

Crystallographers

J. Appl. Cryst. (1987). **20**, 536

This section is intended to be a series of short paragraphs dealing with the activities of crystallographers, such as their changes of position, promotions, assumption of significant new duties, honours, etc. Items for inclusion, subject to the approval of the Editorial Board, should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the International Union of Crystallography (J. N. King, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England).

It is with deep regret that the crystallographic community learned of the death of **Gabrielle Donnay** in April 1987. Jan Szymański writes, always a strong personality, Gai was a great fighter for causes close to her heart. Her strong stand on the role of women was aptly covered in the short symposium entitled 'Women in Crystallography', which was held at the American Crystallographic Association meeting in Hamilton (Ontario, Canada) in June 1986, and which was a great success. The symposium was specially organized to honour her upon her retirement. After her death her husband, Professor J. D. H. Donnay sent me the following, which is quoted in full:

Gabrielle Donnay, Professor of Crystallography at McGill University (1970–1985), Staff Member of Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington (1950–1970), Visiting Professor at the Sorbonne, Paris (1958–1959) and at the University of Tokyo (1984) died peacefully at her home in Mont-Saint-Hilaire, PQ, Canada, on Saturday 4 April 1987 at age 67.

Née Gabrielle Hamburger in Landeshut (Germany at the time, now Poland) the daughter of a textile manufacturer, she emigrated to the USA in 1939. She won her PhD under M. J. Buerger at MIT (1949), with her non-centrosymmetric rhombohedral structure of tourmaline (previously deemed to have a hexagonal lattice despite its morphology). She made a name for herself in the crystallography of minerals, especially their crystal structure and crystal chemistry. Two of the new species discovered at Mont-Saint-Hilaire were dedicated to her: gaidonnayite and donnayite (the latter shared with her husband and co-worker JDHD). Among other honours, she was the first woman to become a member of the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars (1970) and is a life fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America (1982); she was awarded the Past Presidents' Medal of the Mineralogical Association of Canada (1983). A Canadian Masters Javelin Champion, she also was an avid hiker and skier. She loved classical music and her violin.

Gai's ashes repose in the small cemetery of Pigeon Hill, in the province of Quebec. She is survived by her husband, JDHD, and two sons: Albert, executive director of Nuclear Free America, in Baltimore, and Victor, mathematics instructor at Princeton, *pro tem.* research associate at ETH, in Zurich.

Donations to a Memorial Fund will be accepted by, and should be made to the 'Carnegie Institution of Washington, Geophysical Laboratory'. Mention 'For Gai Donnay Fund' on the check and address it to the Director, Dr Charles Prewitt, 2801 Upton Street NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA.

We extend to her husband and their two sons our deepest sympathy. Since his wife's death, Professor Donnay has himself suffered a severe stroke, and is paralyzed and hospitalized. We all join in sending him our best wishes for a speedy recovery to his full faculties.

International Union of Crystallography

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