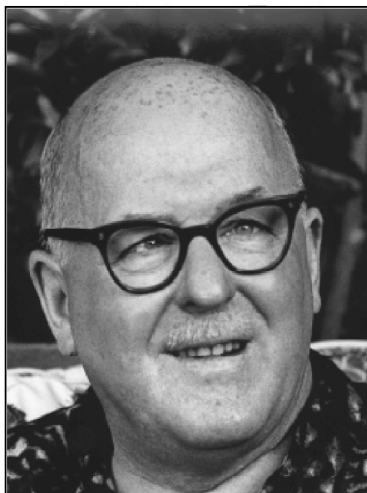
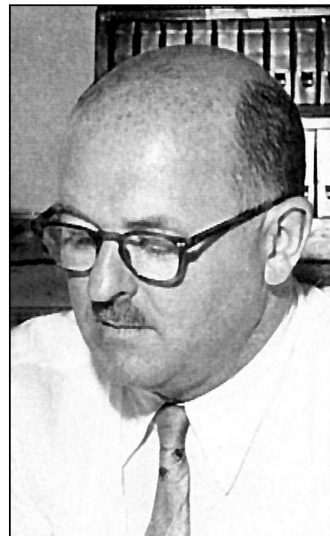


Francis John Turner 1904-85

Geologist, Emeritus Professor of Geology

* Foundation member; member of 1935 Otago team vs Crockfords

Frank was born in Auckland, the son of a classics master at Auckland Grammar School. He entered University College, Auckland in 1921, graduated in geology and then worked briefly for the Geological Survey while completing his thesis. He came to Dunedin in 1926 at the age of 21 to take up a position lecturing in geology at the University. His specialist field was in the petrology of igneous & metamorphic rocks, developing skills with the polarizing microscope that were to place him among the world's leading petrographers. His study of the Otago schist remains one of the best petrographic studies of low-grade metamorphism ever published. In 1934 as a result of his many publications he was awarded a DSc degree from the University of New Zealand.



Frank Turner in his later years
in California, U.S.A.

In 1930 he married Esme Bentham. They were keen travellers and loved art, music and literature, so when Frank was invited to join the Faculty of Geology at the University of California (Berkeley) in 1946 he and his wife were keen to explore another world and enjoy the musical performances, art galleries and museums of a large city. Frank had a 40-yr association with the University of California, establishing himself as an international authority on the experimental deformation of rocks, research that has formed the roots of much modern investigation of geological processes. He retired in 1971 but continued in an emeritus role until his death. As with Harold Finlay ten years before him, Turner was awarded the Hector Medal of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1951 and received many other academic honours through his long career. He was highly regarded for his liberal, compassionate and wise counsel. As his biographers concluded: *"The vivid memory of the jaunty figure with the seaman's gait and sharp wit will ever be with us"*

Source: J.D.Clark, C.M.Gilbert, H.May, J.L.Reynolds, L.E.Weiss – *University of California: In Memoriam*, 1986