Antarctica, and in 1977 was appointed as South African representative on the working group for geology of the Scientific Council for Antarctic Research.

Professor Hunter was elected President of the Geological Society of South Africa in 1979, and it was through his efforts that a Natal branch of that society was formed in 1980. He received the society's Jubilee Medal in 1970, and the Draper Memorial Medal in 1988. In 1990 he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa, and in 1993 received the Percy Fox Foundation Award. During most of his time in Pietermaritzburg Don Hunter served on the council of the Natal Museum, for several years as its chairman.

At a memorial service on 6 October Professor Tom Clifford of the University of the Witwatersrand paid eloquent tribute to a valued friend and colleague who will be sadly missed by many throughout southern Africa. Don Hunter is survived by his wife Val, three children and four grandchildren.

JOHN DEANE



Professor Donald Hunter OBE