

The Canadian Field-Naturalist

VOL. XLV

OTTAWA, CANADA, FEBRUARY, 1931

No. 2

DR. HENRY MARC AMI

THE Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club has sustained a heavy loss in the death of Dr. Henry Marc Ami, one of its oldest and most honoured members. And not only so, for Canada at large has lost a great scientific man. Indeed to estimate his value we would need to go far afield, for so versatile was Dr. Ami, that beyond his immediate specialties, his knowledge and interests in very many subjects rendered him a well-known man, not only all over Canada but also in the United States and in Europe.

He was primarily a geologist, deeply trained in palæontology and archæology, but withal, whether in zoology or botany, he was an eminent naturalist. Yet alluding to what he was as a scientist does not fully portray the man. Those who knew him well could hardly have been long in his presence without being impressed with the knowledge he possessed of general literature, music, and art. His tastes were manifold, and if he delved into the earth in his search for relics and fossils, he also glimpsed into the Cosmos and spoke of the stars. Dr. Ami was an optimist, and the writer of this obituary has ever remembered a few words spoken by him when the two of us were walking alone at the close of one of the naturalists' excursions. The words were these: "Everything is trying to go one better."

With all his learning, Dr. Ami was most approachable, and no matter how elementary a

question might be he answered it with a grace and a sympathy that tended to enlighten the questioner. This and his congenial manner made him popular at the naturalists' excursions and at the lectures. At the excursions for years he was a leader and instructor, and his addresses under the pine trees, in open meadows, or by lake or stream, had a stimulating effect upon the minds of those who heard him speak. As a lecturer also he had a happy way of addressing his auditors and of holding their attention as he explained the pictures thrown upon the screen, many of which were from photographs taken by himself in the open field of nature.

Of late years Dr. Ami devoted himself to pre-historical research work in France, in connection with which he had brought to light a mass of information that must prove to be of lasting value. So well was he known through his scientific accomplishments during long years that many title and honours were bestowed upon him. The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club may be congratulated that it has had such a man among its members, for with his mental endowments and the fruits of his work, it may be long before Canada, in what was especial to him, again sees his like.

All that is mortal of Dr. Ami is hidden away under the ground, but his real personality abides and is cherished in our memories.—A.H.

PLACES OF SPECIAL GEOLOGICAL INTEREST IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

I—Ripple Marks near Perth, Lanark County, Ontario

By M. E. WILSON

WHEN the Palæozoic sea advanced into the lower Ottawa valley it filled in the irregularities of the Precambrian peneplained surface with sandstone. This sandstone, known as the Potsdam sandstone, from the locality in New York state where it was

first described, is usually not more than 100 feet thick but in one of the two Ottawa Dairy well borings, the only boring in Ottawa that has been drilled completely through the Palæozoic sediments into the Precambrian, 290 feet of sandstone were intersected. This thickness, however, is



Halkett, Andrew. 1931. "Dr. Henry Marc Ami [Obituary]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 45(2), 25–25. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339221>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/89041>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339221>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/339221>

Holding Institution

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Sponsored by

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.