



## **An Abridged History of the Genetics Society of America**

*Compiled from the Records of the Genetics Society of America and the GENETICS Journal, 1931-2008 by staff member Karen Goodman, Spring 2008.*

In 1931 at the New Orleans meeting of the American Society of Zoologists, the Genetics Society of America (GSA) was formed from the reorganization of the Joint Genetics Sections of the American Society of Zoologists and the Botanical Society of America.

Officers were chosen at the New Orleans meeting to serve the new society for 1932. L.C. Dunn was elected as president. Membership of the GSA was opened to any person actively interested in any field of genetics, and prospective members had to be recommended by two current members of the society. At its inception, membership totaled 337 with yearly dues of \$1.00.

An arrangement with the *American Naturalist* was made to publish and distribute abstracts to members before the Annual meeting without charge. The first annual meeting was held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, December 27-30, 1932. The attendance numbered approximately 50.

The second Annual meeting was held at Harvard University on December 28-30, 1933. Approximately 60 people attended with 38 papers presented.

The subsequent meetings and highlights of the years are as follows:

**1934** 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual-Pittsburgh, PA, Dec. 27-29, 1934, attendance 80-100

First summer meeting at Berkeley, CA, June 20-21 in connection with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Western Society of Naturalists, and the Botanical Society of America.  
Woods Hole, MA, Aug. 23-24, attendance 75

**1935** 4<sup>th</sup> Annual-St Louis, MO, Dec. 31-Jan. 2, 1936, attendance 200

Branch meeting with the Society of Zoologists-Princeton, NJ, Dec 30, 1935-Jan. 1, 1936  
Woods Hole, MA, Aug 23 & 24, 1935, attendance 143

**1936** 5<sup>th</sup> Annual-Atlantic City, NJ, Dec. 29-31, 1936

Woods Hole, MA, Sept 3-5, 1936, attendance 149

**1937** 6<sup>th</sup> Annual-Indianapolis, IN, Dec. 28-30, 1937

Woods Hole, MA, Aug. 30-Sept 1, 1937, attendance 188

**1938** 7<sup>th</sup> Annual-Richmond, VA, Dec. 28-30, 1938

Ottawa, CAN, June 27-July 2, 1938

Woods Hole, MA, Sept 1-3, 1938

**1939** 8<sup>th</sup> Annual-Columbus, OH, Dec. 28-29, 1939, attendance 300, membership 483

7<sup>th</sup> International Congress-Edinburgh, Scotland, Aug. 23-26, 1939.

◆ *At a Pre-Congress activity in London, recommendations for an international system of genetic nomenclature and symbolization of genes was proposed.*

◆ *This 7<sup>th</sup> International Congress, which was postponed from the originally scheduled Moscow meeting in 1937, was held in Edinburgh, Scotland. Over 550 members attended-150 from the US, a large*

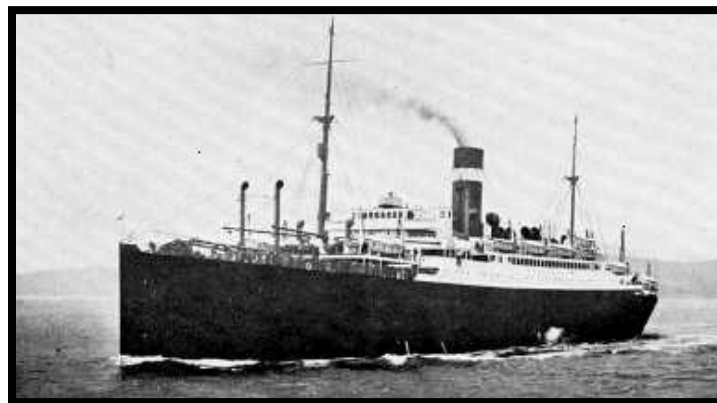
group of British, approximately 40 Germans, and an equal number of Scandinavians. There were smaller numbers from France, Italy, Switzerland and Poland. No Russians attended. Since Dr. N. I. Vavilov, the elected president of the Congress from Leningrad, did not come to the meeting, Dr F. A. E. Crew from the University of Edinburg and the general secretary of the Congress, was unanimously elected President.

◆The large number of varied papers presented and the great number of exhibits and demonstrations made this a very successful, if shortened meeting.

◆By August 25, war threats caused a large number of delegates to leave the meeting, resulting in the meeting ending a day and a half early.

Transportation back to the US became very serious when many regular transatlantic passenger ship routes were suspended at the end of the Congress. Over 100 Americans were housed in a university hostel and given gas masks. For ten days they experienced black-outs and air raid alarms until transportation opened up and they attempted to go home.

Dr. Fred Tinney, a GSA member and an employee of the US Dept. of Agriculture, and his wife were on the passenger liner **Athenia**, the first civilian casualty of WWII lost on the opening day of the war. Tragically, they were among the 118 passengers who perished by drowning when the liner was sunk without warning by a German submarine whose captain mistook it for a armed merchant cruiser. Several of the GSA members on the **City of Flint** were given recognition for meritorious service in the rescue of over 200 survivors from the **Athenia**.



The Cunard passenger liner, Athenia



**1940** 9<sup>th</sup> Annual-Philadelphia, Dec. 30, 1940-Jan 1, 1941

**1941** 10<sup>th</sup> Annual-Dallas, TX, Dec. 29-31, 1941 (*cancelled due to war*)

◆*Several of the Society members were drawn into military training. The remaining members continued to attend to their scientific interests.*

*The Society conducted a successful letter writing campaign to support the continuity of Federal funding for research during the war when reduction of non-defense appropriations was threatened. This brought grateful appreciation from many.*

*Although the Society prepared for the annual meeting in spite of the war, the meeting in New York, scheduled for Dec. 29-31, 1942 was ultimately aborted in late November when the Office of Defense Transportation requested that all conventions, which were not directly connected with the war effort, be cancelled. Initially, several severe criticisms were directed at the ODT for the delay in requesting cancellation of the meeting, but the GSA secretary determined that the criticism was unjustified when it was revealed that the ODT made the initial request for cancellation at the beginning of 1942. It was on the basis of information from advisory groups that led GSA to believe that because the federal government reconsidered and continued to financially support scientific research during the war, our meetings would not be cancelled. This encouraged the Society to go forward with the plans for the meeting. However, when GSA asked the ODT directly in November, it was determined that problems of transportation took precedence over every other consideration.*

◆*GSA was invited to affiliate with the American Society of Agricultural Sciences. GSA members were not obligated to join ASAS, but membership to ASAS was discounted, provided they joined through GSA.*

◆*Several sets of **Records of the Genetics Society of America** were bound and presented to the Library of Congress, Stanford University, the University of Chicago, The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, and the Carnegie Institute of Washington in Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.*

◆*There was a prospective round-table conference proposed to discuss how geneticists might use their expertise in the war effort.*

◆*The practice of dropping members for nonpayment of dues was waived in the cases of 5 foreign members because correspondence with them had been interrupted by the war.*

**1942** no annual meeting because of war

**1943** no annual meeting because of war

◆*James Otis Beasley, a First Lieutenant serving in the Chemical Warfare Service, was killed in action in Italy on September 12, 1943. Before the war Dr. Beasley was an Agronomist and Cytogeneticist at the Texas Agricultural Experimental Station. Beasley was considered by many to be one of the most brilliant young men in the field of genetics. He joined the GSA in 1939.*

**1944** 12<sup>th</sup> Annual-Cleveland, OH, Sept. 12- 14, 1944 (*cancelled due to war*)

◆*Dues were raised to \$2.00 annually.*

**1945** no annual meeting because of war

**1946** 14<sup>th</sup> Annual- St. Louis, MO, March 28-30, 1946. This was the delayed 1945 meeting.

◆*Membership totaled 594 in 1946, with most members coming from New York, California and Massachusetts.*

◆*A letter was sent to 31 selected senators and representative and to the Civil Service Commission in Washington to protest the change in the minimum educational requirements for the Civil Service examinations. Most of the recipients of the letter responded with a non-committal reply.*

### Notice

Will members of the Society who have returned from service with the armed forces or the government please get in touch with the Secretary as soon as possible? Thank you.

