A former technical director of the American Cast Iron Pipe Company (ACIPCO) in Birmingham, Alabama, James Tucker MacKenzie was known to the industry as "Mr. Cast Iron" and to his friends and colleagues as "Dr. Mack." Educated at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, he spent his career serving the industry he helped develop in the state of Alabama and city of Birmingham.

Dr. MacKenzie joined ACIPCO in 1912 at the age of twenty-two and found his home there. He authored exchange papers to the Institute of British Foundrymen on behalf of the American Foundrymen's Association, for which he was honored with the John H. Whiting Gold Medal in 1938. He also served as chairman of the Gray Iron Division and was the first Hoyt Lecturer in 1947.

A member of the board of directors of the American Society for Testing and Materials, he was presented the ASTM Award of Merit. Dr. MacKenzie was a director of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, served as chairman of the Iron and Steel Division, and delivered the Howe Memorial Lecture in 1944. He was also active in the American Chemical Society, the Electrochemical Society, the American Society of Metals, the American Ceramic Society, and many others. Dr. Mack gave many hours to his profession through his involvement with technical societies, but his real love was the foundry.

Cast iron is strong, impermeable, long-lasting; so was James Tucker MacKenzie, who worked long and hard as one of its strongest proponents. He had both knowledge of his product and the skill to effect the results needed to meet the increasingly stringent production specifications of the industry. Through his efforts, ACIPCO established the sophisticated system of checks and balances—incorporating chemical, physical, metallurgical, and spectrographic laboratories as well as a library and inspection and experimental departments—known today as the Technical Division. From the melting, casting, and analysis of the metal to the physical testing, inspection, and marketing of the pipe, Dr. MacKenzie carried out start-to-finish responsibilities that benefitted his company and the industry.

On a mission for the federal Foreign Economic Administration in 1945, he made a study of German centrifugal casting methods and prepared a report that received wide attention. A man of many facets, Dr. Mack was also a skilled musician. He was an accomplished organist, belonging to the American Guild of Organists. In addition, he played oboe in the former Birmingham Symphony.

Those who knew James Tucker MacKenzie—and those who know only his contributions to the foundry industry—will remember him always as a man who was ahead of his time.