

## Lindsay (Lin) George Parry, 1922-2016

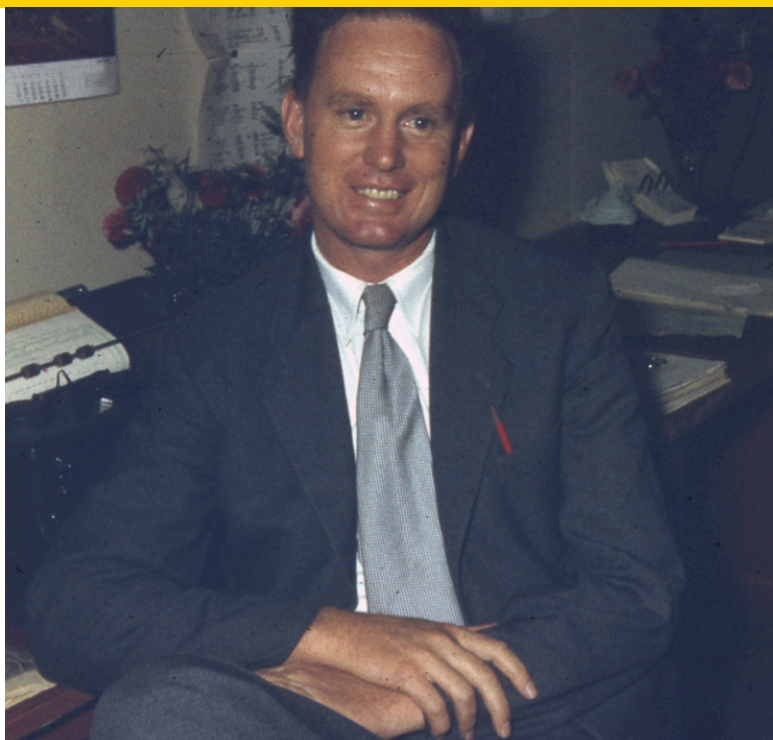
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Lin Parry was born at home on a farm near Ballina, on the north coast of NSW, Australia, 29 March 1922, where he spent the first 16 years of his life. There was no bus service to the school in nearby Wardell so he had an extended pre-school with charcoal and the concrete floor of the cow bails substituting for a chalk and blackboard. With his Mother's help Lin soon learned some letters and numbers thereby completing much of the kindergarten material. Finally, at the age of seven Lin went to school.

Starting late, Lin's primary schooling was disjointed. With continuing transport problems and completing two years by correspondence, Lin nevertheless passed the final primary school examination thereby graduating to high school. The eventual transport solution for high school was a bicycle, ride to Wardell, park the bike, cross the river by ferry, and catch the school bus to Ballina high. Due to his fragmented schooling to this point Lin was enrolled in the B class. Nevertheless, at the end of first year Lin was dux of his year. At the end of high school Lin's Leaving Certificate results were: English A; Maths I & II - Hons II; History A; French B; Chemistry B; Geography B, one of the best results on the North Coast.

Based on Lin's Leaving Certificate results he was awarded a Teachers' College Scholarship at Armidale with the aim of becoming a high school teacher. Part of his studies included university courses for which he was awarded a BSc Dip Ed from Sydney University.

Lin married Margaret in 1947 and their son Graham was born in 1948, followed by their daughter Susan in 1952. After teaching briefly at Bathurst High School Lin was appointed to the University of New South Wales (UNSW) when it was still emerging from its foundation in the Sydney Technical College. Conceived as a specialised training institute for engineers, staff were also recruited to teach ancillary subjects, such as Physics, which is where Parry fitted in. The evolution from its technical college origins to a fully-fledged university introduced new expectations of teaching staff, research and publication in particular. Lin was a founding member of the Physics Department and completed his MSc in 1955, which was presented at the first degree ceremony



**Fig. 1 Lindsay George Parry in the early 1950s.**

at UNSW. Lin was to spend his entire professional life at the UNSW.