*From the Records of the Genetics Society of America, number 14, 1946*

◆ *Dues were reduced to \$1.50 for 1947.*

◆ *As one means of help to war-torn countries, it was agreed that reprints and journals were to be supplied to individuals or laboratories where they had been destroyed.*

◆ *The motion to support establishment of an organization to represent all biologists was carried.*

◆ *GSA member Robert Harlan MacKnight was honorably discharged from the Navy after succumbing to battle fatigue and disillusionment while serving in the Pacific. He tried to return to genetics after returning to the United States, but committed suicide about six months after returning from the war. He was 29 at the time of his death.*

**1946** 15<sup>th</sup> Annual-Boston, Massachusetts, Dec. 27-31, 1946

◆ *Total membership enrollment was 629. The recent Nobel Laureate (1946), H. J. Muller, and the President-elect of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, E. W. Sinnott, were included in that number.*

◆ *An appeal for money, food and transportation was made from the Committee to Aid Geneticists Abroad. The Society voted to allow the endorsement of special worthy foreign geneticists to the State Department.*

◆ *GSA became a member of the new National Society for Medical Research, an organization of biological, dental, medical and veterinary societies which was established to "advocate essentially complete and completely factual reporting of developments in the biological sciences."*

**1947** 16<sup>th</sup> Annual-Chicago, Illinois, Dec. 29-31, 1947

◆ *The Society's sympathy was sent to Dr. C. C. Little, Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory at Bar Harbor, for a devastating fire which destroyed unique strains of experimental animals along with records, manuscripts, preserved material and living animals.*

◆ *127 members contributed \$1,167 to the Aid to Geneticists Abroad Committee for food packages and help with finding positions for the displaced geneticists abroad. Many of the food packages were sent to Germany. Two positions were found in another country, and the geneticists were sent money to move their families to the new positions.*

◆ *A list of names of geneticists in former enemy countries who requested reprints, was supplied to the membership committee with directions how to forward reprints to those people.*

**1948** 17<sup>th</sup> Annual- Washington, DC, Sept. 11-13, 1948

◆ *This meeting immediately preceded the Centennial Celebration for the American Association for the Advancement of Science.*

◆ *Thirty-nine care packages were sent to geneticists in Germany, Austria and Hungary. Since the food situation overseas had improved, and there was still money left in the fund, the remainder of the funds was used to find new positions for certain displaced scientists. There was difficulty securing jobs for these people because of recent legislation that prohibited entrance into this country unless a position was secured beforehand. Since government agencies, such as the USDA, were not allowed to employ aliens, we had to find positions for these people elsewhere.*

◆*The Society had 705 members. The few foreign members who could not pay their dues were kept as inactive until they could resume payment of dues.*

◆*GSA became a member of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), a newly formed organization that would support biologists. AIBS coordinated the programs of its member societies that met in Washington, DC on September 11, saving the societies a great deal of labor.*

**1949** 18<sup>th</sup> Annual- New York City, Dec. 28-30, 1949

◆*Dues for 1949 were increased to \$3.50.*

◆*The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) welcomed three new societies into its ranks in 1948 and represented approximately 12,000 American biologists.*

◆*The Agricultural and Biological Sciences was considered one of six advisory committees to the Selective Service. A program was created to use students and scientists, including biologists, effectively in the draft.*

◆*The Air Forces provided \$15,000 for a Handbook of Biological Data. The first 35 pages of the book dealt with data on blood. A collaboration of scientists was needed to suggest what types of data would be included.*

◆*Unsolicited funds of \$65 and two larger gifts were made by Society members to the Committee on Aid to Geneticists Abroad. Dr. Savitsky, a displaced Russian geneticist who was brought to this country last year, has insisted on paying back the full amount of expenses for himself and his family.*

◆*A letter was sent to the members asking for information on possible positions for scientist-refugees.*

◆*The report of the Annual Meeting of the Division of Biology and Agriculture, National Research Council on May 5, 1949 stated the need to find an answer to the problem of abstracting and indexing the voluminous amount of scientific publications.*

◆*A report was given by the Committee to Counteract Antigenetics Propaganda. The Committee has found articles on Soviet Science, the relation of politics to science, and the importance of scientific freedom. Without funds for dissemination of such articles, individual members would have to pay for the distribution of their own contributions to the subject.*

*The Society was asked by the Committee to clearly express a majority opinion of the importance of keeping up a vigorous program of education of the public concerning the attacks on genetics, both in the past and continuing in the present. The Committee had definite information that the pressure against genetics was being heightened by the Communist Party in western countries, and many educated people, as in the past, were being influenced.*

*A motion was made to celebrate 50 years of progress in the science of genetics. A part of this celebration would be a commemorative program at the 1950 meeting in Columbus, Ohio.*

*The Society was involved in considerable discussion about the idea of nominating a committee to speak for the Society in matters of vital interest. It was decided to table the motion until the annual meeting in 1950.*

◆*Because the Society had grown so rapidly, there would have to be concurrent sessions in future meetings, and presentations that were read would not go over ten minutes.*

**1950-19<sup>th</sup>** Annual- Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 11-14, 1950

◆*The main theme of the Golden Jubilee Program focused on the advancement of genetics in the past 50 years. Speeches were given by five renowned geneticists from Europe; T. Caspersson, Sweden; Boris Ephrussi, a French geneticist of Russian origin; C. D. Darlington, Britain; Arne Muntzing, Sweden; and, Julian Huxley, Britain.*

*To commemorate the fifty years' anniversary of Mendelism, the journal published English translations of Mendel's letters to Carl Nageli, which illustrated the breadth of Mendel's biological interests and give insight into his personality. Also, translated publications of the three men who rediscovered Mendel's work, De Vries, Correns and Von Tschermak showed the different ways these three men reached their conclusions of his work.*



*Gregor Johann Mendel  
July 20, 1822-January 6, 1884  
"Father of Genetics"*

*Dr. Richard Goldschmidt, professor emeritus of the University of California, spoke on "The Impact of Genetics on Science" to kick off the Golden Jubilee Celebration. Dr. Goldschmidt's talk reflected the importance of genetics to almost every branch of science, especially the biological sciences.*

*Dr. W. E. Castle presented a very interesting paper on "The Coming of Mendelism." Dr. Castle was a witness to the coming of Mendelism and took an active part in the very early stage of genetic research, which he continued even after his retirement from Harvard.*

*◆Four deserving institutes and laboratories were chosen to each receive a gift of genetics books. The laboratories chosen to receive these books were:*

*Institut Carnoy, University of Louvain, France.*

*Genetisch Instituut, Huis de Wolf, Haren, Germany.*

*Instituto di Genetica, Universita di Milano, Italy.*

*Japanese Sericultural Experiment Station, Taketoyo Branch.*

*◆The following letter was translated and read by the president.*

*Dr. Curt Stern, President  
Genetics Society of America*

*Dear Curt:*

*Soon after the end of the war, I received a letter from Dr. Cleland, Chairman of a committee of the American Genetics Society asking me to compile a list of German Geneticists who were in need and who might be sent food packages. Consequently great numbers of such packages were received by many of my colleagues including myself. Will you please express to the Genetics Society at its Golden Jubilee Meeting my deepest thanks for this most generous material help. I am convinced that I express these feelings of gratitude in the name of all German geneticists and investigators. I was particularly impressed by this proof of a feeling of the belonging together of all humanity since it came at a moment when we in Germany could hardly expect such consideration. I am certain that you know what I have in mind.*

*Sincerely yours  
Johannes Hammerling*

◆*The Committee on Aid to Geneticists Abroad was looking for a position in the US for a renowned German geneticist who wanted to spend a few years as a fellow, or in a research position. His interest was in commercial seed production or crop improvement. Because of his opposition to the Nazis during the war, this scientist lost his job. After the war he won the position of head of one of the leading German institutes of genetics, only to lose this job also because it was located in the Eastern Zone and he made known his anti-Lysenko convictions. He ended up being a refugee in the American sector of Berlin. The Committee was looking for help from the Society's members and was willing to vouch for this man. His name was withheld for security reasons.*

◆*Bentley Glass was to have given the report of the Committee to Counteract Anti-Genetics Propaganda. A telegram was received that read "Delayed by train wreck. Will you present report of Special Committee?"*

