

H. J. Muller - In Memoriam

On April 5, 1967, Hermann Joseph Muller, a leading biologist of our time, died in Indianapolis. He was seventy six years old.

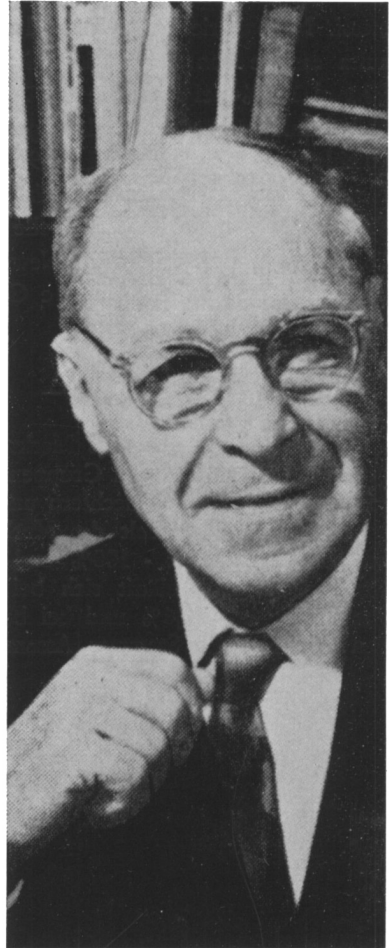
H. J. Muller was born in New York, on December 21, 1890. After studying biology at the Columbia University, around 1912, he started, in the Zoological Laboratory, his research studies in genetics. He was a member of that brilliant equipe of research workers who, under the guidance of Thomas H. Morgan and by means of the now famous vinegar fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, laid the fundamentals of modern genetics, building up the gene and the chromosomal theory.

It was around 1927 that Muller could bring to biology his most personal and significant contribution, for which he was conferred the Nobel Prize, twenty years later, in 1946. By discovering the mutagenic action of X-rays, he clearly demonstrated the existence of *mutation*, and provided biology with a new important pattern of research, which soon developed under the name of *radiation genetics*.

His political ideas lead him to accept various important positions in the Soviet Union. Between 1933 and 1937, he played a first rank role in the development of genetics in that country. He was a member of the Soviet Academy of Science, director of the Moscow Institute of Genetics, the counselor and planner of genetic research in the whole country.

Neolamarckian Michurinism was however coming forward, and Lysenko was preparing to launch his tragic offensive against neomendelian genetics. So, in 1937, conscious of the situation and of its possible evolution, Muller dismissed from his positions and left the Soviet Union.

After a few years spent lecturing at Edinburgh and at the Amherst College, he finally moved in 1945 to the Indiana University, as Professor of Zoology. There he spent his last 20 years. In 1953 he was appointed Distinguished Service Professor, and in 1964 Emeritus.



The Mendel Institute had the pleasure to be in touch with him, especially in the occasion of the Rome Second International Congress of Human Genetics, in 1961. There, as well as in Chicago on the occasion of the Third Congress in 1966, he once more stressed his controverted principles concerning the application in man of positive eugenics, which characterized, almost exclusively, the last years of his life.

He died at the Robert Long Hospital, in the same Indiana University where he had been teaching so long. Genetics has lost one of its founders, but holds the teaching of a great master.

L. Gedda

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Ianuarii 1967

Title of the second paper by Gedda *et al.*, p. 8-20

Errata

Corrige

A Case of Familial Chromosomal
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- J. E. MEADE, A. S. PARKES, *Biological Aspects of Social Problems*. X + 226 pages (including tables and illustrations). 22 × 14 cm. Binding and cover. Price: 50 s. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh & London, 1965.
- M. MILCU, C. MAXIMILIAN. *Genetica Umana*. 490 pages (including tables and illustrations). 21 × 14 cm. Binding and cover. Price: 19 Lei. Editura Stiintifica, Bucuresti, 1966.

Proceedings of a Symposium held by the Eugenics Society in October, 1964, including the following sessions:

Population Trends (chairman: Sir James Gray).

Social Mobility and Education (chairman: Sir Sydney Caine).

Genetic Aspects of Medicine (chairman: Prof. L. S. Penrose).

Aspects of Fertility Control (chairman: Sir Julian Huxley).

VLADIMIR HUDOLIN et al. *Jugoslavenska Bibliografija Alkoholizma*. II. Izdavac Pliva, Zagreb, 1966.

Volumetto rilegato, in formato 14 × 20, di 200+XXVII pagine, che fa seguito ad un primo volume analogo pubblicato nel 1964, in cui è raccolta la bibliografia iugoslava sull'alcolismo, dal 1886 al 1965 compresi, per complessive 2687 voci. Prezzo non indicato.