

Geoscience Honour Roll Citation – JGCM Fuller

John George Charles Martin Fuller was born in 1926 at Hastings, Sussex, England. He attended school at Kent County Grammar School, Bromley. Prior to entering university, John spent three years in the Royal Navy. He did baccalaureate studies at the University of London where he attained a B.Sc., Honours, 1st Class, following that he did his Ph.D. at Emmanuel College, Cambridge (1951-1954). Upon graduation John examined his options for employment and after an interview with Graham Spry, Agent-General for Saskatchewan in London, he and his wife, Anne, decided to immigrate to Saskatchewan. They arrived in the fall of 1954. They were both employed as geologists with the Saskatchewan Department of Mineral Resources. Anne resigned her appointment in the latter part of 1956. John was promoted to the position of Principal Geologist following the resignation of Alaistair Cumming in early 1957. He remained in that position until the latter part of the winter of 1958 when he resigned to take up a position with Amerada Petroleum in the company's Regina office. John was transferred to Calgary when Amerada closed its Regina office in late 1959. He left Amerada in 1961 returning to the UK to become a research fellow at the University of Birmingham.

Although John's stay in Saskatchewan was short, he played a significant role in developing the present understanding of Mississippian and Lower Paleozoic subsurface stratigraphy. His several Mississippian publications built on the earlier works of Geoff Thomas and Jack Porter through his synthesis of the sedimentological and diagenetic processes and their influence on reservoir distribution and characteristics. One of his papers entitled "Mississippian Rocks of Southeast Saskatchewan" was awarded the CIMM Barlow Memorial Medal for the best paper on economic geology published by the institute in 1956. John was a member of the Saskatchewan Geological Society's Names and Correlation Committee that was established to standardize the Mississippian nomenclature for southeast Saskatchewan. He also co-authored, in 1959, with Porter and Cumming a paper presenting arguments for the para-time nature of the units defined in the Names and Correlations Committee report. The paper was presented at a symposium on concepts in stratigraphic classification and correlation and published in the American Journal of Science. In 1959, Porter and Fuller published a significant paper that related the subsurface Lower Paleozoic succession of the Williston Basin to the outcrops in Manitoba. In a 1961 paper, Fuller demonstrated correlatable and unconformable relationships between the Lower Paleozoic succession of the Williston Basin area and that of the mid-continental region of the USA. This paper was awarded the 1961 AAPG President's Award. Following his transfer to Calgary, John continued to publish papers that had Saskatchewan content. The 1959 paper was the predecessor to two additional Fuller and Porter works with a similar theme. One was concerned with the Cambrian, Ordovician and Silurian formations of the northern Great Plains and the other was a chapter entitled "Ordovician and Silurian" in the first edition of the Geological Atlas of the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin published by the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists. In addition, he and Porter co-authored papers demonstrating the relationship of evaporites and petroleum reservoirs in western Canada. As well John co-authored papers with Doug Shearman of Imperial College on the anhydritic laminites of the Middle Devonian Ratner Member in Saskatchewan. He also co-authored with L.V.

Illing and G.V. Wood a paper on 'reservoir rocks and stratigraphic traps in non-reef carbonates' that had a Mississippian of southeast Saskatchewan component.

John returned to employment in the oil industry in the 1970s when he joined Amoco in London. In 1979 he was chairman of the Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain and at the close of his career in the oil industry he was Amoco's Geological Manager for Europe and West Africa. Since his departure from the industry, his interests and publications have become focused on the history of Earth Sciences, particular concerning the pre-history and history of subsurface exploration, the origin of stratigraphy and the invention of stratigraphic cross-sections. His paper entitled "Stratigraphic stand-off at the 49th parallel" written in memory of L.L. Sloss should be of interest to Saskatchewan geoscientists since he discusses "the significant differences of stratigraphical understanding on each side of the border" between Saskatchewan and the states of North Dakota and Montana.

I am sure you will agree with me that Dr. JGCM Fuller meets the criteria for induction to the Saskatchewan Geological Society's Geoscience Honour Roll.