*The Committee was dealing with the problem of how to speak for the Society in "matters affecting the freedom of science." There were three things that seemed significant to our goals:*

- 1. Vigorous and outspoken defense of scientific freedom and rebuttal of distortions of genetics.*
- 2. Any committee in the Society had the right and responsibility to bring forward its findings and conclusions.*
- 3. No committee would assume the responsibility of defending scientific freedom and combating anti-genetic propaganda on behalf of the Society except when that committee represented the majority opinion of the Society.*

*It was recommended that a Standing Committee on Public Education and Scientific Freedom should be formed.*

**1951-20<sup>th</sup> Annual- Minneapolis, Minnesota, Sept.10-12, 1951**

◆*Dues were raised to \$4.00 for a regular member.*

◆*The basis for the functions and methods of procedure for the new Committee on Public Education and Scientific Freedom were selected. The Committee would:*

- 1. Have the power to take action on all public matters of concern to the Society.*
- 2. Have the right and responsibility to publish or make statements for publication, but with the requirement that it speak and publish solely as a committee of the Society, and not in the name of the Society as a whole.*
- 3. Have the unanimous opinion of the members of the Committee when it makes a statement, or have been approved by members of the Society.*
- 4. Have within its scope the freedom of science and anti-genetics propaganda and foster the understanding of the contributions and applications of genetic knowledge.*
- 5. Plan and execute a long range policy of public education in the methods, principles, and applications of genetics.*

**1952-21<sup>st</sup> Annual, Ithaca, New York, September 8-10, 1952**

*GSA and the other 23 participating societies, or more than four thousand people, met at the Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. This was the largest assemblage of biologists in an American university setting to date. It was sponsored and organized by AIBS, an organization which was becoming increasingly important to all biologists.*

**1953- 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual, Boston, Massachusetts, December 28-30, 1953**

◆*At this meeting a committee was appointed to examine the Gregor Mendel Museum at Mary Washington College in order to find a permanent home for the exhibits closely associated with the life of Mendel.*

◆*The GSA Executive Committee was authorized to work with McGill University in organizing the Tenth International Congress of Genetics.*

**1954-23<sup>rd</sup>** Annual, Gainesville, Florida, Sept. 6-8, 1954

◆*The GSA made a statement regarding foreign personnel who attend scientific congresses in the United States. In this statement, GSA stated that in order to have the most productive scientific gatherings, there should be a free interchange and discussion of scientific results. To enable this, visas issued to foreign scientists who attend these gatherings for the purpose of presenting the results of their researches should be in a different category, without the restrictions set for the foreign person applying for residence in the United States.*

◆*The GSA agreed to organize and sponsor the Tenth International Genetics Congress, to be held at McGill University in Montreal on August 20-27, 1958.*

◆*GSA members were very concerned to hear that research projects approved by the National Institutes of Health had been denied approval by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Information reflecting adversely on the loyalty of the grant applicants was cited as the reason, and the applicant was not given an opportunity to answer these charges. GSA believed this to be a violation of the Executive Order of President Eisenhower, April 17, 1953, which guaranteed, to Federal employees at least, the basic rights of notice and hearing when charges have been made against them. GSA believed that our national security depended on the competence, zeal and enthusiasm of our scientists and their research.*

*GSA urged the HEW department to:*

- 1. discontinue the practice cited above.*
- 2. invite re-application to grants that were denied and where the opportunity to answer charges against the scientist was not provided.*
- 3. prohibit cancellation of future grants unless the person charged had a full opportunity to reply.*



*Joseph Raymond McCarthy  
November 14, 1908-May 2, 1957*





Daniel Fitzpatrick, *St Louis Post-Dispatch*, Feb 23, 1947

◆ *GSA membership totaled 992.*

**1955-24th Annual, East Lansing, Michigan, September 6-8, 1955**

◆ *GSA welcomed two new genetic societies, Italy and Canada.*

◆ *The GSA committee on the Smith College Genetics Experiment Station, formed to help the staff members of the College close the Experiment Station after the death of A. F. Blakeslee, made recommendations, which were accepted by the authorities and were being carried out. These recommendations included the continuation of work through the calendar year 1955 during which time the principal strains of *Datura* would be grown and seed would be collected in October. These would be available to any geneticist interested in growing plants for genetic studies. The remainder would be placed in cold storage.*

**1956-25<sup>th</sup> Annual, Storrs, Connecticut, August 27-29, 1956**

◆ *The Mendel Museum was purchased by the University of Illinois and would be housed there.*

◆ *The collecting phase of indigenous strains of maize ended and the material was described and arrangements made for its preservation. Some 11,000 collections now in cold storage were to be renewed periodically by growing. This material would be made available to maize breeders and for genetic studies.*

◆ *The Institute of Animal Resources reported that standardization and certification of laboratory animals had been given more attention. It was hoped that eventually laboratories could order experimental animals with the same confidence that they have had when they ordered CP (chemically pure) chemicals.*

◆ *The GSA approved a proposal for "an overall study of retirement problems" by a committee of the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council.*

◆ *The total membership was 1064.*

**1957- 26<sup>th</sup> Annual, Stanford, California, August 26-28, 1957**

◆ *The Chairman of the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources reported on the formulation of standards of mouse production and their acceptance by mouse breeders and users. He also told GSA of the recent establishment of an International Committee on Laboratory Animals.*

◆ GSA voted to sponsor an exchange visitors program under the Department of State for the foreign nationals attending the Tenth International Congress in Montreal. This program would enable foreign attendees to visit laboratories and institutions in the U.S.

**1958-** 27<sup>th</sup> Annual, Montreal, Canada, August 20-27, 1958 (Tenth International Congress of Genetics)

◆ GSA held its annual business meeting in Montreal at the same time as the Tenth International Congress of Genetics but did not present any scientific sessions. A committee of the GSA organized the Congress, which had 45 countries represented.

◆ The need for quality science textbooks was discussed at the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council and reported to us by our representative. It was suggested that individual scientists aid in updating science education and public understanding of science in their neighborhoods.

◆ A standing committee was appointed to advise and coordinate the preservation and maintenance of genetic stocks of species such as small laboratory mammals, *Drosophila* and other insects, Maize, *Neurospora* and other microorganisms.

◆ The GSA voiced concern over the population's exposure to increasing levels of radiation from medical, industrial and military sources. GSA emphasized a need to increase basic understanding of the damaging effects of radiation.



Technical Associates Juno Ad 1957

**1959-** 28<sup>th</sup> Annual, University Park, Pennsylvania, August 31-September 2, 1959

◆ It was reported by the GSA representative to the AIBS that AIBS undertook a 5-year project to study the problems of communication among biologists.

◆ AIBS translated Soviet journals and planned to extend this service to include Chinese and possibly Japanese publications as well.

**1960-** 29<sup>th</sup> Annual, Stillwater, Oklahoma, August 29-31, 1960

◆ The Committee on the Maintenance of Genetic Stocks reported that:

1. The new *Drosophila melanogaster* stock center at Fox Chase, Pennsylvania, maintained 1,800 stocks, 800 of these were duplicates from the center at Cal Tech.

2. A stock center for Fungi, Algae and Protozoa was established at Dartmouth.

3. There were discussions on the advisability of having the American Type Culture Collection store selected strains of bacteria and phage that would be useful for research and teaching purposes.

◆ The GSA considered assuming full responsibility for the publication of the *GENETICS* journal.

**1961-** 30<sup>th</sup> Annual, Lafayette, Indiana, August 28-30, 1961

◆ GSA was now publishing *GENETICS*, which would continue as primarily a periodical record of investigations on heredity and variation. As its official journal, subscription of the journal was to be an integral part of active membership.

◆ The report from the representative of the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council:

At the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting the general sessions were devoted to the impact of the atomic age on science and the effect it had on the attitude of the public toward scientists and research. It was suggested that in dealing with the public, scientists emphasize the control man has gained over his environment through science, enhancing the positive rather than the terrible destructive aspects of science.



