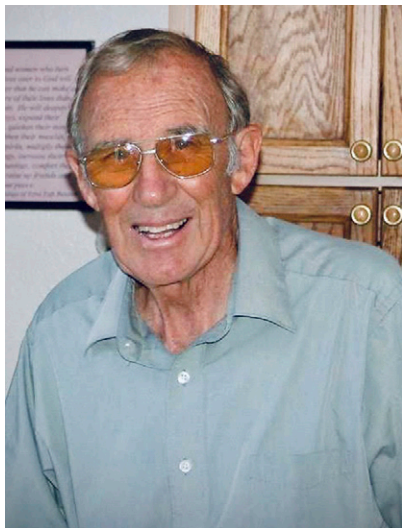


MEMORIALS



ROBERT LAMAR EGBERT 1928–2020

By Mark Egbert

Robert LaMar Egbert passed from this life on April 8, 2020, a few days prior to his 92nd birthday. He is survived by an extensive and very devoted family who loved him dearly and will miss him. Egbert was preceded in death by his first wife, Lolita, who passed from this life in 1999.

Egbert received his bachelor's degree from Utah State University in 1949. After serving his country during the Korean War, he returned to Utah State University, where he obtained his master's degree in geology in 1954.

Egbert began his petroleum geology career with Sun Oil in the summer of 1953. He ran a plane table alidade during field work near Evanston and the Utah-Wyoming line, and on the western flank of the Wasatch Plateau.

After graduation in 1954, Egbert went to work for Phillips Petroleum Company (PPCo). He remained with Phillips until he retired in 1985.

Egbert's first assignment was PPCo's Salt Lake City office, where he did interpretation of aerial photographs and field mapping/verification. His work took him to Book Cliffs, Canyonlands, Big Horn Basin, and many other areas.

In 1956, Egbert was transferred to the Billings, Montana field office, where he did extensive work in the Williston Basin, northern Big Horn Basin, and North Dakota. During this time he was involved with the Billings Geological Society, and contributed to a number of their publications, including a field guide describing the 1959 Yellowstone (Hebgen Lake) earthquake.

In 1960, Egbert moved his family to Denver, Colorado, where he worked for the Phillips Exploration and Production Group. While assigned to the Denver office, Egbert did exploration and field work in the Duero Basin of northern Spain, and the Sahara Desert adjacent to the west coast of Africa (at the time, this area was considered to be the "Spanish Sahara"). His field work significantly expanded the knowledge and understanding of these two areas.

In about 1962, Egbert became the supervisor for the PPCo exploration work in the "Four Corners District," which included Arizona, west New Mexico, southeast Utah and southwest Colorado.

Later, he became the regional staff geologist, and he supervised exploration activities in the Denver division office where he had responsibilities for PPCo efforts in the Rocky Mountains, California, and Alaska.

In 1967, Egbert was transferred to the Phillips office in Santa Barbara, California. While there, he sat the

discovery well for the Carpenteria Field. He also played a significant role in the lease purchases and other efforts that Phillips made in this area. Egbert's early work in offshore California helped lay the groundwork for Phillips' interest in this area today.

When Egbert returned to Denver, he became an integral part of Phillips' "introduction" into the age of computers. Through his efforts, Phillips became an early adopter of computer mapping and plotting technologies and became a leading developer of early base mapping layers. For a time, Phillips even sold some of the base layers they had developed.

In 1977, Phillips established a Technical Services Group in Denver, and Egbert became the first manager of that group. Over time, this group became the model for the company, and other Phillips offices throughout the world modeled their computer and data processing efforts after the work being done in Denver, by this group. Egbert served the remainder of his career with Phillips in this technical services role.

Egbert was a member of AAPG for many years. He was also a member of the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists (RMAG) for many years, and served in RMAG leadership at one time.

Publications of general interest include editor for the *Geologic Atlas of the Rocky Mountain Region* (widely known as "the red book"). Egbert also consulted with James Michener for Michener's novel titled *Centennial*. Egbert's contributions are noted in the acknowledgements section of that book.

