

IN MEMORIAM

*Robert Larimore Pendleton B.S., Ph. D.*

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Robert Larimore Pendleton was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on June 25, 1890; the first child of John Louis and Jessie Larimore Pendleton. He attended the University of California from which he received the degrees of Bachelor of Science in 1914 and Doctor of Philosophy in 1917. From 1914-1915 he was assistant in soil survey, California Soil Survey, California. On June 10, 1917 he married Anne Laurel Miltimore.

In 1918, he went to India where he studied at the North India Hindustani Language School for one year, and then became instructor of soils at Ewing Christian College in Allahabad in 1919; from 1921-23 he served as director of the Department of Agriculture for the Maharajah of Gwalior, Central India.

From 1923-1935 he was professor of soil technology at the College of Agriculture of the University of the Philippines in Los Banos, P.I. where he also served as head of the department of soils, 1930-35. He was chief soil technologist and agriculturist of the National Geological Survey of China 1931-35.

From 1935-1942 Dr. Pendleton was adviser in agriculture and soil technologist with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Siam; was a member of the Mindanao Exploration Committee in 1939; and the Refugee Economy Corporation, 1939; Consultant of the U.S. War Department, 1942-44; agriculture adviser with the military geologic unit, Chemical Engineers, U.S. War Department 1944; ECA 1949-50.

From 1942-1952 he was Principal Soil Technologist of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture; and in 1948 served as adviser to the Siam mission, Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations; 1952-53 soil scientist with STEM in the Mutual Security Agency.

He was Professor of Tropical Soils and Agronomy in the Isaiah Bowman School of Geography, Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A. from 1946 to 1955. In April 1956, he returned to Thailand to become Soil Technology Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Dr. Pendleton was a member of the Indian Board of Agriculture 1919-1923; Indian Central Cotton Committee, 1921-23; National Research Council, P.I., 1934-1937; Chemical Society; Geophysical Union; Association of Geographers; Geographic Society; Fellow of the Belgian American Educational Foundation in the Belgian Congo, 1948-49; American Association for the Advancement of Science; American Society of Agronomy; Sigma Xi; Alpha Zeta; the Council of the Siam Society, in which he represented with a few others the Section of National History.

He was a member of the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C.; the Army and Navy Club in Manila; and the Royal Bangkok Sports Club in Bangkok.

In 1948 he was made Knight Commander of the Order of the Crown of Thailand. In 1950 he was awarded the David Livingstone Centennial Medal of the American Geographic Society and made an honorary member of the American Geographic Society.

Dr. Pendleton's published works include: Laterite and Lateritic Soils (with J.A. Prescott), 1952; Translation (from the Dutch) Soils of Equatorial Regions, 1944; Nature and manner of formation of tropical soils; land use characteristics of tropical soils; soil surveys and soil classification; soils of Ecuador, Peru, and Siam.

Serious eyes with a pleasant twinkle, set in small but distinguished features; an earnest purpose; a gentle unassuming personality; a word that could be depended upon to stand the test of time; courtesy to all people and a deep sympathy for his colleagues; these were qualities that endeared him to all among his students. No wonder he was so affectionately known as "Papa".

Certainly the Siam Society and Kasetsart University will never dip their pennant in grateful salutation to a more loyal and devoted person.

To his wife and Khun Poonsri we offer our sincere sympathy.

Part of the above note appeared in the book "Soils of Thailand", distributed on the occasion of the funeral service and cremation of Dr. Robert L. Pendleton at Wat Makutksatriyārām on Monday July 1, 1957.

*Kamhaeng Balankura*