

## OBITUARY

JOHN TUZO WILSON

(1908 – 1993)

We deeply regret to report the death of Prof. Tuzo Wilson, Honorary Fellow of the Society on 15th April 1993 at Toronto. He was one of those early pioneers along with Harry Hess to put forward the mobilistic view of the Earth—widely known today as the Plate Tectonic Theory. His name is identified with the recognition of transform faults as also hotspot tracks, and correlating them with the movement of lithospheric plates over stationary hotspots. His name is immortalized in Earth Science literature with the naming of the phenomenon of repeated opening and closing of ocean basins as the 'Wilson Cycle'. Operation of the Wilson Cycle is now being extended even to Archaean times.

After a brief spell at Cambridge, where he held a Fellowship, Wilson joined the Geological Survey of Canada (1936–1939) after serving in World War II, and became the Professor of Geophysics at the University of Toronto. He remained there till 1974 and then shifted to the Ontario Science Centre occupying the position of Director General. He was one of the earliest to be elected as an Honorary Fellow of the Geological Society of India in 1969. In accepting the Fellowship, he had hinted at the possibility of visiting India, but this was not to be.

Tuzo Wilson was a great man and will be long remembered for his lasting contributions to our understanding of the Earth.

B. P. RADHAKRISHNA