

did colour plates in the Geological Society of India paper by C. Srikantappa *et al.* (26, 849–872, 1985). Unfortunately, although this important paper is reprinted nearly in its entirety in the Memoir, the colour plates were not

retained.

Thoughtful commentaries by the editors, a moving tribute to C. S. Pichamuthu by B. P. Radhakrishna, and a beautiful full-page colour portrait of Pichamuthu embellish an important

and timely collection.

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## PERSONAL NEWS

### Transition in Precambrian geology

#### *An obituary of C. S. Pichamuthu*

[Reprinted, with permission, from *J. Geol. Soc. India*, 36, 448 (October 1990)]

It has been the lot of very few among the earth scientists in our country to have had the benefit of a good education and training in India and abroad, to have occupied positions of eminence both in the professional and academic hierarchies, to have substantially aided the growth and development of the subject by their own distinct contribution, and to have been the recipients of awards and honours from a grateful generation of students, scholars, colleagues, admirers and administrators. Professor Charles Solomon Pichamuthu, who passed away on the 18 August 1990, was one of the very few earth scientists of our country who belonged to this category (see *Curr. Sci.*, 1990, 59, 289 for a tribute on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday).

Born on 10 March 1900 and educated at the Central College, Bangalore, Pichamuthu served with distinction at Central College and the Mysore Geological Department. His stay at the University of Glasgow (1934–1936) for his doctorate and close association with the stalwarts there was to be one of the

most fruitful times of his career, laying a firm foundation for his abiding interest in the oldest rocks of our planet—the Precambrians.

A voracious reader, and a scientist



with a penchant for critical observation, logical analysis and clear exposition, his papers on any subject are sources of synthesized information for the student, scholar and professional alike. Through-

out his career, spanning over five decades, as a professional geologist and academician, he was to delve deep into the mysteries of Precambrian geology of South India in general and charnockites in particular. Two recent publications of the Geological Society of India [*J. Geol. Soc. India*, 1990, 35, 329; Memoir No. 17, 1990, on the granulites of South India (see page 942, this issue, for a review)], are a fitting tribute to this great scientist.

He was a soft-spoken gentleman, who, while maintaining the dignity of his occupation, whether in India or abroad, was a source of inspiration to all those who came into close contact with him by his example of diligent pursuit of science for its own sake.

In Pichamuthu's demise the earth science community in India has lost a savant and a kind soul. The only tribute that can be paid to him by any one is to try to live up to the high standards he had set for himself during his career as a scientist.

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