Crystallographers

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This section is intended to be a series of short paragraphs dealing with the activities of crystallographers, such as their changes of position, promotions, assumption of significant new duties, honours, etc. Items for inclusion, subject to the approval of the Editorial Board, should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the International Union of Crystallography (J. N. King, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England).

It is with deep regret that the crystallographic community learned of the death of **Gabrielle Donnay** in April 1987. Jan Szymański writes, always a strong personality, Gai was a great fighter for causes close to her heart. Her strong stand on the role of women was aptly covered in the short symposium entitled 'Women in Crystallography', which was held at the American Crystallographic Association meeting in Hamilton (Ontario, Canada) in June 1986, and which was a great success The symposium was specially organized to honour her upon her retirement. After her death her husband, Professor J. D. H. Donnay sent me the following, which is quoted in full:

Gabrielle Donnay, Professor of Crystallography at McGill University (1970–1985), Staff Member of Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington (1950–1970), Visiting Professor at the Sorbonne, Paris (1958–1959) and at the University of Tokyo (1984) died peacefully at her home in Mont-Saint-Hilaire, PQ, Canada, on Saturday 4 April 1987 at age 67.

Née Gabrielle Hamburger in Landeshut (Germany at the time, now Poland) the daughter of a textile manufacturer, she emigrated to the USA in 1939. She won her PhD under M. J. Buerger at MIT (1949), with her noncentrosymmetric rhombohedral structure of tourmaline (previously deemed to have a hexagonal lattice despite its morphology). She made a name for herself in the crystallography of minerals, especially their crystal structure and crystal chemistry. Two of the new species discovered at Mont-Saint-Hilaire were dedicated to her: gaidönnayite and donnayite (the latter shared with her husband and co-worker JDHD). Among other honours, she was the first woman to become a member of the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars (1970) and is a life fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America (1982): she was awarded the Past Presidents' Medal of the Mineralogical Association of Canada (1983). A Canadian Masters Javelin Champion, she also was an avid hiker and skier. She loved classical music and her violin.

Gai's ashes repose in the small cemetery of Pigeon Hill, in the province of Quebec. She is survived by her husband, JDHD, and two sons: Albert, executive director of Nuclear Free America, in Baltimore, and Victor, mathematics instructor at Princeton, *pro tem.* research associate at ETH, in Zurich.

Donations to a Memorial Fund will be accepted by, and should be made to the 'Carnegie Institution of Washington, Geophysical Laboratory'. Mention 'For Gai Donnay Fund' on the check and address it to the Director, Dr Charles Prewit, 2801 Upton Street NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA.

We extend to her husband and their two sons our deepest sympathy. Since his wife's death, Professor Donnay has himself suffered a severe stroke, and is paralyzed and hospitalized. We all join in sending him our best wishes for a speedy recovery to his full faculties.

International Union of Crystallography

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Prices of *Acta Crystallographica* and *Journal of Applied Crystallography*

The Executive Committeee of the International Union of Crystallography is pleased that it has not been necessary to increase the subscription rates and the prices of back numbers for *Acta Crystallographica* and *Journal of Applied Crystallography* as from 1 January 1988. This is the fifth consecutive year for which prices have remained constant.

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Commission on Powder Diffraction

At its 14 August 1987 meeting in Perth, the General Assembly of the IUCr established a Commission on Powder Diffraction. This is an action widely welcomed and considered by many to be long overdue.

In early 1986, the IUCr Executive Committee established an *ad hoc* committee to assess world-wide interest and, if it be sufficient, to prepare specific proposals for the General Assembly to consider in determining whether to establish a Commission on Powder Diffraction. The Terms of Reference proposed by the committee and the Executive Committee and accepted by the General Assembly are:

i. To advise the IUCr in organizing or sponsoring meetings, schools and Congress sessions on powder diffraction and related subjects.

ii. To promote and coordinate scientific exchange between countries in the field of powder diffraction.

iii. To cooperate with other IUCr Commissions on matters concerning powder diffraction.

iv. To cooperate with other international bodies interested in powder diffraction and allied subjects.

v. To promote useful interactions of the IUCr with the large world-wide body of X-ray and neutron powder diffractionists.

vi. To promote the scientific growth and development of the field of powder diffraction.

Since the members of the *ad hoc* committee became the initial members of the Commission, they were able to meet three times during the Congress to make plans for Commission projects. Among those being given first consideration are

Program exchange 'bank'.

Satellite meeting for the 1990 Bordeaux Congress.

Workshop on the Rietveld method (to be held between August 1988 and August 1989).

Newsletter.

Round-robin with the Rietveld method involving both X-ray and neutron data and several samples.

New book(s), possibly resulting from workshop(s).

Powder diffraction sessions at 1990 IUCr Congress at Bordeaux.

The members of the new Commission on Powder Diffraction are:

R. A. Young	USA (Chairman)
Z. Bojarski	Poland
R. J. Hill	Australia
A. W. Hewat	France
J. I. Langford	UK (Secretary)
P.-E. Werner	Sweden
T. Yamanaka	Japan.

In addition, Dr L. Frevel serves as the JCPDS-appointed representative to the Commission.

Notes and News

Announcements and other items of crystallographic interest will be published under this heading at the discretion of the Editorial Board. The notes (in duplicate) should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the International Union of Crystallography (J. N. King, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England).

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Standard Crystallographic File Structure–87

How often have you been frustrated by finding that your datafile was in the wrong format for your program? And how much time have you spent in writing conversion programs to change data from one format to another?

In order to minimize these problems, the Data and Computing Commissions of the International Union of Crystallography approved, in 1981, a Standard Crystallographic File Structure (*Acta Cryst.* A**39**, 216–224). This describes a file structure that can be used to store or transfer most kinds of crystallographic data and, at the same time, is easy to program and is adaptable to individual users needs. Since 1981 the standard has been enhanced and in the most recent release (SCFS-87) it can include all the information (including text, tables