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THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

news and notes

MAY 1979 VOLUME 10 NUMBER 8



Left to right: Alexander Kulynych, President Lederberg, Leah Woerner, John Chapman, Margaret Broadbent, Harold Millard.



Left to right: Ann Dupree, T. P. King, Nils Jernberg, Eugene Roth, Rebecca Lancefield, Victor Wilson, Carl Tiden, Frank Brink, Armin Braun, President Lederberg.



Retiree Rosetta Griffin, far right, with, left to right, Marjorie McCarty, Ann Dupree, and Clinic Aide Bertha Felder.

HONORS & AWARDS

Professor **René J. Dubos** has been elected to the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters as a member of the Department of Literature. Formal induction ceremonies will be held on May 23.

Maclyn McCarty, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Professor and co-leader of the laboratory of bacteriology and immunology, received the 1979 Academy Medal of the New York Academy of Medicine at its annual dinner on April 19.

Visiting Professor **Michael I. Posner** of the experimental psychology laboratory of Professor George A. Miller, and Visiting Associate Professor **Lloyd Demetrius** of the mathematics lab of Professor Mark Kac, have received John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowships, announced in April.

An Annual Celebration

Margaret Broadbent, John Chapman, Rosetta Griffin, Alexander Kulynych, Harold Millard, and Leah Woerner were honored on the occasion of their retirement at the University's annual Anniversary and Retirement Dinner on April 3.

Marking special anniversaries were Professor Rebecca C. Lancefield, 60 years (see story p. 3), and Professor Armin C. Braun, 40 years. Twenty-five year celebrants included Professor Frank Brink, Ann Dupree, group leader with custodial services, Instrument Design Engineer Nils A. Jernberg, Associate Professor T. P. King, Eugene Roth, assistant foreman of the cabinet shop, Assistant Instrument Design Engineer Carl R. Tiden, and Professor Victor J. Wilson.

Miss Broadbent, who joined The

Rockefeller 38 years ago, worked her way from secretary to subscription clerk to copyeditor to manager of the journals office where, since 1963, she has been responsible for supervising a large and well trained (by her) production staff.

Mr. Chapman took what he thought was a temporary job in 1954. He moved from washing dishes to elevator operator to night telephone operator, his post since 1961.

Mrs. Griffin came to the Hospital in 1961 as a ward helper. She has been a nurse's aide since 1972, a position from which ill health has necessitated her early retirement.

Mr. Kulynych, assistant supervisor of custodial service, is retiring to his home in Kerhonkson, New York, after

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Anti-Alcoholism Drug Kills Malaria Parasite

Professors Leonard W. Scheibel and William Trager have reported that disulfiram—a drug widely used in the treatment of chronic alcoholism and better known by its most common trade name Antabuse—prevents the growth and multiplication of the human malaria parasite in test-tube cultures.

They announced their findings in a paper at a session of the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), in Dallas, Texas, on April 3.

Until recently, malaria parasites had

to be grown in experimental animals or human volunteers, a process that made the development of new drugs and a malaria vaccine very difficult and expensive. Three years ago, Dr. Trager, head of the University's parasitology laboratory, and Professor James Jensen of his lab developed a method of growing a human malaria parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum*, in vitro by using normal human red blood cells, a readily available culture medium, and simple laboratory equipment. (See *news and notes*

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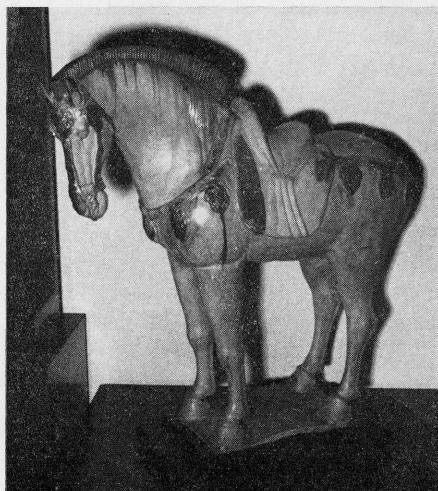
Show Chinese Ceramics

Chinese Ceramics from The Alfred E. Mirsky Collection, the first exhibit selected from the collection recently placed on deposit at the University, goes on view early in June in the Library on the second floor of Welch Hall.

Alfred E. Mirsky, a scientist whose contributions helped shape the fields of cell and molecular biology, was associated with The Rockefeller from 1927 until his death in 1974. In addition to his devotion to science, he was an ardent bibliophile and served as the University's librarian from 1965 to 1972. He also had a life-long interest in archeology and art history, especially Greek and Chinese art and antiquities. He travelled extensively in pursuit of his interest and over the years acquired an expert's knowledge and a superb collection.

