

EVAN J. CRANE 1889-1966

On December 30, 1966, Dr. Evan J. Crane passed away in the 77th year of his life and the 56th year of devoted service to *Chemical Abstracts*—his entire professional career. Dr. Crane's death was just hours short of the dawn that marked the beginning of CAS' 60th anniversary year.

His passing will be marked by many and in many different ways. His fellow scientists will remember him as an enthusiastic, creative, and dedicated worker, devoted to bettering their science by bettering their access to it—a man who, more than any other, forged the "key to the world's chemical literature." Those who joined Dr. Crane in his work will remember him as a warm human being, a scholar, an avid writer, an astute editor, and a man whose inspiring example set the goal of their own activities. And those who have lived in the communities of Columbus, Upper Arlington, or The Ohio State University, or who participated with Dr. Crane in the Rotary International Club of Columbus, and Kit-Kat Club will remember Dr. Crane as a man who gave unselfishly of his time and talents to make these communities a better place to live.

Abstracting is a wonderful way to spend an evening...to go off to one's study, bedroom, kitchen table, or wherever is quiet with chemical reading to do, having a double purpose: (1) learn and savor more chemistry and (2) make useful abstracts.

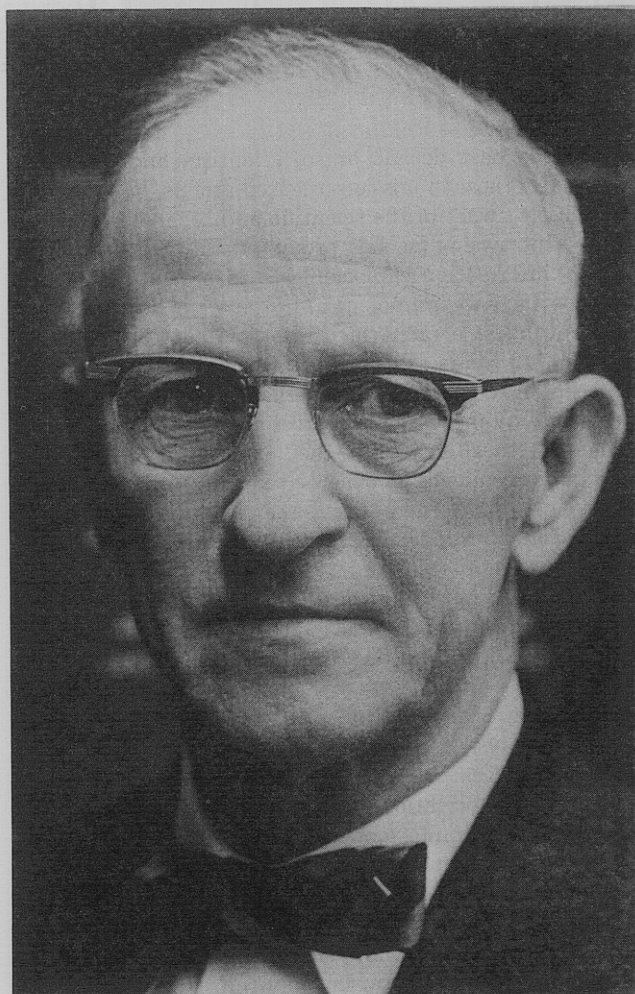
These were the last words written by E. J. Crane in *The Little CA* (number 110, Christmas, 1966). Since May 15, 1930, Dr. Crane communicated with his many fellow workers, but primarily with abstractors and section editors, through this pint-size but potent publication. Put out as "a family bulletin published now and then for the many workers of *Chemical Abstracts*" it expressed his deep sentiments and his good-natured sense of fun as well as thoughts on how to maintain proper editorial content in *CA*.

The fifty-six years of service and devotion that so obviously gave pleasure as well as fulfillment to E. J. Crane, began in 1911. The twenty-two year old June graduate of The Ohio State University went to work with *CA* editor Austin M. Patterson as a second associate editor in the then one-room editorial office of *Chemical Abstracts*. There were five on the staff then. They climbed three flights of stairs and worked on tables, not desks. The only telephone was on the first floor.

In 1914, he was made acting editor and then, in 1915, he was made editor of *Chemical Abstracts*. His first concern was to build up *CA* indexes. Chemical subject matter was beginning to burgeon forth. It was essential to make it available to scientists everywhere in orderly and precise form.

