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## In Memoriam: Theodore Louis Jahn

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# In Memoriam

Theodore Louis Jahn

1905-1979

Dr. Theodore Louis (Ted) Jahn, Professor-Emeritus of Biology at the University of California at Los Angeles, died 1 May, 1979 following a cerebral hemorrhage. A long time member of the Iowa Academy of Science, he was among the first to receive its Award of Merit.

Born in New Orleans 17 December, 1905, he grew up in Houston, Texas. He won a 4-year academic scholarship to the Rice Institute, where early interest in business administration changed to biology because of Professors Osa Chandler and Richard Hall. Hall moved to New York University, where Ted enrolled after graduating from Rice with highest honors in 1927. Ted received an M.S. in 1928 and a Ph.D. in 1931. His work on culturing and physiology of *Euglena gracilis* resulted in his heading the Cold Spring Harbor Symposium on cell cultures in 1933.

He taught briefly at New York University and at Yale, then moved to the University of Iowa in 1935, where his students included such outstanding scholars as Fay Shawhan, Leland P. Johnson, Charles Allegre, David Wilson, and Eugene C. Bovee. Research work on protozoan and insect physiology resulted in many papers in the Proceedings from 1937 to 1949.

Dr. Jahn moved to UCLA in 1948 and was Chairman of the Zoology Department from 1949 until 1958. He developed the department into a major research center. He became Professor-Emeritus in 1973.

During his amazingly reproductive career he published almost 200 papers and authored the popular book *How to Know the Protozoa*. His research was mainly on all aspects of Protozoa, but also included insect morphology and physiology, and other aspects of physiology, including a practical (and now proven) approach to electrical healing of bone.

In addition to his 34 Ph.D. students and many M.S. students, he hosted many postdoctoral investigators from the U.S. and abroad.

His teaching was lucid and informative, sparkling with humor and wit. He is fondly remembered for this by his students, colleagues, and many friends, as well as for his personal and scientific integrity, his willingness to assume responsibility, the generosity with which he gave time to his students, to officerships and committees, for his scientific

genius, his diligence and purposeful tenacity, the boundless energy he gave to all his efforts, and — especially — his gift for establishing warm, friendships. While others debated the place for “minority” students, he quietly accepted students of any race or ethnic background.

A highly personable man, his home was frequented by many visitors from around the world. He and his wife, Frances, entertained generously and frequently. Scarcely ever did a guest depart without having established a firm friendship with them. Their kindnesses to friends are legendary.

He served as president of the Society of Protozoologists, the American Microscopical Society, the Western Division of AAAS and the Western Society of Naturalists. He held many other offices in these and other organizations.

Among his many honors, besides the Academy’s Award of Merit, are: Distinguished Alumnus Award from New York University (1968); Honorary Membership in the Society of Protozoologists (1975) and in the American Microscopical Society (1978); named to the Wisdom Hall of Fame; an Award of Special Merit from The Committee for Advance Science Training (1972). Shortly before his death he was especially honored because the Society of Protozoologists established the Theodore Louis Jahn Fund and Award to recognize the best paper given by a graduate student at the Society’s annual meeting. He was also nominated for the 1979 Distinguished Scientist Award of the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

Ted Jahn left Iowa for California by way of the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, where his erstwhile colleague and close friend, the late Dr. Robert L. King, was director. King, a peppery Irishman, bedeviled Jahn during his preparations to leave and shouted friendly imprecations at him as he and Mrs. Jahn drove away — but as their automobile disappeared from site, King threw his hand aloft and moaned, “Lord! I’m gonna miss that man!”

I don’t believe anyone could say it better — then, or now — for all of us who were fortunate enough to know and love Ted Jahn.

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