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The Rockefeller University

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

news and notes

APRIL 1976 VOLUME 7 NUMBER 8

University Council Sponsors International Conference

Alexander Bearn (left) and James Linen at conference.

Left to right: Adolf W. Jann, Philip Handler, Sir Peter Medawar, Gerald M. Edelman.

Brooke Astor Honored

The New York Chapter of the ARCS Foundation, Inc. (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists) gave a luncheon on March 10 in celebration of the University's 75th anniversary and in honor of University Trustee Brooke Astor. A special citation for her many contributions to the cultural and educational life of the city was presented to Mrs. Astor by Chapter President Mary Lucy McGrath Smith, and a citation from the national ARCS organization was presented to Graduate Fellow Janet L. Gross, the current Rockefeller ARCS scholar.

The luncheon was attended by some 200 prominent New Yorkers, members of ARCS and friends of the University and of Mrs. Astor, among them Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller. They were addressed by David Rockefeller, chairman of the executive committee of the University's board of trustees, who extolled the quality of "concerned citizenship" that has marked Brooke Astor's participation in the activities of many of the city's major institutions and her work as president of the Vincent Astor Foundation, started by her husband. (In 1974, two Vincent Astor Professorships were endowed at the University.)

ARCS was founded in 1958 in Los

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ROCKEFELLER U. AT 75

Editorial, *The New York Times*, March 9, 1976

Rockefeller University's current celebration of its 75th anniversary is an event of international significance. Before the founding of what was initially the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, biological and medical investigation was essentially a cottage industry dependent upon the accidents of genius and circumstance that permitted the achievements of a Pasteur or a Koch. What John D. Rockefeller did was to create an institution for systematically fostering research genius by bringing together superlatively able scientists and providing them ideal conditions in which to work. It is impossible to conceive of modern medicine or biology without the remarkable contributions made by Rockefeller University scientists.

More than 400 leaders of industry, education, government, and foundations converged on Caspary Auditorium on March 8, at the invitation of The Rockefeller University Council, to participate in an international conference on the topic, Beyond Tomorrow: Trends and Prospects in Medical Science. During the day's proceedings, the conferees exchanged views with scientists, corporation presidents, medical educators, and technological experts who spoke on such critical questions as the future and funding of biomedical research, public health, and the role of science and technology in human affairs.

Philip Handler, president of the National Academy of Sciences, served as chairman for the first session, titled Basic Research: the Need for New Knowledge, at which Professor Gerald M. Edelman spoke on Scientific Quests and Political Customs: the Current Crises of Discovery and Government. Panelists Adolf W. Jann, president and managing director of F. Hoffmann-LaRoche & Co., Ltd., headquartered in Switzerland, and Sir Peter Medawar, Nobel Prizewinning immunologist of the Clinical Research Centre in Harrow, England, explored the as-

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The Princeton Years: 1914-1950

An important chapter in the University's history was written by the men and women shown in the photographs below and on page 4. Historian George W. Corner stated: "It would have been difficult to find anywhere in the United States a group of scientists, in a single institution, reaching so high a general level of distinction and official recognition as that of the Department of Animal and Plant Pathology of The Rockefeller Institute in Princeton, New Jersey, and in the associated laboratories of general physiology."

As part of the University's 75th anniversary celebration, the Princeton years—which ended in 1950—are being recalled in photographs, documents, and memorabilia currently on display in the Library.

Simon Flexner, first director of The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, had always considered that animal pathology belonged within the scope of the Institute's work. In 1913, an epidemic of hog cholera out west aroused the interest and financial support needed to create such a laboratory. A country site was deemed desirable because large animals would be under study. The tract of land that was purchased included a farm on which feed could be raised. Theobald Smith, a member of the Institute's board of directors, who was considered the country's most distinguished bacteriologist, left a professorship at Harvard to direct the new facility, which opened in 1916.