Associated with the collection is a scholarly library documenting the history of the objects and the development of their study.

Polychrome lead glazed tomb guardian and horse, T'ang period, 8th century A.D., on view in the Library.



Testing Diet, Smoking on Drug Metabolism

The intensity and duration of the action of most drugs we take depends in large part on their rate of metabolism—the chemical processes by which the body assimilates, distributes, and transforms them. An important area of investigation in the metabolism-pharmacology laboratory of Professor Attallah Kappas, physician-in-chief of The Rockefeller Hospital, is to find out what factors affect drug metabolism.

Professor Karl Anderson, an M.D. from The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and a member of the Kappas lab since 1973, has been studying primarily the effects of nutrition on the metabolism of selected drugs. A number of findings have already emerged from his studies, for example, that high protein intake, charcoal broiling, and foods like cabbage and brussel sprouts accelerate metabolism whereas high carbohydrate or fat intake slow it down. (The drugs used in the tests were antipyrine, a pain-killer and fever-lowering compound, and theophylline, used in the treatment of asthma and lung disease.)

Last month, Dr. Anderson began a related study to test the effects of cigarette smoke on the action of the drug chlorpromazine, a common tranquilizer better known by the trade name Thorazine. Following that, he plans to

examine the effects of diet and smoking on the action of naturally occurring hormones such as testosterone and estrogen, which are responsible for the development and regulation of the secondary sex characteristics.

The people who participate in these tests must be in good health. Protocols set up by the clinical researchers in charge must be approved by the Institutional Review Board, which has the responsibility for seeing that all research at the Hospital with human subjects complies with federal regulations. The Volunteer Research Program, started in 1975, is coordinated by Teresa Ostaszewski and Susan Smolensky, both registered nurses and both previously head nurses in other hospitals before coming to Rockefeller. They solicit volunteers, mostly from among the young people of the York Avenue institutions, who are paid a small stipend for their participation. Nurses Ostaszewski and Smolensky are responsible for screening applicants, taking histories, administering blood and urine tests, keeping records, following procedural compliance, and coordinating with the diet kitchens.

Studies such as Dr. Anderson's and others in the Kappas lab have concrete clinical applications in refining drug therapy. They also contribute to a broader range of studies on the effects of many kinds of environmental substances we ingest, including potential cancer-causing agents.

Archive Center Grants

Eleven grants-in-aid to support research in the collections of the Rockefeller Archive Center were awarded by the Center's Governing Council at its quarterly meeting on February 6.

The projects range in subject from an investigation of the intellectual and sociopolitical origin of molecular biology, to studies of the development of intellectual groups in the United States, of social science, philanthropic foundations and black education, college culture, modern American medicine, physical sciences funding, American regionalism, Western medicine in China, and Frederick T. Gates.

The Rockefeller Archive Center, the former estate of the late Martha Baird Rockefeller in Pocantico Hills, New York, is the permanent repository of the archival collections of the Rockefeller Family & Associates, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Rockefeller Foundation, and The Rockefeller University, and is governed by the trustees of the University. Since 1977, it has awarded grants to 30 scholars in amounts ranging from \$400 to \$1,000.

Library Has MEDLINE, Times Information Bank

Librarian Sonya Mirsky announces that the University's Library now has access to the MEDLINE data base of the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland. Those wishing to use this computer-assisted literature search service can make arrangements through Library Assistant Douglas Many, extension 1275. The previous arrangement through which Rockefeller staff could use the MEDLINE service of the Cornell University Medical College has been discontinued.

The Library also now has access to The Information Bank of the New York Times for computer-assisted searches of newspaper literature. Additional data bases are being considered, and recommendations are welcome.

For information on charges for these services, call Mrs. Mirsky on extension 1274.

BRIEFS

Professor **M. A. B. Bég**, Theoretical Physics, was a guest lecturer at the University of California at Los Angeles during the month of February. His lectures focused on some aspects of Quantum Flavordynamics.

Professor **Te Piao King**, Biochemistry, delivered the opening lecture on Immunochemistry of Allergens at the Postgraduate Education Course at the 35th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, held March 24–28 in New Orleans. Professor **Merrill W. Chase**, Immunology and Hypersensitivity, presented a paper at the meeting on An Investigation of Tuberculin PPD (Purified Protein Derivative).

Senior Research Associate **Mary Jeanne Kreek**, Biology of Addictive Diseases, was an invited speaker at the Conference on Genetic, Perinatal, and Developmental Effects of Abused Substances, sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, held March 20–22 in Airline, Virginia. She spoke on Narcotic Disposition and Interactions During the Perinatal Period in Humans.

