

Edward Hadley Glass

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Edward Glass, Emeritus Professor of Entomology, was a noted fruit entomologist at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva. His research, which spanned more than six decades, focused on the control of crop pests, and saw the goals of crop protection change from conquest to sustainability.

Ed's youth was spent in the small town of Lexington, Massachusetts, scene of a pivotal battle in the Revolutionary War. His family was industrious middle class, dedicated to education and community service. His experience on the family farm introduced him to Yankee ingenuity and the tribulations of farming, which included control of insect pests. Ed was conditioned by these aspects of his youth as he embarked on his formal training in entomology. He earned degrees from three prestigious institutions: a B.S. degree from University of Massachusetts, 1938; an M.S. degree from Virginia Polytech Institute, 1940; and a Ph.D. degree from Ohio State University, 1943. His formal training was followed by employment with American Cyanamid Co., a leader in production of agricultural chemicals, including insecticides.

While appreciating the opportunity to gain experiences in the industrial arm of agribusiness, Ed was drawn to academics, joining the Cornell faculty in the Department of Entomology at Geneva in 1948, where he was assigned to research the biology and control of insect pests of fruit.

No list of his accomplishments would be complete without commenting on the team of Ed and his wife, Nell. Nell's striking beauty was accompanied by the grace and gentility of her southern heritage acquired in Boydton, Virginia. Ed, in striking contrast, was a Yankee stalwart through and through. He was deliberate, taciturn, with a rock-ribbed sense of duty and decorum. While Nell was the gracious hostess of the social scene, Ed was master of the manly arts —building boats and houses, sailing, swimming, and making fine furniture. All this was done in a deceptively "laid back" manner that belied his leadership potential. Their attractive, and well-appointed Cape Cod home provided the setting for gracious entertaining. For many couples, such a contrast in personalities would spell trouble. Not so with Ed and Nell. "They grew not in each others shadow." Instead, they both subscribed to that altruistic concept: "Let my love, like sunlight, surround you and yet give you illuminating freedom." (R. Tagore, *Fireflies*, 1928.)

Ed's wife, Nell and their son, Ted, survive him. Their daughter, Anne, predeceased her father in 2000 and is survived by her husband, Professor Terry Acree, Food Science and Technology at Geneva. Anne had a deep commitment to

the well being of children. This passion enabled her to touch the lives of a generation of young people through her leadership at Head Start in Geneva. Ted, with artistic interests, followed his own bent. He pursued a career in TV and artistic film production. Like his sister, he was drawn to the human drama and social justice. Ted and his wife, Debra, have two children, Edward H. and Samuel. Like two pots of gold at the end of the rainbow, they became the highlights of their grandparent's lives.

Ed appreciated the importance of congeniality between town and gown—the Cornell Experiment Station and its host city, Geneva. He assumed a leadership role in support of the civic and cultural institutions of the city, including the Presbyterian Church, Rotary, Community Chest, Geneva Concerts, Geneva General Hospital, Seneca Yacht Club, Planned Parenthood and Finger Lakes Forum. Ed budgeted his time wisely, “peeled one potato at a time” and despite his many activities projected the image of an orderly purposeful leader.

Little did Ed realize when he joined the Cornell faculty that he would soon be in the eye of a storm, one that would greatly influence the course of his career. He immediately plunged into the urgent post World War II process of “beating swords into plowshares,” adapting and applying scientific and technical breakthroughs to peaceful ends. The challenge to the field of entomology was clear. DDT had gained wartime recognition as the “silver bullet” by its spectacular control of lice-borne typhus epidemic in Naples in 1943-44. Other compounds soon followed, and a new age of insect control had dawned. Caution was thrown to the wind. Enthusiasts predicted eradication of the traditional scourges of medical and agricultural pests, such as malarial mosquitoes and the cotton boll weevil.

The euphoria of magic insecticides was short lived, as Ed and other perceptive investigators observed disturbing side effects. These included disruptions to ecosystems, and threats to both workers who applied pesticides and consumers of treated products. All this changed in 1962 when Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, written with grace and passion, galvanized the public overnight. Public pressure led to the establishment of a new agency in 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Its first target was DDT, the “silver bullet” of the new pesticide era. Following two years of acrimonious debate, EPA banned DDT. With bruised pride, but staunch resolve, pest control specialists embarked on an intense, intellectual reassessment of control strategies. The outgrowth of this was a new concept, Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM placed pest control in an ecological context, and assigned a role to each of the various plant protection disciplines. The objective was to integrate a number of control factors whose accumulative effect would keep pest populations to acceptable levels. Entomologists marshaled old methods like cultural control, biological control, and plant resistance, and new ones, such as sex attractants and genetic modification.

This unprecedented crisis called for bold leadership. It was as if all of Ed's previous experience had groomed him for such a role. In 1955-56, he had taken sabbatic leave in Europe where he studied pest control practices in eleven countries. This experience was followed in 1966-67 by appointment as Visiting Professor to the Cornell project at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños. In addition, he served as a consultant to agricultural programs in eight countries of Southeast Asia. He then played a major role in establishing, and then serving as the first project leader (1975-80) for the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Unit at Cornell, which now is considered among the best in the world.

Ed was appointed Chairman of the Department of Entomology, Geneva, in 1969, a position he held until his retirement in 1982. Another challenge to his leadership came in 1978, when he was elected President of the Entomological Society of America (ESA). Additional honors followed. He was made an honorary member of ESA in 1985 and elected a Fellow in 1992. The capstone of his career came in 1991, almost a decade after his retirement, when he was appointed Executive Director for the Consortium of International Crop Protection, the oversight body for coordination of IPM.

In assessing the life and times of our worthy colleague, a few months of retrospect place his image and his accomplishments in bold relief. He brought to bear the best of family values, a rich heritage of American history, good education, wise parental guidance, and six decades of service to Cornell, an institution that commanded his devotion and respect. He had traveled far from historic Lexington to the third world countries where insects threatened the essential food, fiber and health of millions of people. In seeking a just tribute to Ed, we can perhaps do no better than to quote his esteemed mentor, Professor Emeritus Paul Jones Chapman, (deceased). At Ed's retirement 'Chappie' commented, "Ed just never stopped growing. He took the highroad and he walked the world with dignity."

Joe Ogrodnick, Edward Smith, Wendell Roelofs