

# Arthur J. Heinicke

*October 23, 1892 — February 2, 1971*

Arthur John Heinicke was born in St. Louis, Missouri. His early education was in Missouri, where he received his B.S.A. in 1913 and M.A. in 1914 from the University of Missouri at Columbia. In 1914 he came to Cornell University as an instructor in pomology. This initiated a period of forty-six years of exceptionally dedicated service to the University. After receiving his Ph. D. from Cornell in 1916, he was appointed an assistant professor of Pomology. He became professor in 1920 and head of the Department of Pomology on the Ithaca campus in 1921.

It is rare, indeed, to view a career of service to Cornell that covers such a long span of years and with the degree of dedication and contribution.

In the period between 1914 and 1942, he gained stature as a world-renowned leader of pomology teaching and research investigations. One of his greatest gifts was in the development of student pomologists. Many of his graduate students went on to become great teachers, researchers, and university administrators. There is no doubt that the examples set by Professor Heinicke as a leader, and his encouragement and constructive criticism for colleagues and students, had a lasting effect on those with whom he was associated.

In research, too, he was a pioneer. His published observations on seed effects on fruit abscission were helpful in explaining the growth substance concepts that evolved years later. He initiated perennial plant photosynthesis studies on apples that were unique for his era of research. He published numerous scientific articles covering these research findings.

In 1942 Professor Heinicke was appointed director of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, succeeding Professor P. J. Parrott. At the same time, he assumed the position of head of the pomology departments on both the Geneva and Ithaca campuses.

During his directorship, Dr. Heinicke emphasized the role of the Geneva Station in conducting research on the production and development of horticultural crops and the processing and utilization of fruit and vegetable products. Since then, the Geneva Station has been regarded as one of the most important horticultural research institutes in the world. During the war years, Dr. Heinicke took a personal interest in developing a research program that would provide proper guidance to growers and food processors faced with a heavy demand for foodstuffs but handicapped by shortages of labor, machinery, and supplies. Under his leadership, this was accomplished, retaining the essential scientific framework.

During his tenure as director, Dr. Heinicke was responsible for obtaining a central heating plant for the Station, new greenhouses, a controlled plant growth facility, and the most modern food research laboratory in the country, which was dedicated just two months before his retirement.

He always stressed to the research staff the importance of maintaining a comprehensive research program that was scientific, as well as providing the answers to pressing agricultural problems in New York State.

Professor Heinicke was a member and active participant in the American Society for Horticultural Science, the International Society for Horticultural Science, Sigma Xi, Alpha Zeta, and the New York State Horticultural Society. In 1937 he served as president of the American Society for Horticultural Science. He served on many regional and national committees important to the development of research programs at experiment stations.

Following his retirement as professor emeritus in 1960, Professor Heinicke and his wife moved to Ithaca, where he continued his interest in research in apple physiology. Until his death, he was a regular visitor to his office in the Department of Pomology in the Plant Science Building. It was characteristic of him to continue to attend meetings of horticultural groups to exchange views on subjects relating to fruit culture.

Professor Heinicke is survived by a son, Arthur John, who resides in Ontario, New York; a sister living in Syracuse, New York; and a brother living in Missouri.

For his many friends on the Ithaca and Geneva campuses, it is rewarding to know that many of Professor Heinicke's personal observations on the early history of the College of Agriculture, the Experiment Stations, and the two great Departments of Pomology are stored for future study in the oral history archives of Cornell.

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