One of the advantages of university work was sabbatical leave and Lin was able to avail himself of it on three occasions. In 1957 Lin took his family to Canberra where he was able to work on magnetic properties (particularly thermo-magnetic) of various materials and more especially with some of the leaders at ANU. During this first study leave at ANU he was able to work with Frank Stacey. Lin and Margaret and Frank, and his wife Joy, were to become great friends. In his memoirs Lin recalls "when we were considering the grains of magnetite too small to accommodate a full domain structure but not small enough to be one domain he (Frank) produced the theory in a very short time all written up and ready to publish and only needing some experimental evidence. One of the best scholars and the greatest scientist I knew". Therefore Lin took the lead in developing a translation balance for measurement of the temperature dependence of the saturation magnetisations of rocks, to identify the compositions of their magnetically active minerals. He subsequently produced a similar instrument in Sydney and this work became central to his research.

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pg. 10.*

# Visiting Fellow Report

## Magnetic characterization of solid by-products from Municipal Solid Waste Incinerators

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The main objective of my visit to the IRM was to explore the magnetic properties of the solid by-products, i.e., bottom (BA) and fly ashes (FA), deriving from municipal solid waste incinerators. Despite incineration is one of the most effective options for waste management and minimization, BA and FA represent huge amounts of material that pose severe environmental and health problems. Magnetic minerals are common components of incinerated ashes and my research is driven by the fact that they can be correlated with heavy metals pollution and the presence of toxic ultrafine superparamagnetic (SP) grains.

Samples of BA and FA were collected from municipal solid waste incinerators of northern Italy following the sampling methodology described in Funari et al. (2015). The goal of this project is to decipher the sources of the magnetic properties previously observed in the BA and FA (Funari et al., 2016), and estimate the concentration

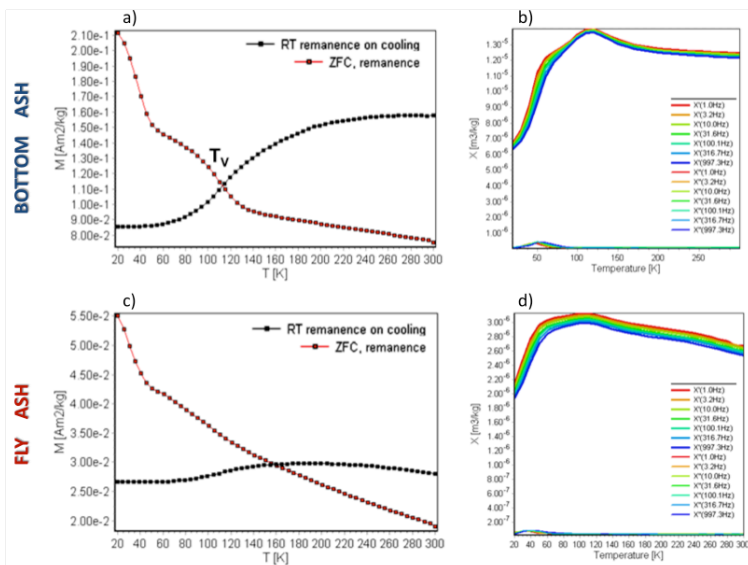


Fig. 1: MPMS measurements of representative BA sample (above) and FA sample (below). Low temperature remanence curves (a, c) are measured after imparting a room temperature SIRM at 2.5 T, during zero-field cooling (ZFC) to 20 K (RT remanence on cooling). While at low temperature, a 2.5 T SIRM is imparted and the remanence is measured on heating back to room temperature (ZFC, remanence). AC susceptibility (b, d) is measured at 7 different frequencies and in fixed field amplitude as a function of temperature; both in-phase ( $X'$ ) and out-of-phase ( $X''$ ) susceptibility are displayed.

