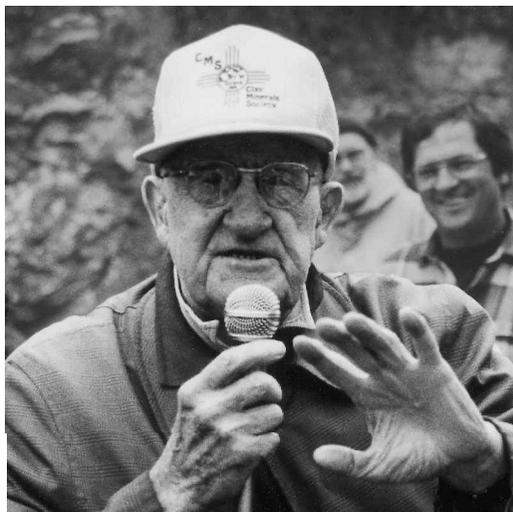


WALTER D. KELLER (1900–2001)



Walter Keller was born in Clay County, Missouri on March 13, 1900 and passed away in Columbia, Missouri on March 23, 2001 at the age of 101. He was an internationally renowned clay mineralogist and sedimentologist. He received both AB and MA degrees in Geology from the University of Missouri. He was an outstanding scholar as evidenced by membership in Phi Beta Kappa of which he was very proud. In addition, he received a BS degree in ceramic engineering from the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy at Rolla, Missouri, an MA degree in Geology from Harvard University, and a PhD in Geology from the University of Missouri. Following his PhD, Walt taught geology at the University of Missouri for 43 years before retiring in 1970.

Walter Keller was an outstanding teacher and researcher. He received many awards both for excellence in teaching and for research that produced more than 300 articles and books including: Distinguished Faculty Award – University of Missouri Alumni Association; Neil Miner Award – National Association of Geology Teachers; Twenhofel Medal – Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists; Hardinge Award – Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration; The Giants of Geology Award – American Association of Petroleum Geologists; and Honorary Doctorate in Science – University of Missouri-Rolla.

Notable research accomplishments were developing firebricks that strengthened the engines of Liberty ships in World War II, discovering uranium deposits in Utah during the 1950s, and studying moon rocks collected during the first lunar landing in 1969.

Some of his publications, which show the diversity of his interests are listed below:

(1941) Petrography and Origin of the Rex Chert. *Geological Society of America Bulletin*, **52**, 1279–1298.

(1946) Evidence of Texture on the Origin of the Cheltenham Fire Clay of Missouri and Associated Shales. *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology*, **16**, 63–71.

(1954) (with J.F. Westcott and A.O. Bledsoe) The Origin of Missouri Fire Clays. *Clays and Clay Minerals*, **2**, 7–46.

(1963) Diagenesis in Clay Minerals – a Review. *Clays and Clay Minerals*, **11**, 136–157.

(1968) Flint Clay and a Flint Clay Facies. *Clays and Clay Minerals*, **16**, 113–128.

(1970) Environmental Aspects of Clay Minerals. *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology*, **40**, 788–813.

(1976) Scan Electron Micrographs of Kaolins Collected from Diverse Environments of Origin-1. *Clays and Clay Minerals*, **24**, 107–113.

(1968) On Teaching and Learning. *Journal of Geological Education*, **16**, 13–15.

Walter Keller participated in geology field excursions around the world and had a very large

collection of clays (over 650 specimens) from most everywhere that he travelled. In 1998, he donated this collection, along with hundreds of electron micrographs and reprints to Indiana University where they are now housed in the Clay Mineralogy laboratories.

Keller's thirst for knowledge never diminished and he continued to drive his Volkswagon Beetle to the Geology Department at age 100, where he read books, articles, and magazines six days a week. His large office in the Geology Building always looked

like a chaotic mess, but he could go to the right pile to find what he was looking for. A sign above his cluttered desk read 'A clean desk is the sign of a barren mind'.

The University of Missouri named the geology lecture hall 'Walter D. Keller Auditorium' in 1991, a fitting tribute to this great teacher and prolific researcher. He will be remembered in years to come for his many significant contributions to clay mineralogy.

HAYDN H. MURRAY