

Otto August Reinking

February 11, 1890 — May 31, 1962

Otto August Reinking was Professor Emeritus and former head of the Department of Plant Pathology at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva. He died May 31, 1962, at the National Institutes of Health hospital in Washington, D. C. He is survived by his wife Addie.

Professor Reinking was born in Madison, Wisconsin, February 11, 1890. He was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, where he received the B.S. and M.S. degrees in 1912 and 1915, respectively. He was granted the Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology by the University of Wisconsin in 1922.

Prior to receiving his Ph.D. degree, Professor Reinking taught in Honolulu and at the Colorado Agricultural College, and from 1916 to 1921 was on the faculty of the University of the Philippines where he organized and headed the Department of Plant Pathology.

In 1922, Dr. Reinking joined the Research Department of the United Fruit Company and five years later was named director of the Tropical Research Division, a position he held until 1932. His accomplishments as teacher, researcher, and administrator in the Philippines and with the United Fruit Company won for him worldwide recognition as an authority on diseases affecting tropical plants, particularly sugar cane, bananas, and Manila hemp.

For three years, 1932 to 1935, Professor Reinking engaged in private research on the genus *Fusarium*; most of that research was done at the Biologische Reichsanstalt in Berlin, where he collaborated with H. W. Wollenweber in the publication of *Die Fusarien*.

On July 1, 1936, Dr. Reinking was appointed Professor and head of the Department of Plant Pathology at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, retiring April 30, 1950. In addition to organizing and directing the broad program of the department, he also carried on considerable research on pea root-rot, cabbage yellows, and other soil-borne diseases of vegetable crops and continued independent research on *Fusarium*. He published numerous bulletins and scientific articles pertaining to his Station projects and was author of more than ninety publications. His findings with regard to disease control in important canning crops grown in New York and his wide general knowledge and experience led to many demands upon him in an advisory capacity, both from his professional colleagues and from farm organizations.

During the Second World War, Dr. Reinking filled special assignments for the United States Department of Agriculture, the State Department, and the Board of Economic Warfare in Central America. Upon retirement from the Experiment Station he accepted appointment as Counselor in Plant Pathology, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, United States Department of Agriculture, and served for four years in the Philippines to aid in the development of research in the western Pacific area. He won the department's Superior Service Award in recognition of his contributions.

Professor Reinking was consultant for the United Fruit Company, 1956-1959. He also was invited by the U.S. Department of Interior to be a tropical plant disease specialist in the examination of cocoanut decline in the territory of Guam, February and March of 1961.

Dr. Reinking was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the American Phytopathological Society, the Botanical Society of America, the American Genetic Association, the Cosmos Club, the Explorers Club, Rotary, and Torch.

Dr. Reinking's scientific approach to a problem and his sound conservatism, coupled with a genial personality, won and held the respect and confidence of all who came in contact with him.

J. D. Lockett, W. T. Schroeder, J. M. Hamilton