

DOCUMENTS AND MINUTES OF THE GENERAL FACULTY
REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR
F. EARL INGERSON

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a Memorial Resolution for F. Earl Ingerson, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geological Sciences, has filed with the Secretary of the General Faculty the following report.

H. Paul Kelley, Secretary
The General Faculty

IN MEMORIAM

FRED EARL INGERSON

Fred Earl Ingerson was born on October 28, 1906, in Barstow, Texas. He spent all of his formative years in Barstow, graduating from high school as class valedictorian. He enrolled in Hardin-Simmons College at Abilene and graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.A. in chemistry in 1928. He also played on and coached the Hardin-Simmons tennis team to the Texas championship in 1926. At Hardin-Simmons he then got an M.A. in geology in 1931. Earl continued his education at Yale University, receiving the Ph.D. *cum laude* in geology in 1934. He did post-doctoral work in structural petrology with Professor Bruno Sander at Innsbruck, Austria, in 1934 and 1935. From 1935 to 1947 he was on the staff of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution in Washington, D.C., and in 1947 became chief of the Geochemistry and Petrology Branch of the U.S. Geological Survey, a position he held until his move to The University of Texas at Austin in 1958. He was professor of geology at U.T. until his retirement in 1977. From 1961 to 1964 he also served as Associate Dean of the Graduate School. He married Martha (nee Duncan) Ingerson, who was the "gracious lady" behind him until her death in 1979. Earl remarried and his second wife, Maureen, passed away in 1992.

During his tenure with the Geophysical Laboratory and the U.S. Geological Survey, Earl authored many of his nearly 200 publications. Among these were such fundamental works as: "Laboratory technique in petro-fabric analysis" (*Geological Society of America Memoir* 6, 1938), "Nature of the ore-forming fluid" (*Economic Geology*, 1940), "Liquid inclusions in geologic thermometry" (*American Mineralogist*, 1947), and "Methods and problems of geologic thermometry" (*Economic Geology*, 1940).

Many honors and accomplishments typify Earl's outstanding career: Honorary Doctor of Science (Hardin-Simmons College, 1942), Day Medal (Geological Society of America, 1955), Distinguished Service Award (U.S. Department of the Interior, 1959), and the Distinguished Alumnus Award (Hardin-Simmons University, 1977). Earl was the founder of two major societies and their journals—The Geochemical Society and its publication, *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, and the International Association of Geochemistry and Cosmochemistry and its journal, *Organic Geochemistry*. In recognition of the important role he played in establishing these organizations, Earl was asked to serve as the first president of each.

He has been listed in the following reference publications: *American Men and Women of Science*; *Who's Who*, since 1954; *Who's Who in Science*, 1st edition, 1968; *Who's Who in the World*, 1st edition,

1971; and *British Blue Book*. Even more impressive is the overall breadth of Earl's activities. He held membership, fellowship, and committee service in more than 35 professional societies in 13 nations.

Steve Clabaugh, a faculty colleague at U.T. when Earl retired, described his accomplishments as follows: "A short time before Earl Ingerson joined us in Austin, the University of Texas celebrated its 75th birthday. A select group of experts known as the *Committee of 75* took stock of the University's strengths and weaknesses. To the surprise of some academic leaders here, geology was perceived to be a strong segment of the University that should be encouraged to attain true distinction. Then UT administrator Harry Ransom proposed that the Department follow a recommendation of the *Committee of 75* by adding a man of widely recognized scientific distinction to our faculty. We had apparently been too busy teaching nearly a tenth of the geologists in this country to acquire much national prominence, not to mention genuine international recognition. Earl Ingerson was the man chosen. It is hard to imagine a better choice to supplement our activities.

"If we were weak in geochemistry, here was the man who headed the U.S.G.S. Branch of Geochemistry and Petrology for the preceding 10 years. If we were weak in international activities, here was the man who studied with Sander in Austria, examined quartz deposits in Brazil (and published in Portuguese), presented papers in Spanish in Peru and Mexico, supervised translations of an astonishing number of Russian geological publications, and participated in (or helped establish) almost every international mineralogical and geochemical organization. If we were weak in experimental petrology and laboratory studies, here was the man who had designed high-pressure vessels for hydrothermal experiments, studied the melting and synthesis of minerals, devised methods of geologic thermometry, and applied carbon-14 studies to ground water motion.

"During the intervening years our Department has shifted strongly in the direction that Earl represented and Dr. Ransom wanted. Most faculty members are known internationally. Maybe all of us together will equal Earl's record; but I am not sure that we can!"

F. Earl Ingerson finished a full life of geological teaching and research on June 11, 1993, in Austin, Texas.

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Daniel S. Barker (Chair), Douglas Smith, and William D. Carlson.

Distributed to Voting and Emeritus Members of the faculty of the Department of Geological Sciences, the Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, the Executive Vice President and Provost, and the President on August 31, 1995.