If the Bomb Falls: A Recorded Guide to Survival [ 1961, TOPS Records ]

Released shortly after JFK's Civil Defense appeal to America in the pages of LIFE magazine, this chilling spoken word LP was issued complete with a bonus insert manual on how to construct a "Family Fallout Shelter."

◆ The total membership of the society was 1,307.

1962- 31<sup>st</sup> Annual, Corvallis, Oregon, August 29-31, 1962

◆ Printing of the RECORDS was suspended. Instead, starting in 1963, the information previously printed there would be published as a supplement to GENETICS.

◆ On December 13, 1962, the GSA was incorporated under the laws of the state of California as a nonprofit tax-exempt corporation. The first Board of Directors was R. D. Owen, S. Emerson, and E. B. Lewis.

◆ The report from the representative of the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council:

This meeting was concerned with the need for greater cooperation between various scientific disciplines. Since the spread of industrialization all over the world was inevitable, the scientists and engineers of the advanced countries should act as catalysts in helping develop science and technology in other countries. There was also a very great need for a program of cooperative research in basic biology on an international scale. Problems requiring such an international approach were due to the sudden changes in environment, as well as the spectacular growth of human populations and the advance of civilization; the physiological stresses which people were exposed to because of their rapidly changing ways of life; and the changes in genetic constitution of human populations caused partly by the rapid advance in civilization.



### **Rachel Carson 1907-1964**

*“Only within the moment of time represented by the present century has one species -- man -- acquired significant power to alter the nature of his world.”*

**1963-** 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual, Amherst, Massachusetts, August 28-30, 1963

◆ *President Jack Schultz’s statement at the business meeting touched on three important issues for the GSA to consider:*

*“1. How do we reconfigure our meetings to address the splitting of the science into subgroups and the confrontation of “classical genetics” and “molecular genetics? With each group having its own special jargon, how do we maintain a unity for the field?*

*2. Because each group has its own special jargon, not always understandable by the other groups, we need to split the meeting into the individual disciplines.*

*3. What should be the relationship of the GSA to the smaller groups?”*

◆ *The GSA membership totaled 1762.*

**1964-** 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual, Boulder, Colorado, August 24-26, 1964

◆ *We were in need of another representative to the reorganized NCRP, National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. The NCRP was important to geneticists because the recommendations for acceptable doses of radiation, although without government regulation, were widely observed and respected. Since geneticists recognized that genetic damage done to descendants of those exposed can be five to ten times greater than to the people who were originally exposed, it was important to have effective representation by geneticists in organizations such as this.*

**1965-** 34<sup>th</sup> Annual, Fort Collins, Colorado, Sept. 7-10, 1965

◆ *Approximately 900-1,000 people participated in the meeting.*

◆ *Dues were \$14.00 annually for regular members.*

◆ *At least 22% of members were graduate students, which hopefully predicted a healthy future for the Society.*

◆ *The ATCC, American Type Culture Collection, moved to its new facility in Rockville, Maryland. The objective of this organization was the collection, propagation, preservation and distribution of authentic or genetically characterized cultures of algae, protozoa, bacteriophages, bacteria, rickettsiae, fungi (including yeasts), animal viruses, and animal cell lines. Under consideration was a program for preserving red blood cells to be used in genetic analysis of antigens. ATCC continued to make worthwhile contributions to some of our members. Some of them were:*

*1. The recovery of viable Tetrahymena from preparations frozen by methods being developed for the long-term storage of biological or botanical materials.*

*2. The selective provision of cultures for teaching purposes at reduced cost.*

*3. The acquisition of wild-type and mutant cultures of microorganisms.*

4. *The identification of cells and small organisms.*
5. *The determination of taxonomic and evolutionary relationships existing in appropriate forms of life.*

**1966-** 35<sup>th</sup> Annual, Chicago, Illinois, Sept. 1-3, 1966

◆ *The centennial of Thomas Hunt Morgan's birth was held at the same time as the annual meeting, with evening lectures dedicated to his memory.*

◆ *Membership totaled 2,099.*

◆ *Total registration at the meeting was 466.*

**1967-** 36<sup>th</sup> Annual, Stanford, California, August 31-September 2, 1967

◆ *Membership totaled 2,322.*

◆ *Genetics Literature, a new feature in GENETICS was started in December.*

◆ *Report of the International Biological Program. The issues important to GSA members were:*

1. *Development of a worldwide inventory of animal germ plasm including an on-site evaluation of the potential contribution to animal production. Also, establishment of germ plasm banks and the maintenance of stocks nearing extinction.*

2. *Creation of a conference to consider more rapid methods of recording taxonomic information.*

3. *A proposition for support for the International Meeting of Animal and Dairy Science Societies to be held at the University of Maryland in 1968.*

4. *A study of the effectiveness of foreign training and the problem of putting established methods and systems for increasing animal productivity in underdeveloped countries.*

5. *Other areas considered:*

■ *Fish production*

■ *Comparative studies of animal behavior*

■ *Reproductive rates in animals*

■ *Animal diseases including those transmissible to man.*



*H. J. Muller, December 21, 1890-April 5, 1967  
"One hundred years without Darwinism is enough."*

**1968-** 37<sup>th</sup> Annual, Boston, Massachusetts, November 11-13, 1968

◆ *Total registration for this meeting was 690.*

**1969-** 38<sup>th</sup> Annual, Madison, Wisconsin, August 18-20, 1969

◆ *The report on the American Type Culture Collection:*

*A new freeze-drying service was offered to the scientific community by the ATCC. This service would, for a fee, freeze-dry cultures or collections belonging to individual scientists wishing to take advantage of the excellent facilities and expertise in preserving certain types of organisms.*

◆ *As of April, 1969 there were 2,828 members.*

**1970-** 39<sup>th</sup> Annual, Seattle, Washington, August 24-26, 1970

◆ *The booklet, "Careers in Genetics" was published by the GSA Education Committee.*

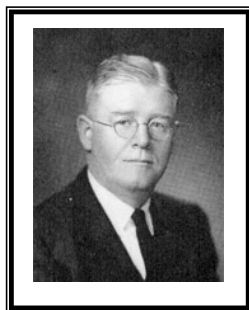
**1971-** 40<sup>th</sup> Annual, Rochester, New York, August 23-25, 1971

◆ *Membership totaled 2,345. A decrease of 148 from the previous year.*

◆ *Report of the Committee on the Maintenance of Genetic Stocks:*

*This was the list of stocks and where they were housed.*

<i>Algae</i>	<i>Indiana University</i>
<i>Amphibia</i>	<i>University of Michigan</i>
<i>Axolotl</i>	<i>Indiana University</i>
<i>Barley</i>	<i>Colorado State University</i>
<i>Bee</i>	<i>University of California (Davis)</i>
<i>Cockroach</i>	<i>Virginia Polytechnic Inst</i>
<i>Drosophila</i>	<i>California Inst of Technology</i>
<i>Drosophila</i>	<i>Bowling Green State Univ</i>
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	<i>Yale University</i>
<i>Fungi</i>	<i>Humboldt State College</i>
<i>Habrobracon</i>	<i>University of Delaware</i>
<i>Maize</i>	<i>University of Illinois</i>
<i>Maize (wild relatives)</i>	<i>Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami</i>
<i>Mormoniella</i>	<i>Middlebury College</i>
<i>Mice</i>	<i>Jackson Laboratory</i>
<i>Mice</i>	<i>Cornell University Medical Center</i>
<i>Tribolium</i>	<i>California State College, San Bernardino</i>
<i>Salmonella</i>	<i>University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada</i>
<i>Yeast</i>	<i>University of California, Berkeley</i>
<i>Also: Viruses,</i>	
<i>Algae, bacteria, protozoa</i>	
<i>Fungi, animal cells</i>	<i>American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, Maryland</i>



*Ralph E. Cleland*  
*October 20, 1892-June 11, 1971*  
*Past President, 1955*

**1972-** 41<sup>st</sup> Annual, Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 27-September 1, 1972

◆ *Membership totaled 2,197.*

◆ *Under discussion was the dissolution of the incorporation in the state of California and the incorporation instead, in the state of Texas, where the business office of GENETICS was located.*

**1973-** 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual, Berkeley, California, August 20-29, 1973 (International Congress)

