

THE LIBRARY: THE LEITH LEGACY LIVES ON



Back: Alle Lamphier, Lee Leith, and C. Kenneth Leith II.
Front: Jeanie Leith Lamphier ('63 BS L&S) and her brother David Leith ('58 BBA).



C.K. Leith.

"The Leith family has always been close to the University of Wisconsin," said David Leith ('58 BBA). "Nice school, nice campus, nice people."

David and his sister, Jeanie Leith Lamphier ('63 BA L&S), both of Pennsylvania, have made a gift to name the C.K. Leith Library in the Department of Geology and Geophysics. The gift honors their grandfather, Charles Kenneth Leith (1897 BS, 1901 PhD), who was department chair from 1903 to 1945.

C.K. was working his way through the University in 1892 when he responded to a help-wanted ad for a "stenographer and typewriter." Geology Professor Charles R. Van Hise had placed the ad and promptly hired C.K. to work in his Science Hall office. There, C.K. discovered a love for geology and he became a protégé of Van Hise, studying Precambrian rocks of the Lake Superior district and bringing international attention to the UW with his findings. When Van Hise became president of the UW in 1903, C.K. succeeded him as chair of geology and served as a consultant to several mining companies, the U.S.

War Production Board, the Manhattan Project, and Atomic Energy Commission.

C.K.'s son Andrew earned three UW degrees in geology ('26 BS, '27 MA, '31 PhD). He also taught at the UW and was involved in the original exploration of the Philippines. Andrew moved his young family from Madison to Washington D.C. in 1940 to serve on the War Production Board and later relocated to Philadelphia to work for a company that supplied the steel industry. In his position, Andrew traveled around the world buying ores.

"We often visited Madison in the summer," said Andrew's son, David. "My grandfather's house was on a moraine west of Madison—we picked up lots of rocks there. We could watch the sun set in one direction and see Lake Mendota in the other."

"David and Jeanie carry forward the Leith legacy with this gift to students and researchers," said Professor Clark Johnson, former chair of the Department of Geology and Geophysics. The C.K. Leith Library was dedicated in May 2005.

UW Foundation

Among its many new attractions, the Leith Library has a beautiful custom-designed circulation desk. The counter top was made from the Waterloo Quartzite, which lies 20 miles east of Madison. The Waterloo is considered to be correlative with the Baraboo Quartzite, which is located 30 miles northwest of Madison and 40 miles northwest of Waterloo. Similar quartzite has been penetrated by wells in eastern Wisconsin. All of these quartzites were deposited 1,700 million years ago as coarse sand and fine gravel transported by braided streams flowing southward. The streams extended at least 700



miles from eastern Wisconsin west across Minnesota to North Dakota, along the southern margin of embryonic North America.

The sands and gravels were deformed and metamorphosed to quartzite about 1,630 million years ago. Further metamorphism, resulting from emplacement of the Wolf River granitic batholith at 1,465 million years ago, produced the present mineral assemblage (quartz + muscovite + andalusite + magnetite) and changed the original color of the Waterloo Quartzite from red (like the Baraboo Quartzite) to light gray. ***Gordon Medaris***