

PRESENTATION OF THE ROEBLING MEDAL TO
WALTER F. HUNT

LEWIS S. RAMSDELL, *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

Mr. President, Fellows and Members of the Mineralogical Society of America, and Guests:

Our Society has already awarded the Roebbling Medal for meritorious service in Mineralogy on fifteen occasions. On the occasion of this, the sixteenth award, we are honoring a man who has rendered not only meritorious service, but a unique service to our science.

It is a great personal pleasure to me to have the honor of making this presentation, for my entire professional life has been very closely related to Dr. Hunt. Since my first course with him in my senior year at the University of Michigan some 40 years ago, there has been an almost continuous association with him.

Walter F. Hunt graduated in chemistry at the University of Michigan in 1904. As a graduate student he became interested in mineralogy, and served as an assistant in the department. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy was conferred upon him in 1915, the subject of his dissertation being the origin of the sulfur deposits of Sicily. At that time he had reached the rank of assistant professor. In 1922 he was made Professor of Petrology and in 1933 he was appointed Chairman of the Department of Mineralogy at the University. He held this position until he became Professor Emeritus in 1952. As a graduate student, and as a permanent member of the Department, he was interested in research as well as teaching. He published various papers and was an abstractor for *Chemical Abstracts*.

In 1922 Professor Hunt had before him the prospect of continuing the happy combination of teaching, writing and research, which is possible in a university. But when the newly organized Mineralogical Society of America took over *The American Mineralogist* as its official Journal, and asked him to become its editor, he accepted. It may be that it never occurred to him that the editorship might be the time-consuming task that it has become, or that he might serve as editor for thirty-five years. At any rate, he accepted the task, and over this long period has rendered distinguished service, not only to mineralogy in the United States but over the entire world.

With the continuing development of our science, and the growth of both our Society and the Journal, he had to devote more and more time to the editorial duties. Although he continued his teaching, and found time to be the co-author of two books, the opportunities for research activity were practically eliminated.

During most of this period of 40 years, we have had our offices across the hall from each other. I will not strain your credulity by saying that in this period there has never been disagreement, or that I have never heard editorial grumblings about authors who send in poorly prepared manuscripts, who use three words where one would do, or who want to rewrite their papers after they have received galley proof. But I do want to say that he seldom lost his temper and that he has been patient, considerate, and helpful. He never developed the cantankerous nature supposedly characteristic of editors. I have never heard him express any regrets at being editor for this long period, and I think that on the whole he has had a pretty good time doing it. He certainly looks as if life had been rather good to him.

During his editorship the Journal has achieved a leading world position, in size, in number of subscribers, and in influence. It has had a significant part in the rapid growth of mineralogy and related sciences.

Dr. Hunt has never sought office, but he has never shirked responsibility. His ability as a teacher, his friendliness and interest in others have won him a host of friends. After my long and close association with him, I am happy to have the privilege that is mine today.

Mr. President, it is an honor to present Walter Frederick Hunt as the sixteenth recipient of the Washington A. Roebling Medal of the Mineralogical Society of America, for his long and distinguished service as Editor of *The American Mineralogist*.