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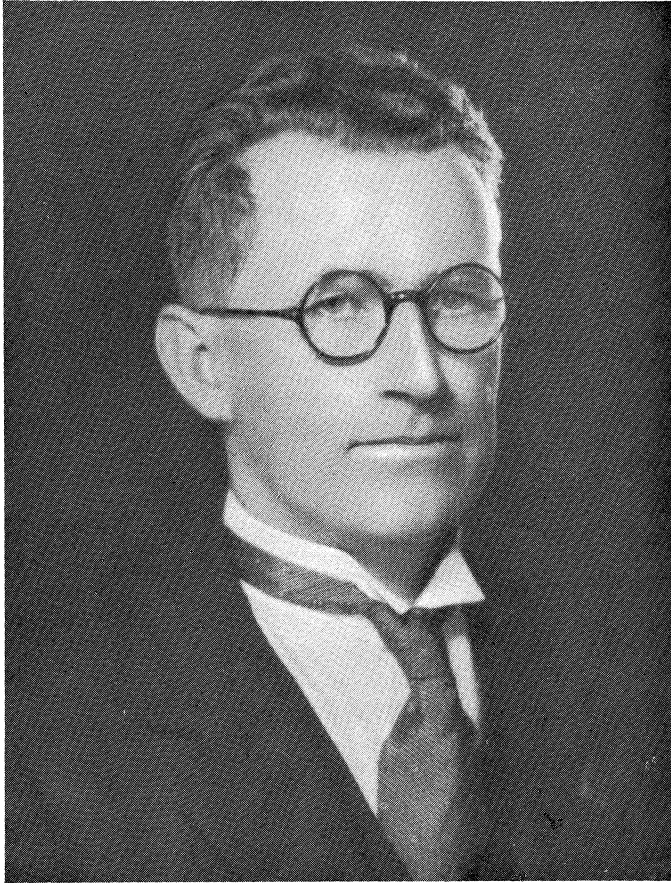
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THOMAS HODGE-SMITH.

1894-1945.

Thomas Hodge-Smith was born at Swindon, Wiltshire, England, on 27th October, 1894, and was brought to Australia at the early age of two with his family. His father, the Reverend Michael Smith, a Presbyterian minister, was stationed at various places in New South Wales and eventually came to Double Bay, Sydney, where a good part of his boyhood was spent.

He was educated at Scots' College, the Sydney Technical High School, the Sydney Technical College and the University of Sydney. Before leaving school his thoughts turned to engineering, and once he actually left school to work for a time with a firm of engineers. He returned to complete his school studies and passed a competitive examination for entrance to a profession in the State Public Service. After some time he was offered a cadetship in the Geological Survey of New South Wales, and in 1913 became assistant to the late G. W. Card, Curator of the Mining Museum, for whom he always entertained an affectionate regard. It is interesting to note the influence of his sister, Mrs. C. D. Cotton, in his selection of mineralogy as his life's work. She was a research crystallographer before her marriage and they were very close companions not only then but in later life also.

The 1914-1918 war intervened largely in his life. For a time prior to 1914 he had been in the Naval Reserve; consequently the very night war was declared found him on his way to New Guinea with the Royal Australian Navy. Here, after having seen active service, he nearly died of blackwater fever and was invalided back to Sydney. After recovery and a period of further naval training, when he rose to the rank of sub-lieutenant, he finally forsook the Navy, although at one stage he apparently did contemplate making a career of it. He then joined the A.I.F., and in 1916 went overseas to France on active service as a sapper. His career as a soldier was cut short in 1918 by a shell which in bursting broke his leg and killed everyone else in his immediate vicinity.

He resumed service with the Mining Museum, but in 1919 he left there to join the staff of the Australian Museum and in 1921 became Mineralogist, succeeding the late Dr. C. Anderson, who had been elevated to the position of Director.

In the scientific world Hodge-Smith will be remembered as a morphological crystallographer and as an authority on Australian meteorites. He was specially interested in tektites, firmly believing in their celestial origin and in the theory of continuing fall. In his early years as mineralogist at the Museum, he carried out a good deal of field work, especially in connection with the occurrence of zeolite minerals in New South Wales and notably on the mica fields of Central Australia. He was a competent analyst also, but regarded chemical work as somewhat tedious. His chief love was crystal measurement and drawing. This, I think, reflects his early interest in navigation and draughtsmanship. One of his achievements was to describe a new mineral from Broken Hill, which he very appropriately named sturtite after the great Australian explorer.

In addition to research, his period of office at the Museum was marked by a tremendous improvement in the display and storage of the Museum mineral collection. From 1925 until the time of his death he was Teacher of Mineralogy at the Sydney Technical College.

He was also very interested in gemmology and was unremitting in his efforts to instil into all concerned with the jewellery trade a strong regard for the scientific

aspects of their calling. The Gemmological Association of Australia, established within recent months, owes its origin, in part, to his pioneering work.

