

tions of the American Geophysical Union: Geodesy (1951–1953) and Tectonophysics (1956–1958); also as President of the Mineralogical Society of America (1955) and of The Geological Society of America (1963). Posthumously he was awarded, (1969), the Distinguished Public Service Award by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Those of us who knew Harry Hess well will always measure others against his memory.

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## Memorial of Thomas Newkirk McVay February 16, 1891—August 12, 1971

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After a long and distinguished career of teaching, consulting, and research work in the fields of ceramic engineering and related areas, Dr. Thomas N. McVay died on August 12, 1971, at Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Thomas Newkirk McVay, son of Aliquippa and Edwin Grant McVay, was born at Hawkins Station, Pennsylvania, on February 16, 1891. When he was five years old his family moved to Illinois. His collegiate work was accomplished at the University of Michigan and at the University of Illinois at Urbana, Illinois, where he received his three degrees, Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Ph.D. in Ceramic Engineering. While attaining these degrees he acquired industrial experience through intervening periods of employment at various ceramic companies in West Virginia and in the Middle West.

He entered the teaching profession at the University of Illinois in 1922 after his graduation from the Ceramic Engineering Department in 1914 and a period of employment in the ceramic industry. In 1928 he resigned from the University of Illinois to

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accept the position of Professor of Ceramic Technology and Mineralogy at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. Here, as head of ceramics, Dr. McVay was instrumental in establishing and developing this department in the School of Chemistry, Metallurgy, and Ceramics under Dean Stewart J. Lloyd, a noted educator. During this period Dr. McVay was also consultant to the Monsanto Company at Anniston, Alabama. Under Dr. McVay's leadership, the University's Ceramics Department enjoyed an excellent growth in size and reputation.

In 1937 he was appointed to the United States Bureau of Mines at Tuscaloosa and was active as a part time Consulting Engineer. During the early 1940's Dr. McVay spent much of his consulting efforts on a special assignment at the Bureau of Mines Electrotechnical Station in Norris, Tennessee, assisting their refractory research group. Dr. McVay was Chief of the Refractories Section during this period and through his leadership and guidance the Bureau's expanded refractory research program at Norris made major advances and contributions to refractory technology during the critical years of World War II.

He retired from the University of Alabama with the title of Professor Emeritus in 1954 and became Petrologist at the Tuscaloosa Metallurgy Research Center of the United States Bureau of Mines located on the campus of the University.

Dr. McVay began consulting work with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1950. In 1951 he became responsible for establishing the Ceramics Laboratory for O.R.N.L., where he introduced the use of the petrographic microscope into the high temperature chemistry programs of the Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion project. He continued his consulting work at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, as well as for the Nuclear Materials and Propulsion Operations of the General Electric Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, and the Electric AutoLite Company, Fostoria, Ohio, for lengthy periods of time.

Dr. McVay was a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America and of the American Ceramic Society. He was a member of many other scientific and engineering groups, including the National Institute of Ceramic Engineers, Keramos, Canadian Mineralogical Society, American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, and Alabama Academy of Science, and was listed with the American Men of Science.

Dr. McVay was the recipient of the honorary

Hewitt Wilson Award granted periodically by the Southeastern Section of the American Ceramic Society to those responsible for furthering ceramics in the Southeast, and the Meritorious Service Award of the Department of the Interior, granted for significant scientific contributions.

Dr. McVay was distinguished not only for his teaching ability and great interest in encouraging young people in his professional fields but also for his productivity in publishing articles in the fields of ceramics and mineralogy.

Dr. Thomas Newkirk McVay was known by his fellow faculty members of the University of Alabama, his associates of the United States Bureau of Mines, and other professional associates as a gentleman of extraordinary scientific ability whose work was always well respected and highly dependable. His advice was sought by many people on many subjects, and he was most generous of his resources in responding to their needs. Although respectful and friendly memories of him will always remain in the minds of those who knew him, he will be greatly missed, for his departure has left a void that cannot be filled.

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