A MEMORIAL TO

HERMANN C. N. HECKEL

Hermann Heckel was born on December 23, 1899, in Wheeling, West Virginia, the son of Herman and Elizabeth Heckel, and died in Oxford, Ohio, March 7, 1972. His full name, Hermann Conrad Nies Heckel was too long for use by his scientist friends, who quickly attached to him the sobriquet "Cy" in obvious reference to the coincidence that his initials suggest the chemical formula for hydrocyanic acid. This nickname was used throughout his life with both humor and affection.

Dr. Heckel was graduated from the University of Illinois in 1921, where he was an undergraduate assistant for two years. Cy was appointed a graduate assistant in organic chemistry, earning the M.S. degree in 1922 and the Ph.D. degree in 1924. His doctoral dissertation, which was directed by Roger Adams, consisted of two parts: a study of the reduction of aminophelols to aminocyclohexanois employing an activated platinum catalyst, and the use of the aminocyclohexanols in the preparation of a series of local anesthetics related to cocaine. He worked with a distinguished group of researchers on the catalysis problem including R. L. Shriner, V. Voorhees, J. W. Kern, J. S. Pierce, W. E, Kaufmann, and W. H. Carothers. The second part of his dissertation brought him into contact with an equally outstanding group of Illinois chemists including E. K. Rideal, W. B. Burnett, R. L. Jenkins, E. E. Dreger, O. A. Barnes, and S. M. McElvain. The potential value of the local anesthetics he prepared was further investigated by Roger Adams, Oliver Kamm, and Ernest H. Volwiler (Miami A.B., '14, Sc.D. '46) at the Abbott Laboratories. Interestingly enough, the research on anesthetics may have begun, in part, with the work of Harvey C. Brill of Miami University. It was transferred to Illinois along with Volwiler, and was then extended by Adams and Heckel. Forty years after this study was

begun, Cy Heckel was to begin a new career in teaching at Miami.

Upon graduation, Dr. Heckel accepted an opening as research chemist with Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corporation (Union Carbide). After three years, he accepted a similar position with Emery Industries, where he worked on dispersing agents and the emulsification of inks and paints. This work resulted in three patents. Three years later Cy established a consulting practice in organic chemistry which led to nine additional patents in the areas of printing and lithographic inks, plastic sheeting and packaging, and in the separation of petroleum products. Among his clients were the Twitchell Process Company, the Kontol Company, and the Marbon Corporation. In 1935, Dr. Heckel became a research chemist for the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company where he remained for four years conducting experimentation on polymerization. Cy joined Champion Paper and Fibre Company in 1939 where he remained until 1951. During this period he conducted research on coated papers and on high wet strength papers, obtaining two more patents. From 1951 to 1953, he was an employee of the Chemstrand Corporation, after which he resumed his consulting work, primarily with the Belden Manufacturing Company, the Commonwealth Engineering Company, and the Central Pharmacal Company. In cooperation with these and other customers, he obtained eleven more patents, covering such inventions as electrical core materials, conductors, high temperature resistant insulators, plastic containers for pharmaceuticals, and carbohydrate ethers. He was especially interested in the gradual release of medicinals from carbohydrate polymers.

In 1961, Dr. Heckel brought his experience in industrial chemistry to the academic world, beginning a ten-year period of service at Miami University. His major interests during this period were in the coarse for non-majors designed in 1956 by Dr. Howard L. Ritter to implement the "Common Curriculum" proposal of Dr. John D. Millett, then Miami's President. He continually oriented the course toward such "relevant" topics as ecology, the structure of natural products, and biochemistry. During his time, the growth

of Miami and the popularity of the course caused a steady increase in the enrollment to over six hundred.

More important, however, were his contributions to the changing attitudes of both students and faculty. During the most turbulent decade in the University's history, there had occurred many changes - from overcrowded conditions to a move into a large, new building - from a faculty of nine to one comprising twenty-two regular members, and the initiation of a new Doctoral Program in Chemistry. There were numerous changes in administrative policy, and in faculty Senate objectives, many of which Cy opposed from his middle-ground, politically conservative stance. He objected to the restlessness of the radicals, to the righteousness of the reactionaries, and to the innovations of the idealists. Cy was often a stabilizing influence. He would argue, sympathize, and counsel with students for hours at a time concerning their local problems in social relations, educational objectives, and student governance as well as their external concerns over civil rights legislation and the war in Vietnam. He saw them by the hundreds in the large lecture hall and individually in his own office, accomplishing at times what was not possible for the less experienced and less mature teacher for he could comfort the fearful and inspire confidence in the timid. At times an outspoken critic, he was always constructive in his criticism. He was optimistic, and with a twinkle of his eye, or a pat on the back, he could always see some humor in an otherwise serious situation.

In 1932, Dr. Heckel married Alice Lodoen,and they had a daughter, Elizabeth, and a son, Robert. He was a member of the United Presbyterian Church of Oxford, and was a Mason for more than twenty-five years. Dr. Heckel was a member of the American Chemical Society, the Technical Association of Pulp and Paper Industries, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Alpha Chi Sigma, the Society of the Sigma Xi, and Gamma Theta Phi.

At the conclusion of 1970, Cy was retired, but he continued with his

usual energy in his many avocations including travel and entertaining his grandchildren. Cy enjoyed camping, fishing, and electronics. He had a deep appreciation of the fine arts, particularly music, and a scholarship has been established at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music in his memory.

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