◆ *No annual scientific meeting was held because of the International Congress of Genetics.*

◆ *Dues were \$14.00 for regular members.*

1974- 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual, Bloomington, Indiana, August 11-14, 1974

◆ *Membership totaled 2,412.*

◆ *Leslie Clarence Dunn, November 2, 1893-March 19, 1974, GSA president in 1932 and one of its founders.*



L.C. Dunn, left, with Barbara McClintock (ca. 1940's)

1975- 44<sup>th</sup> Annual, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, August 17-20, 1975

◆ *The report of the Committee on Maintenance of Genetic Stocks:*

*The Committee remained concerned that important stock centers as well as other genetic resources would be lost because there was no national or international effort to preserve these resources. Some beginnings were being made to develop a national plan for the support of genetic stock centers.*

◆ *The Society was concerned over the restrictions placed on certain individuals to attend the Moscow Congress. GSA would monitor actions of the Soviet Union regarding restrictions, and, if there were restrictions placed, GSA would withdraw from the Congress.*

◆ *Resolution of Genetics, Race and Intelligence (taken directly from the July 1976 volume 83 No.3 Part 1 supplement of GENETICS)*

*Preamble:*

*Recent years have seen a revival of concern about the relative importance of genes and environment in determining differences in intelligence among individuals, social classes, and races. The controversy and the extreme views expressed are not new. The excesses of the early eugenics movement show the pitfalls of naïve hereditarian assumptions. Equally unsupportable is the doctrinaire environmentalism that denies any significant role of heredity in important human behavioral traits. Since even well-meant social policies may be harmful if based on error or inadequate knowledge, we believe that the views of many geneticists should be considered in trying to resolve the current controversy.*

*Statement:*

#### ***Measurement of intelligence***

*Because of their reproducibility and widespread use, IQ scores have been the basis for most analyses of genetic and environmental contributions to intelligence. Nevertheless, their limitations as measures of intelligence are widely recognized. Indeed, intelligence has never been defined to the satisfaction of all social scientists. The interpretation of IQ scores is especially troublesome when comparisons are made between different cultural groups. These limitations must be borne in mind in any genetic analysis.*

#### ***Factors influencing IQ***

*IQ scores are attempts to measure the quantitatively varying character of intelligence; such characters are usually influenced by both genetic and environmental factors whose effects and interactions are often difficult to separate unambiguously. Although there is substantial agreement that genetic factors*

are to some extent responsible for differences in IQ within populations, those who have carefully studied the question disagree on the relative magnitudes of genetic and environmental influences, and on how they interact. Moreover, in general, even if the variation in trait is largely genetic, this does not mean that the degree of expression of that trait cannot be significantly altered by environmental manipulation. Nor does a large environmental component in variation necessarily imply that we can easily change it.

### **Racial and class differences in IQ**

It is particularly important to note that a genetic component for IQ score differences within a racial group does not necessarily imply the existence of a significant genetic component in IQ differences between racial groups; an average difference can be generated solely by differences in their environments. The distributions of IQ scores for populations of whites and of blacks show a great deal of overlap between the races, even in those studies showing differences in average values. Similar although less severe complexities arise in consideration of differences in IQ between social classes. It is quite clear that in our society environments of the rich and the poor and of the whites and the blacks, even where socioeconomic status appears to be similar, are considerably different. In our views, there is no convincing evidence as to whether there is or is not an appreciable genetic difference in intelligence between races.

### **IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIETY**

All human populations have a vast store of genes in common; yet within populations, individuals differ in genes affecting many characters. Each population contains individuals with abilities far above and below the average of the group. Social policies, including those affecting educational practice, should recognize human diversity by providing the maximum opportunity for all persons to realize their potential, not as members of races or classes but as individuals. We deplore racism and discrimination, not because of any special expertise but because they are contrary to our respect for each human individual. Whether or not there are significant genetic inequalities in no way alters our ideal of political equality, nor justifies racism or discrimination in any form.

### **THE ROLE OF GENETICISTS**

It is our obligation as geneticists to speak out on the state of current knowledge on genetics, race, and intelligence. Although the application of the techniques of quantitative genetics to the analysis of human behavior is fraught with complications and potential biases, well-designed research on the genetic and environmental components of human psychological traits may yield valid and socially useful results, and should not be discouraged. We feel that geneticists can and must also speak out against the misuse of genetics for political purposes, and the drawing of social conclusions from inadequate data.

◆ The membership was polled to determine which members wanted to have their names associated with this resolution. Over half of the members responded, and 94% of that amount did want to have their names associated with this resolution.

**1976-** 45<sup>th</sup> Annual, Salt Lake City, Utah, August 15-18, 1976

◆ The XIV International Genetics Congress was held in Moscow, August 21-30, 1978. Several members of GSA mentioned that recent meetings in Russia were relatively free of any restrictions; therefore all members were urged to attend.

◆ There was concern about the rapidly decreasing support for stock resources. Several important stocks faced extinction because of lowered priorities and commitments of federal agencies, state institutions, and private institutions.

**1977-** 46<sup>th</sup> Annual, Austin, Texas, August 14-17, 1977

◆ Membership totaled 2,742.

◆ Mohammad G. Rabbani, a member of the GSA, died in Manaus, State of Amazonas, Brazil on February 2, 1977. He died of acute renal failure following severe mixed infection of *Plasmodium falciparum* and *P. vivax* acquired at Km. 153 of the Manaus-Caracari Highway, while doing research on *Nopheles darlingi* for the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia. He was 31 at the time of his death.



*Mohammad was considered INPA's first medical scientist to be martyred in the study of Malaria in the Amazon.*

◆ *GSA provided advice to the Environmental Protection Agency concerning various recombinant DNA issues. The Society continued to monitor and respond to recombinant DNA legislation.*

◆ *Report of the Committee on Historical Documents*

*This GSA committee was given five tasks to accomplish:*

1. *To preserve the significant archival materials relevant to the development of genetics, the careers of geneticists, the professional societies and institutions concerned with genetics, and the relation of genetics to popular thought and to social and political institutions. These materials should also include documents not ordinarily acquired by libraries, such as unfruitful books, popular, diversionary, and "lunatic" literature and ephemera necessary to document the social history of genetics, its impact on thought, and its abuses. Attention should be given to mimeographed or Xeroxed reprints of committees, conferences and meetings, grant applications, panel reports, and representative editorial records and correspondence of journals.*

2. *To promote the efforts of libraries, archivists and historians concerned with the history of genetics.*

3. *To inform geneticists about the available repositories and procedures and impress upon them the importance of preserving historical documents.*

4. *To encourage the production of bibliographies and descriptive lists of relevant library holdings.*

5. *To encourage the recording of memoirs by persons whose careers have embraced genetics and related sciences.*

**1978-** 47<sup>th</sup> Annual, Columbia, South Carolina, June 4-7, 1978

◆ *Membership totaled 2,810.*

◆ *Dues were raised to \$24.50 for a regular member.*

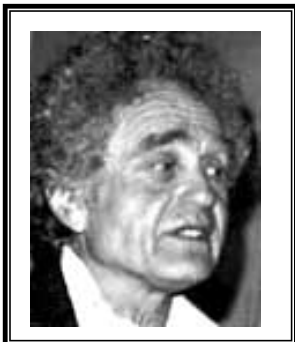
◆ *Statement of the Board of Directors:*

*"The recent imprisonment in the U.S.S.R. of Yuri Orlov, coming only three months before the XIV International Congress of Genetics is scheduled to be held in Moscow, compels the Board of Directors of the Genetics Society of America to condemn Orlov's sentence as a violation of the basic right of free speech. We reaffirm commitment of the Genetics Society to the positions of the International Council of Scientific Unions that international scientific meetings be free of political activity.*

*We believe that attendance and participation in the Moscow Genetics Congress is a matter for each individual to decide, weighing the conceivable effects of refusal against anticipated benefits of attendance.*

*We recognize the importance, especially for Soviet scientists, to have an opportunity to interact with geneticists from other countries in an atmosphere favoring free exchange of ideas. Attendance would also affirm the importance of openness of international scientific meetings to participants from all countries.*

