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E.B.H Wade 8 Nov. 1872 – 28 September 1945

The first President of IAHS (then known as the Section of Hydrology of IUGG) was E.B.H. Wade.

EDWARD BRUCE HERSCHEL WADE was born ON 1872 November 8 November 8 in Pekin, where his father, Sir Thomas Wade, was then living as Minister Plenipotentiary in China. His mother was a daughter of Sir John Herschel.

Wade was educated at Winchester and proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took a First in Natural Science. He then was offered a post in the Egyptian Survey Department under Sir Henry Lyons (then Captain Lyons, R.E.). While in the Egyptian Service he took charge of the old Observatory at Abbasia near Cairo, which had an old Mertz refractor of about 7 inches aperture. Then came the building of Helwan Observatory in 1904 and Wade for a time was transferred to the Geodetic Survey. In 1905 he led the Egyptian-Turkish Boundary Commission with the late B.F.E. Keeling. He communicated several papers to the Royal Astronomical Society on the determination of desert positions, and especially one on a two-angled Coelostat for comparison of the Moon's position with a field of stars some angular distance away. In 1921 he wrote a paper on "A method of determining longitudes by observations of the Moon", and in 1923 "A method of determining small differences in latitude". Both these and several others appeared in the publications of the Egyptian Physical Department.

In 1909 Mr Wade published a paper with H.E. Hurst, the renowned hydrologist, who had started to work for the Survey Department in 1906. In 1919 Mr Wade joined the Physical Department of the Ministry of Public Works, headed by his colleague Hurst, to participate in the collection of rainfall and river flow in the Nile basin of Egypt, Sudan and East Africa. This data was required for future projects on the control and conservation of Nile Waters.

As Director of Research Mr Wade supervised the improvement of methods for discharge measurement, particularly with regard to the development and calibration of current meters at low velocities and at higher discharges subjected to Turbulence. Field work was carried out in 1921 and 1922 and the results published in a series of paper by the Physical Department of the Ministry of Public Works during the period of 1921 and 1924.

At the end of April 1922, he attended the IUGG Meeting at Rome at which he became **President of the Section of Hydrology for 6 years**. In 1928 his mandate was renewed for a further 6 years, but was replaced in 1933 (Lisbon General Assembly) by Jan Smetana from the Czechoslovakian Republic.

He retired on pension in 1925 and then went to live at Genova, where he remained until the war. He was much interested in music, and one of the recollections the writer has of him is of a tent near the Observatory at Helwan, which contained an upright piano with a wooden frame, split by the dry hot climate, on which he played and composed "Songs of the desert".

Wade never married, and in later life he devoted himself to music almost entirely, but unfortunately he developed deafness in Egypt and ultimately became stone deaf. He died in London on 1945 September 28.

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