Charlie died in Boston on May 19 2005, after a short, incurable illness. It had been diagnosed when he and I were putting the finishing touches to his participation in the 32nd IGC (Florence, 2004), which was to have been followed by a trip, with our respective wives, through Central and Southern Italy, visiting places which Charlie wished to see - Perugia, Pompei, Metaponto, Matera and Bari (“The three-sea tour”: Adriatic, Ionian and Tyrrhenian) and which I had already organized. Charlie had wanted to make this trip for some time, he wanted to complete his direct knowledge of Italy in some way, since he had already visited Northern Italy and Tuscany several times and Sardinia once. He was attracted to Italy and to the Italians, partly due to the fact that his father had been Italian. But Charlie did not speak Italian, because his mother, who came from Lithuania, spoke English at home.

Charlie was born at Sommerville (Massachusetts) on September 19 1935. With his father, a doctor, and his family (including his paternal grandfather), he spent his childhood on the family farm, so that Charlie grew up accustomed to manual work while still at school. His childhood background instilled in him a love of horticulture, which lasted throughout his life. It probably also gave him his predilection for a simple style of living, with his family – his wife, Barbara, and their three children, Gretchen, Amy and Vincent - an essential life-style, tending towards the frugal, even Spartan, and his way of being extremely demanding, above all toward himself.

Charlie first studied at Hudson (Massachusetts) and then went on to Yale, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree *cum laude* in June 1957. He took his doctorate at Harvard, and was granted a Ph.D. in 1963. He then occupied various positions, from Research Assistant to Assistant Professor, and then Full Professor, in the University of Minnesota, University of California, Davis, and University of Madison, Wisconsin, where he became Full Professor of Geology in 1973. In 1981, he decided to move to the University of Maine at Orono, live in the area where he had been carrying out his main scientific research since the early 1960s. He received several honours and recognitions including, on December 14 2001, a *Laurea honoris causa* in Geological Sciences from the University of Padova (where he spent several research periods, from 1974 onwards). The photo below was taken during the ceremony in the *Aula Magna* of the University of Padova.
Charlie’s teaching activity spanned from mineralogy to metamorphic petrology and general geology. He taught for seven years at the University of California, Davis, for 12 at the University of Madison, Wisconsin, and from 1981 onwards at the University of Maine, Orono. His relations with his students, particularly post-graduates, were usually excellent, and they, in turn, treated him with friendship and University camaraderie. At Madison, they even invented a character, moulded after him, called “The Metamorphic Man”, whose adventures, based on actual events which took place in the Department, were turned into comic strips, the cover of one of which is shown in the next page.

Charlie’s research activities covered the fields of petrology, mineralogy and geology, initially based on the rock formations of Maine, a subject which he never completely relinquished. But his horizons gradually extended to more general problems of the metamorphism of pelitic rocks, as did his international collaboration with specialists in petrology, mineralogy, crystallography and mineral physics.

His main research fields include:

a) the regional metamorphism of Maine and northern New Hampshire, with particular regard to isograde reactions and the metamorphism of medium- to low-pressure metapelites, also devoting attention to geological interpretations and plate tectonics in the Appalachians;
b) sulphide-silicate phase relations and their relationship with metamorphic volatiles; his attention to these problems was amplified to include the implications of the deposition of black shales;
c) petrologic mineralogy of solid solution minerals in metamorphic rocks, with particular regard to micas; here, as well as traditional methods, he also widely applied techniques which gradually became avant-garde.

In addition to about 100 abstracts, Charlie published 100 papers, almost all in well-known and prestigious international journals. Many of them have a high citation index. His fertile scientific brain worked right up to the last moment: 16 important papers were published after 2002 - that is, they were produced when Charlie was over 65 years old.

He had many contacts with Italian researchers, both as regards scientific collaboration (see list of publications) and participation in summer schools and meetings in Italy. Over the years, he had constructed in his mind a very positive image of the Italian scientific community, which led him to become a member of the SIMP (Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia) for at least 20 years. He took part in several SIMP conferences, and was instrumental in bringing the European Journal of Mineralogy to the attention of the US scientific community. His fame in Italy and in the world is mainly due to his detailed and systematic petrological and mineralogical work in western Maine - research which made this region one of the best known and best studied areas in the world from the petrological viewpoint. But few know that
Charlie was also a shrewd field geologist, who produced geological maps which are expected to remain as milestones in the cartographic bibliography of the geology of this region.