*We emphasize that attendance by U.S. geneticists in no way signifies approval of measures taken by the Soviet government against scientists such as Orlov and Sergei Kovalev. We also understand and sympathize with any geneticist who, in protest, now chooses not to participate in the Moscow Genetics Congress."*



*Yuri Orlov, nuclear physicist, born in Moscow, August 13, 1924*

*"He helped found the Soviet chapter of Amnesty International (1973), founded the first Helsinki human rights monitoring group (1976), and was arrested for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" (1977). After 7 years in prison and strict-regime labor camp and 2 1/2 years in Siberian exile, he was deported to New York City". (from the American Physical Society Web site)*

**1979-** 48<sup>th</sup> Annual, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, August 20-22, 1979

◆ *The requirement of signatures by two members of the Society on applications for membership was abolished.*

◆ *Report from the Committee on Historical Documents:*

*The library of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia is already a leading repository of materials for the history of genetics. They now have records of the GSA, the American Society of Human Genetics, the American Eugenics Society, and some of the International Congresses of Genetics.*

◆ *Report from the Information Committee:*

*Visas were not issued to all of the Israeli geneticists who applied to attend the XIV Congress in Moscow. Several invited participants withdrew in protest. Despite the good will of the local organizing committee, there was still selected access to Moscow. This should be remembered when planning future meetings.*

**1980-** 49<sup>th</sup> Annual, Boulder, Colorado, August 18-20, 1980

◆ *Two medals would be awarded annually. "The Thomas Hunt Morgan Award" would be given to a member for a lifetime devoted to research in genetics of the highest quality. "The Genetic Society of America Medal" would go to a member for outstanding research in genetics accomplished during the past 10 years.*

◆ *In order to modernize the operation of the GSA, a business office, in place of the present office in Austin, would be established. This office would be run by an executive secretary who would work under the direction of the officers of the Society.*

**1981-** 50<sup>th</sup> Annual, Raleigh, North Carolina, June 15-17, 1981

◆ *Membership totaled 2,476.*

◆ *There was a contract established with University Microfilm International to make GENETICS available in microfilm.*

◆ *The new business office was located in Washington, DC. It provided a central office to disseminate information about genetics to government, industry and students. GSA set up the office with the American Society of Human Genetics to save operating costs.*

◆ *The Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal was awarded to Marcus M. Rhoades and Barbara McClintock. The GSA Medal went to Beatrice Mintz.*

**1982-** 51<sup>st</sup> Annual, New Haven, Connecticut, June 14-16, 1982

◆ *Dues were raised to \$45 for regular members to defray the cost of the new office.*

◆ *GSA contacted science academies of third world countries to determine whether they would like to receive back issues of GENETICS.*

◆ *The Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal went to Sewall Wright, and the GSA Medal went to Gerald R. Fink.*

**1983-** 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual, St. Louis, Missouri, June 12-16, 1983

◆ *Membership was 2,211.*

◆ *The transfer of funds and records from the former business office in Austin to the new office in Rockville, Maryland, was completed. GSA shared an office with the American Society of Human Genetics with Ms. Gerry Gurvich as executive secretary.*

◆ *The Board urged the President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, the President of the Vavilov Society for Genetics and Selection, and the USSR Ambassador to the U. S. to allow V. N. Soyfer to work as a geneticist or to be able to leave the Soviet Union.*

◆ *Edward B. Lewis won the Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal. Charles Yanofsky received the GSA Medal.*

**1984-** 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual, Vancouver, British Columbia, August 12-16, 1984

◆ *GSA's incorporation was dissolved in the state of Texas and incorporated in the state of Maryland.*

◆ *Membership totaled 2,699.*

◆ *The Board of Directors approved:*

1. *Making up to 50 awards each year of up to \$600 each to allow students to attend annual meetings.*

2. *Awarding up to 25 fellowships each year of approximately \$2,400 each. Fellows will spend eight weeks during the summer months working in the laboratory of a GSA member. The fellowships are intended to provide funds for travel and subsistence costs and a stipend.*

3. *A committee would be set up to evaluate the implementation of providing up to 25 subscriptions of GENETICS to libraries in small U.S. colleges and libraries in developing countries.*

◆ *The "Directory of Members," which has been part of the Society's records, was now published as a separate publication. The directory included members of the GSA, as well as the ASHG and the American Board of Medical Genetics.*

◆ *Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal- R. Alexander Brink and George W. Beadle. GSA Medal- David S. Hogness.*

**1985-** 54<sup>th</sup> Annual, Boston, Massachusetts, August 11-15, 1985

◆ *Recipients of Society Honors: Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal- Herschel L. Roman; GSA Medal- Philip Leder.*

◆ *Membership totaled 2,648.*

◆ *The Society transferred its corporate status from Texas to Maryland.*

**1986-** 55<sup>th</sup> Annual, Urbana, Illinois, Jun 8-10, 1986

◆ *Membership totaled 2,619.*

◆ *The annual meeting experimented with an all-poster format for contributed papers.*

◆ *Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Meeting, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, June 3-8, 1986 (held prior to the annual GSA meeting).*

◆ *The Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal was awarded to Seymour Benzer, and the GSA Medal was awarded to Gerald M. Rubin.*

**1987-** 56<sup>th</sup> Annual, San Francisco, California, June 13-16, 1987

◆ *Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology, San Francisco Hilton & Tower, June 16-21. After 1987 this meeting will only occur in odd-numbered years.*

◆ *The Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal was awarded to James F. Crow, and the GSA Medal was awarded to Sydney Brenner.*

◆ *Discount chemicals were offered to the members through American Biorganics, Inc.*

**1988-** 57<sup>th</sup> Annual, Toronto, Canada, August 20-27, 1988

◆ *This meeting was merged with the International Congress of Genetics.*

◆ *Membership totaled 3,033.*

◆ *29<sup>th</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference, Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto, Canada, August 17-20, 1988.*

◆ *Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal to Norman H. Giles; GSA Medal to Ira Herskowitz.*

**1989-** 58<sup>th</sup> Annual, Atlanta, Georgia, Jun 30-July 2, 1989

◆ *Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Meeting, Atlanta Hilton and Towers, Atlanta, Georgia, June 27-July 1, 1989*

◆ *30th Drosophila meeting, New Orleans Hilton Riverside and Towers Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 26-30, 1989*

◆ *The Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal was awarded to Dan L. Lindsley, and the GSA Medal to Allan C. Spradling.*

◆ *Membership totaled 3,527.*

◆ *Report of the Genetic Stock Centers Committee:*

*Funding mechanisms that would provide the stable support required to effectively fulfill wise accumulation, safe storage, and universal dissemination of genetic material were needed.*

**1990-** 59<sup>th</sup> Annual, San Francisco, California, July 18-July 21, 1990

◆ *31<sup>st</sup> Drosophila Conference, Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, California, March 20-25, 1990*

◆ *Attendance at the Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology and GSA meetings was drastically lower than anticipated.*

◆ *The GSA was exploring campus sites for future GSA meetings because the number of attendees has declined in recent years.*

◆ *Membership totaled 3,362.*

◆ *The Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal went to Charles Yanofsky. The GSA medal was awarded to Nancy Kleckner.*

**1991-** 60<sup>th</sup> Annual, Washington, DC, October 6-11, 1991

◆ *The annual meeting was held in conjunction with the 8<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Human Genetics.*

◆ *32<sup>nd</sup> Drosophila Conference, Chicago Hilton Towers, Chicago, Illinois, March 20-24, 1991.*

◆ *Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Meeting, San Francisco Marriot, May 23-27, 1991.*

◆ *The recipient of the 1991 Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal was A. D. Kaiser. B.S. Baker was the recipient of the GSA Medal.*

◆ *Membership totaled 3,515.*

**1992-** 61<sup>st</sup> Annual, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota, June 19-22, 1992. This was to be the last general annual meeting of GSA.

