HUDSON HOAGLAND

Hudson Hoagland was born in Rockaway, New Jersey, December 5, 1899, and died in his Southboro, Massachusetts, home March 4, 1982. He made of his eighty-two years an exciting time of it. Hudson had a rare combination of abundant enthusiasm and insatiable intellectual curiosity, and he plunged, fully alert to every detail, into every mystery which he encountered. When he was close to the end of his life he was still motoring about, going to committee meetings of learned societies, and visiting his friends. On one of these occasions a passing neighbor saw Hudson stopped by an emergency telephone box on route 495 and pulled up close by to help him. 'Thanks,' said Hudson. 'There is no trouble. I just wanted to see how this thing works.'

His degrees from Columbia (B.S., 1921), MIT (M.S., 1924), and Harvard (PH.D., 1927) honed his knowledge and skills as an investigator and discoverer. At first his career brought him into the research and teaching laboratories of universities-Harvard, Cambridge University, Clark University. From there he pioneered in the cofounding of an institute of basic research unconnected with hospital or university, unfettered by custom or administrative rules, and, alas, unendowed. This was the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology, established in 1944 and continuing to flourish today as one of the most productive research centers in the realm of biological discovery. The Worcester Foundation is known throughout the scientific world for its steady and prolific contributions, and unforgettable in social history for Hudson's working partnership with Gregory Pincus and Dr. Min-Cheuh Chang which produced 'the pill.'

Hudson's special interest was the brain: how it works, what influences human behavior. He had no doubt as to the social value of man's mental work, but, especially after the bomb, he began to wonder if the brain might not be a phylogenetic cancer which could destroy us all.

All his days Hudson sought for the means to enhance the quality of life and to ensure the continuation of the living web of earthly existence. He was one of the founders of the Conference of Science, Philosophy and Religion; he promoted his interest in peace through world law; and he gathered all the evidence he could find which explained how aberrant animal behavior arose, how violence split into the pieces of self- and social annihilation. His political opinions, often contrary to those of his friends, arose from his devotion to the whole supportive structure of life and his anger at any social or political program which endangered it.

With so much to fear in a world of increasingly distorted values, Hudson never missed a party, a chance to be among people and enjoy good conversations, affectionate greetings, laughter, and promotion of the idea that knowledge through research was important to everyone. He married Anna Plummer on June 9, 1920, and they had four children: Mahlon Bush, Ann Holland, Peter, and Joan.

He was honored by universities, learned societies, and humanitarian organizations. He served as president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1961–64), president of the Society of Biological Psychiatry (1967–68), trustee of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, and more.

Hudson enjoyed his membership in the American Antiquarian Society, which began in 1963. He accepted all meetings as priorities, and gave his full attention to programs over which he presided. He advised the Society on fundraising, served as chairman of the nominating committee from 1968 to 1969, and in 1975 served on the ad hoc committee to study and to recommend courses of action and programs for the future.

Hudson was outstanding in his chosen profession of scientist, and exceptional in his achievements in friendship. His con**Obituaries**

cern for world peace and justice rose to a religious intensity in his life and gave it final purpose.

Hudson Hoagland is survived by his son Mahlon (president of the Worcester Foundation) and daughter Joan, thirteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Wallace Woodsome Robbins

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