2015 CARNEGIE MINERALOGICAL AWARD – GEORGE HARLOW

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA) is pleased to announce that Dr. George E. Harlow (American Museum of Natural History in New York City, USA) is the winner of the 2015 Carnegie Mineralogical Award. The award was presented by Eric Dorfman, Director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, during the Saturday night Awards Banquet at the 2016 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (Arizona, USA). The Carnegie Mineralogical Award honors outstanding contributions in mineralogical preservation, conservation, and education and is considered one of the most prestigious awards in the field of mineralogy.

In praise of Harlow's achievements, Marc L. Wilson, Collection Manager and Head of the Section of Minerals at Carnegie Museum of Natural History, says, "Dr. George Harlow has dedicated his career to furthering the science of mineralogy and nurturing the mineral collection, exhibits, and outreach programs of the American Museum of Natural History. I am very pleased to see him honored as the recipient of the 2015 Carnegie Mineralogical Award."

Harlow has spent his entire career (38 years) at the American Museum of Natural History. He currently holds the position of Curator of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. His most recent concentration of academic research has been on the mineralogy, geology, and genesis of jadeite deposits in Mesoamerica. His previous research on the mineralogy of diamonds not only resulted in scholarly publications but also led to a special traveling exhibit for the museum (The Nature of Diamonds) and an accompanying book. This major exhibition opened at the American Museum of Natural History in 1997 and only closed in August 1998. It traveled to six other museums in the United States, Canada, and Japan.

Harlow is an active supporter of the science of mineralogy through an amalgam of outlets: publications, lectures, teaching, exhibit development, mentoring, and leadership in professional societies. He recently became the Vice President of the Mineralogical Society of America in 2016.

As a consistent leader in the advancement of collection computerization, Harlow has imaged and documented over 60,000 specimens at American Museum of Natural History for their new database and web presence, which he is spearheading. Additionally, during his tenure, the collection has grown from 40,000 to approximately 116,000 specimens.

PARTING SHOTS • *Cont'd from page 374*

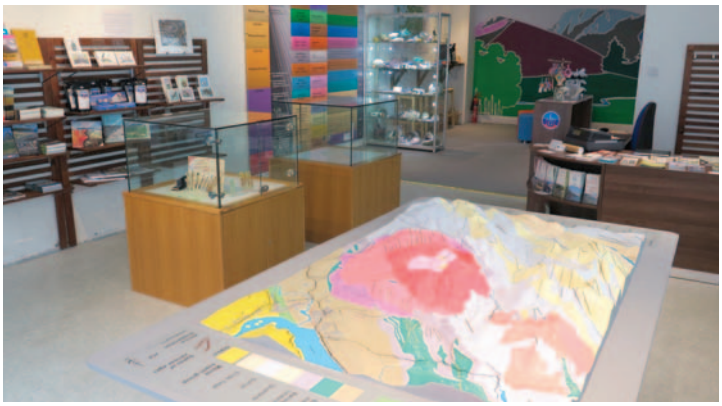

Figure 3 Our new and as yet incomplete visitor centre in Fort William High Street. A solid geological model of the Ben Nevis caldera and its surroundings is in the foreground and the large wall display behind it is a scale 'timeline' with examples of Lochaber rocks from the Archaean to the Palaeocene.

fossils in a sand-box. We sell maps, geology and wildlife books and pamphlets and will shortly be offering a range of good quality local craft products.

Lochaber Geopark straddles three distinct terranes (Fig. 1) with different metamorphic histories. The sedimentary age of the Northern Highland Terrane is ~1 Ga, and it has experienced three phases of orogeny: at 800 Ma, at 470 Ma and 430 Ma. At 470 Ma, Scotland was at the edge of Laurentia when it collided with the Taconic arc. The 430 Ma orogeny was caused by the closure of the Iapetus Ocean. The rocks of the Grampian Terrane were deposited around 750 Ma, but experienced only the 470 Ma orogeny, suggesting that transcurrent movement on the Great Glen Fault must be at least 500 km. Both terranes were affected by a long period of granitic magmatism. The 420 Ma Glencoe caldera was the first ancient caldera to be recognised in the world – in 1909. The Hebridean Terrane is a fragment of Laurentia left behind during the breakup of Pangaea. Between 61 Ma and 58 Ma, the lava-fields and central complexes of the North Atlantic Igneous Province formed at the edge of the head of a mantle plume centred under Greenland, which triggered the beginning of ocean-floor spreading west of Scotland and the opening of the North Atlantic.

Describing the geological evolution of such a complex region in ways that both educate and entertain ordinary folk, while being up-to-date and without over-simplifying, is very, very challenging. I've led student field excursions to the west of Scotland throughout my career, so I know how to explain things to geological beginners, but by the time students get into the field they have a geological vocabulary that the general public lacks. With thought, it can be done using ordinary language, and I've had a lot of pleasure writing and designing interpretative material. I always try out what I write on non-geologists. I've also enjoyed bringing myself up-to-date with a lot of reading of recent work.

If you fancy doing voluntary work that keeps you in touch with our science, and you live somewhere that is geologically exciting, I strongly urge you to get involved with a geopark. The GGN needs more qualified geologists if it is to serve our science well.

Footnote: The brief summary above dealing with the relationships of the three terranes is based on the following entertaining and polemic review: Dewey JF, Dalzeil IWD, Reavy RJ, Strachan RA (2016) The Neoproterozoic to Mid-Devonian evolution of Scotland: a review and unresolved issues. Scottish Journal of Geology 51: 5-30