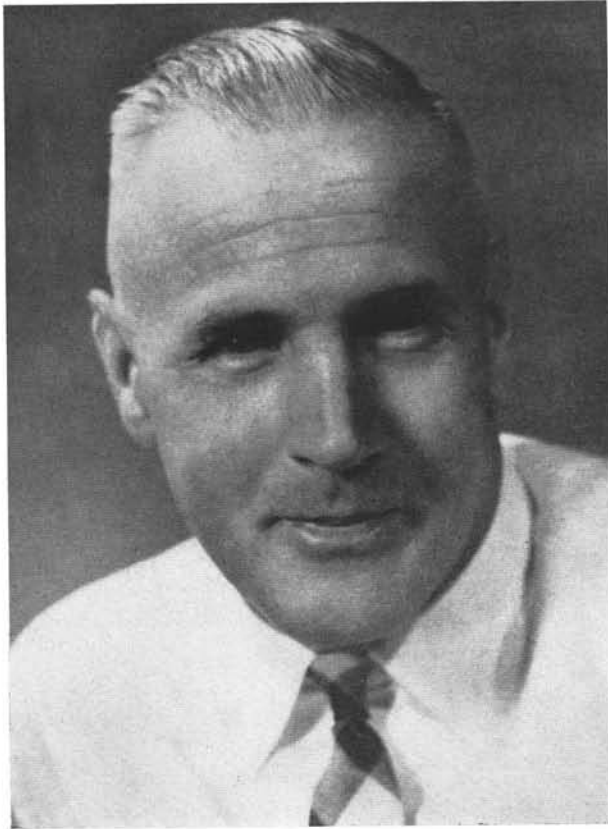



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Th. H. F. Klompé

Professor Th. H. F. Klompé passed away on the 19th day of May, 1963 at his home on the campus of the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. His sudden death at 59 occurred only one day after the first lectures of the new semester started.

It was Dr. Klompé's wish that his remains be cremated and that his ashes be cast into the crater of Tangkuban Perahu, the beautiful volcanic peak which stands as sentinel over the Bandung campus where he taught for ten years. This last return to the country he loved and served so well will be accomplished as soon as the ashes arrive. A group of old friends, students and associates will go together to the crater of this spectacular mountain which stands as a monument and a symbol of the conditions of change which were so evident in Dr. Klompé's life and of the revolutionary world building forces operative in Southeast Asia which he observed and experienced.

Born in the Netherlands in 1903, Dr. Klompé received his basic schooling in that country and later studied in the University of Leiden, receiving his Doctor's degree from that institution in 1929. His thesis was based on his studies of the geology of the Bergamasker Alps in Northern Italy. After promotion he joined the „Koloniale Petroleum Maatschappij“ and was sent to North and South Sumatra, Irian and Kalimantan. Work with associated companies took him later to China and Japan.

During a leave in 1937 he visited Sikkim Himalaya and became so fascinated by these majestic mountains that he submitted a plan to the „Nederlandse Alpen Vereniging“ for a Netherlands Himalayan expedition in the area of Kulu and Spitti. The failure of this proposal to develop brought him back to Indonesia where he later devoted his great talents and energy to the geology and educational advancement of his second Fatherland. During the period of the Japanese occupation he was interned in Singapore and was released in 1945 with the rank of captain in Reserves.

The importance of Klompé's work must be evaluated in the light of the independence of the young Indonesian nation in 1945. The period

prior the World War II saw not a single attempt made by the Colonial Government to educate Indonesian geologists either in Indonesia or in the Netherlands. Klompé's appointment as a lecturer in Geology at the University of Indonesia in 1948 and his subsequent elevation in 1950 to a full professorship in the new Department of Geology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the same institution marked a new era in the history of geological science in Indonesia.

From this new center of scientific research Klompé and his staff organized expeditions and investigations in Java, Sumatra, Timor and in many of the more remote islands. Under his editorship valuable contributions in the fields of tectonics, stratigraphy, paleontology, geophysics, and volcanology were published in the „Indonesian Journal of Natural Science“ and in the „Contributions from the Department of Geology, University of Indonesia“.

Klompé proved himself not only a talented scholar and a great teacher, but also a natural leader. His vigor, enthusiasm, and passion for learning inspired his students, and to this day remain as an inspiration to the continuing staff and student body of the present Geology Department at the Bandung Institute of Technology. Klompé's first students graduated in 1956, but the political situation then prevalent in Indonesia necessitated his departure from Indonesia and he was unable to guide them to their Doctorates.

In 1958 Dr. Klompé left Indonesia, which he loved and has served so well, to become Chairman of the Geological Department, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. In 1962 he was appointed Chairman of the Department of Geology, University of Malaya, where he remained until his death.

Having spent most of his time as a geologist in a heavily competing oil company, Klompé in his first years as a geologist, did not have much opportunities to publish his ideas about the geology of the Indonesian Archipelago.

The geology of the Bukit Barisan mountains in Sumatra with its Mesozoic granites attracted him, and soon he found himself with his students working in that area to construct a complete profile from the Indian Ocean to the Strait of Malakka. In a number of articles about Sumatra he discussed the different phases of folding and the age of the granites in this area. His interest in the Mesozoic orogeny brought him several times to the tin islands, and during the 9th Pacific Science Congress in Bangkok he and his co-workers presented an article dealing with the geology of Sumatra, West Borneo and Malaya, correlating the late Paleozoic-early Mesozoic volcanic products in these areas and drawing some conclusions

concerning the structure and the problem of the Sumatran nappes. He extended his study on the zonal orogenic structure of this part of South-east Asia by studying also the igneous and structural feature of Thailand. It was his plan to close his study of this region by staying in Malaya which geologically forms a link between Thailand and Indonesia, and by writing a book about the geology of South East Asia, as has also been suggested by van Bemmelen. Unfortunately his sudden death prevented him from completing this promising study.

Klompé's further geological studies included also the fascinating eastern part of Indonesia with its complicated structure, gravity anomalies, earthquakes, volcanoes, and deep sea basins.

A structural synthesis about Indonesia was presented during the 9th Pacific Science Congress in Bangkok in which Klompé considered the well known „Wallace line“ also to be an important structural boundary, and in which he emphasized the geological and geophysical differences between East and West Indonesia.

Indonesia is the most suitable region for the study of mountain building processes, with all the accompanying typical phenomena such as plutonism and volcanism. The structure of this Archipelago could not be understood without studying the relation between structure and magmatic activity, and it is not surprising that the granites and volcanoes also attracted Klompé's attention. His publications in this field are well known, and his treatment of the structure of Indonesia, Malaya, and Thailand always included the role of magmatic activity in tectonics.

In 1954 Klompé compiled a new General Map of Indonesia on a scale 1 : 2000.000 for the ECAFE meeting of November 1954 in Bangkok. The geological map will be published soon by the U. S. Geological Survey in Washington and forms one of the highlights of Klompé's activities in Indonesia.

Klompé's untimely death is an irreparable loss to Southeast Asian geology particularly to that of Indonesia. For a young and developing nation like Indonesia his name will always be remembered as a pioneer in the field of geological education.

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