Smith and his co-workers, among them Norman R. Stoll, John B. Nelson, Richard E. Shope, and Carl TenBroeck, directed their attention first to the diseases of domestic animals of economic importance, making major contributions toward the understanding of hog cholera and influenza, bovine tuberculosis and mastitis, and poultry and sheep diseases. Shope, a greatly gifted researcher, demonstrated that swine influenza was caused by a virus acting in association with a bacterium. He was also the first to establish a virus as the cause of mammalian tumors—rabbit papilloma and fibroma—and to discover the cause of "mad itch" disease in cattle. TenBroeck, who succeeded Smith as director in 1930, demonstrated through his equine encephalitis studies that an animal virus can multiply in the body of an insect.

The animal studies were of immediate economic value. Beyond that, they helped to fulfill Smith's goal of better understanding and treatment of human disease; for Smith was, above all, a student of disease in its broadest sense, concerned with the critical task of establishing general principles of pathology.

A plant pathology division was added to the Princeton laboratory in 1931, headed by Louis O. Kunkel. He and his group made enormous strides in basic virology. The most significant of these was the isolation and characterization of the tobacco mosaic virus by Wendell M. Stanley. His work was based partly on methods developed by John H. Northrop who, a few years earlier, had achieved the first isolation of the animal enzyme, pepsin. Stanley and Professor Northrop, who is now emeritus, shared a Nobel Prize in 1946.

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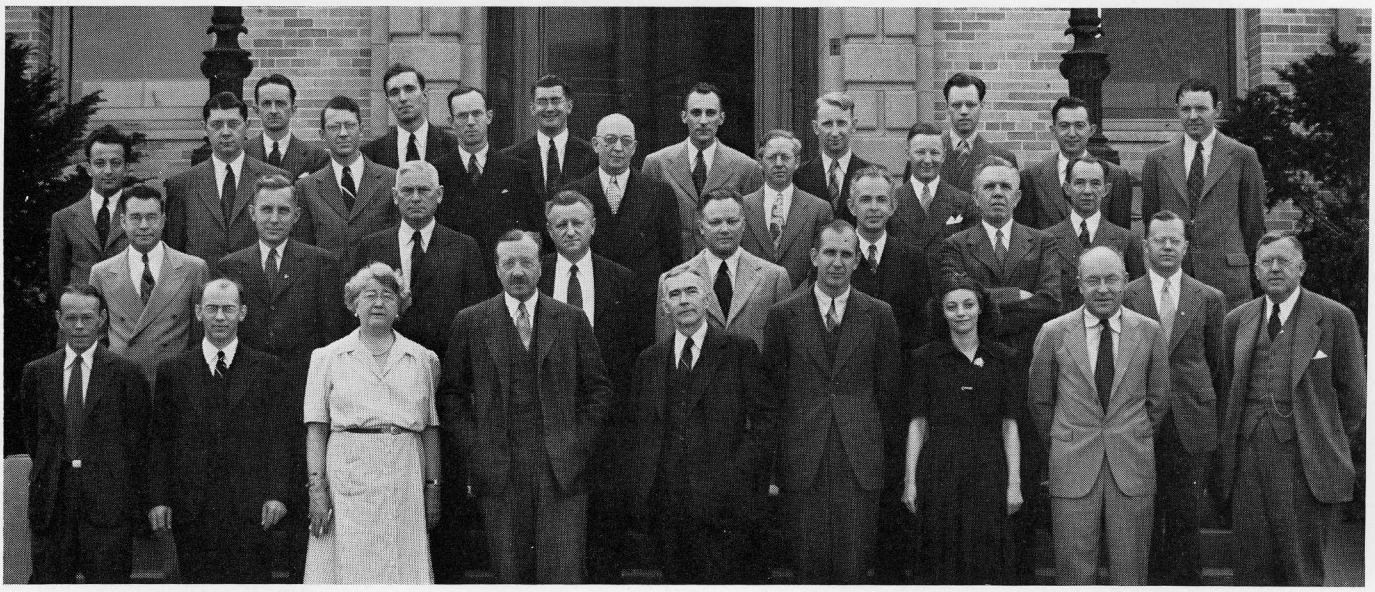
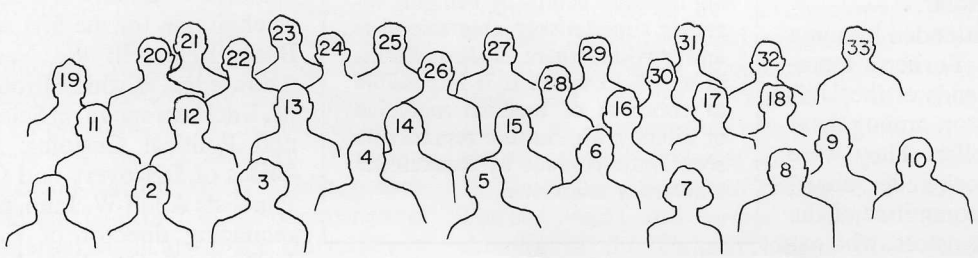


Princeton staff, April 30, 1942.