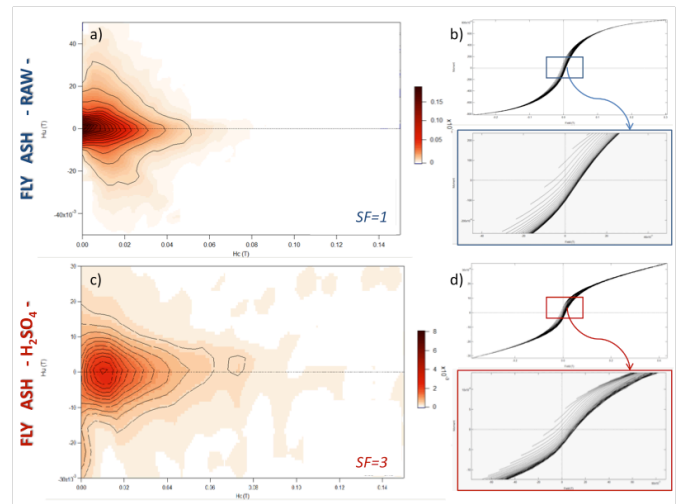


Fig. 2: FORC analysis of a raw FA sample (above) and after  $H_2SO_4$  leaching (below). The FORC diagrams (a, c) are computed using FORCinel software that allowed the processing with optimum smoothing factor (SF), magnetic drift and first point artefact corrections. The FORC measurements (b, d) are also shown along with a zoom around the origin where every 3rd curve is plotted for clarity.

of SP grains. A general correlation between  $\chi$  and concentration of certain metals (i.e., Fe, REE, Co) suggested the study of magnetic phases after metal leaching in order to better understand the fate of valuable metals and enhance metal recovery. I also performed magnetic measurements on additional samples of BA and FA that were subjected to bio-hydrometallurgical treatments for metal recovery and environmental stabilisation during my earlier PhD work.

The BA and FA samples are characterized by narrow hysteresis curves and low coercivity ( $B_c$ , 7.2 – 14.1 mT), suggesting a significant reversible component of the magnetization. High temperature susceptibility measurements for both BA and FA mostly indicate magnetite Curie temperatures between 570–580 °C and the heating-cooling curves are frequently not reversible. The low temperature remanent curves and frequency-dependent AC susceptibility (Fig. 1) were measured on a Magnetic Properties Measurement System (MPMS). The measured sequences show magnetite-like shapes for most of samples, but the Verwey transition in FA samples is not clear probably due to the presence of oxidized/impure magnetite or unblocking of SP grains. Measurements of AC susceptibility by MPMS might support a significant contribution of SP grains in FA: FA samples show larger frequency dependence than BA and the temperature of the peak in both in-phase and out-of-phase susceptibility, which corresponds to the blocking temperature, is shifted towards lower temperature (ca. 30 K for FA; ca. 50 K for BA). However, the presence of impure magnetite containing Cr, Zn, Mn, and Cu, which may conceal the real SP contribution, cannot be ruled out in either BA or in FA. On a Day Plot, the samples lie within the domain of PSD particles, mostly close to the SD-MD mixing lines, but the FA sample treated by  $H_2SO_4$  in a pH-dependent test (1 pH set-point, 6hrs leaching time) is close to the SP-PSD curves. The analysis of FORC distribution (Fig. 2) confirms PSD magnetic assemblages

with contours diverging from the origin of Hu axis and a broad, not well defined, central ridge. The FORC analysis of the FA-H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> sample shows a slightly different shape of contour lines, coercivity distribution, and a sigmoidal SP contribution is recognizable from the zoomed insert of the FORC measurement.

The magnetic measurements at the IRM provided reference data for magnetic properties of BA and FA and these preliminary observations emphasise the metastable nature of these ashes. In addition, we found evidence of a significant contribution of the harmful SP grains (especially in FA) that may affect the current waste management strategies. We plan to use the Banerjee diagrams (Banerjee et al., 1993) to better understand the SP contribution and integrate the magnetic dataset with Mossbauer analysis (already acquired at the IRM) and XRD mineralogy in order to shed some light on the behaviour of magnetic phases during leaching that still remains controversial.

I spent a great time at the IRM and I would like to thank Mike Jackson, Dario Bilardello, and all the IRM staff for their generous help and thank also to Luigi Vigliotti (CNR-ISMAR, Bologna, Italy) who introduced me to rock magnetism and suggested the visit at the IRM.

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## Complex iron mineralogy of the 1.4 Ga lower Belt Supergroup: iron oxides, siderite and (nanophase) pyrrhotite

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The 1.4 Ga Belt Supergroup (Evans et al., 2000), currently exposed in Montana, Idaho, Washington, Alberta, and British Columbia, represents a classic mid-Proterozoic sedimentary succession spanning a wide range of metamorphic conditions with sub-biotite facies in the east increasing to garnet facies in the west (Duke and Lewis, 2010). Paleontologically, the strata contain diverse microfossils, and the second oldest macrofossils on Earth (Horodyski et al., 1989); some of the micro- and macrofossils are interpreted to be eukaryotes—the domain of life that includes all modern macroscopic organisms like plants and animals (e.g. Adam et al., 2014; Knoll et

al., 2006). Understanding the depositional conditions of the shales, siltstones, and sandstones of the lower Belt Group can provide information about the environmental conditions surrounding these early eukaryotic life forms with evolutionary implications.

