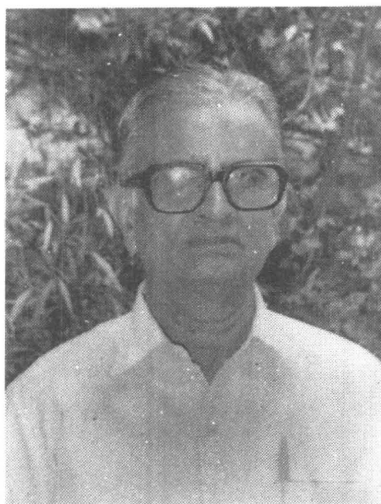


OBITUARY



N. RANGANATHA RAO
(1921-1994)

N. Ranganatha Rao was born in 1921. After completing his school in Mysore, he joined the then only Science College at Bangalore and took his B.Sc. degree in 1942. After graduation, he joined a private prospecting and mineral processing company at Bangalore. There he gained considerable experience in prospecting and handling of abrasive minerals and the business aspect of such products like sand and emery papers and corundum grains used in making grinding wheels. When that company closed down, Rao commenced his own venture under the name of Alminrock Indscter Febriks. In addition to manufacturing of abrasive materials, he took a bold step to make high standard laboratory equipment like wooden and plastic crystal and structural geology models, water bottles, hammers, clinometer, rock and mineral thin sections and abrasive powders required by institutions teaching geology. He could also supply well-trimmed samples of rocks and minerals and polished rock blocks for museums. The excellent quality of these made them popular and he got orders from several foreign countries as well. When the granite boom set in, he took up cutting and polishing of samples brought by prospectors. In addition to all these activities, he was also engaged in small scale mining of corundum, asbestos and kyanite. His keen sense of the value of minerals and rocks made him collect a large stock of them and exhibit them at his works.

Rao was gentle, well mannered, obliging, helpful and philanthropic. He was religious and frequently organised devotional functions at his residence. He was a foundation member of this Society and took active interest in its activities. His son, who is a geologist, got training from him and is continuing his activities. Rao's death on 8th June, 1994 was mourned by many.

*Retired Deputy Director General,
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C. S. RAJA RAO.