

IN MEMORIAM

Lewis H. Kleinholz (1910–2001)

A great and pioneer experimental biologist and generalist who spoke the languages of both invertebrate and vertebrate endocrinology has died at the age of 91. Professor Lewis Kleinholz of Reed College was “with it” until the end and leaves mourning friends and colleagues, many of them in their own later years.

Lou Kleinholz was educated at Colby College and at Harvard in the depression years of the 1930s. He served in the U.S Army, notably in Italy, where he played a legendary role in defending the Stazione Zoologica of Naples, the world’s oldest marine biological station, against military occupation and the devastation that would have accompanied it. Lou had a forceful charm and a convincing gentlemanly approach that allowed him to cope with his fellow officers, including those of higher rank and greater ignorance of history. He remains a hero in the annals of the Stazione and in the annals of Italian and world biology.

Kleinholz was a pioneer crustacean endocrinologist not only in regard to physiology, especially in the area of pigmentation and its control, but also in the use of the methodology of protein chemistry in the isolation and characterization of crustacean eyestalk hormones. He was diligent and cautious in his investigations and no less original in his scientific contributions as a consequence of these characteristics. He could talk about comparative endocrinology with all kinds of specialists, not always easy even in those days when the extent of our knowledge was limited by both a paucity of techniques and a paucity of investigators.

“Gentleman Lou,” as he was called by some of his colleagues, but not by the undersigned, who did not possess the courage to do so, was a gracious host, even in the laboratory. In 1951, when one of us visited him for the first time at the Stazione in Naples with his wife, a sister-in-law suffering from car sickness, and a squalling son 2 years of age, Gentleman Lou reached in his desk drawer and pulled out bottles of gin, vermouth, and bitters to make the perfect martini. Obviously, this was the required therapy for his adult visitors and no less for himself. He employed this advanced social methodology with great success when dealing with problems academic and administrative during a long and effective career at Reed.

To one of us, then a young faculty member in his department, Lou was an encouraging mentor both in science and in academic politics. He performed magic tricks for children, who called him “Uncle Lou,” provided those therapeutic martinis on a Friday afternoon, and was a source of moral and practical support for research and teaching the year round before the days of relatively generous federal grants.

He set the standards of the Reed College Biology Department that persist to this day and was instrumental in raising the college to the level of a nationally recognized institution in the biological sciences. He was recognized by both Colby and Reed with honorary D.Sc. degrees and by his colleagues in the wider world with symposia, visiting appointments, and other accolades.

Lou’s counsel was valued in his long association with the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, where he served on the Executive Committee of the

Board of Trustees and directed the famous Invertebrate Zoology course and a training program in Comparative Physiology, both for several years.

He was active in the local Portland community as a supporter of music performance and as an adviser on higher education in Oregon; he was once given a governor's award for "contributions to knowledge."

On the occasion of his 70th birthday, which happened to coincide with the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, he remarked that while he appreciated the gesture he thought it a little excessive.

Lou ended his days at his home as he wished, receiving visitors, often with an invitation to join him in partaking of one of those famous martinis.

We salute this polished and worldly citizen for his distinction as an innovative scientist, an inspiring teacher, and a wise and beloved colleague. His likes are increasingly rare in today's world, and he and his esprit will be much missed.

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