Observing changes in iron chemistry and mineralogy has been utilized for decades to understand ancient redox shifts, due to iron's redox sensitivity as it cycles between +II and +III valence states. Additionally, by collecting samples across a well-understood metamorphic gradient, we can elucidate the metamorphic reactions of iron minerals naturally occurring during burial metamorphism to peel away overprints and reveal primary mineralogy. We utilize bulk rock magnetic techniques in a form of “deep-time” environmental magnetism to constrain the magnetic minerals present within the samples. Combining rock magnetism with textural techniques and field observations, we can ordinate minerals as secondary or primary, with the latter used to determine paleo-redox conditions.

Prior work on the shales and siltstones of the lower Belt Supergroup using these techniques had suggested incredibly complex mixtures of iron minerals even in relatively unmetamorphosed samples and abundant overprinting from secondary diagenetic and metamorphic processes (Slotznick et al., 2016; Slotznick et al., 2015). One of the main goals of my time at the IRM was to confirm some of the magnetic minerals previously identified by rotational remanent magnetization and Hcr' (from the derivative of IRM acquisition) measured using RAPID rock magnetic protocols on Caltech's 2G SQUID magnetometer (Kirschvink et al., 2008) as well as thermal susceptibility measurements on Caltech's KappaBridge. Additionally, I wanted to use hysteresis parameters to constrain grain size and quantify abundances of magnetic minerals in my samples.

At the IRM, I measured room-temperature hysteresis loops of all 63 of my samples and 21 samples were run on the MPMS. Pyrrhotite was confirmed in six samples by the presence of the Besnus transition at 32K (Figure 1A). Samples with pyrrhotite formed a metamorphic isograd with western samples containing pyrrhotite while samples to the east contained only pyrite. Notably this isograd occurs below the biotite isograd highlighting the low-temperatures at which pyrite can metamorphose into pyrrhotite. In addition to pyrrhotite, siderite was also identified by its low-temperature transition in five samples to the west of the newly mapped isograd (Figure 1B). While not imaged texturally, this siderite is interpreted to form as small domains within the Fe-rich dolomite that was seen in samples both east and west of the isograd.

The MPMS experiments showed that even the samples to the east of the isograd had undergone some transformations in iron mineralogy based on the presence of the P-transition in 10 samples (Aubourg and Pozzi, 2010). Interpreted to indicate nanophase pyrrhotite, this transition has a smooth reversible drop/rise in RTSIRM at 35K and is nearly indistinguishable FC and ZFC below 35 K (Figure 1C,D). From experimentation on natural claystones, the P-transition first appeared at 40°C and

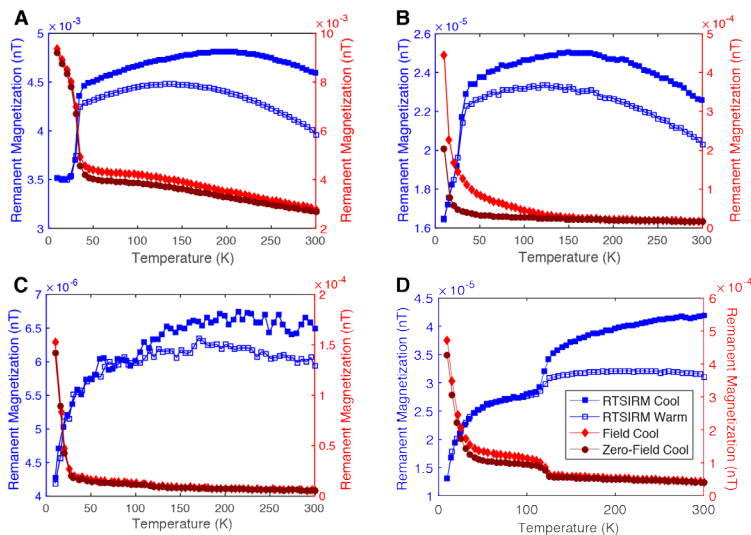


Figure 1: RTSIRM, FC, and ZFC from example shales and siltstones of the lower Belt Supergroup containing A) pyrrhotite, B) pyrrhotite and siderite, C) nanophase pyrrhotite and magnetite, and D) magnetite and nanophase pyrrhotite.

disappeared by 250°C (Aubourg and Pozzi, 2010). This temperature range fits independent temperature constraints on the eastern lower Belt samples ranging between 125°C to 310°C (Eslinger and Savin, 1973; White et al., 2014).

