

# Campbell Craddock 1930-2006

Contributed by Basil Tikoff, Robert H. Dott, Jr., and Gordon Medaris

Professor Emeritus John Campbell (“Cam”) Craddock died July 23, 2006 after an extended illness. Craddock was born April 3, 1930 in Chicago, Illinois. At DePauw University he discovered geology with a minor in mathematics and received a B.A. in 1951. He then undertook graduate studies at Columbia University in New York, where he studied under internationally famous structural geologist Walter H. Bucher. He received an M.A. in 1953 and a Ph.D. in 1954.

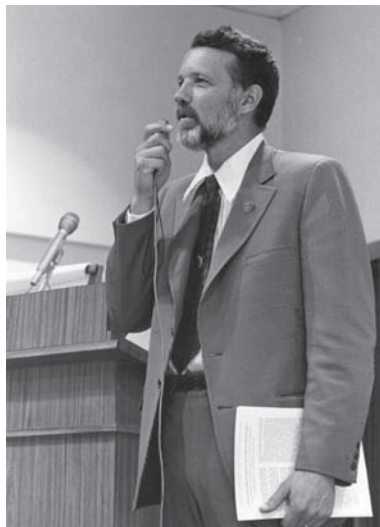
From 1954 to 1956, Cam worked for the Shell Oil Co. in New Mexico and Wyoming. In 1956 he joined the faculty of the University of Minnesota, where, in addition to regular teaching duties, for five years he was director of that university’s summer geology field camp in the Black Hills. Craddock came to the University of Wisconsin in 1967. He was chairman of the department from 1977 to 1980 and served on many departmental and campus committees. He retired in 1996.

Craddock taught introductory geology, several courses in structural geology, and regular field courses alternating between the Rocky Mountains and Lake Superior. He directed or co-directed 21 PhD and 67 MS degree recipients during his careers at Minnesota and Wisconsin. Many of those students have gone on to distinguished careers.

In 1959 Craddock began an ambitious program of field research in Antarctica funded by the National Science Foundation. He spent parts of eight field seasons on the southern frozen continent. With Minnesota graduate students and a post-doctoral associate, he advanced the knowledge of the bedrock geology of several mountain ranges in West Antarctica. Most important was their work in the Ellsworth Mountains, which they showed had been connected to both South America, southern Africa, and Australia when all three continents were part of the ancient Gondwana supercontinent approximately 250 million years ago. The results of the many years of research in those mountains by Craddock and his colleagues were summarized in a major publication in 1992, Geological Society



Cam Craddock. (Department archives)



Cam speaks at the Third Symposium on Antarctic Geology and Geophysics, held in Madison, August 1977. (Department archives)



Spitsbergen, 1979. Cam, Ernie Hauser, and Jorn (Norsk Polarinstittut) in a Zodiac, Vankeulen Fjorden. (Albert Sun)

of America Memoir 170. During 1962-63 Craddock was a visiting scientist at the New Zealand Geological Survey when not in Antarctica. In 1974 he was co-chief scientist for a Deep Sea Drilling project in Antarctic waters.

Professor Craddock’s Antarctic work inevitably brought him into the international scientific community and led to his service from 1967 to 1982 as a member of the Antarctica Working Group on Geology. This involved many international, circum-global meetings. He was also a member of several other geological and geophysical commissions, including one for the Geological Map of the World for which he chaired a sub-commission for Antarctica. Craddock attended eight International Geological Congresses, including one in Prague in 1968, which was abruptly terminated when Soviet tanks rolled into the streets.

Polar regions had a strong attraction for Craddock. In 1968 he initiated a program in the Alaska Range, which continued intermittently for twelve years. Then in 1977 he undertook research in Svalbard (Spitsbergen), which lasted for nine years. Each of these projects, like Antarctica, involved numbers of graduate students. Although Cam Craddock was one of our most international faculty members, he also conducted extensive research, which spanned his entire academic career from 1959 to 1996, in the Lake Superior region. Having studied Lake Superior geology for years, it was especially fitting for him to discover that his genealogical trail led back to a copper miner in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, who had emigrated from Cornwall, England.

