MEMORIAL

ALAN S. HOROWITZ 1930–1999



Professor Alan S. Horowitz, a long-standing member of The Paleontological Society, died on February 18, 1999 in Bloomington, Indiana after a protracted battle with leukemia.

Alan was born in Ashland, Kentucky on June 12, 1930, the son and eldest child of Samuel and Irene Strouss Horowitz. As a child Alan was fascinated with rocks and fossils. One of his Ashland junior-high classmates recalls a first date on which he took her to the Horowitz home to view his rock collection. Alan early developed a lifelong fascination with birds. He was an Eagle Scout.

In 1948 Alan entered Washington and Lee University, where he became a member of Phi Beta Kappa and earned a B.S. degree in 1952. He then undertook graduate studies at The Ohio State University, where his 1953 thesis entailed study of igneous rocks in northeastern Greenland. In 1954 Alan entered the doctoral program at Indiana University, where his mentor, Thomas G. Perry, influenced him towards a lifelong interest in bryozoans. Alan's dissertation was a faunal study of the Chesterian Glen Dean Limestone, especially the crinoids, blastoids, brachiopods, and bryozoans. He received the Ph.D. degree in 1957.

Alan took a position as research geologist with Marathon Oil Company at their new research center in Littleton, Colorado in 1957. He was the paleontologist on a team of geologists who used innovative approaches to the study of carbonate rocks, and included Lloyd Pray, Jack Wray, and Charles Hewitt. During these years Alan gained expertise in study of carbonate rocks and in the use of digital computers.

In 1966 Alan left Marathon and returned to Indiana University as Curator of Paleontology. He later became a part-time Professor of Geology and taught taxonomic procedures and team-taught carbonate petrology with J. Robert Dodd. He retired from IU in 1996.

Alan's primary areas of research involved stratigraphic and taxonomic analysis of blastoids and bryozoans, undertaken jointly with Johnny Waters, Joseph Pachut, and James Stratton. He undertook much field work with Brad Macurda, and anyone who saw what he called his "full field regalia" smiled at the sunshade, knee pads, and square cardboard blinders on the shanks of his sunglasses. Others with whom he published include Paul Potter and John Droste. Alan amassed a large database on bryozoans that required detailed, critical evaluation of species and stratigraphic placement. Devonian and Recent bryozoans were treated most intensively.

Alan was author or co-author of 53 papers, 57 abstracts, one guidebook, five monographs, and one book. He was a bibliophile and accumulated a library of over 3500 books. In 1996 he received the Owen Award, presented each year to a distinguished alumnus of the Indiana University Department of Geological Sciences.

In 1975, Alan married Lillian Perry, widow of his doctoral mentor. She preceded him in death in 1992. He is survived by two sisters, four step-children, and 12 step-grandchildren.

Aside from his excellence as a scientist, Alan will be remembered for the breadth of his intellect, his wry sense of humor, and his generosity to all who needed his help. His unassuming manner masked the extent of his accomplishments. He will be missed by all who knew him.

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