

Herbert Henry Schwardt

March 14, 1903 — May 14, 1962

Herbert Henry Schwardt, Professor of Entomology and head of the Department of Entomology, died suddenly May 14, 1962. His untimely death was a tremendous shock and a sad loss to family, friends, and associates.

Professor Schwardt was a native of Kansas and received the B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from Kansas State University. Early in his college career, which was leaning toward chemistry as a major field of interest, he had an opportunity to work on the problem of pests that attack stored wheat. That proved to be a turning point in his professional career. He changed his major field to entomology and zoology, with a background in chemistry to support it.

After completing the work for his Master's degree, he joined the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to work on control of deciduous-fruit insects in northwest Arkansas. Shortly thereafter he was appointed to the faculty of the University of Arkansas as an assistant entomologist. His pioneering work on the biology, ecology, and control of blood-sucking flies—particularly those that attack farm livestock—received national and international recognition. Further, his original research on pests of ricelands, including the rice water weevil, storage pests of rice, and mosquitoes and gnats that breed in the inundated fields, provided the basis for control of many of these insects.

In 1938, Cornell University invited Dr. Schwardt to join its faculty in the Department of Entomology and Limnology. In 1957 he was appointed head of the department. Professor Schwardt was a stimulating teacher, and many of his students went on to graduate study and to positions of professional responsibility. His interest in his students was by no means confined to their academic needs—many times his keen sense of personal balance steadied and guided a graduate student who was shaken by grief or disappointment.

Professor Schwardt had a boundless enthusiasm for his work and a fund of patience and humor that endeared him to everyone. At Cornell he served in many capacities: first, he worked on the control of insect pests of forage crops, then on control of pests of stored products, and finally on control of livestock insects. His genuine interest in the welfare of farm people and in the industries that provide the goods and services for modern pest control brought him into contact with people in all walks of life. Probably no group in the entomological profession loved “Herb” more than his many friends in industry. He worked with them on a wide array of problems and was always ready to help with the issues that constantly arise in the rapidly expanding field of pesticides. Because of his ability and

prominence he was sought by all levels of government and industry for advice and assistance. This invaluable leadership tied college and industrial personnel into a working team for the benefit of producers everywhere. In the year before his death Professor Schwardt participated in a policy planning conference in Rome sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Here international policies for pesticide application and use were established.

Professor Schwardt's publications were extensive and covered a range of interests from fundamental insect biology to policy development in a wide scale of pesticide-application problems. His membership in professional societies included Sigma Xi, Gamma Sigma Delta, Phi Mu Alpha, Phi Zeta, the American Association of Economic Entomologists, and the Entomological Society of America. He served often on committees in the latter two organizations. Many university committees received his support and counsel, and the changing problems in academic development, his thoughtful attention.

His wife, Bernice Hedge Schwardt, his two children, and six grandchildren were a source of continuous pride and joy to Professor Schwardt. A capable photographer for many years, he attained professional competence in this art in recent years, with his grandchildren as the stimulus.

In the passing of Herbert Henry Schwardt the university has lost a distinguished professor and educational leader; his friends and associates, a man they can never replace. Yet in knowing and working with him, our lives are immeasurably richer, and his memory will ever be a part of us.

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