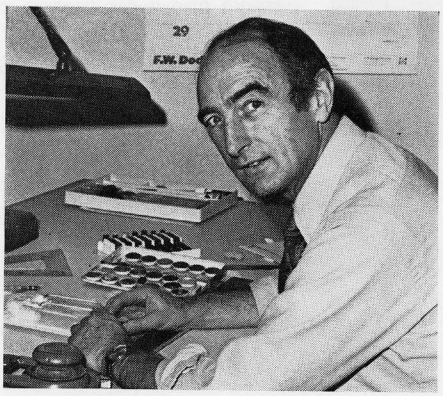


1 JOHN B. NELSON
2 W. CONWAY PRICE
3 LOUISE PEARCE
4 JOHN H. NORTHROP
5 WADE H. BROWN
6 RICHARD E. SHOPE
7 MARGARET R. MACDONALD
8 WENDELL M. STANLEY
9 CARL TENBROECK
10 LINDSAY MCL. BLACK
11 NORMAN R. STOLL
12 LOUIS O. KUNKEL
13 RUDOLF W. GLASER
14 MORTIMER L. ANSON
15 FRANCIS O. HOLMES
16 ERNEST W. SMILLIE
17 MOSES KUNITZ
18 WILLIAM TRAGER
19 T. LASKARIS
20 MAX A. LAUFFER
21 MALCOLM S. FERGUSON
22 JAMES A. BAKER
23 FREDERIK B. BANG
24 GEORGE L. GRAHAM
25 R. P. ELROD
26 RALPH B. LITTLE
27 ARMIN C. BRAUN
28 PHILIP R. WHITE
29 BJORN SIGURDSSEN
30 CLAUDE A. KNIGHT
31 GAIL L. MILLER
32 S. S. COHEN
33 ROGER M. HERRIOTT

Brennan Appointed

Sean Brennan, former head of the technical illustration department of McGraw-Hill, has been appointed chief technical illustrator in the University's Graphic Services division. He succeeds Nathalie Marshall, who has left New York.

During his five years with McGraw-Hill, his services were called upon by



the book, film, and teaching manual divisions. Before that, he was technical illustrator with a magazine publisher.

A native of Dublin, Ireland, where he attended the Dublin College of Art, Mr. Brennan held positions in Ireland and Canada before coming to New York. An ardent fan of the city and its cultural opportunities, Mr. Brennan also enjoys a yearly return to Ireland to backpack in the western hills.

IN PRINT

A major article on the University, on the occasion of its 75th anniversary, appears in the April issue of *Fortune* magazine.

Karl Landsteiner, a biography by Paul Speiser and Ferdinand G. Smekal originally published in 1961, has been published in an English edition by Verlag Brüder Hollinek, Vienna (1975). The translation is by Richard Rickett. Landsteiner, Nobel Prizewinner for his discovery of blood groups, was one of the early leaders in the study of immunology. He was a member of The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research from 1922 to 1943.

PERSONAL

Born, February 5, to **Subha Patel,** an assistant for research in the laboratory of Professor Frank H. Field, and her husband, Mahendra, a pharmacist, a son, Deepash, their first child.

BRIEFS

Professor **Konstantin Goulianos,** Experimental Physics, was an invited speaker at the XIth Rencontre de Moriond, an international conference on weak interactions held March 6–12 in Flaine, France. He spoke about the high energy neutrino experiment he is conducting at Brookhaven National Laboratory, in collaboration with scientists from Columbia University and the University of Illinois. Dr. Goulianos announced two new results: the observation of neutrino-proton elastic scattering and the discovery of muon-electron pairs induced by neutrinos. Both findings are of fundamental importance in the current effort to construct a unified theory of electromagnetic and weak interactions.