Charlie thus taught us how to study a vast area in a systematic and refined manner, skilfully combining field work with laboratory research, resorting to a wide variety of analytical methods and using the most up-to-date and truly innovative conceptual approaches, thus infecting a great number of experts with his enthusiasm. Those of us who knew him personally were able not only to appreciate his scientific rigour, but also his sense of humor, loyalty, common sense and enthusiasm for scientific research.

I had the great privilege of knowing Charlie very well, having collaborated intimately with him for many years. My first contacts with him were long ago, in 1969, when he wrote, asking and offering collaboration on studying muscovites. This joint work, which began in earnest in 1970, lasted for 35 years, until his death, and allowed us to publish 22 works together. Unfortunately, he was not able to see the proofs of the the paper dated 2005. Throughout this long and systematic collaboration, he and I - and our respective families - were the best and closest of friends.

Charlie was a man who did not like to be in the limelight, and certainly would not have wanted this commemoration of him to contain any rhetorical phrases or platitudes. He would undoubtedly have wished this to be another occasion on which to divulge the sense of his scientific life, his basic scientific credo, which we matured together in the course of long discussions on the most rigorous and productive way of advancing knowledge in the sectors of our interest, based on critical analysis of the literature and on firmly grounded conceptual premises. It is for this reason that I would like to describe this credo of his, through an extract from one of our joint works (Guidotti & Sassi, 2002, Reviews Miner. & Geoch., 46, 413-414).

“There can be a complete merging of approaches and aims of the mineralogic and petrologic studies of micas, but not uncommonly they are conducted quite independently and unconcerned with each other. We believe this is unfortunate as will become clear in our presentation below. Despite the merging of some studies over both petrology and mineralogy, for the purposes of our discussion we will define them as end-member approaches as follows.

Mineralogic studies are concerned with the innate aspects of the minerals themselves, with little or no regard for the petrologic setting from which the mineral has been obtained; e.g. studies of samples from museum collections. .....

Petrologic studies focus mainly on the rocks, typically being less concerned with the innate aspects of the minerals themselves. However, petrologists are extremely interested in the compositions of the minerals in rocks .....

Even if conducted in the stand-alone fashion described above, both the mineralogic and petrologic studies have the potential of contributing significantly to advancing knowledge. However, not uncommonly studies conducted in this isolated fashion miss out on very important insights, and in some cases they can lead to demonstrably incorrect conclusions. .....

we’ll suggest some general conceptual approaches to the study of rock-forming micas that may aid in maximizing the petrologic and mineralogic insights gained from future studies. We will end with a plea for greatly expanded interaction and collaboration between mineralogists and petrologists pursuing studies that might best described as “petrologic mineralogy”.
This is a message which was not lost, and which finds a definite confirmation in the fact that the Geological Society of America accepted the proposal of a Topical Session in its Annual Meeting of 2006 (the 101st) entitled: “Petrologic Mineralogy - The Study of Mineral in Context: In Honor of Charles V. Guidotti” (Philadelphia, October 22-25 2006). There will also be a Special Volume with the above title, and I did manage to tell Charlie about this the day before he died, to his great joy and satisfaction.

Charlie, I know I have written here what you would have wanted me to write: the scientific message which you so ardently wished should be propagated, and also the way of recalling you to those who had the privilege of knowing you, and of allowing you to be known and appreciated by those who did not.

I mentioned above, Charlie, that you did not learn Italian at home. But in the last few years you did want to learn it, and even took cassettes with you to listen to on your way to and from the Department every day. But you said you didn’t make progress quickly enough, and I think I know why: the voice on the Italian cassette remained in the background while you, steering with one hand, bit into the last two apples of the day, as usual, and let your mind dwell on the data and ideas which you had worked on until a short time before. And you wove in with them plans for working in your kitchen garden in the summer and, during the long Maine winters, coping with thick snowfalls and thinking of ways and means of protecting from the weight of snow the roof of your house in the heart of the forest. Maybe you didn’t learn Italian, but I know you’ll understand these two words: CIAO, CHARLIE!

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS BY CHARLES VINCENT GUIDOTTI