Professor **Neal E. Miller**, Physiological Psychology, delivered the opening paper at the Symposium on Coping and Health, held at the Villa Serbelloni, Bellagio, Italy, March 26–30. He spoke on A Perspective on the Effects of Stress and Coping on Disease and Health.

Dr. Miller has been elected to the board of directors of the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, affiliated with the New York State Department of Mental Health.

Executive Vice President **Rodney W. Nichols** was an invited speaker at the International Conference on Science and Technology Policy, sponsored by the Center for Science and Technology Policy of the Graduate School of Public Administration of New York University, held March 27–28. He spoke on Foreign Policy. Among the conference participants were Frank Press, Science and Technology Policy Advisor to the President, and Edward E. David, Jr., former Presidential Science Advisor.

Assistant Supervisor for Veterinary Services **Robert Schultze**, Laboratory Animal Research Center, has successfully completed the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science examination for certification as a laboratory animal technologist, the highest level of certification in the field of laboratory animal science.

For 60 Years Science Has Been "More Fun"

Every working day, Rebecca Lancefield does what she's been doing for over 60 years. She goes to her lab.

Dr. Lancefield is co-leader, with Professor Maclyn McCarty, of the University's renowned laboratory of bacteriology and immunology. Her lifelong research has been with streptococcal bacteria. Out of their huge number and diversity, she identified that group chiefly responsible for diseases in man. The Lancefield system of classification of the more than 60 types of Group A streptococci is considered the single most important contribution to medical understanding of streptococcal disease. As Dr. McCarty has stated, "A major portion of the concepts and methodology, as well as the detailed experimental analysis, which form the basis for our understanding of streptococci and streptococcal infections, has come from her laboratory. . . . In this field of science she is looked upon as an almost legendary authority."

According to the "legendary authority" herself, this remarkable career came about rather accidentally.

The daughter of an army officer, she was born in Staten Island, but was reared mainly in the South. Her mother, a woman Dr. Lancefield insists "could probably have been President of the United States if she hadn't had six daughters to rear," was greatly influenced by another legendary personage in that part of the country, Julia Tutwiler, a champion of education for women. The then Rebecca Craighill, daughter number three, was the first of the sisters to go to college. (Several others later followed. One went on to an M.D. degree from Johns Hopkins.)

In her first year at Wellesley, pursuing a liberal arts degree, she had an English teacher who made her students memorize long lists of titles and authors. By comparison, her roommate was studying zoology and "having much more fun." From that point on, Rebecca Craighill took all the science courses she could.

After graduation and a year teaching school in Vermont, she was able to get a scholarship to complete a master's degree at Columbia. She came to work at what was then The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in 1918 because "it was the only place that answered my job letters." She was hired as a temporary technical assistant to Oswald Avery and Alphonse Dochez. It was wartime and they had been requested by the Surgeon General to conduct a study of the streptococcal infec-

tions that were rife in military camps. The project lasted a year. Earlier that year, she married Donald Lancefield, a fellow graduate student at Columbia.

She then worked for two years with the Carnegie Institute and taught for a year at the University of Oregon where her husband had obtained a position. In 1922, when Columbia offered him an appointment, they "raced back" to New York. She returned to Rockefeller and, as she puts it, "they haven't been



Congratulations for Dr. Lancefield from President Lederberg at anniversary party.

able to get rid of me since." Working full time at Rockefeller, she was able to complete her Ph.D. at Columbia, "carrying my racks of test tubes back and forth between the two labs."

She was appointed an Institute assistant in 1925, associate in 1930, associate member in 1942, and member and professor in 1958. (Academic titles were adopted after Rockefeller became a graduate university.)

Among her many honors, Dr. Lancefield has received the T. Duckett Jones Memorial Award of the Helen Hay Whitney Foundation, the American Heart Association Achievement Award, the New York Academy of Medicine Medal, and honorary degrees from Rockefeller and from Wellesley College in 1976 on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of her graduation. She was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences in 1970 and is an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, London, and an emeritus fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine. She is a past president of the Society of American Bacteriologists and of the American Association of Immunologists.

Drs. Rebecca and Donald Lancefield, celebrating their 61st wedding anniversary this month, are also very proud grandparents.

P. S. 183 Needs Our Help

The York Avenue community can take pride in an increasingly rare asset in this city, an excellent public elementary school. To remain excellent, the school needs help from the members of the community.

