PRESENTATION OF THE ROEBLING MEDAL OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA TO ALEXANDER NEWTON WINCHELL

PAUL F. KERR, *Columbia University, New York City.*

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

Some twenty years ago, arrangements were completed by the Council of the Society for the annual award of a medal. The medal was to be awarded for meritorious achievement in the fields of the mineralogical sciences. This medal, now well-known as the Roebling Medal, has been awarded on thirteen occasions. Today we are assembled to honor the fourteenth recipient, Dr. Alexander Newton Winchell.

In honoring Dr. Winchell, the Society is not only recognizing distinguished achievement but is paying homage to American academic tradition in the science of mineralogy. For 37 years the Medalist was Professor of Mineralogy and Petrology at the University of Wisconsin. Before going to Wisconsin he was on the staff of the Montana School of Mines for seven years, and since retiring from the University of Wisconsin eleven years ago he has been a visiting professor both at the University of Virginia and at Columbia University. Even today, while officially enjoying a well-earned retirement, Professor Winchell makes his home at Hamden, Connecticut, close to the academic orbit of Yale University.

Scores of American mineralogists and geologists have been aided in their training through their contact with Professor Winchell in the classrooms of the University of Wisconsin. Much larger numbers in classrooms elsewhere have had the benefit of the excellent textbooks that he has published. It is unlikely that there is a mineralogist either in the United States or Canada who has not been materially aided in his microscopic work by Professor Winchell's textbooks.

In addition to his duties as a professor and as Chairman of the Department of Geology at the University of Wisconsin for six years, theMedalist has found time to write about 100 technical articles. His contributions to the mineralogy of silicate groups are basic. Group analyses of pyroxenes, amphiboles, feldspars, micas, zeolites, chlorites, and scapolite in particular have received his close scrutiny and careful analytical description.

Not content with studies of natural silicates, Professor Winchell has found time to write a book on artificial "minerals" where one will find listed the optical properties of many transparent compounds. He served as chairman of the National Research Committee on accessory minerals

for seven years. It should also be mentioned that his first assignment upon retirement from the University of Wisconsin involved consultation for three years at the American Cyanamid Research Laboratory at Stamford, Connecticut.

The Medalist was the thirteenth president of the Mineralogical Society of America and has always been active in the affairs of the Society, being a regular participant in meetings. His interest in scientific affairs in general has been broad as shown by his membership in at least twelve scientific or professional societies, including a life membership in the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers and membership in the American Chemical Society.

We are proud in America to be able to point to certain families that have carried the tradition of natural science from generation to generation. The name Winchell has long been familiar in this respect. It is a matter of interest at least to mineralogists to observe that the family which has so long been identified with the border area of the Great Lakes should now be transplanted to the northern border of Long Island Sound where the traditions of another famous mineralogical family still remain. Professor Winchell's recent appointment as Honorary Fellow in geology at Yale University brings him even closer to the early center of American mineralogy.

A glance at Professor Winchell's remarkable bibliography will show that in 1897 he wrote a six page article on the Koochiching granite. Another glance will show that in 1954 he published a considerably enlarged second edition of the optical properties of organic compounds amounting to 487 pages. Notwithstanding the full years that lie between, and a life span of more than four score years, the Medalist is even more productive today than at the close of the last century when he started.

Mr. President, you honor not only the Medalist, but the Society that makes the award in presenting the Roebling Medal to Alexander Newton Winchell.

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