

Anonymous Donor Establishes the C.K. Leith Fund

An anonymous donor recently provided a generous gift to establish a fund in memory of C.K. Leith to support instruction in structural geology. Our program in structural geology is currently directed by Assistant Professor Basil Tikoff, recent recipient of a prestigious Packard Fellowship and the winner of the year 2000 Donath Medal of the Geological Society of America (see story on p. 36).



photo: Geology Dept. archive

C.K. Leith

Charles Kenneth Leith joined the department as a faculty member in 1902 and served as its chair from 1928 until 1934, retiring from the university in 1945. He died in 1956. Leith had a distinguished career as a teacher, researcher, and consultant. He was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences and received the Penrose Medal of the Society of Economic Geologists in 1935 and of the Geological Society of America in 1942. His reputation was established with his work on the iron ores of the Lake Superior Region. Leith served as the major adviser on minerals to the government during World War II and helped in the procurement of uranium and thorium for the Manhattan Project. He was also an exceptional teacher; he received widespread recognition for his book *Structural Geology*, published in 1913, which was the first textbook on this subject. In personal reminiscences of Leith, R.C. Emmons says: "Students left his lectures stimulated to argument—not necessarily to agreement, a thing which to him was irrelevant—and returned to the next lecture to raise questions." Additional insights into his teaching style can be gleaned from the following excerpt from S.W. Bailey's chapter "The Leith Period" in *The History of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison 1848-1980*:

"He usually lectured informally for part of the hour and questioned students the rest of the time. He expected constructive thinking from the students, and kept them on their toes. He illustrated his lectures profusely with practical examples from his own experience, and discarded his sketchy lecture notes as he left the room so that each year's course was a little different. Field trips were an essential part of each course, and students received practical training in ore evaluation, tonnages, etc., that

served them well in their later professional activities." (Bailey, 1980, p.42)

Contributions to the **C.K. Leith Fund** can be made by sending in the form at the end of this issue of *The Outcrop*. Information on the other funds listed on that form is given below.

Unrestricted Fund. Supports a variety of departmental activities in support of research and instruction.

Lectures Fund. Helps to support the departmental speakers program.

Museum Fund. Supports the programs of the Geology Museum as determined by the director of the museum.

Library Fund. Defrays costs associated with the purchase of books and journals for the Geology and Geophysics Library as determined by the librarian.

Paleontology Research Fund. Supports research and instruction in paleontology.

Cline/Pray/Dott Sedimentary Geology Field Fund. Supports field research in sedimentary geology.

L.R. Laudon Scholarship Fund. Supports students in geology, especially those who share Lowell Laudon's lifelong interest in stratigraphy and paleontology.

E.N. Cameron Scholarship Fund. Supports students in economic geology, mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry.

Sturges W. "Bull" Bailey Memorial Scholarship Fund. Supports graduate students in mineralogy and petrology.

Petrology Research Fund. Supports research and instruction in petrology.

Hydrogeology Research Fund. Supports research and instruction in hydrogeology.

Quaternary Research Fund. Supports research and instruction in Quaternary geology.

George P. Woollard/Sigmund I. Hammer Memorial Fund. Supports research and instruction in geophysics.

McClintock Geophysical Research Fund. Supports geophysical research.

Student Field Experience Fund. Supports student expenses associated with field courses.

Tyler/Berg Teaching Assistant Fund. Supports annual awards in recognition of outstanding achievement as a teaching assistant.

Charles R. Van Hise Fellowship Fund. Supports an annual award to an outstanding graduate student.

Mack C. Lake Scholarship Fund. Supports an annual award to an outstanding undergraduate student, usually a senior.