



WALTER F. HUNT

THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST

JOURNAL OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Vol. 38

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1953

Nos. 1 and 2

WALTER FREDERICK HUNT

EDWARD H. KRAUS

This number is dedicated by his colleagues and students of the Department of Mineralogy to Walter Frederick Hunt, upon his retirement from active duty to the University of Michigan, in deep appreciation of his service as a teacher and investigator, and as Editor of the *American Mineralogist* since 1922.

Professor Hunt was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, September 6, 1882. After attending the public schools in that city, he enrolled in the University of Michigan where as an undergraduate he specialized in chemistry. After receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1904 he immediately entered upon graduate work and became interested in mineralogy. He was soon appointed to the staff of the department and rose through the various ranks to Professor of Petrology in 1922 and as Chairman of the Department and Director of the Mineralogical Laboratory in 1933. The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy was conferred upon him in 1915. In 1951 he was on retirement furlough and became professor emeritus in September, 1952. Professor Lewis S. Ramsdell has succeeded him as Department chairman.

As a teacher Professor Hunt was extremely painstaking and meticulous. He is an excellent lecturer and never met a class without careful preparation. He always personally supervised his laboratory courses and in all his teaching he demanded good performance by his students. By his colleagues and by those who came under his instruction he is held in very high esteem for his comprehensive knowledge and his sympathetic attitude.

Dr. Hunt early demonstrated a flair for research as is evidenced by a very creditable list of published papers dealing with various phases of crystallography and mineralogy. For many years he prepared hundreds of abstracts of mineralogical, chemical, and geological papers which were published in *Chemical Abstracts* in this country and in journals abroad. He also collaborated in publishing two texts,—*Tables for the*

Determination of Minerals (with E. H. Kraus) and *Mineralogy, An Introduction to the Study of Minerals and Crystals* (with E. H. Kraus and L. S. Ramsdell).

In 1922 Professor Hunt became Editor of the *American Mineralogist* which had been taken over as the *Journal* of the Mineralogical Society of America when the society was organized in 1919. The *American Mineralogist* was first issued in 1916 as an independent journal under the editorship of Wallace Gould Levison. He was succeeded by Edgar T. Wherry in 1919 who continued in office for three years. That there was need for the *American Mineralogist* is shown by its annual growth in those early years. The first volume (1916) was a slender one and consisted of xvi+102 pages. As its availability for publishing mineralogical and crystallographic papers became known there was a material increase in the size of the annual volumes. Thus, during the first year of Professor Hunt's editorship, Volume 7 (1922) consisted of xii+214 pages.

Since the organization of the Mineralogical Society in December, 1919, interest in mineralogy and related fields in the United States and Canada has increased greatly. This is evidenced by the present large membership in the Society, which totals 1134 (5 correspondents, 315 fellows, 814 members) and 799 subscribers, as compared with a total of 181 (55 fellows and 126 members) and 139 subscribers at the close of the first year (1920). During this period of over three decades there has been a corresponding growth in the other fields of the earth sciences for several new societies were organized all of which have had remarkable growth.

The *American Mineralogist* has been a powerful influence in stimulating the publication of the results of researches, notes and news, book reviews, and the proceedings of societies. Mention must also be made of several important special numbers, such as the *Symposium on Quartz Oscillator-Plates*, those honoring Professors Charles Palache and Esper S. Larsen, Jr., and the ones devoted to Canadian mineralogy. Volume 37 (1952) which has just been published is very large and consists of vi+1088 pages.

The task of editing a highly specialized scientific journal is a difficult one. Contributions are received from scientists from all over the world who recognize the importance of publication in the *American Mineralogist*, which maintains very high standards and has a wide circulation. Editor Hunt has long demonstrated that he has an excellent over-all knowledge of the fields served by the journal, as is clearly revealed by the high character of the articles accepted for publication.

It is obvious that an editor cannot approve of all articles which are submitted, for some do not come within the fields to which the journal

is devoted, and others do not meet the standards set for publication. In these matters an editor must be extremely considerate, fair, and diplomatic. Then too, editors cannot be "thin skinned" for it is absolutely impossible to satisfy everyone. It has long been shown by the prestige of the *American Mineralogist* and its appeal to the scientists the world over, that Professor Hunt is a very successful and efficient editor.

Only those who have been and now are closely associated with him know how heavily the importance of maintaining high standards and the widening of the influence of the journal weigh upon him. Very few realize the long hours he personally devotes to the task of preparing manuscripts for the printer and to subsequently correcting the proof. This is all done primarily for the good of our science and not for pecuniary gain. The present cost of editing our journal is very small, indeed much smaller than for other journals of like character and size.

Professor Hunt was a member of the small group of mineralogists who were active in organizing the Society and hence is a charter fellow. Moreover, he has been active in the administrative affairs of the organization longer than anyone else for he has been a member of the Council continuously since he became Editor in 1922, thirty-one years ago.

I am confident that the readers of the *American Mineralogist* agree with the staff and students of the Department of Mineralogy of the University of Michigan that this special number is a fitting and well-merited expression of appreciation of the long service that Walter F. Hunt has rendered to the advancement of mineralogical and related sciences. It is our sincere hope that many more fruitful years may be in store for him.

Professor Hunt prepared the manuscripts for the printer and corrected proof in the usual manner for this issue. With the cooperation of the publisher, the assistant editor then made certain changes and additions, and Professor Hunt was not aware that this issue would be dedicated to him.

L. S. R.