Egbert was a field geologist at heart. He was a caring, passionate, and loving man. He was a man of great personal faith and principle. I was blessed to have him as my father.



**Kenneth (Ken) W. Glennie
1926–2019**

**By Andrew Hurst, Caroline Hearn, and
Brian Williams**

On June 6, 2005 at the opening of the AAPG's Annual Convention in Calgary, a small man walked purposefully onto the floodlit stage and created a little bit of history. This was Kenneth Glennie, forever Ken, receiving his Powers medal. The historic moment was that Ken was the first ever non-United States citizen, not domiciled in the United States, to become a Powers medalist. With a lifetime career in global exploration with Shell International behind him, Ken realized the poignancy of the situation and embraced the honor and significance in his characteristic modest, unassuming manner. By slight geographic coincidence, this was a small homecoming for Ken as early in his initial global exploration career he carried out extensive field mapping in remote areas of the Canadian Rockies, the only site in North America where Ken practiced petroleum geology. Ken's reputation for petroleum geology, and more broadly,

geological excellence, came from elsewhere.

Ken was an excellent geologist and a wonderful friend. His characteristically relaxed manner veiled his quick eye and sharp intellect and was almost contrary to his passion to understand Earth's geological history. A thirst for detail was always placed with equal measure in global or regional geological context. Because of this breadth of geological context, it was easy to engage in a wide range of dialogue with Ken, for who fundamental geological skills were matched by an often encyclopedic knowledge, and a willingness to learn more. Wherever Ken trod, and he trod lightly and often, he left a positive footprint and his enthusiasm for our science will surely live on in the minds of many that follow.

Although latterly Professor Kenneth W. Glennie D.Sc, at the University of Aberdeen, Ken never perceived himself as an academic. He was trained to solve practical problems and was given license to do so by Shell International as they utilized the expanding value of sedimentology in global exploration for hydrocarbons. Through the late 1950s and 1960s Ken trained several young geology recruits to Shell who later led the company. Those of you who heard Ken's acceptance speech in 2005 will recall Ken's own rise through the Shell hierarchy was hugely impeded by him choosing to prioritize the interests of his family which, as he joked, ultimately meant he had more time to get on with looking at rocks. Remarkably his professional career led Ken to scientific recognition, initially for expanding the science of desert sedimentary systems in his seminal 1970 book "Desert Sedimentary

Environments." The scientific core of the book had already been instrumental in a strategy of wealth creation in the exploration and production of gas from the UK Southern North Sea from the 1960's onward. Equal to his esteem for study of desert systems, Ken was renowned as the "Father of Oman's Geology" and his pioneering fieldwork in the scientific study of the Oman Mountains earned him the enduring respect of the Omani royal family and its people alike. As a "youth of 85," Ken assisted in the production of, and starred in, the Geological Society of Oman's documentary film *Oman's Geological Heritage*.

On retirement from Shell in 1985 he became "Glennie Pensioner" but far from inactive! Ken did not take up golf but rather, played a leading role as contributor and editor of the first comprehensive review of North Sea oil and gas fields in *Petroleum Geology of the North Sea* (1986). Having relocated to Ballater, Scotland in 1988, close to his family roots, Ken became involved with the revival and growth of geology and petroleum geology at the University of Aberdeen. As Ken once said, "Ballater was close enough to Aberdeen to be helpful but far enough away to keep a safe distance." But, from "a safe distance" a very productive academic career was triggered, and amongst much else, a series of definitive publications on the geology of the Oman Mountains (1995 and 2005), and the magnificent book *The Deserts of SE Arabia* (2005), published by GeoArabia. Always generous with his knowledge and time, Ken brought his youthful enthusiasm and insatiable curiosity to all interactions with staff and students. As ever his range of

interests was broad, embracing modern and ancient deserts and ancient glacial environments. Always underpinned by clear insight into the global geological context of his work, Ken seeded many discursive dialogues on the possible extent of Gondwanan ice sheets, katabatic winds and glacio-aeolian reservoir facies—much of the latter with Brian Williams of University of Aberdeen—challenging, engaging, and stimulating throughout.

