

## MEMORIAL OF LUCIUS LEE HUBBARD\*

ALFRED C. LANE, *Tufts College.*

Lucius Lee Hubbard was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, August 7, 1849, the only and also posthumous child of Lucius Virgilius and Annie Elizabeth (Lee) Hubbard. His father, of an old New England family and a Harvard graduate of 1824, was studious, scholarly, and master of several languages.



LUCIUS LEE HUBBARD  
1849-1933

As a young man, Dr. Hubbard attended Woodward High School in Cincinnati for three years, Phillip Exeter Academy for two years, and graduated from Harvard in 1872. While there, he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and several important clubs. His first two years out of college were spent in travelling abroad and in the University of Bonn, studying the German language, history, and international law. He had thought of going into the diplomatic service of the United States, but realized that at that time there was not much chance for "career men". Thus, in March, 1874,

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he entered the law office of C. T. Russell, in the fall of that year the Boston University Law School, received his LL.B. the following spring, and was admitted to the bar.

On September 29, 1875, he married Frances J. Lambard of Augusta, Maine. From then until 1883, he continued to live in Cambridge with business in Boston, but his legal business interests became overshadowed by others. He was always a collector—of stamps, of Americana, of Robinson Crusoes, of minerals—and in general was a lover of the great outdoors which took form in his first book (1877), "Summer Vacations at Moosehead Lake and Vicinity." This was gradually expanded under other titles and he celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the map by revising the thirteenth edition.

His interest in the rocks, and especially the porphyries of Mt. Katahdin, led him back to Europe in 1883 to again study mineralogy, geology, and chemistry, in Bonn under Von Lasaulx, where he took his A.M. and Ph.D. in 1886 with a mineralogical thesis—"Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Nösean-Führenden Auswürflinge des Laacher Sees" published in *Tschermak's Mineralogisch-petrographischen Mittheilungen*, volume 8, part 5.

In November 1886, he went to Heidelberg and worked several months under Rosenbusch, among other things, devising a method of testing the specific gravity of minute grains by gauging their fall in an upcurrent of water. In 1887 he travelled and collected in Switzerland and Italy, returning to his Maine woods for the summer and oscillating between them and Boston until 1890 when he received an offer to join the staff of the Michigan Geological Survey and the School of Mines.

Dr. Hubbard's business and legal training, and command of executive and diplomatic language was of service not only to him but to his associates both in the Geological Survey and other positions which he came to fill. There are many records of this. Thus, M. E. Wadsworth, the head of the Geological Survey, who often in scientific controversies used language which offended more than he expected, once pencilled to Dr. Hubbard, "Please to see when I criticize work of others that the language is put in the best and least offensive form." Later, as a Regent of the University of Michigan, it was to Dr. Hubbard that the task of pacifying wrathful alumni sometimes fell, and it was usually done without much retraction.

Although partially color-blind, Dr. Hubbard's keenness of sight and his discrimination of lusters and of colors as he *did* see them enabled him not only to be a great philatelist and a safe gatherer of mushrooms, but a first class mineral collector, to the great ultimate advantage of the Michigan College of Mines.

When the close relations of the Geological Survey and the College of Mines was terminated in 1893, Dr. Hubbard became State Geologist until 1899 when, dissatisfied with the State's provision for the Survey and his own work hampered, he resigned. He was then employed by various concerns and within a year had located the Champion Mine. Others followed and at the same time, he continued without salary to aid Dr. A. C. Lane who succeeded him as head of the Survey.

Gradually, as he grew older and relinquished his business cares to younger men, his life-long interest in collecting and literature grew, but he also retained his interest in public and civic affairs for which his experience and training had well fitted him. Thus he was appointed a member of the Board of Control of the Michigan College of Mines in 1905 and remained upon it until 1917. He was also appointed to the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan in 1910, was elected in 1911, and reelected continuously, resigning from failing health in the year of his decease.

His later interests in literature were doubtless stimulated by his association with these educational institutions. By 1917, his collection of Americana became too much to house in his fireproof library—"as complete and important a one as was ever privately made (up to that time)"—and was sold, like his earlier stamp collection. His mineral collection he gave to the Michigan College of Mines. Of late years, he concentrated on his collection and studies of the sources and editions of Robinson Crusoe and in studying the history of the early editions of Gulliver's Travels, in which he showed that genius for minutiae which was a strong characteristic. His studies of his books were of scholarly value, the result of earnest research and were not merely interesting notes. It is probably due to these changes in his interests that he is not better known to the younger mineralogists and geologists, but his interest in these phases remained to the end. This collection of early editions he gave to the University of Michigan.

His wife preceded him in death by several years, but not until they had been able to celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Dr. Hubbard's bibliography is as varied as were his interests. In it there are fourteen papers and reports dealing with phases of mineralogy and geology, eight on topics related to his studies of his library of Americana, Robinson Crusoe and Gulliver's Travels, philately, and legal codification. It is probable there are others which have been missed.

Quiet and unassuming, but doing much good when and where least expected, as many of his beneficiaries would quickly affirm, Dr. Hubbard, always studious and active (his last published contribution, a note on Colombian stamps, appeared only four months before his death), spent much of his later years between Florida in winter<sup>1</sup> and the Keweenaw Peninsula in summer. Here he died at Eagle Harbor, August 3, 1933, in the country in which the development of whose mineral resources he had done so much to guide and aid.

<sup>1</sup> Where he collected hundreds of specimens of *Strombus pugilis*, and classified the variations for the Museum of the University of Michigan.