◆ *33<sup>rd</sup> Drosophila Conference, Wyndham Franklin Plaza, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 11-15, 1992*

◆ *5<sup>th</sup> Chlamydomonas Conference, Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, California, May 26-31, 1992*

◆ *The Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal went to Edward H. Coe, Jr. this year, and the GSA Medal to Maynard V. Olson.*

◆ *The GSA made a concerted effort to improve education in genetics, biology and science in general at the pre-college level.*

◆ *Gerry Gurvitch retired. Elaine Strass was selected as her successor.*



*Barbara McClintock, GSA President 1945  
June 16, 1902-September 2, 1992*

◆ *GSA became a member of the Joint Steering Committee for Public Policy, which informs Congress of the important federal investment in biomedical research.*

### **1993**

◆ *The International Congress of Genetics was held in Birmingham, England, August 15-21. The annual 62<sup>nd</sup> GSA meeting was subsumed into the Congress.*

◆ *Membership totaled 4,042.*

◆ *Although China was proposed as the next location of the XVIIIth International Congress to be held in 1994, the human rights situation in China caused the Board to decide against this option.*

◆ *34<sup>th</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference was held at the Town and Country Hotel in San Diego, California, March 31-April 4.*

◆ *Yeast and Molecular Biology Meeting was held in Madison, Wisconsin, June 8-13.*

◆ *Dues were \$70 for a regular member with an increase expected next year.*

◆ *Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal to Ray D. Owen; GSA Medal to Jonathan R. Beckwith.*

### **1994**

◆ *35<sup>th</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference was held at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, April 20-24, 1994 (attendance 1,222).*

◆ *Dues were \$95 for a regular member.*

◆ *6<sup>th</sup> Chlamydomonas Conference, Granlibakken Conference Center, Tahoe City, California, May 17-22, 1994.*

◆ *A new meeting, which would emphasize how genetics was used as a tool in various phases of research, would be held at the Asilomar Conference Center in California, October 9-12, 1994. If this meeting was successful, a similar meeting would be held at the same venue next year, possibly becoming a new regular annual meeting.*

◆ *Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Meeting, University of Washington, Seattle, August 16-21, 1994. This changed the meeting pattern from odd to even-numbered years. Also, the meetings are now held at campus sites instead of hotel sites.*

◆ *The Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal was awarded to David Perkins, and the GSA Medal was given to Lee Hartwell.*

◆ *The GSA expressed anxiety over the drop in grants funded by NIH and contacted Harold Varmus, NIH Director, to express concerns that the new grant system was diverting funding away from basic science, like genetics, and into areas that previously had lower average priority scores.*

### **1995**

◆ *36<sup>th</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference, Westin Peachtree Plaza, Atlanta, Georgia, April 5-9, 1995 (attendance 1,103)*

◆ *Dues were \$95 for a regular member.*

◆ *Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal to Matthew Meselson; GSA Medal to Eric Wieschaus.*

### **1996**

◆ *37<sup>th</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference, Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, California, April 27-May 1, 1996 (attendance 1,423).*

◆ *Yeast Genetics & Molecular Biology Meeting, University of Wisconsin-Madison, August 6-11, 1996.*

◆ *The Board discussed planning specialized small meetings in molecular biology, computational biology and other fields of interest to the genetic community. The first meeting "DNA Repair from Bacteria to Humans" would be held April 16-19, 1998.*

◆ *A group of ten GSA members, with the help of the Joint Steering Committee for Public Policy, visited with their Congressmen and Senators and testified before Congressional Committees.*

- ◆ *As of July, there were 3,534 members.*
- ◆ *Dues rose to \$105.*
- ◆ *Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal to Franklin W. Stahl; GSA Medal to Elliot Meyerowitz.*

### **1997**

- ◆ *38<sup>th</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference, Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Chicago, Illinois, April 16-20, 1997 (attendance 1,382).*
- ◆ *There were 3,441 members in good standing.*
- ◆ *Concern about a drop in student membership prompted discussion about:*
  1. *Developing a model curriculum and recommending programs or textbooks for genetics teachers.*
  2. *Developing a training program guide for graduate education.*
  3. *Making adjustments to the Journal to make it an important educational resource.*
- ◆ *Discussions about how to proceed with web publication were suggested.*
- ◆ *The Board declined the invitation to send someone to the International Federation of Genetics meeting in China after the Chinese government passed the “Maternal and Child Health Act,” which raised concerns about the practice of eugenics in China.*
- ◆ *The winner of the Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal was Oliver Nelson, and Christine Guthrie won the GSA Medal.*
- ◆ *A library of video histories of well-known geneticists was produced as a teaching tool for undergraduates.*
- ◆ *Elizabeth Jones became the new GENETICS journal editor, taking over from J. W. Drake.*

### **1998**

- ◆ *39<sup>th</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference, Omni-Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC, March 25-29, 1998 (attendance 1,378).*
- ◆ *DNA Repair: Bacteria to Humans Conference, Airlie Conference Center, Warrenton, Virginia, April 16-19, 1998. Two hundred people attended, and GSA gained 17 new members.*
- ◆ *Cell and Molecular Biology of Chlamydomonas, Granlibakken Resort and Conference Center, Tahoe City, California, June 2-7, 1998. 200 people attended, mostly nonmembers.*
- ◆ *Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Meeting, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, July 28-August 2, 1998. Approximately 900 people attended.*
- ◆ *The Journal went online with High Wire Press at Stanford University and changed printers to Capital City Press in Vermont. A new cover, highlighting the new logo, was debuted.*
- ◆ *As of August, 1998, there were 3,789 members.*
- ◆ *Lee Hartwell was the first geneticist interviewed for the video history project.*
- ◆ *Norman Horowitz was selected for the Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal; Ron W. Davis was selected for the GSA Medal.*

### **1999**

- ◆ *40<sup>th</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Bellevue, Washington, March 24-28, 1999.*
- ◆ *The first Fungal Genetics Meeting, Asilomar, California, March 23-28, 1999.*
- ◆ *Membership totaled 3,999.*
- ◆ *Harold Varmus, Director of NIH, proposed an initiative that would enhance access to all published materials to aid research. This would encompass a Web site where all articles published by the life science journals and other articles that had not undergone peer review would be posted.*
- ◆ *Michael Ashburner was the first recipient of the George W. Beadle award for service to the genetics community.*
- ◆ *Salome Waelsch received the Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal for her groundbreaking theories on how genes are related to development. The GSA Medal was awarded to Charles Langley.*

## 2000

◆ *41<sup>st</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference, David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 22-26, 2000.*

◆ *Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Meeting, University of Washington, Seattle, July 25-30, 2000.*

◆ *A joint meeting with the Genetics Society of Canada was held June 13-16, 2000.*

◆ *Dues for regular members were raised from \$105 to \$110.*

◆ *There were 3,639 members in good standing.*

◆ *It was suggested that GSA respond to a lawsuit by an animal rights group against the US Department of Agriculture. The lawsuit demanded that rats, mice and birds be treated as primates in research. A letter was written that would negate the regulation of rats, mice and birds under the Animal Welfare Act, supporting the system as it was.*

◆ *The Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal winner was Evelyn Witkin, and the GSA Medal went to Jack Szostak. The George W. Beadle Award went to two winners, Robert Waterston and John Sulston.*

◆ *DeLill Nasser, 1929-2000, NSF Program Director for Eukaryotic Genetics. The Board established a scholarship in her honor.*



Left to right: Nina Federoff, Barbara McClintock, Elliot Meyerowitz, and DeLill Nasser at Cold Spring Harbor. Photo by Rolf Nothinger.

