

MEMORIAL OF BENJAMIN LEROY MILLER

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Benjamin LeRoy Miller was not a mineralogist, petrologist, or petrographer in the strict use of those terms, but an eminent economic geologist and a man of unusual qualities with a host of friends. Professor Benjamin LeRoy Miller died March 23, 1944, following a heart attack in Williams Hall, Lehigh University, where for thirty-seven years he had his office. A short time prior to the attack he had returned from a six weeks' business and pleasure trip to Florida and seemed to be in excellent health.

Dr. Miller was born at Sabetha, Kansas, on April 13, 1874, the son of Jacob J. and Mary (Moorhead) Miller. He married Mary A. Meredith on September 15, 1904. She passed away May 30, 1930. He is survived by his daughter Ruth Meredith (Mrs. Otto H. Spillman) and her three children, and Ralph LeRoy, his son. He was a member of the Society of Friends.

The A.B. degree was granted him by the University of Kansas in 1897, his A.M. was taken at Penn College, Iowa, in 1898 and his Ph.D. was received from the Johns Hopkins University in 1903. In 1941 Moravian College conferred upon him the honorary Sc.D. degree.

Before coming to Lehigh University in 1907, as Professor of Geology, he had taught at Penn College and Bryn Mawr College. During a sixteen weeks' summer session, in 1943, he was on the staff of Princeton University. He had been associated with the State Geological Surveys of Kansas, Iowa, Maryland, and Pennsylvania; also the United States Geological Survey. Professor Miller was a cooperating geologist of the Pennsylvania Geological Survey from 1919 until the time of his death, and a consulting geologist for many cement companies in the Lehigh Valley. He was also the consultant for the Wild Creek Gravity Water Supply System that now supplies the city of Bethlehem.

Dr. Miller was affiliated with the Mineralogical Society of America, being elected to Fellowship in 1922; Sigma Xi (University of Kansas, 1896); Iowa Academy of Sciences (1899); American Association for the Advancement of Science (1901); the Geological Society of America (1904); American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers (1911); Seismological Society of America (1911); Society of Economic Geologists (1920); Pennsylvania Academy of Sciences (1924); Geological Society of London (1926); and Tau Beta Pi (Lehigh University, Honorary). He was consulting Editor for the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, 1920-1922. Dr. Miller was honored in 1942 by being selected as Chairman of the Industrial Minerals Division of the A.I.M.E.



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1874-1944

Fortunately, Professor Miller was in such a position that it was possible for him to travel extensively. In 1927 he circled the world, and again in 1937, when he attended the International Geological Congress at Moscow, returning to the States by way of China and Japan. Other trips were made to Great Britain and Ireland; to central Europe; to Spain to attend the International Geological Congress; to Scandinavia; to South America in 1915; to Alaska in 1940; and to Central America in 1941. His trip to South America was followed in 1919 by the publication of *The Mineral Deposits of South America*, which he wrote in collaboration with Professor Joseph T. Singewald, Jr.

With the passing of Dr. Benjamin LeRoy Miller the geological sciences lost a very active geologist as may be noted from the appended selected bibliography.

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