



Dr. P. de WIJKERSLOOTH

(1904 - 1969)

P. de Wijkerslooth, who was born in 1904 in Utrecht, Holland, died on August 30, 1969. Dr. P. de Wijkerslooth belonged to an old, noble and wealthy Catholic family of Holland. After finishing the Delft Polytechnic School, he entered the University of Amsterdam and graduated in 1934 submitting an excellent thesis on the formation and the structure of the Apennines and particularly Toscana Mountain («Bau und Entwicklung des Apennins besondere der Gebirge Toscanas» 1934). He was an assistant at the University of Amsterdam during the period of 1928-1937. He was well known with his publication «Geophysikalische Untersuchungen nach Erzlagerstätten im Süd-Limburg (Holland) und deren bisherige Ergebnisse», which appeared in 1937.

Dr. P. de Wijkerslooth started working for the M.T.A. Institute in 1938. During his stay in Turkey—until the last few years when he was seriously ill—he published numerous interesting articles containing his observations on the country's geology and minerals, both in the M.T.A. Bulletin and in German periodicals, and thus introduced himself to the international scientific circles.

During the first years of his work for the M.T.A. Institute, Dr. Wijkerslooth studied the geology and the ore microscopy of the newly discovered Divriği

iron deposits (1939). He wrote a study on the lead-zinc ores found in the Karasu-Sakarya region, located to the north of Çamdağ in Kocaeli (1940). In 1941, he made detailed new studies on the genesis and age of the iron deposits of Divriği. In 1941 he published also an article on the Paleozoic magmas of the Western and Central Turkey, describing the magmatic activity in Turkey taking into consideration the relationship of the ore deposits to magma and recent volcanic activities of the inner margin of the Taurus Mountains between Afyonkarahisar and Kayseri (1944).

After 1942, Dr. P. de Wijkerslooth dedicated himself particularly to the study of the Turkish chromite. He wrote a number of articles on the chromite provinces of Turkey and Balkans and their relationship to the tectonics of these regions (1942); the pneumatolytic, hydrothermal changes of the chromite deposits found in Hatay (1942); the microscopic study of the Anatolian chromite ores (1943); the formation of magnesite as well as the hydrothermal changes of chromites occurring in the Western Turkey (1945); the metamorphism of the Anatolian chromite ores (1946); the Guleman chromite deposits (1947); the new chromite concentrations and chromite deposits in Anatolia (1954) and the tectonic deformation of the magmatic concentrations during the cooling of the ultrabasic intrusion masses (1957). In these articles he furnished comprehensive information on the important underground resources of Turkey.

At the same time, Dr. Wijkerslooth published also articles giving entirely new information on the primary minerals of the Ergani copper deposits (1944 and 1957) and the geology of these deposits (1945). Moreover, in 1943 he studied the sedimentary manganese deposits in the Western and Central Turkey and the mineral provinces of the eastern range of the Karadeniz and particularly the Kuvvarshan copper deposits and published very interesting articles on these subjects.

Although Dr. P. de Wijkerslooth belonged to a wealthy family and in spite of his serious illness, he did not return to his country, but preferred to stay in Turkey, where he spent so many years, and continued his work in the laboratories of M.T.A.

It can be said that Dr. Wijkerslooth dedicated practically all of his life to the study and evaluation of the geology and underground resources of Turkey. We are greatly indebted to him for the valuable information he furnished on the genesis and geology of many of our minerals. His untimely death has caused a great sorrow among those who knew him well. His memory will always be cherished by the Turkish geologists.