

**MEMORIAL OF DONNEL FOSTER HEWETT  
(JUNE 24, 1881-FEBRUARY 5, 1971)**

MICHAEL FLEISCHER

D. F. HEWETT, widely recognized as one of the world's leaders in research on manganese deposits, died at Palo Alto, California, at the age of 89. Although seriously ill for some time, he had continued his work until a few weeks before his death. His publications on manganese (see appended bibliography) span a period of 59 years, reflecting a lifetime of productive interest.

FOSTER, as he was known to his friends, was born at Irwin, Pennsylvania. His father was a successful mining engineer and it was natural that he studied chemistry, metallurgy, and mining at Lehigh University, graduating with high honors in 1902 with the degree of Bachelor of Metallurgy. HEWETT remained at Lehigh for another year as assistant in the geology department, where he was strongly influenced by Professor JOSEPH BARRELL. From 1903 to 1909, he was mining engineer for the Pittsburgh Testing Laboratories. During these years he examined and reported on many mines; he was the first to recognize the value of the large vanadium deposit at Mina Ragra, Peru; the new calcium vanadates hewettite and metahewettite (from this locality) were named in his honor.

In 1909 and 1910, HEWETT was enrolled as a graduate student at Yale University; his thesis and the award of the Ph. D. degree were delayed until 1924.

In 1911 he joined the U. S. Geological Survey, where he remained until his death. His extensive contributions in many areas of geologic research included outstanding work on the structural geology of the Great Basin, the association of dolomitization with ore deposits, and the recognition of the large bastnaesite deposits at Mountain Pass, California, but his main interest from World War I on was in manganese deposits. He visited nearly every deposit in the United States, as well as some in Cuba, and had read nearly everything ever published on the world's deposits.

As Chief of the Section of Metalliferous Geology of the U. S. Geological Survey from 1935 to 1944, HEWETT planned and directed an extensive program of studies of strategic minerals, including manganese. He was responsible not only for field studies of deposits in the United States, Mexico, and Cuba, but vigorously promoted laboratory studies of their mineralogy and geochemistry.

In 1951 he reached the statutory retirement age of 70, but fortunately was continued indefinitely as a full-time employee by special presidential order; his bibliography for the years that followed bear witness to his undiminished vigor, enthusiasm, and capacity to generate new ideas. Perhaps even more important than his own publications was the impact he had on his associates, and especially on the

young geologists under his direction, in whom he took great interest and to whom he was always a source of inspiration and ideas.

HEWETT served as president of the Society of Economic Geologists in 1936 and as vice-president of the Geological Society of America in 1935 and 1945. He received the Penrose Medal of the Society of Economic Geologists in 1956 and the Penrose Medal of the Geological Society of America in 1964, and was awarded the honorary D. Sc. by Lehigh University in 1942. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1937.

FOSTER was married in January, 1909 to MARY AMELIA HAMILTON; their home was a delightful haven to their friends for sixty-two years. MRS. HEWETT died in August, 1971.

The appended bibliography lists Hewett's publications on manganese; in all he published about 100 papers.

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