There are a large number of children currently attending Public School 183 at 419 East 66th Street of parents who are associated with Rockefeller, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. According to a recent letter from the school's principal, Lloyd A. Torres, the curriculum at P.S. 183 has been adversely affected by the budgetary constraints imposed by the city's fiscal crisis. One of the areas that has suffered most is science.

Video Taping Available in Graphic Services

Color and sound video tape recording equipment, with attachments for filming microscopic work, is now available through the University's graphic services office.

According to Robert Keiber, graphic services manager, video tape recording offers a number of advantages over film. It is much more economical: charges for the service are the same as regular projection fees plus the cost of the tape. It has the capability of instant playback during recording for an immediate view of results. It does not always require special lighting. It has easy control for stop-and-start viewing from frame to frame. It is instantly processed; it never has to leave campus as is the case with film processing. It can be transferred to film, if desired.

Mr. Keiber suggests that video taping can be extremely useful for documenting campus events of historic interest and for scientific and clinical demonstrations. The University's equipment uses standard $\frac{3}{4}$ inch cassette which can be used with a network of tape facilities in other major universities and institutions. Conversely, the University's facilities can accommodate visiting lecturers.

For further information call Mr. Keiber on extension 1194.

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Dr. Vincent Monnier, a member of the University's medical-biochemistry lab and the father of two children enrolled at P.S. 183, has been working in cooperation with George Filipowski, president of the school's Parents' Association, to coordinate a program of supplemental instruction in elementary biology, chemistry, and physics. This pilot program is being designed for children in grades five and six.

They are asking for volunteers from the York Avenue institutions who would be willing to serve as guest instructors, beginning next September. If there are enough volunteers, Dr. Monnier says, each would be asked to devote only ten hours during the entire school year.

For further information, call Dr. Monnier on extension 1096.

PERSONALS

DEATHS

Herman Richter, Sr., 81, foreman of the paint shop from 1950 until his retirement in 1962 (and father of the present foreman, Herman Richter), on March 22.

Ida P. Rolf, 82, developer of the "Rolfing" technique of physiotherapy, on March 19. Dr. Rolf, a biochemist by training, was associated with The Rockefeller from 1917 to 1927, first as a technician, later as an assistant and then an associate.

APPOINTMENTS

Professor **Charles G. Crispens, Jr.**, Department of Biology, University of Alabama, Birmingham, as a visiting professor in the Laboratory Animal Research Center, effective June 1, 1979.

BEARN TO MERCK

Trustee Alexander G. Bearn, Stanton Griffis Distinguished Medical Professor and Professor of Medicine at Cornell University Medical College, has accepted an appointment as Senior Vice President for Medical and Scientific Affairs at Merck, Sharp and Dohme International, Rahway, New Jersey, effective March 1. He will remain affiliated with Cornell University Medical College.

ANNIVERSARY AND RETIREMENT

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27 years at Rockefeller.

Mr. Millard, a 40-year Rockefeller veteran, came as a night orderly. In 1946 he became night telephone operator and shortly after, head day operator. He will be moving to California to be with his sister, Mrs. Margaret Paterson.

Miss Woerner, head of food services, had an unusual experience at the party—she was the guest instead of the one in charge of serving guests.

Gifts were presented to the celebrants by President Lederberg.

Clinic Nurse Aglaia Hodza, who was with the Hospital for 25 years, and Laboratory Helper Mary Johanson, with the University for 26 years, also retiring this year, were unable to attend the celebration and were honored in absentia as was 25-year celebrant Robert Vranek, a group leader with the Laboratory Animal Research Center.

Special tribute was paid by Miss Broadbent to a familiar, well-loved member of the campus, Elsie Conklin, scheduled to retire this year, who died on March 3.

MALARIA PARASITE

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notes, May 1976). This technique made possible extension of earlier work on the metabolic differences between the parasite and the human host—differences which can be exploited in a systematic search for chemical compounds specifically toxic to the parasite but low in toxicity to the host.

Drs. Scheibel and Trager found that disulfiram prevents growth of the malaria parasite in cultures of human red blood cells at doses having as little as 1/100th of the strength of those administered to alcoholics in aversion therapy. When introduced into test-tube cultures of human red blood cells, disulfiram causes significant metabolic disarrangements in the parasite without adversely affecting the host cells. "It remains to be seen," they noted, "whether or not these findings can be translated into more effective antimalarials useful in the clinical situation."

This research in Dr. Trager's lab is part of a major effort promoted by the World Health Organization and the Agency for International Development to develop more effective drugs and a vaccine against malaria, which still ranks as the leading health problem in the world today and causes three million deaths a year.