

## Marcus M. Rhoades

prominent faculty members. Marcus Rhoades is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences, a member of the American Philosophical Society, and one of a handful of Indiana University faculty honored with election to the National Academy of Sciences, of which he has been a member since 1946. His services to the development of the field of genetics have been outstanding, and he has given freely of his talents and energy to the scientific community. He was President and Vice-President of the Genetics Society of America and President of the American Genetics Association. He has been a member of the National Research Council and has served on review boards of the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. For many years he has been a member of the Educational Advisory Board of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and the Foundation's Committee of Selection which screens Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship applicants. Professor Rhoades was editor of *Genetics*, the foremost journal in the field, from 1941 to 1946, and has been a member of numerous editorial boards including those of the *Columbia Biological Sciences*, the *American Journal of Botany*, *The Botanical Review*, the *Journal of Heredity*, and the *Annual Review of Genetics*. He edited the first issues of the *Maize Genetics Cooperation News Letter* in the thirties and has maintained his involvement with it to this day. In 1958 he gave the Jessup lectures at Columbia University and has served as Visiting Professor at the University of São Paulo, North Carolina State College, Cornell University, and the Australian National University in Canberra. In 1962 Professor Rhoades received the Botanical Society of America Award for "Outstanding Contribution to American Botany." His contributions are truly exceptional. This is not the place to detail his scientific accomplishments and research contributions which are numerous and most significant to the development of his specialty, cytogenetics. He is one of the leaders in the field of Genetics and commands the admiration and respect of geneticists and biologists the world over.

Professor Rhoades has had twenty-six Ph.D. students. In September of 1973, a group of his former students and associates gathered in Bloomington to celebrate his seventieth birthday and presented him with a special issue of the journal, *Theoretical and Applied Genetics*, published in his honor. The Fest-

schrift contains sixteen papers by his former students, dedicated to him. The gratitude and appreciation expressed in this volume are evidence of the lasting impression he has made on his students and friends. He is remembered by his students for his friendly informality, his patient tutoring, his ready wit, as well as the thoroughness and dedication with which he presented his lecture material. Plainly speaking, Marcus is a "real nice guy" and all of us who were his students look back with nostalgia to our student days when we enjoyed the hospitality and generosity of Marcus and Virginia Rhoades.

Marcus Rhoades was born in Graham, Missouri, but grew up in Downs, Kansas. He received the B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Michigan and the Ph.D. degree from Cornell University. He was employed by the United States Department of Agriculture as a research geneticist in Ames, Iowa, and Washington, D.C., until 1940 when he accepted the position of Associate Professor at Columbia University. In 1948 he moved to the University of Illinois and ten years later came to Indiana University as Chairman of the Department of Botany. Although he was much more interested in research and student training than in administration and had turned down numerous offers of deanships, he was an excellent chairman and held that post until 1968 when he reached the age of compulsory retirement from administrative service.

Marcus Rhoades has always been an active person and quite a sports enthusiast. He was a track man and a pole vaulter at the University of Michigan. A heart attack and a ventricular aneurysm in his late sixties hardly slowed him down. He continues to put in a full day's work, seven days a week in the summer in the corn field, Maize Genetics Research Plots, on North 37. While he will be a hard man to replace, his retirement will hardly be noticed in Jordan Hall where he will undoubtedly continue to maintain his routine of working sixty or more hours per week, but now enjoying the luxury of devoting all of his energies to research.

Indiana University has been fortunate to attract many other distinguished teachers to its faculty, but through his warmth, compassion, modest and unassuming manner, Marcus has made an exceptional impression and has earned the love and admiration of all who have known him.

Drew Schwartz

With the retirement of Professor Marcus M. Rhoades in June 1974, Indiana University loses the formal services of one of its most