International honors bestowed on Ken include the Major John Coke Medal (1986), the Silver Medal of the Petroleum Group (2000), and the William Smith Medal (2001), all from the Geological Society of London; the Van Waterschoot van der Gracht Medal (1999) from the Royal Geological and Mining Society of the Netherlands; the Alfred Wegener Medal (2000) from European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers, and the Sidney Powers Medal (2005) of AAPG. The latter two awards being the premier awards from the respective organizations.

Ken delighted in the beauty of diverse natural environments and for leisure wandered the wild and ancient Cairngorm mountains near his home. He extolled the virtue of creating and maintaining balance between wealth creation and the sanctity of the natural environment. This humble ambassador for our science leaves wonderful memories that will last beyond his passing. His enduring modesty and curiosity colors the minds of those he taught and befriended. Widely referred to as the quintessential gentleman, Ken exemplified an aspirational model of behavior we would do well to remember in these divisive times.



ALAIN PERRODON

1922–2020

By Jean-Jacques Biteau, Marc Blaizot, André Coajou, Jean-Marie Masset, and Bernard Duval

Alain Perrodon was born in Angers, France on August 12, 1922. After a classic education in France, he had a short time in Algeria when he began his career and then was based the rest of the time in France. He passed away in Versailles on March 24, 2020.

Perrodon was a great figure of the French academic and applied geology world, having been president of different societies and the author of a huge list of articles and books, some of them in English, with the most famous *Geodynamics of Oil and Gas Accumulations*, published in 1983 by Elf Aquitaine Editions.

Alain Perrodon earned his geology degrees from Paris University (B.A., 1947), University of Nancy (ENSG School), (M.A., 1947), ENSPM (Specialization Degree, 1948) and Nancy University (Ph.D., 1957).

Perrodon started working in Algeria exploration geologist for SN REPAL, an affiliate company of French BRP established in 1945.

During the 1948–1958 period, Alain held various positions at SN REPAL, starting as project leader of a geological and petroleum study of the Chelif Basin (Oran area). He confessed many years after that he was very disappointed by the poor and noncommercial petroleum potential of this Neogene province, coastal Algeria. Then he was appointed for describing a Paleozoic cross section in the Ougarta area, North Sahara Desert. This was the first attempt at observing outcrops and analyzing the Palaeozoic stratigraphic interval that contains some of the most famous hydrocarbon bearing layers of the Saharan Algeria.

Alain was really an exemplary professional person considering the field and outcrop works as a priority, “Mente and Malleo” meaning “Mind and Hammer” was his famous wording!

He demonstrated this tendency when he obtained his Ph.D. degree from Nancy University in 1957 and published his memoir covering the Chelif Basin (Algeria).

In 1954 he became SN REPAL deputy exploration manager based in Algiers, and he was holding this position when giant oil field Hassi Messaoud and giant gas field Hassi R'Mel were discovered in 1956.

Alain was an oil finder.

These times were fantastic and Alain revealed to his peers to be a pillar of intelligence, strong in in-depth analyses, intuition, and calm.

In 1958 he joined the BRP headquarters in Paris as deputy exploration manager.

Alain stayed for more than 25 years at this position acting as chief geologist.

BRP was a part of the ERAP, a conglomerate of French petroleum societies with the famous ELF

commercial marketing brand created in 1967.

In 1977 ERAP decided to merge all companies into Elf Aquitaine and Alain took the position of geology vice president in the exploration and production branch.

Perrodon was a visionary professional, for example, he proposed to the newly created Scientific and Technical Research Department some new actualism studies on carbonates in the Bahamas. He argued with conviction to his top management that seismic and geoscience data need high power computers to be respectively processed, organized, and classified.

During all this period of time from 1958 up to his retirement in the mid-1980s, Alain developed concepts and understanding of the technical components of conventional exploration. He was among the first scientists to see the importance of plate tectonics as a federative concept, opening doors between formerly too scattered and divided specialties. According to the various methods and results brought by the geophysicists, it became possible to elaborate a tectono-sedimentary framework: content and contained (the source rock, seal, and reservoir trilogy), geodynamics, dynamics, and sedimentation rates as drivers for the generation and fluid movements into sedimentary basins. He was the precursor of oil and gas generation modeling preconcepts.