Professor **Neal E. Miller,** Physiological Psychology, was an invited speaker at the Adolf Meyer Symposium on Psychobiology, held March 15 at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine as part of a series of events planned in celebration of the 100th anniversary of The Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Miller, who received a citation in recognition of distinguished participation in the Centennial Scholars Symposia, spoke on Psychosomatic Effects of Learning.

Graduate Fellow **Gwyn Ballard,** Biochemistry, delivered a paper on Photochemical Ion Formation in Lumiflavin Solutions, at the annual meeting of the American Society for Photobiology, held February 16–20 in Denver.

Professor **René J. Dubos,** Environmental Biomedicine, received an honorary degree from St. Peter's College in Jersey City, New Jersey, where he delivered the 25th annual Mendel Lecture on March 9.

Professors **Sarah F. Leibowitz,** Physiological Psychology, and **Thomas C. Spencer,** Mathematical Physics, have been awarded Sloan Fellowships for Basic Research.

BLOOD BANK DAY—MAY 12

All members of the campus community are urged to sign up at the Personnel Office—any time in advance of May 12—to donate blood on that date at the Blood Center, 310 East 67 Street. All volunteers are entitled to draw on the blood bank for themselves or for members of their immediate family.

Mrs. Astor at the University.

BROOKE ASTOR *continued from page 1*

Angeles with the purpose of raising funds for science education. It has given more than a million dollars to nearly a thousand students. Since its formation, in 1972, the New York chapter, one of nine nationwide, has devoted its efforts to the support of graduate fellows at Rockefeller University.

Carl Binger Dies

Carl A. L. Binger, who was associated with the Rockefeller Hospital from 1919 to 1930, died on March 22 at the age of 86. A graduate of the Harvard Medical School, Binger began his career in general medicine. At the Hospital, he participated in early work on oxygen therapy for patients with lobar pneumonia. He later turned to psychiatry which he studied under Carl Jung. For many years, he was a professor of clinical psychiatry at the Cornell University Medical College, and, in 1939, assisted a Rockefeller group with a study of the psychiatric aspects of hypertension. He was a founder and president of the American Psychosomatic Society and editor-in-chief of *Psychosomatic Medicine.*

EASTER EGGSCLUSIVE

The Easter Sunday (April 18) egg hunt is scheduled for 10 A.M. on the lawn outside Caspary Hall (or in the Graduate Students Lounge if it rains). Rockefeller parents are reminded to please pay in advance—a dollar a child—which may be sent to Chin Chang through the University mailroom.

news and notes is published from October through July. This is Volume 7, Number 8. Suggestions for articles are welcome and may be sent to *news and notes*, Box 194. Phone extension 1420. Photographs: page 1, page 3 column 3, page 4 column 1, Allen Green; page 3 column 1, Henrik Boudakian.

THE PRINCETON YEARS

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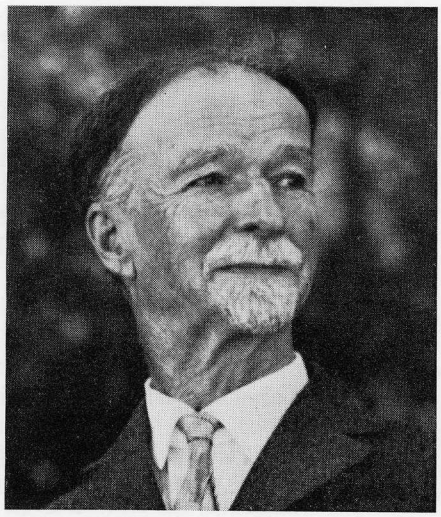
Northrop's physiology lab was not strictly within the main line of research at Princeton. Northrop had joined the Institute in New York, in 1915, as an assistant to Jacques Loeb. A rugged outdoorsman who hated city life, he managed, in 1926, to get himself transferred to Princeton. Among his lab associates was Moses Kunitz. In 1935 and 1936, the two isolated the pancreatic proteolytic enzymes and their inactive precursor forms. They also isolated a trypsin-inhibiting enzyme, thereby helping to explain the mystery of why powerful digestive enzymes do not destroy living tissue. Dr. Kunitz later went on to achieve the first crystallization and isolation of ribonuclease and other important enzymes. (In 1973, the University awarded him an honorary degree.)

