

Obituary: Coleman Robert Griffin



On 18 October 2020, Robert Griffin Coleman, a prominent American geologist, specialist in tectonics, and petrologist, a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences, a foreign member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor at Stanford University, and a member of the editorial boards of the journal *Russian Geology and Geophysics* and the journal *Geotectonics*, passed away.

R. Coleman was born on January 5, 1923 in Twin Falls, Idaho, USA. His career began in 1954, after graduating from the University of Oregon. His education at the university was interrupted by service in the U.S. Armed Forces and participation in World War II. From 1954 to 1982, R. Coleman worked for the U.S. Geological Survey at the Regional Office of Menlo Park, California. He combined duties in the Geological Survey with teaching and research in different countries: He lectured on geochemistry and geology at Stanford University (since 1965; a Professor of Geology since 1982) and Sultan Qaboos University in Oman (1988–1990) and worked as a visiting petrographer at the New Zealand Geological Survey (1962–1963). In 1993, Robert Coleman retired but continued his work at Stanford University.

R. Coleman has made a significant contribution to plate tectonics by substantiating and developing the concept of ophiolites as fragments of ancient oceanic crust. He was one of the initiators of the Penrose Conference on ophiolites and participated in numerous international conferences and projects, including joint field work with researchers from Russia and other countries in the key ophiolite localities (Newfoundland, California and Oregon Coast Ranges, Alps, Polar Urals, Oman, etc.). He crowned this work by writing a famous monograph on ophiolites (Coleman, R.G., 1977. *Ophiolites: Ancient Oceanic Lithosphere?* Springer, Berlin), which was translated into many languages, including Rus-

sian (Coleman, R.G., 1979. *Ophiolites*. Mir, Moscow). According to Web of Sciences, this book has been cited more than 400 times. The diversity of ophiolites revealed by these studies was interpreted as the diversity of ancient oceans and marginal seas.

Robert Griffin actively collaborated with geologists from the Soviet Union under the International Geological Correlation Program (IGCP). In 1989, the American scientist came to the USSR to participate in the All-Union Meeting on Plate Tectonics held by the Institute of Oceanology and the Institute of Lithosphere of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

R. Coleman initiated important studies of high-pressure and ultrahigh-pressure rocks, which, as it turned out later, were brought to the surface from subduction paleozones (depths of 80–180 km) during collision processes. His pioneering work in the California and Oregon Coast Ranges was continued by joint field studies with Russian researchers (Kokchetav massif, Kazakhstan; Maksyutov Complex, South Ural) and resulted in a collective monograph (Coleman and Wang (Eds.), 1995. *Ultrahigh Pressure Metamorphism*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge). This book has been cited more than 1000 times. One of Coleman's papers on the subject was published in our journal (Coleman, R.G., 1996. The Briggs Creek amphibolite, Klamath Mountains, Oregon: its metamorphism and accretion to the continental margin of western North America. *Russian Geology and Geophysics* 37 (1), 14–29).

Russian researchers participated in projects together with Bob Coleman (as he called himself) for many years and met him at conferences and at home, at field work and on field trips. For example, N.V. Sobolev and V.S. Shatsky contributed to two chapters in the above book (Coleman and Wang, 1995) and coauthored a paper on the geology and petrology of diamondiferous metamorphic rocks of the Kokchetav massif (Dobretsov et al., 1995. Geotectonic evolution of diamondiferous paragneisses, Kokchetav Complex, northern Kazakhstan: The geologic enigma of ultrahigh-pressure crustal rocks within a Paleozoic foldbelt. *Island Arc* 4, 267–279).

Russian friends and colleagues of Robert Coleman will always keep the memory of this prominent geologist and remarkable person.

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and Geophysics, colleagues, and friends*