Equally essential, he felt, was to make it readily useable by means of "thorough and thoroughly good" indexes.

In the beginning, chemical nomenclature was vague and confused, almost hopeless. Dr. Crane began to organize, along with the help of Dr. Austin M. Patterson, and to weld chemical information into a discipline. In 1918, he became chairman of the ACS Committee on Nomenclature, Spelling, and Pronunciation. He served on numerous national and international organic and inorganic nomenclature commissions. Eventually he became a State



Dr. Evan J. Crane

Department delegate to UNESCO's Paris Conference on Scientific Abstracting in 1948. In 1958, Dr. Crane was the chairman of the first meeting of the National Federation of Science Abstracting and Indexing Services. From 1954 through 1960, Dr. Crane was the U. S. representative in chemistry to the Abstracting Board of the International Council of Scientific Unions. Dr. Crane was also the first chairman of the ACS Division of Chemical Literature.

E. J. Crane had said that he held only two degrees: B.A. and C.A. But in 1938, The Ohio State University bestowed on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. Over the years his fellow scientists paid him tribute many times. The American Section of the Society of Chemical Industry (London) awarded him its Chemical Industry Medal in 1937. Then in 1951, the American Chemical Society, at its Diamond Jubilee Meeting, gave him the highest honor available in chemistry in America, the Priestly Medal. In 1953, Dr. Crane received the Austin M. Patterson Award for documentation in chemistry from the Dayton Section of the ACS.

Physical expansion of quarters also took place for *CA*. It had gone from one room to four rooms and an attic in the McPherson Chemical Laboratory with rented space in outside buildings. Then, in 1955, the *CA* staff moved into its own spacious building on The Ohio State University campus, a modern structure soon to be overflowing.

OBITUARIES

CAS was now a chemical information service respected by the scientific communities of the world. Under Jay Crane's leadership, *CA* outgrew its traditional status as a secondary publication and, in 1956, the organization which he headed became the Chemical Abstracts Service. Dr. Crane, who had seen it through to this much deserved eminence, became, in 1956, the first director. Dr. Crane officially retired in October, 1958.

Yet, after 48 years of service and leadership, Jay Crane could not cease to be interested in CAS activities and progress. He continued to come into his office here, wrote and edited *The Little CA* and continued to abstract. He also was active at the time of his death on the Commission on the Nomenclature of Inorganic Chemistry of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.

Besides being the author of "A Guide to the Literature of Chemistry," (1927, with Austin M. Patterson and, 1957, with Austin M. Patterson and Eleanor B. Marr), he coauthored with James E. Pollard "The Kit-Kat Club of Columbus, Ohio (1911-1961)." He was also author of "CA Today—The Production of Chemical Abstracts" (1959).

In August, 1958, *Chemical and Engineering News* began a profile on E. J. Crane "if there is one man that could be called the keeper of the keys to the wealth of the chemical industry, that man would be Evan Jay Crane, who has literally devoted his life to unlocking doors to chemical knowledge." We all miss him greatly, but his quiet spirit of industry and influence will remain as strong as the foundation of CAS.

T. E. R. SINGER 1902-1966

Tibor Eric Robert Singer, who died in New York City in December, leaves the Division of Chemical Literature without his services but with a host of memories. Born in London in 1902, he came to New York in 1919. After studying electrical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, he took up work in the New York Public Library. There, during his years as head of the Chemistry Reading Room, technical information service and chemistry became his first loves. Part of his contribution was in improving cataloging practices and reference service. He left the Library to set up his own information and translating service.

Mr. Singer's "German-English Dictionary of Metallurgy" was published by McGraw-Hill Book Co. in 1945. He also edited "Information and Communication Practice in Industry (Reinhold, 1958), which attracted enough attention to motivate a translation into Japanese.

During his last several years he was in partnership with Julian F. Smith as Singer, Smith and Co.

With his American Chemical Society membership in 1950, Mr. Singer joined the Division of Chemical Literature. He served long and ably on the Division's Program Committee, including a few terms as Chairman of the Committee. He indexed "Literature Resources for Chemical Process Industries" (*Advances in Chemistry* Series No. 10, 1954), organized several symposia, and performed various other services for the Division.

As an adjunct professor at Columbia University, he taught a summer course in technical literature for several years until the University absorbed the course in its regular academic year. Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute then called him to teach a similar course in its second semesters. He was planning for the spring semester's repetition of this course when stricken.