

# Memorial to Eleanor Seely Salmon

## 1910-1984

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Eleanor Seely Salmon, geologist and editor specializing in petroleum exploration, drilling, and refining, died in New York City September 30, 1984.

Eleanor Salmon was born February 16, 1910, in Rochester, New York, daughter of William Harry Salmon and Flora Seely Salmon. She attended the Columbia Preparatory School in Rochester and St. Agatha's School in New York; she graduated from Smith College *magna cum laude* in 1932 and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She had intended to major in French, with a view to entering the diplomatic service, but the influence of Dr. Howard Meyerhoff, her first geology instructor, caused her to change her career goals.

While doing graduate work in geology at Columbia University, Eleanor worked as a junior supervisor on the WPA project *Catalog of Foraminifera* at the American Museum of Natural History, New York. She received her Ph.D. from Columbia in 1942.

Because of the difficult job market in geology, particularly for women, Eleanor made use of the chemistry she had studied, and worked at the Socony-Vacuum Oil Company Technical Service Laboratory in Brooklyn, as a chemist-analytical tester (1942-1943) and as a chemist in the specialties department (1944-1946).

In 1946 she returned to the American Museum of Natural History, holding the positions of assistant curator in the Department of Micropaleontology, managing editor of the *Catalog of Foraminifera*, and an editor of the now-defunct quarterly journal *Micropaleontology*.

Eleanor joined the American Petroleum Institute Central Abstracting and Indexing Service in New York in 1959, and remained there until her retirement in 1975. She began as an abstractor for the drilling and exploration bulletin, working from French, German, Italian, and Russian, as well as English. When the geology bulletin was discontinued in the early 1960s, Eleanor was transferred to the refining bulletin, becoming editor in 1966. Soon thereafter, the API started a biweekly bulletin on alternative sources of energy; she was appointed editor of that as well.

After retirement, in spite of declining health because of emphysema, Eleanor did free-lance abstracting for the API and also translated for the French Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières.

Eleanor Salmon was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She was also a member of the Society of Sigma Xi, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Nature Conservancy, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the National Organization for Women.

Eleanor's signed publications were not many, but her contributions to the publications for which she was an editor were valuable and significant. She was well-informed, and her editing was meticulous and rigorous; she found great satisfaction in it.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF E. S. SALMON**

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