Francis Edward Treloar

E. EDWARDS McKINNON

F. E. TRELOAR died 28 February 1980 while at a scientific conference on polymer chemistry at Lorne, Victoria. His sudden and untimely death came as a great shock to all who knew him and his passing has created a void that will be difficult to fill. He will be missed not only in his primary field, physical chemistry, where he was a dedicated and popular teacher, but also in the field of Southeast Asian archaeology, where he pioneered much important work in the chemical analysis of artifacts.

His interest in Southeast Asian archaeological metallurgy and the use of chemical techniques to identify and date archaeological specimens dates from 1961 when he was lecturing at the University of Malaya and became intrigued with Alastair Lamb’s work in Kedah. In 1964 he took up his appointment with the Department of Physical Chemistry at the University of Melbourne but continued to be actively interested in archaeological matters. He made several field trips to Southeast Asia and established a well-deserved international reputation for new and useful contributions to Southeast Asian archaeology. He had worked on glass and metallic artifacts from Malaya, Sarawak, and, latterly, Sumatra. Just before his death he was collaborating with Mrs. Ann Manning and myself in the analysis of gold and other artifacts from the north Sumatran site of Kota Cina.

Treloar’s passing, at a time when he was making important contributions to a new branch of archaeological science, leaves one wondering what direction his ideas may have taken had he been spared.

I am indebted to Professor R. A. Lang for the following checklist of Dr Treloar’s papers.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PAPERS BY F. E. TRELOAR


Ritual objects illustrating Indian alchemy and Tantric religious practice. *Isis* 58:396–397.


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