## 2001

◆ *GSA had its first Board Meeting by conference call.*

◆ *The DeLill Nasser Award for Professional Development in Genetics was established. The award recognized Dr. Nasser's contributions to the field of genetics and her strong support of young scientists. Travel and tuition awards would be made annually to allow graduate students and postdoctoral trainees to attend meetings or enroll in laboratory courses.*

◆ *42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC, March 21-25, 2001.*

◆ *There were 3,714 members in good standing.*

◆ *Yosuji Oshima was chosen for the Morgan Award; H. Robert Horvitz won the GSA Award; and Gerry Fink was the Beadle awardee.*

◆ *The statement "Evolution is good science. Understanding evolution and the nature of science is important to our society. [Our society] supports teaching evolution and the nature of science in our nation's classroom and informal science centers" was developed at the National Conference on Teaching Evolution by a GSA representative. The statement was endorsed by GSA and put on the Web site.*

◆ *All back issues of GENETICS were added to the High Wire Journal Web site.*

## 2002

◆ *43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference, Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, San Diego, California, April 10-14, 2002.*

◆ *Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Meeting, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, July 30- August 4, 2002.*

◆ *Membership was 3,903.*

◆ *GSA made a \$10,000 donation and gave Web site support for the restoration of Mendel's Abbey and garden and a conference center in Brno in the Czech Republic.*



*Mendel's Abbey*



*Mendel's garden*

◆ *Winner of the Morgan award was Ira Herskowitz; GSA Medal was Andrew Fire; Beadle Award was Andre Goffeau and Robert Mortimer.*

◆ *April 30 was the first national DNA Day, which will become a great opportunity for education, as mentors reach out to students and teach them about the exciting advances in genetics.*

## 2003

◆ *14<sup>th</sup> International C. elegans Meeting, University of California, Los Angeles, California, June 29-July 3, 2003.*

◆ *22<sup>nd</sup> Fungal Genetics Conference, Asilomar, Pacific Grove, California, March 18-23, 2003.*

◆ *44<sup>th</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference, Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Chicago, Illinois, March 5-9, 2003.*

◆ *"Conversations in Genetics," a series of videotaped conversations with geneticists who have made major contributions to the conceptual foundations of modern genetics was released for sale this year. The first volume includes:*

*Leland Hartwell*

*François Jacob*

*Edward B. Lewis*

*Arno G. Motulsky*

*Evelyn Witkin*

◆ *International Congress of Genetics was held in Australia, July 6-12, 2003.*

◆ *Winner of the Morgan award was David Hogness; Jeffrey Hall won the GSA Medal; Gerry Rubin and Allan Spradling were awarded the Beadle Award.*

◆ *Membership was 3,897.*

◆ *The GSA Medal was redesigned.*

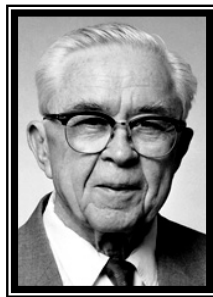
## 2004

◆ *Winners of the awards were: Bruce Ames, Morgan Award; Norbert Perrimon, Beadle Award.*

◆ *Trudy Mackay was the recipient of the newly designed GSA Medal.*



- ◆ *GSA poster contests will be conducted at each GSA sponsored meeting. Announcements will appear in GENETics and on the Web site.*
- ◆ *Membership was 4,039.*
- ◆ *GSA was concerned about the negative impact restrictive visa policies were having on science. In order to help with this, meetings will be advertised one year ahead and include visa information in the advertisements and in email blasts. Board members were asked to write letters to Congress to ask for help with this issue.*
- ◆ *Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Meeting, University of Washington, Seattle, July 27-August 1, 2004.*
- ◆ *45<sup>th</sup> Annual Drosophila Research Conference, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC, March 24-28, 2004.*
- ◆ *Dues were raised to \$120.*
- ◆ *GSA addressed several policy initiatives on the Web site. The statements are to cover: creationism, confidentiality of DNA data, DNA forensics, and cloning.*
- ◆ *GENETICS files, with a three month delay, would be contributed to PubMed Central in response to the new open access policies.*
- ◆ *GENETics, the new GSA newsletter, was launched with its first issue in April.*
- ◆ *Beginning with the July 2004 issue of the Journal, every published article in GENETICS would be available on our Web site two weeks after publication, and on the Web three months after publication.*
- ◆ *All issues of GENETICS, from 1916 to date, are now on the Web site and searchable.*



*Ed Lewis  
May 20, 1918-July 21, 2004, GSA President 1967  
Winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize for Medicine*

- ◆ *Volume 2 of Conversations in Genetics was released with these interviews:  
Seymour Benzer  
James F. Crow  
Ira Herskowitz  
Dan Lindsley  
Janet D. Rowley*

## **2005**

- ◆ *46<sup>th</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference, Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego, California, March 30-April 3, 2005.*
- ◆ *15<sup>th</sup> International C. elegans Meeting, University of California, Los Angeles, California, June 25-29, 2005.*
- ◆ *The total membership was 3,875.*
- ◆ *Part of the May 17 board meeting in Washington, DC was devoted to a Capitol Hill visit to discuss the NIH budget with Senators and Congressmen.*
- ◆ *Past GSA President (1970) Charles Yanofsky received the National Medal of Science and Technology.*

- ◆ *The 23<sup>rd</sup> Fungal Genetics Conference-March 15-20<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Asilomar, CA.*
- ◆ *The Thomas Hunt Morgan Award went to Robert L. Metzenberg; the GSA Medal went to Steve Elledge; the George W. Beadle Award went to Thom Kaufman.*
- ◆ *Amy Pasquinelli was selected as the first recipient of the Rosalind Franklin Young Investigator Award, funded by the Gruber Foundation.*

## 2006

- ◆ *47<sup>th</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference, Hilton Americas, Houston, Texas, March 29-April 2, 2006.*
- ◆ *The Thomas Hunt Morgan medal was awarded to Masatoshi Nei, and the GSA Medal went to Victor Ambros.*
- ◆ *The George W. Beadle Award was awarded to Fred Sherman.*
- ◆ *Genetic Analysis: Model Organisms to Human Biology Meeting, Town and Country Resort & Convention center, San Diego, California, January 5-7, 2006.*
- ◆ *Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Meeting, Princeton University, July 25-30, 2006.*
- ◆ *75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of GSA. A new cover for the Journal was designed.*
- ◆ *A Senior Advisory Board was established to insure institutional memory, establishment of a long-term strategic plan, and continuity in executing the plan.*
- ◆ *Total membership was 3,422.*
- ◆ *Members who wanted to donate the journal would have to pay \$150 to support the cost of shipping.*
- ◆ *The GSA logo was redesigned.*



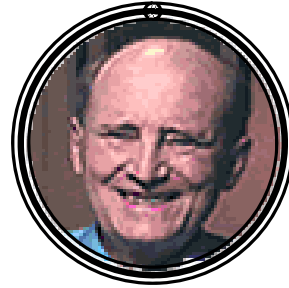
- ◆ *The third volume of Conversations in Genetics was made available. The interviews include:*  
*Elizabeth Blackburn*  
*Sydney Brenner*  
*Victor Mckusick*  
*Ray Owen*  
*Charles Yanofsky*

## 2007

- ◆ *The Thomas Hunt Medal went to Oliver Smithies; the GSA Medal to Shirley Tilghman; the George M. Beadle Award to Bob Herman; The GSA Award for Excellence in Education, new this year, to Elizabeth Jones.*
- ◆ *48<sup>th</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference, Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 7-11, 2007.*
- ◆ *24<sup>th</sup> Fungal Genetics Conference, March 20-25, 2007, Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, CA.*
- ◆ *16<sup>th</sup> International C. elegans Conference, June 27-July 1, 2007, UCLA.*
- ◆ *Membership was 4,296.*



*Robert L. Metzenberg*  
*June 11, 1930-July 15, 2007*  
*President GSA 1990*



*Seymour Benzer*  
*October 15, 1921-November 30, 2007*

**2008**

◆ *2<sup>nd</sup> MOHB meeting-January 5-8, 2008, Town & Country Motel, San Diego, CA.*

◆ *Dues are \$120 for a regular member, \$90 for a post doctoral fellow with print, \$65 post doctoral fellow, online only, \$65 grad student with print, \$40 graduate student online only, \$50 emeritus with print, and \$190 for spouse/partner joint membership.*

◆ *The Novitski Prize, funded by the Novitski family and named in honor of Drosophila geneticist Edward Novitski (1918-2006), is designed to recognize an extraordinary level of creativity and intellectual ingenuity in solving significant problems in genetics research. Its first recipient is Thomas Silhavy.*

◆ *The Thomas Hunt Medal will go to Michael Ashburner; the GSA Medal to Susan Lindquist; the George W. Beadle Award to Mark Johnston; the GSA Award for Excellence in Education to Scott Hawley.*

◆ *The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Drosophila Conference-April 2-6, 2008, Town & Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego, CA.*



*Elizabeth "Beth" Jones*  
*March 8, 1939-June 11, 2008*  
*GENETICS Journal Editor-in-Chief, 1996-June 11, 2008*