

## OBITUARY

## DANIEL JAMES MAHONY

Director, National Museum, 1931-1944

Daniel James Mahony was born on March 25, 1878; he was the son of Daniel Mahony, a Councillor and Mayor of the Municipality of Fitzroy, Victoria. He was educated at Xavier College, Melbourne, later at Downside School, Somerset, in England. On his return to Victoria, he entered the Melbourne University where, from 1902 to 1904, he was lecturer in geology, mineralogy and palaeontology; in 1905, he graduated in science with first-class final honours in those subjects. He took his Master's degree a few years later.

In 1906 he joined the staff of the Geological Survey of Victoria as petrologist and editor of the Survey publications, and in the succeeding twenty-five years contributed appendices on igneous rocks to several reports. He was largely responsible for the compilation of the lives of the founders of the Survey, including such well known geologists as A. R. C. Selwyn and others. His most important contribution to science while with the Geological Survey was with H. J. Grayson, concerning the geology of the Camperdown and Mt. Elephant districts—a report on two Quarter Sheets surveyed by the students of the Melbourne University under the direction of Professor J. W. Gregory, and published as a memoir by the Geological Survey. With T. Griffith Taylor he published, in 1913, a geological reconnaissance of the Federal Territory. From time to time he also contributed to the Royal Society of Victoria, the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, and the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, numerous papers on igneous rocks, and a few on ethnology.

In 1916 he left for England to enlist in the Royal Artillery, and was on active service until 1919, rising to the rank of Captain. Later he acted as "locum tenens" for Sir Douglas Mawson at the Adelaide University during the latter's absence with his Polar Expedition.



The late Daniel James Mahony

On July 14, 1931, he was appointed Director of the National Museum as successor to J. A. Kershaw. He confined his attention to the administrative duties necessary, and thus could not specialise to any great extent in any particular subject. During his term of office he edited six memoirs comprising papers by the scientists of the Museum and others on a variety of subjects. In 1944, he compiled a useful bibliography on the antiquity of man in Australia, his last contribution to scientific literature. Seven modern dioramas representing the native fauna and aborigines of Australia were added to the Museum exhibition galleries during his directorship—excellent examples of staff team work, and commented upon favourably by overseas authorities and others.

He was President of the Royal Society of Victoria from 1939 to 1940, chairman of the Scientific Committee of the Zoological Board of Victoria, President of the McCoy Society of Victoria, and first President of the Museums Association of Australia and New Zealand.

He passed away suddenly on September 29, 1944, his death bringing forth expressions of regret from a wide circle of friends and admirers. He was unmarried.

—R.A.K.

December, 1945.