Besides his international services, Craddock also served professional societies in various capacities. He was active in the Geological Society of America both as chair of the Structural Geology Division and as the society’s books editor for seven years. He received the Distinguished Service Award of the Geological Society in 1988. Craddock was convener of the Third International Symposium on Antarctic Geology and Geophysics held in our department in 1977, which brought approximately 150 earth scientists from around the globe. Cam was also editor of the 1200 page ▶▶

proceedings volume from that symposium, Antarctic Geoscience, published by the UW Press in 1982. In 1981 he was field trip leader for an International Proterozoic Symposium held to commemorate the centennial of the Department of Geology and Geophysics.

Additional honors bestowed upon Professor Craddock include his selection as a memorial lecturer to The Antarctic Society of Washington, D.C. (1967), reception of the Antarctic Service medal, the Bellingshausen-Lazarev Medal of the Soviet Academy (1970) and the Soviet Antarctic Expedition 25th Anniversary Medal (1982), as well as election as an Honorary Member of the French Group for the Study of Gondwana (1988). Antarctica's ninth highest peak, Mt. Craddock, and the Craddock massif (including Mt. Craddock, Mt. Rutford, Rada Peak, and Bugueno Pinnacle in the Ellsworth Mountains) were named in his honor.

Cam Craddock gave fully to all three academic roles—teaching, research and service. He was an international scholar and good professional citizen. He also made generous financial contributions to his department's programs, as noted by the Craddock Wing of Weeks Hall. Cam leaves behind a legacy of outstanding students whom he supervised and who will long bear testimony to his gentle, sensitive wisdom and to his droll wit. His son, John, carries on the Craddock geological tradition at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

In John Fournelle's transcript of his January 2003 oral history recording of Cam's reminiscences (published in the Outcrop for 2002) we learn additional interesting details of his career. Cam told of his valuable experiences with Shell in New Mexico and Wyoming and that his invitation to the Minnesota department was considerably owing to the fact that he would be interested in teaching the summer field course in the Black Hills. The interview also made clear how he happened first to get involved in Antarctic research, then in Alaska, and finally in Spitzbergen. All three cases involved a degree of luck of timing, but also of key acquaintanceships and, of course, his own drive to undertake projects in remote, frontier regions. The results speak for themselves.

Cam reviewed the history of the generous bequest left to the department by Lewis Weeks. As Chair of the Department when the bequest was announced, Cam appointed a "committee of level heads" to develop a plan for use of our windfall. The result was a plan which left us with a tremendous asset of long-term benefit. Not only did Lewis endow us with the first two portions of Weeks Hall, but most recently, helped to add the third wing to the building.

Cam was the first of four of our faculty members to be invited to China to lecture after that country had opened to the West. Cam's visit was in 1981 to Nanjing University so that he saw a newly emerging China very different from the present booming nation. His diary of that experience is fascinating. Among other things recorded was great difficulty in keeping warm during February and March. He must have wished for his warm polar sleeping bag and parka.

After he retired, Dottie convinced Cam to go in search of his biological roots, of



**Chen Kerong, left, Cam Craddock, and Xu Keqin, look at maps of China in preparation for lectures held in the department in May 1984. Professors Chen and Xu were visiting from Nanjing University. (Professor Xu also worked with Con Emmons here in the 1940s.)**  
(Department archives)

which he knew little or nothing because he had been adopted as a baby. The genealogical search revealed some fascinating coincidences. His biological mother had her roots in Cornwall, England among the Cornish tin miners. Cam and Dottie went to Cornwall to meet distant cousins and also met other relatives here in the United States. It was natural that his Cornish forebears had immigrated to the copper mining country of northern Michigan, so it seems prophetic that an important part of Cam's geological research was centered upon the Lake Superior region, including Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Besides the Keweenaw copper-bearing rocks, he negotiated for permission to study the mostly Archean rocks in the isolated and wild Huron Mountains held by a private club. This was quite a diplomatic coup by Cam, but then he was always a perfect gentleman and diplomat.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Dottie, daughters, Susan and Carol, a son, John, nine grandchildren, a sister and two half-brothers. Dottie is now living in Roseville, Minnesota.

The family has asked that memorial gifts to the department support the research efforts of structural geology through the C.K. Leith Fund in the Craddock Wing of Weeks Hall. You may contact the department in this regard through Judy Gosse at (608) 262-9267 or on-line at <<http://www.geology.wisc.edu/alumni/gifts.html>>. ●



**With some former students at the dedication of the West Wing Addition, May 6, 2005: left to right, Jay Nania, Bruce Handley, Cam, Tom Hanson, Kirk Sherwood, Al Sun, and Bob Hickman.**  
(John Craddock)