His scientific interests apart from these official duties were numerous. He was a Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science and a Member of the Royal Society of New South Wales, the Museums and Art Galleries Association of Australia and New Zealand, and the Australian Association of Scientific Workers. From 1935 until 1941 he edited the Australian National Research Council's publication *Australian Science Abstracts*.

In later years additional administrative duties in the Museum and preoccupation with N.E.S. duties made necessary by the war situation at the time rather curtailed the time he could devote to research. Only a few weeks before his death he began a series of fresh investigations into meteorites which seemed to herald a period of research activity. Unfortunately this work was barely under way when he died, and remains to be completed.

No account of his life would be complete without mention of his sterling qualities as a fighter for the rights and privileges of the public servant. In the early twenties he took an active part in the Public Service Association of New South Wales, rising in 1933 to the high office of President of this large and important trade union, with a membership of some ten thousand. He occupied this office for three years. The strain was terrific. It was at a time when public servants were fighting for restoration of the salary cuts which had been taken from them at the beginning of the economic depression. The P.S.A., with Hodge-Smith at the helm, was in the forefront of this fight and he contributed in no small measure to the eventual success of the campaign.

He was also interested in the activities of the Institute of Public Administration. He had very decided views on the custom, so prevalent in our society, of having non-technical men as administrators of scientific activities either inside or outside the Public Service. His own career, indeed, afforded a shining example of how scientific and administrative ability are not mutually exclusive.

These many and varied activities illustrate his energy, determination and perseverance until a given object was attained. His relaxations and pastimes were few, or at least he seldom spoke of them. Yet the impression should not be gained that he was in any sense a forbidding personality. He had a characteristic sense of humour and could be most entertaining.

His sudden death on the 8th June, 1945, when only in his fifty-first year, has all too soon removed a prominent figure from the Australian world of science and has left those who were fortunate to count him as a colleague and friend poorer by his loss.

He is survived by Mrs. Hodge-Smith and two daughters.

Obituary notices utilized in writing the above are *The Australian Journal of Science*, vii, 6, 1945, and *Red Tape* (official organ of the Public Service Association of N.S.W.), June, 1945.

R.O.C.

List of Papers by T. Hodge-Smith.

1923.
Mineralogical Notes; No. 1. REC. AUST. MUS., xiv, 2, 1923, 101-112.
1924.
Notes on the Occurrence of Zeolites, Ardglen, New South Wales. REC. AUST. MUS., xiv, 3, 1924, 213-222.
Evidence of a Negative Movement of the Strand Line of 400 feet in New South Wales. *Journ. Roy. Soc. N.S.W.*, lviii, 1924, 157-168. (With T. Iredale.)
1926.
The "Ticraco Creek"* Siderite. REC. AUST. MUS., xv, 1, 1926, 66-68. (With H. P. White.)
Mineralogical Notes; No. 2. REC. AUST. MUS., xv, 1, 1926, 69-78.
1927.
Mineralogical Notes; No. 3. REC. AUST. MUS., xv, 5, 1927, 313-320.

* Dr. E. S. Simpson (*Min. Mag.*, xxv, 1938, 163) has pointed out that the proper name of the locality after which this siderite is named is "Tieraco Creek", not "Ticraco Creek".

1929.

The Elsinora Meteorite; A New Chondrite from New South Wales. REC. AUST. MUS., xvii, 1, 1929, 50-52.

The Occurrence of Zeolites at Kyogle, New South Wales. REC. AUST. MUS., xvii, 6, 1929, 278-290.

1930.

Mineralogical Notes; No. 4. REC. AUST. MUS., xvii, 9, 1930, 408-413.

1931.

The Narellan Meteorite: A New Chondrite from New South Wales. REC. AUST. MUS., xviii, 5, 1931, 283-285.

1932.

The Weekeroo Meteorite: A Siderite from South Australia. REC. AUST. MUS., xviii, 6, 1932, 312-313.

Obsidianites in the Philippine Islands. *Philippine J. Sci.*, xlviii, 4, 1932, 581-585.

Geological and Mineralogical Observations in Central Australia. REC. AUST. MUS., xviii, 8, 1932, 415-442.

1934.

Mineralogical Notes; No. 5. REC. AUST. MUS., xix, 3, 1934, 165-176.

1937.

An Unrecorded Meteorite from Coolac, New South Wales. REC. AUST. MUS., xx, 2, 1937, 130-132.

1939.

Australian Meteorites. *Mem. Aust. Mus.*, No. VII, 1939, pp. 84, 19 plates.

1941.

The Tawallah Valley Meteorite. REC. AUST. MUS., xxi, 1, 1941, 1-8. (With A. B. Edwards.)

1942.

The Moorleah Meteorite. *Rec. Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston*, i, 1, 1942, 13-16. (With R. O. Chalmers.)

1943.

Mineralogical Notes; No. 6. REC. AUST. MUS., xxi, 4, 1943, 244-256.

In addition he contributed twenty-eight popular science articles to the *Australian Museum Magazine*.