

GEDDES W. SIMPSON (1975)



It is Maine's privilege and my personal pleasure to place in nomination the name of Dr. Geddes W. Simpson for Honorary Life membership in The Potato Association of America. Dr. Simpson, born in Scranton, Pennsylvania in 1908, graduated from Bucknell in 1929 with an A.B. in Zoology having worked as a laboratory assistant to Norman H. Stewart who arranged for graduate work in the Department of Entomology and Limnology at Cornell. Dr. Simpson came to Maine in 1931 after receiving his M.A. degree from Cornell in insect morphology under Dr. O. A. Johannsen. He began his outstanding research career with the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station and also found time to work on his Ph.D. degree which he received from Cornell in 1935 in economic entomology under Dr. Guy F. MacLeod. Though trained in insect morphology and economic entomology, Dr. Simpson is often claimed by plant pathologists because of his pioneer work with insect-transmitted potato viruses; an area to which he was introduced by Dr. Forrest M. Blodgett at Cornell. Many of his more than 100 publications deal with methods of controlling these diseases by managing the vector.

Despite a life-long dedication to research, Dr. Simpson accepted in mid career the challenge to train students, both undergraduate and graduate. That he excelled in this endeavor is gratefully acknowledged by all of his students, many of whom have already demonstrated their sound training in science. His colleagues also have benefited from his counsel and leadership as chairman of the University's Department of Entomology, a position which he held from 1954 until his retirement in June of 1974. Retirement is a meaningless term to Dr. Simpson because as Emeritus Professor, he has continued his devotion to research with unreduced vigor. In addition, the Potato Association of America now benefits directly from his literary skills as its editor-in-chief. Nevertheless, his full schedule, as always, included time for anyone needing his help.

Dr. Simpson's activities beyond his direct professional duties have included: community benefit projects; years of service to the Boy Scouts of America; advisor to the Maine Seed Potato Board; State Westinghouse Talent Search Selection; University Honors Program; Coe Research Fund and American Academy of Allergy Section on Aero-allergens. He is an active leader in the honor societies of Pi Mu Epsilon, Phi Kappa Phi (past president of the Maine chapter), Sigma Xi, and Phi Beta Kappa (past president of the Maine chapter).

His professional society memberships, in addition to the Potato Association of America include: American Association for the Advancement of Science (Fellow); Entomological Society of America; Entomological Society of Canada; American Phytopathological Society; European Association for Potato Research and Pennsylvania Academy of Science. He is also a member of the Acadian Entomological Society and was made an Honorary Life Member in 1973. Dr. Simpson's distinguished career has brought not only personal acclaim but worldwide recognition to the University of Maine as well. In 1974 he received formal acknowledgment of the latter as recipient of the University's First Presidential Research Achievement Award.

It is indeed an honor to present Geddes W. Simpson to the Potato Association of America for Honorary Life Membership.

~Franklin E. Manzer