Very early in his career (1957) Alain was appointed and entitled as petroleum geology professor for Nancy ENSG.

During almost 35 years, up to 1991 Alain trained more than 1000 geological engineering students to

petroleum geology and exploration techniques. He has been one of the most brilliant and recognized professors of ENSG, like Marcel Roubault, ENSG director who was such a visionary and rigorous professional.

At his position of geology vice president, Perrodon was able to influence the hiring at Elf Aquitaine and also Total of many of those students. At the end of his career he joined Petroconsultants, which has now become IHS Markit.

So Alain has not only taught, trained, listened and recruited.

He was the ardent searcher of new geological trends and on top of these the petroleum system concept he invented in the 1980s. Incidentally, the dictionary definition of a "system" is a structural set of natural elements of the same species or having the same functions. It seemed to him that this term could quite simply apply to the whole of phenomena leading to the creation and preservation of an accumulation of hydrocarbons.

A few years later he attempted integrating the concept into the newly developed geodynamic of sedimentary basins, one of the consequences of plate tectonic theory. He published these reflections in the *Geodynamics of oil and gas accumulations* in 1983 as a series of papers edited in the *Journal of Petroleum Geology* (1984, 1992, 1995). In the same time in the United States, L.B Magoon (US Geological Survey) and W.G. Dow proposed the same concepts of oil system and petroleum system. G.J. Demaison (Chevron) also enriched all these definitions.

Because of his elegance, his charisma, his empathy, and his strong support for others, Alain Perrodon

has been also devoted to professional societies.

He was a permanent member of the ENSG Alumni Association and was his president from 1971 to 1977.

In 1965 he cofounded French Union for Geology (UFG) with Georges Bigotte (ENSG, 1949) and Jacques Guillemot (ENSPM). He became the first UFG president from 1965 to 1968. Nowadays UFG has merged with Société Géologique de France (SGF).

Perrodon was SGF president in 1980 for its prestigious 150th anniversary.

He created the UFG then SGF journal *GEOLOGUES* and used to write articles even very recently on the industry trends and particularly about the shale gas tight oil revolution. He recognized honestly that he could have been wrong about the possible retention of economical volumes into generative layers. This capacity to self-criticize is a real exception in our geology professional world.

Alain obtained a lot of prestigious prizes during his career: Leon Bertrand price from SGF (1966), Legion of Honor Knight from French Republic (1980), and Marcel Roubault price from UFG-SGF (1992).

In 1995, he received the famous AAPG Distinguished Achievement Award, confirmed in 2006 by an AAPG Honorary Membership also given to his two colleagues, 1995 Nice ICE awardees, Bernard Duval, exploration vice president from Total, and Roeloff Murriss, exploration vice president from Shell.

In March 2013 Perrodon was celebrated by Total for his 90-year jubilee. His talk (as well his comments gathered during other presentations held in 2008 and

2018) was a tremendous message to young professionals: "Be always optimistic in your works. We are part of a big chain from past to future, you will certainly be able to

solve problems we have been unable to do but do not forget to teach, to train and to select the young fellows. We need to be confident, to delegate to young professionals, we are

committed to recognize the most skilled and good persons. And do not forget your geologist hammer, you must always use it in the field!"



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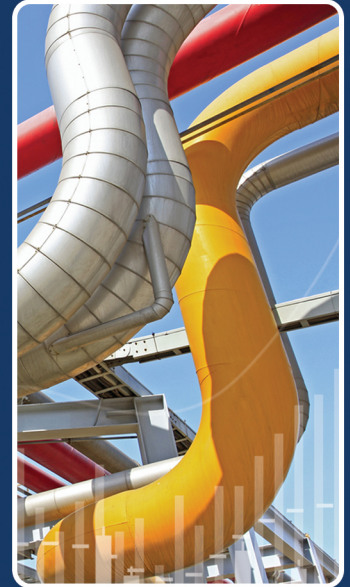
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