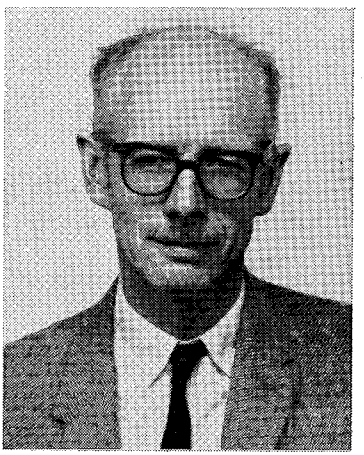
MEMORIAL TO WILSON MOORHOUSE



On February 26, 1969 Walter Wilson Moorhouse died under tragic circumstances, the victim of acute asthma from which he had suffered for many years. His sudden death will be mourned by his many friends and colleagues, and is a great loss to the scientific world.

Wils Moorhouse was born on November 30, 1913 in the small community of Shetland, Ontario. He grew up in Islington where he received his pre-university education. He attended several universities—Victoria University (B.A. 1935), Toronto (M.A. 1936), Cornell University (2 years of graduate study), and Columbia University (Ph.D. 1941). He was appointed to the staff of the University of Toronto, joining in September, 1940, and advanced through the academic ranks to Professor in 1957. During World War II he was a meteorologist for the Canada Department of Transport.

His chosen fields of science were Precambrian Geology and Petrology. His interest in the latter probably arose from his close association with Dr. S. J. Shand while at Columbia University where coworkers and staff early recognized his outstanding abilities. Because of his keen interest in rocks it is logical that he would find Precambrian Geology an intriguing and challenging field of study. Some of the maps which he produced for the Ontario Department of Mines are outstanding examples of the field geologist's art.

Equally at home in the petrographic laboratory, he was outstanding in his ability to use the polarizing microscope as a research tool. In his book, "The Study of Rocks in Thin Section", he has left to us not only his technical knowledge, but something of his zeal and enthusiasm for petrology. This book has been widely used in the English-speaking countries, has been translated into Russian, and published in English in Japan for students in Far Eastern countries.

As a logical result of his profound knowledge of Precambrian Geology he recognized the need for assembling and organizing the knowledge of that subject. The writing of a book, or series of books on the Precambrian was always in his mind and much of his research and that of his students was directed towards filling in voids in such knowledge. That he was a recognized authority on this subject is attested to by an invitation to address the Academy of Science in Moscow, which he did in 1965.

He travelled widely in Precambrian areas to get field evidence to supplement his laboratory studies. In addition to the many articles in scientific journals by himself and his graduate students he virtually completed for publication a "Comparative Atlas of the Textures of Archean and Modern Volcanic Rocks". He was also gathering data for a study of Precambrian fossils. It is to be hoped that some worthy successor can be found to complete his unfinished works.

He wrote over twenty-five articles, in addition to his book, and it is of interest to note that the Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences for February, 1969, the month of his death, carried two articles in which he was co-author. He was also acting editor of this journal.

His success as a teacher stemmed not only from the breadth of his knowledge but also from his kindly and sympathetic understanding of his students. He was gentle but firm, ever insisting on rigorous adherence to scientific honesty. The problems of his students were his prime concern and took precedence over his own research. His office and laboratory were always open to students and colleagues—although at times they might have difficulty in finding him, hidden as he often was in a corner behind a motley assemblage of books, specimens and other paraphernalia that occupied almost his entire office space. However, his cluttered office was in distinct contrast to his uncluttered and logical mind.

In 1963 a new mineral ($CoSO_4.6H_2O$) was discovered by officers of the Geological Survey of Canada and was named Moorhouseite in his honour.

In the midst of his scientific eminence and activity he was a friendly and sympathetic person with a well-developed sense of humor. He had a host of acquaintances both within and without the university who were proud to call him friend. He was always a prominent figure at staff-

student parties where his sense of humor and ability as an accompanyist on the piano will long be remembered, especially by those who were the targets of his doggerel verse. He was a punster of considerable merit—if this accomplishment can be called meritorious.

There are two other accomplishments of Wils Moorehouse that make him unique among his colleagues. In 1965 he delivered and subsequently published the Presidential address to the Mineralogical Association of Canada. To everyone's amazement and entertainment it was entirely in verse—truly a unique undertaking. While working in the field he made notes in whatever language seemed appropriate or came most easily to mind on the occasion, be it Latin, Greek, German or English, with a bit of Pitman shorthand thrown in for good measure.

He will be sorely missed as the leading petrologist of our time and a cherished friend. Our sympathies go to his wife, Eleanor, and his children Ellen and Owen.

May 29, 1969 G. B. LANGFORD