

Rossiter Worthington Raymond (1840-1918)



Among those who attended the first meeting a man whose support the originators felt was needed to give gravitas to the organization, Rossiter Raymond, 31-year-old Professor of Ore Deposits at Lafayette College, which in 1868 had conferred on him an honorary doctorate. He was editor of the E&MJ, which was the media arm of A.I.M.E. until 1877, under Raymond and his successor, Rothwell. His New York City office became the unofficial center for the mining engineering fraternity.

He was President of A.I.M.E. 1872 to 1875 and Secretary from 1884 until 1912.



Rossiter Raymond is one of only two founders in the National Mining Hall of Fame. He was honored because he:

“exerted a unique influence on young mining engineers through his exceptional writings and editing.

In 1867, he became editor of the American Journal of Mining (now Engineering and Mining Journal). For 23 years his powerful influence was felt at the journal, and the publication shone above all others in the industry.

He served as United States Commissioner of Mining Statistics from 1868 until 1876. Particularly significant among his many writings were the eight reports: Statistics of Mines and Mining in the States and Territories West of the Rocky Mountains.”

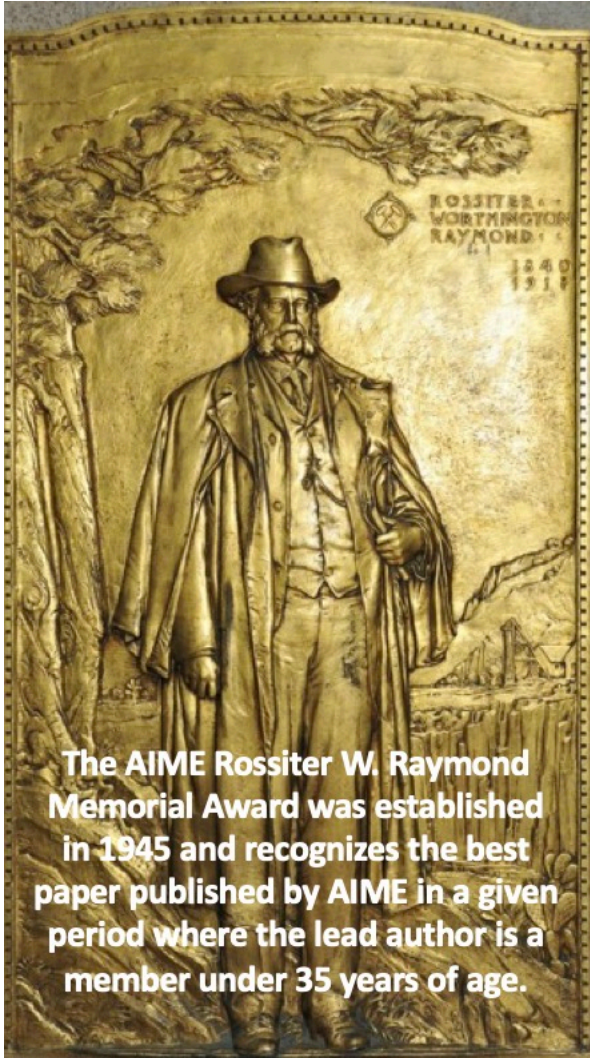


He lectured on mining geology at Lafayette College and later, on mining law at Columbia, and for 20 years was consulting engineer for Cooper, Hewitt & Company.

In his late 50s, he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1898. His writing on mining law was clearly phrased, and his expert testimony in suits over mining rights helped clarify this perplexing subject.

Through his long service to the American Institute of Mining Engineers, of which he was a founder, he elevated ideals for technical and professional societies in America and introduced European geological writings to American readers. He was highly respected in his field and because of his dedication to the industry and the American Institute of Mining Engineers, he was known as the "Grand Old Man of the Institute."





The AIME Rossiter W. Raymond Memorial Award was established in 1945 and recognizes the best paper published by AIME in a given period where the lead author is a member under 35 years of age.

At the February 1919 A.I.M.E. Annual Meeting, the Institute paid honor to the memory of Raymond, "who was for 47 years the guiding genius of the Institute." Henry Sturgis Drinker, the President of Lehigh University, described him as "one of the most remarkable cases of versatility that our country has ever seen—sailor, soldier, engineer, lawyer, orator, editor, novelist, story-teller, poet, biblical critic, theologian, teacher, chess-player—he was superior in each capacity. What he did, he always did well."

In 1920 A.I.M.E. published a 95-page memorial, which contained a "brief biography" -- four pages in length.



An American Institute of Mining Engineers.

The great development of the mines and metallurgical works of this country during the last few years, accompanied as it has been with the investment of enormous sums of money in purchasing lands and in the erection of improvements, requires that advantage should be taken of the accumulated knowledge of engineers, superintendents and others, in mastering the problems which are constantly presenting themselves for our action. Among these may be mentioned, the consideration of more economical systems of mining in our coal and metalliferous mines; improved methods of transportation above and below ground; nwatering and ventilating mines; the mechanical preparation of coal and other minerals; the various metallurgical processes; and, in fact, every question tending to the attainment of the two great objects:

1st. The more economical production of the useful minerals and metals.

2d. The greater safety and welfare of those employed in these industries.

In European countries, where the arts of mining and metallurgy have long been the subject of the most careful study, no means have been found so effectual in attaining the end above proposed, as the free interchange of experience among those actually engaged in these industries; and this object has been accomplished mainly through the medium of "Institutes," "Associations," or "Societies," composed of those engaged in these occupations, and by the periodical publication of "essays" or "papers" communicated to such societies by their members.

It must be evident to all practical men that the interchange of the varied experience of those engaged in such occupations in this country, could not fail to advance very materially the desired objects; it is therefore proposed to establish an American Institute of Mining Engineers, which will hold its meetings periodically in the great mining and metallurgical centres, where works of interest, such as mines, machine shops, furnaces and other metallurgical works, can be inspected, and the miners can exchange their views and consult for mutual advantage upon the difficulties encountered by each. These "Transactions" or "Proceedings" would form, when published, a valuable and greatly needed addition to our professional literature. It is proposed that a meeting of those sympathizing with these objects shall be called for the purpose of organizing such an association, the time and place of meeting being Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and the month, April or May.

Any one who may have devoted himself to a particular subject connected with either mining or metallurgy, and who may be possessed of new facts in reference to it, would greatly aid in furthering the objects of the proposed association by preparing a paper giving the result of his experience, to be communicated at the first meeting. It is expected that the desire for the advancement of professional knowledge, combined with the attractions of a visit to the most beautiful of our coal fields—the Wyoming Valley—will insure a large attendance from all parts of the country.

"A circular...has been prepared and signed by Messrs. Eckley B. Coxe, of Jeddo, and R. P. Rothwell and Martin Coryell, of Wilkes-Barre, three mining engineers whose reputation is a guaranty that the proposition they have issued is intended in good faith to promote the interests of their profession, and not, like some others of the kind, to favor the schemes of adventurers, or foist insignificance into notoriety.

We sincerely hope that this movement may be successful. It certainly promises to supply a great want of American engineering."

-- Rossiter Raymond, E&MJ, Feb 7, 1871





Frank Leslie's Illustrated Paper 1874