

MEMORIAL OF WILLIAM MARSH MYERS

S. ZERFOSS, *Washington, D. C.*

Dr. William Marsh Myers, Chief of the Division of Mineral Economics in the School of Mineral Industries at the Pennsylvania State College died on January 25, 1951. The shock of his sudden death was shared with his family by his many friends and students.

The career of "Bill" Myers was comprised of a peculiarly happy blending of activity in the fields of science, engineering, economics, and education. His career in science was initiated when he took his B.S. degree at Syracuse University in 1914. This was followed by some graduate work at Columbia University in 1932. He received his M.S. degree in 1923 at the University of Michigan followed by a Ph.D. degree there in 1933 with a thesis entitled "Geology and Economics of the Exploitation of the Copper Ores."

He was employed as a chemist and metallurgist by the Crucible Steel Company (1914-1915) and by the Kalem Company, Inc. (1915-1917). His career as a mining engineer and geologist began with a year in the Peruvian copper mines of the Cerro de Pasco Copper Corporation (1917-1918) and continued with a year at the New Cornelia Copper Corporation Mine at Ajo, Arizona (1918-1919), and a year at the Homestead Iron Dyke Mine (1920-1921). The year at the "New Cornelia" was during the leaching period of that mine. Many and fascinating were the stories, both professional and otherwise, which have been related from this Arizona desert experience.

This practical experience as mining geologist was followed by six years (1921-1927) with the U. S. Bureau of Mines as Associate Mineral Technologist. One year of this period was spent in Washington, D. C., one year at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the remainder of the time at the New Brunswick station. The bibliography of his publications for this period shows his interest in mineralogy and mineral technology.

With this background in science and mining technology the next phase of his career was marked by an absorption of the economic aspect of the subject. He was service engineer for the U. S. Gypsum Company (1927-1932), thereby gaining valuable experience in the marketing of industrial minerals. Later he was associated with H. B. Earhart, Inc., of Detroit, Michigan, (1934-1938). He continued his activity as a mine evaluator until his death.

In 1938 Dr. Myers joined the staff of the School of Mineral Industries at the Pennsylvania State College as Assistant Professor of Mineral Economics and Technology. He became Associate Professor in 1942 and



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head of the new division of Mineral Economics in 1946. He was promoted to Professor of Mineral Economics in 1949.

No matter who has priority for the term "Mineral Economics" Dr. Myers made this particular bit of collegiate curriculum taxonomy peculiarly his own, both at school and in the mining society. Apart from his teaching, his formal contribution to mineral industries education was

the formulation of a curriculum in Mineral Economics. In this he reflected his own experience by providing the student with a balanced diet of science, engineering, and economics. He was especially active in promoting this subject throughout Pennsylvania by papers, speeches and personal contact with the government at Harrisburg.

Dr. Myers carried his campaign for the recognition of this field of mineral industries into the A.I.M.E. and was a member of the first executive committee of the Mineral Economics Division of this Society.

This formal educational contribution was more than matched by the informal role as teacher of students. In the everyday classroom and in his office his students were much endeared to "Bill" Myers. The ideal instructor is one who can impart his enthusiasm for the subject to the students. Dr. Myers with his rapid-fire delivery of facts, opinions, and experience rarely failed to make his point on some mineralogical or economic problem. His intellectual curiosity was well evidenced in his classroom and private discussions.

Outside the classroom he was always available to students and friends for discussion, advice, and at times more substantial help. Many of us shared with him his hobbies too numerous to mention including his wood-carving and his interest in the violin.

Dr. Myers was a member of the A.I.M.E., a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America, and a member of Sigma Xi. He was a lifelong member of the Society of Friends.

Dr. Myers was born in Clinton, New York on November 22, 1892. On October 10, 1925 he married Ramona E. Reed. He is survived by his widow and his son William Bingham Myers.

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