

Memorial of Wilhelm Hermann Julius Eitel May 6, 1891-July 20, 1979

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Dr. Wilhelm H. J. Eitel, an international authority in silicate science and professor emeritus of The University of Toledo, and director emeritus of the Institute for Silicate Research which he founded at this university, passed away on July 20, 1979 in Toledo Hospital.

Dr. Eitel was born May 6, 1891 at Frankfurt am Main, Germany. He was graduated from Wöhler Realgymnasium, Frankfurt am Main in 1909 and earned doctoral degrees from the Universities of Tübingen and Heidelberg, Germany. His teaching experience included the University of Frankfurt am Main, University of Leipzig, University of Königsberg, East Prussia, and Technische Hochschule, Berlin-Charlottenburg. One of his most distinguishing honors, of which he received many, was his appointment as director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Silicate Research, now the Max Planck Institute, in Berlin, from 1926 to 1945.

Dr. Eitel was among the leading scientists brought to the United States after World War II in Operation Paperclip, a postwar organization of scientific consultants whose task was to bring German scientists to America. He served as a consultant and research scientist for the U. S. Navy, and came to Toledo in 1952 to establish the silicate research institute. The Institute has been renamed "The Eitel Institute" in honor of the director emeritus.

Dr. Eitel retired as professor emeritus and director emeritus in 1961, however, "retire" is a misnomer in his case as he remained active in his research work until the time of his last brief illness. He maintained an office after his retirement on the university campus until his death, which he visited daily and continued his scientific research and writings. He completed as late as 1976 his eighth volume on Silicate Science. Dr. Eitel was proficient in 12 languages, and in addition to the eight volumes on Silicate Science he was the author of numerous scientific books and articles written in several languages.

Dr. Eitel's talents were not limited to science. He



Wilhelm H. J. Eitel—circa 1954

was an accomplished pianist from an early age. During his entire lifetime, despite his busy schedule, he found time to devote four hours each day to playing the classical music he loved so much.

Dr. Eitel received many international awards for his contributions to silicate science, and was awarded the Georg Agricola Medaille by the Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft for the year 1978. The medal is on display at our University. He was a guest professor at the University of Bologna in Italy and at Aachen University in Germany, and was honored in 1966 for his long outstanding work in Silicate Science by the Free University of Berlin. He was a research Fellow of the Physical Society and Mineral-

ogic Institute of the University of Frankfurt am Main, 1912–1919, and was elected a fellow in the British Society of Glass Technology, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Ceramic Society. Dr. Eitel also received an honorary degree of Doctor of Natural Science in 1962 from the Ruprecht-Karl-Universität, Heidelberg. The Toledo Section, American Chemical Society, honored him for his service to the world for chemical abstracting.

In addition, his membership in scientific societies was extensive and include Academic des Sciences de Roumanie, Rumania, Fellow in American Chemical Society, Fellow in American Mineralogical Society, Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft, Germany, Faraday Society, England, Instituto Lombardo di Scienze e Lettere, Italy, Kaiser Wilhelm Gessellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften, Germany, Königsberger Gelehrte Gesellschaft, Germany, Phi Kappa Phi, Preussische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Germany, Fellow in Society of Glass Technology, England, Associate Member of various Engineering and Research Organizations, Forschungs-Gesellschaft für des Strassenwesen-Berlin, Chairman, Sub-committee for Cements and Concrete for Super-highway Construction, 1934–38, and National Research Council Member, Highway Research Board, Project Committee B-6 and National

Cooperative Highway Research Program Advisory Panel.

Dr. Eitel was a flyer in World War I, and was one of the first to introduce aerial photography to combat intelligence. He married Annemarie Engeli on February 28, 1924 at Koenigsberg in Prussia. She died on April 6, 1945. He married her sister, Antonia, on November 27, 1946 at Frankfurt am Main. She also predeceased him, having passed away in 1978. He has one son living, Franz, and daughters, Dr. Luise Peake, Mrs. Eleanore Hansen and Dr. Dortha Hover.

In 1978, Dr. Eitel's vast scientific library of over 10,000 books and periodicals and 65,000 reprints was donated to the University of Toledo and are housed in a special Eitel Library. Also, in his memory, the University has on exhibit his early scientific instruments, awards and honors. A Seminar Room in the Bowman-Oddy Laboratories was dedicated in his honor. Dr. William A. Kneller, successor Director of the Eitel Institute and close associate of Dr. Eitel, created the Wilhelm H. J. Eitel Scholarship and Research Fund as a living memorial to sponsor research and scholarships in the fields of silicate science. Although his death brought to a close a long and industrious career, these commemorative memorabilia will linger on as tributes to such a distinguished scientist and remarkable man.