

OBITUARY

JOHN N. BELKIN

1914 - 1980

Dr. John Nicholas Belkin, Professor Emeritus of Entomology of the University of California, Los Angeles, died April 25, 1980, at the age of 66 at his home in Los Angeles.

John was born in Petrograd, Russia. In the turmoil that followed World War I, his family managed to emigrate to France and eventually to the United States. John went to school in New York and worked part-time at the American Museum of Natural History. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University in 1938, and became Dr. Robert Matheson's assistant, upon graduation. In 1942, he went to the Tennessee Valley Authority as an entomologist and shortly afterwards was commissioned in the Sanitary Corps of the U. S. Army. He was the Commanding Officer of the 420th Malaria Survey Detachment and served for 21 months in the Solomon Islands (1943-1945). His extensive surveys and collections later served as a basis for his monumental work "Mosquitoes of the South Pacific," a work which goes far beyond the region covered in that it serves as the basis for a glossary of mosquito terminology. John was pulled out of the South Pacific area to serve on General MacArthur's staff as a liaison officer with the Russian military mission. He was one of the first officers to enter Tokyo, and served as an interpreter to the Russians at the Japanese surrender aboard the U. S. S. Missouri. After World War II, he returned to Cornell to finish his Ph.D. (1946). He then worked at Rutgers University and the Associated Colleges of Upper New York. In 1949, he became an Assistant Professor of Entomology at the University of California, and in 1959, became a full Professor.

John helped organize the Biological Research Institute of America, a non-profit research foundation, where he served as Vice-President.

John's meticulous studies on the Mosquitoes of Middle America, resulted in numerous publications of untold value. He was an avid field collector and developed many of the collecting, rearing and recording techniques that are now used by most workers in mosquito biology and systematics. John was a perfectionist and his works are proof of his zeal. His many graduate students were fortunate to have the opportunity to imbibe of his knowledge and experience. Recently, the mosquito genus *Johnbelkinia*, was named for him by one of his students.

John was awarded the AMCA Medal of Honor at the Salt Lake City meeting, for his outstanding contributions to mosquito systematics.

The Dr. John N. Belkin Memorial Fund has been established at the American Mosquito Control Association, 5545 Shields Avenue, Fresno, California 93727, to further mosquito systematics. Tax deductible donations may be made to AMCA for this fund.

We all will miss this wonderful human being, a giant of a man who contributed so much of himself to the benefit of mankind.

Eugene J. Gerberg, Ph.D.