Magnetite was confirmed in 14 samples using the Verwey transition at 120K (Figure 1D), and appeared to be nearly ubiquitous in the low-grade metamorphic samples. Hysteresis parameters highlighted that the magnetite in low-grade samples was pseudo-single domain and was present at <10 ppm. The Fuller test for nature of magnetization suggested this magnetite was detrital. This preserved record of fine-grained detrital iron oxide gives important clues about the redox conditions suggesting oxic water conditions may have been more prevalent than previously believed. Based on their dependence on oxygen for metabolic functions and biosynthetic reactions, eukaryotes are tied to oxic conditions; therefore, this paleoenvironmental interpretation lends support to the paleontological signs for eukaryotes in the Belt Supergroup.

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The next

## Visiting Fellow Application

deadline is coming up on

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# Current Articles

A list of current research articles dealing with various topics in the physics and chemistry of magnetism is a regular feature of the IRM Quarterly. Articles published in familiar geology and geophysics journals are included; special emphasis is given to current articles from physics, chemistry, and materials-science journals. Most are taken from ISI Web of Knowledge, after which they are subjected to Procrustean culling for this newsletter. An extensive reference list of articles (primarily about rock magnetism, the physics and chemistry of magnetism, and some paleomagnetism) is continually updated at the IRM. This list, with more than 10,000 references, is available free of charge. Your contributions both to the list and to the Current Articles section of the IRM Quarterly are always welcome.

## Biomagnetism

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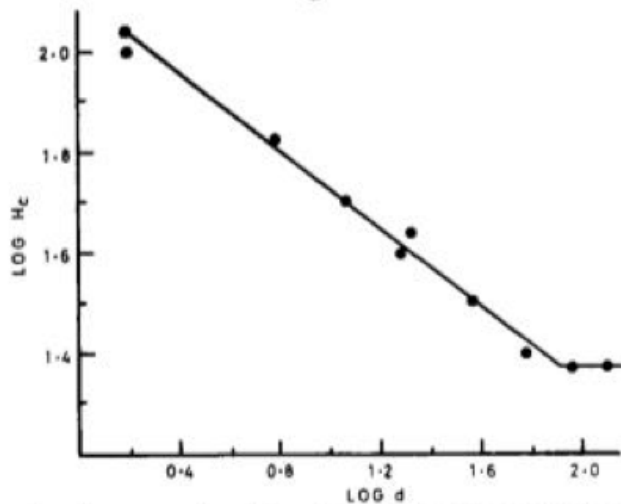
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Coercive force as a function of grain size (logarithmic plot).

Fig. 2 The power relation between coercivity and grain-size determined by Parry (1965) confirmed Stacey's theory albeit the annealing beforehand yielded magnetically softer titanomagnetites.

