



WALDEMAR T. SCHALLER

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JOSEPH J. FAHEY, *U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

In a small improvised chemical laboratory located behind the family residence in San Francisco, Theodore P. Schaller, using Remsen's textbook, began to teach his son Waldemar the elementary principles of chemistry. Little did he realize then that he was planting a seed that would grow and blossom forth, yielding in great abundance fruit that has vastly enriched the science of mineralogy throughout the last fifty years.

After graduation from high school, young Waldemar attended the University of California, where, under the stimulating influence of Professors Andrew C. Lawson, head of the Department of Geology, Arthur S. Eakle, who taught him mineralogy and goniometry, and Walter C. Blasdale, who gave to him a well-rounded course in analytical chemistry, he completed his undergraduate work and received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1903.

An appointment as Assistant Chemist on the U. S. Geological Survey three months after his graduation brought Schaller to Washington, D. C. Here, in the Division of Physical and Chemical Research with Geologist George F. Becker as Chief, he was associated with such giants in the field of geochemistry as Frank Wigglesworth Clarke, William F. Hillebrand, George Steiger, Eugene T. Allen, and Eugene C. Sullivan, who were to contribute so largely to their chosen field. In this environment he stored up a wealth of knowledge and experience that served him as a background for his future research.

On the twentieth day of August nineteen hundred and eight Schaller married Mary Ellen Boyland of Virginia. Though no children blessed this union, it has been a most happy one. Three nieces were raised from early childhood and received the same tender care that would have been lavished on their own children.

Schaller resigned from the Survey, March 1, 1912, and he and Mrs. Schaller went to Europe. There they visited mineralogical museums and collections, and he conferred with the leading European mineralogists. In June of that year he received his Doctor of Philosophy degree, *summa cum laude*, under Paul Groth at the University of Munich. This was followed by studies under Victor Goldschmidt at Heidelberg. October found Dr. Schaller reinstated on the Survey after his very rewarding six months abroad. Except for this short period and another six months during 1920 when he was employed in private industry, he has had continuous service on the Survey since 1903.

The greatness of Waldemar Schaller as a scientist is reflected in his

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bibliography of nearly 200 titles. He has described more than 40 new mineral species, and his classic study of the paragenesis of the saline minerals in the Permian deposits of New Mexico has pointed the way for the British mineralogists in their recent investigation of the English evaporites of the same age. However, any outline, brief though it be, of his scientific achievements, would be inadequately drawn if only the published record were considered. He has played the role of consultant and adviser to scores of his colleagues, and teacher to many of his younger associates. Repeatedly, time was cheerfully taken from study of a research problem to painstakingly answer, in his own thorough fashion, the very elementary question of a neophyte in the field of mineralogy or crystallography.

A severe critic of those who do not hew to the line of scientific rectitude, Waldemar Schaller exerts a strong stimulating influence, not only on his associates in the Geochemistry and Petrology Branch, but also on the geologists throughout the Survey. It is indeed a great privilege for his associates to honor this eminent scientist and his colleague of many years, Clarence S. Ross, by dedicating to them this issue of the *American Mineralogist*.