



Joseph Leon Rosenholtz

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MEMORIAL OF JOSEPH LEON ROSENHOLTZ

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Joseph Leon Rosenholtz, Professor of Geology and Head of the Department of Geology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute since 1945, died March 21, 1963 after a brief illness.

Dr. Rosenholtz was born in Kingston, N. Y. on July 31, 1899. He grew up in Troy, N. Y. and attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering in 1920. He served as Instructor and earned an M.S. in Chemistry in 1922 and a Ph.D. in 1924. In 1924 he was appointed Professor of Geology and Mineralogy. Until 1945, he organized and, with his colleague Professor Dudley T. Smith, taught all geology offerings at Rensselaer. With the expansion of activity and staff in the area of geology and fuel resources, he became Head of the Department of Geology in 1945.

His research was concerned with the physical properties of rocks and minerals. He determined the dielectric constant of powdered minerals, developed new techniques for the measurement of thermal expansion, and devised a method for testing the strength of a material from its thermal expansion characteristics. In collaboration with the Radiation Laboratory of the University of Michigan, he directed a study of the physical properties of rocks and minerals of interest in lunar research.

An enthusiastic teacher, Dr. Rosenholtz captivated the interest of his beginning classes for nearly forty years. He was held in high esteem by his students for his absorbing and often entertaining presentation of geological subjects. He inaugurated the Student Employment Bureau and the Student Loan Fund at Rensselaer, serving as director of the latter until 1961. He eagerly helped youngsters who had an interest in minerals and encouraged local teachers to bring their classes to the geology museum and mineral collection, which he organized and supervised. He served as counsellor to Phi Sigma Delta and to two generations of students, who eagerly sought his advice on personal and professional matters. He played violin and viola with the Albany Symphony Orchestra for many years and, for a time, directed the Rensselaer student orchestra. A dedicated and conscientious scientist and stimulating teacher, he was also a warm and sympathetic person who gave unstintingly of himself.

He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Mineralogical Society, and the Geological Society

of America. He also belonged to the American Geophysical Union, the American Crystallographic Association, the Geochemical Society of America, the National Association of Geology Teachers, the New York State Geological Association, the American Association of Engineering Education, The Society of Sigma Xi, and Tau Beta Pi. He served as President of the Eastern Section of the National Association of Geology Teachers (1959) and of the New York State Geological Association (1961). A memorial prize has been set up in his name from contributions of his students, friends, and associates.

He is survived by his wife Blanche (Goldowsky) of Troy, N. Y. and two daughters, Claire (Mrs. Robert Ruslander) of Delmar, N. Y. and Ann (Mrs. Edward Segel), of Albany, N. Y.

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