

obituaries

National Medal of Science (1977).

Sam had a passionate interest in Egyptology which began when he was a graduate student, and he did original research on papyri. On Sam's first visit to Copenhagen in 1926, Niels Bohr took him to the collection of Egyptian sculpture at the Glyptotek. As Bohr started to translate the Danish labels, Sam quietly told him that this was not necessary; he could read the inscribed hieroglyphs. He had a talent for solving puzzles, be they scientific, historical, artistic or crossword.

Sam will be remembered as a man who stood up for his convictions. In his will, in his usual self-effacing way, he asked that no memorial session be held for him, a request not easy for his friends to honor.

MAURICE GOLDHABER
Brookhaven National Laboratory

Warren Weaver

Warren Weaver died at his home in New Milford, Connecticut, on 24 November at the age of 84. He had a profound impact on science and the public understanding of science, as a teacher, as a researcher and as a foundation executive for 46 years. He played an important role in the late 1940's and 50's in the transition of science from war to peace.

His earned degrees were from the University of Wisconsin: a BS (civil engineering) and a PhD in mathematics. The first to appreciate his talents were physicists. Weaver joined the faculty of Throop College/California Institute of Technology, as an assistant professor of mathematics, at the request of Robert Millikan. A few years later Charles Mendenhall, then head of the Physics Department at the University of Wisconsin, persuaded Weaver to return to Madison (1922).

Max Mason, a theoretical physicist, persuaded Weaver to leave the University of Wisconsin, where he was now head of the mathematics department and join the Rockefeller Foundation as the director of the division of natural science. Weaver ended his career at Rockefeller in 1959 as vice-president for natural and medical science.

Following his retirement from Rockefeller, Weaver became a Trustee and vice president of the Alfred P. Sloan Jr Foundation.

As a Foundation executive he set a pattern for support of science that was followed by Federal agencies engaged in support of research after World War II. The emphasis was on people, the researcher. The institution received secondary consideration.

During the early 1930's he understood that the instruments, the tools of physics



WEAVER

and chemistry, were bound to play a major role in biology and genetics. Some who received his attention and the Foundation's were scientists trained in physics who turned to biology.

During World War II he joined Vannevar Bush's Office of Scientific Research and Development, first as chairman of the fire and control section and then chief, applied mathematics panel.

During the postwar years Weaver was active in the biological areas, serving as Chairman of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on the Biological Effects of Radiation, Trustee of Memorial Hospital and Sloan Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, Chairman of the Science Policy Committee and participating in the founding of the Salk Institute.

Weaver was also a member of the Governing Board of the Courant Institute of Mathematical Science, helping to ensure financial stability for applied mathematics. The building that houses the Institute was named Warren Weaver Hall.

He never lost his interest in probability, which he taught in Madison, and wrote a popular book, *Lady Luck*, which was translated into nine languages.

Warren Weaver's great love was science and he wanted the public to share that love. He had another love: Lewis Carroll's (Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, an Oxford mathematician) *Alice in Wonderland*. He collected writings of Dodgson, first editions of *Alice in Wonderland* and more than two-score translations in various languages, and wrote *Alice in Many Tongues*.

His philosophy is best expressed in an autobiographical book, *Scene of Change*.

EMANUEL R. PIORE
Rockefeller University
New York City □

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