

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

HUBERT G. SCHENCK (1897 -1960)

Hubert Gregory Schenck was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on September 24, 1807. His father was of Dutch ancestry, descendant of one Roelof Schenck who had settled in New Amsterdam (New York) in 1650. His mother's people were early residents of Pennsylvania and later of Ohio.

He entered the University of Oregon and also enlisted in the Army in 1916 so his college career was interrupted by two years of service in the Coast Artillery Corps. The year 19120-21 was spent in the Philippines as Geologic Aide in the Division of Mines. The latter experience confirmed his decision to major in geology (he had previously intended to go into medicine). Bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Oregon in 1922 and 1923 were followed by graduate study at the University of California. In spite of the interrupted college career, his scholastic achievements won him election to Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi. The summers from 1924 to 1927 were spent as Instructor in the field geology course at Stanford. His doctorate degree was awarded by the University of California in 1926, at which time he was appointed to the teaching staff at Stanford, progressing from Instructor to Assistant Professor (1927); Associate Professor (1935), and Professor of Geology (1940).

During his first sabbatical year, 1933-34, he was an Advanced Fellow of the Commission for the Relief of Belgium Educational Foundation, working at the Royal Museum of Natural History of Belgium. In 1937-38, he was on leave from Stanford to serve as Paleontologist for the Amiranian Oil Company, doing field work which took him through Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

In the early twenties, Schenck became aware of the potentialities of microscopic fossils as a tool in stratigraphy and organized at Stanford a micropaleontology laboratory. He was the first to offer formal courses in the subject to be given by any university on the West Coast or perhaps even in the nation. He also established and edited for eight years at Stanford a journal, Micropaleontology Bulletin that gave his students an opportunity for original research and practice in preparation of reports for publication at a time when few outlets for such work were available.

Military service interrupted his academic work a second time when, during World War II, he was commissioned as a Major in the Army of the United States and received special training for Civil Affairs duties. He served in Military Government posts in New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan. After the war, he remained on leave from Stanford to become Chief of the Natural Resources Section for the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan with the rank of Lt. Col. Through well-thought-out reform measures, he did much to rehabilitate the war-torn Japanese industrial economy, particularly in agriculture, mining, forestry, and fisheries. In 1951, after having been promoted to the rank of Colonel, he was borrowed from the Army by the State Department to act as Chief of the Economic Cooperation Administration in Formosa. In 1953,

he contracted a virus infection that required his return to the States for medical treatment and that eventually led to his death on Sunday, June 19, 1960.

These are the outward facts of a productive life. How shall one analyze the effects upon others? Perhaps one may point out four important aspects.

As a teacher, Professor Schenck demanded a student's best efforts. Each year's course was a fresh, new adventure and one might expect at any time to find old ideas being challenged. He was not a professor whom a student could regard with indifference, and those who majored under him became intensely loyal both to the man and to the ideals for which he stood.

This attitude of challenge and fresh evaluation is reflected in the title of one of his early papers, "What is the Vaqueros and is it Oligocene?" His own attempts to answer this inquiry run as a connecting thread through many of his subsequent papers, as he sought for evidence to settle the issue -- evidence not always palatable to conservative colleagues in California paleontology. The ultimate effect of this search has been of permanent benefit to this field of science through the introduction of better stratigraphic terminology for Tertiary formations of the West Coast.

The value of his contributions as world citizen is less easy for his immediate colleagues to assess. His successful reorganization of the several facets of the Japanese economy and his experienced guidance of Formosans during a similar period of readjustment already have had a profound effect upon the economic development of the Orient. Even during his last years of invalidism, he was actively participating in the work of Federal and other agencies as a consultant. The awards made by the various governments testify to their appreciation. He received the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster from the American government, a Philippine award as Commander of the Legion of Honor, and the Order of the Auspicious Star from China.

One of Professor Schenck's less known but very valuable contributions to Stanford University consisted of his magnificent work as collector for the Hoover Institution, first in the Philippines, then in Japan and Formosa. Because of his close relationship with General MacArthur and President Chiang Kai-shek, he succeeded in obtaining rare material unavailable to any other American university.

His publications have been in two major areas -- paleontology and world affairs. During the years 1930-1943, he averaged about six papers a year, including one book-sized monograph on Acila. His publications on natural resources studies are less numerous but span the years from 1946 to 1955.

Professor Schenck is survived by his wife, Inga Bergstrom, and daughter, Ingrid Schenck Beach.

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