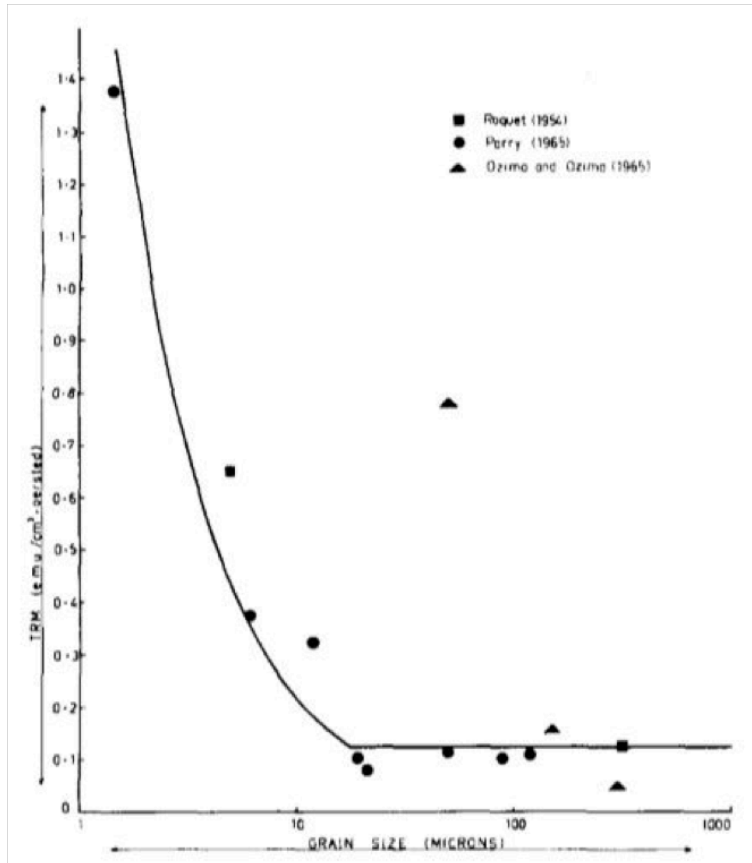


Fig. 3 Dickson et al.'s Fig. 1 combining Roquet (1954)'s, Parry (1965)'s and Ozima and Ozima (1965)'s thermoremanent magnetisation (TRM) vs grain-size results showing the abrupt onset of multidomain behaviour above 20  $\mu\text{m}$  where TRM is no longer a function of grain-size or coercivity.

The translation balance had two interesting applications resulting directly from his ANU contacts. One was with John Lovering, a geochemist with a special interest in meteorites, which had magnetic remanences apparently predating their arrival on the Earth. Parry's role was to identify the Fe-Ni alloy phases, evolution of which during cooling controlled the remanences. Another ANU

collaborator was Ted Irving, who was establishing the polar wander path for Australia. Irving had found rocks near Kiama, south of Sydney in NSW, which had consistently reversed remanence over a 50 million year age range. We now know of this as the Kiaman reverse superchron, but its plausibility was subject to some doubt at the time. One of the contrary postulates was that there was a subtle but systematic difference between the magnetic constituents of reversed and normally magnetised rocks, allowing the possibility of self-reversing remanence by one of the mechanisms suggested by Louis Néel. Parry's measurements on Irving's rocks showed no such effect.

For the second crucial sabbatical in 1964, in Newcastle, Parry joined what was then the strongest rock magnetism group anywhere, led by Keith Runcorn. By then the phenomenon of thermoremanence had been quite intensively observed but the theory was lagging. A satisfying interpretation of its grain size dependence was still needed and a basic difficulty was that there were no well controlled experiments that made clear just what the dependence was. Parry filled the gap by using an elutriator to separate magnetite grains of different sizes and dispersing them in a non-magnetic matrix to simulate rocks for which he measured all the standard properties, including thermoremanence. The result was a data set that became a standard reference for magnetic properties of dispersed fine grains. It clearly identified the range of grain sizes displaying pseudo-single domain properties, resolving the question of what distinguishes the grains that are responsible for most of the magnetically stable rocks from the single domains of Néel's pioneering theory and true multidomains. During this time Lin wrote, and Margaret typed, his PhD thesis which was awarded by UNSW in 1965.

Lin's third sabbatical in 1972 was with Rod Wilson's group, Liverpool University, where he continued studying the magnetic properties of fine particles using Rod's vast sample collection from young lavas and dykes.

By nature, Lin Parry was a collaborator, disinclined to emphasise what he, himself, was doing. He saw the physical problems that arose in other people's work and applied his experimental skills to resolving them. The names of graduate students he supervised later in his career are distributed through the literature with little indication of his role in inspiring their work. The following list of publications is far from comprehensive but gives an idea of the developments of his research interest through the years, from beach sands and meteorites to common garden rocks, while at the same time focussed very much on the magnetisation of micron to sub-micron titanomagnetite particles. Lin characteristically assumed junior authorship in publications with his students.

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**Fig. 4** Lin with his post-grad students in 1971. Clockwise beginning left front, A.A. Rahman (MSc PhD), L.G. Little (MSc), M.F. Westcott-Lewis (MSc PhD), A.D. Duncan (MSc) and B.W. Robins (PhD).

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