After World War II, the administration deemed it best that the Institute's facilities be consolidated on the New York campus, and the Princeton laboratories were closed. Among those who made the move to York Avenue, Professors Francis O. Holmes, Moses Kunitz, John B. Nelson, and Norman R. Stoll are now emeriti. Professor Armin C. Braun, head of the University's laboratory of plant biology, works with plant tumors he cultivates in his greenhouses on the roof of Flexner Hall. (His secretary, Jeanne Ross, was formerly the librarian of the Princeton laboratory.) Professor William Trager, who began at Princeton as an assistant to Rudolf W. Glaser, an early expert in insect diseases and pest control, now heads the University's parasitology laboratory.



THEOBALD SMITH

In the library's exhibition is a letter written by Theobald Smith in 1933 in which he reflected on his life in science. The last line reads: "Each link has grown into a chain and the end of successive chain making is not in sight."

SIDELIGHT ON HISTORY

"The simple equality of all at luncheon impressed me very much. The most junior laboratory assistant sits alongside the most senior and distinguished chief. I saw Noguchi and Rouse (*sic*) wandering in the luncheon room, unable to get a seat. All have the same food, which was bad and badly cooked. But there was no fault to find with the mental food."

(Excerpt from a letter written by an English medical visitor to The Rockefeller Institute in 1927.)

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE

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Conference guest Albert B. Sabin

Speaker Lewis Thomas

pects of basic versus applied research in regard to priorities and funding.

The participants in the second session, on Clinical Investigation and Medical Education: Pressures for Choice and Change, discussed the multiple responsibilities of medical schools, particularly with regard to new pressures for the delivery of health care to the community. Principal speaker was Donald W. Seldin, professor and chairman of the department of internal medicine of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas. Co-panelists were Robert W. Berliner, dean of the School of Medicine, Yale University; Carleton Chapman, president of the Commonwealth Fund; Professor Attallah Kappas, physician-in-chief of the Hospital; and William N. Hubbard, Jr., president of The Upjohn Company, who chaired the session.

Don K. Price, dean of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, introduced the discussion on Science and Technology for World Problems: Opportunities and Constraints, by outlining three broad questions of pressing importance: what research areas offer the greatest promise or threat to the future; how well are our institutions equipped to cope with change; and what changes in basic beliefs have been wrought by science and what new insight will help science further human aspirations and welfare. The panelists were William O. Baker, president of Bell Laboratories and vice chairman of the University's board of trustees; Ruth M. Davis, director, Computer Science and Technology, National Bureau of Standards; Aurelio Peccei, chairman of Italconsult S.p.A., Italy, and founder of The Club of Rome, an organization which studies environmental problems; and Maurice F. Strong, chairman and president of Petrol-Canada and former executive director of the United Nations Environment Program. (Lord Eric Ashby of Cambridge University was unable to participate, as originally scheduled, because of illness.)

Patrick E. Haggerty, chairman of Texas Instruments, Inc., and of the University's board of trustees, introduced a session in which Lewis Thomas, president of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and a trustee of the University, spoke on Future Directions in Biomedical Research.

President Seitz opened the final session at which David Rockefeller, chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank and of the executive committee of the University's board of trustees, gave a talk titled The Pursuit of Excellence.

The Rockefeller University Council, chaired by Trustee James A. Linen III of Time, Inc., is composed of men and women who are leaders in business, public affairs, and the professions who seek to extend and enhance public awareness of the role of the University through such activities as the March 8 conference, which was funded by a grant from The Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation. Members of the conference planning committee were Alexander G. Bearn, University trustee, who served as committee chairman; William J. Comcowich, the University's public affairs officer; J. George Harrar, Jerome Holland, and Ruben F. Mettler, all members of the Rockefeller University Council; Professor Kappas; Vice President Rodney W. Nichols; Vice President and Professor Carl Pfaffmann, who is also chairman of the University's 75th Anniversary Planning Committee; and President Seitz.