

From the Oat Newsletter, volume 17, 1966:

A TRIBUTE
DR. HARRY H. LOVE, 1880-1966

Friends and colleagues were saddened during the year by the death of Professor Harry H. Love on April 20, 1966. Dr. Love had been active and maintained close daily contact with the department until his hospitalization a year or so before. He was 86 years old.

Dr. Love's career spanned more than half a century: The period 1909-1949 is less than that but in actuality Dr. Love did not cease work on retirement but re-entered the international agriculture field with zest. During his professional career he kept Cornell as his home base and the interests of the Plant Breeding Department were always foremost in his mind. The department was like a family group to him and in later years for good reason because the post-WWII staff was recruited largely through his efforts while departmental chairman.

Dr. Love was a remarkable man in that he was able competently to operate in several different areas of endeavor and to leave marks of accomplishment in each. He was a teacher of genetics, plant breeding and statistics to undergraduate and graduate students; he personally guided and advised a large number of graduate students during their stay at Cornell. He was a scientist of note specializing in the genetics and breeding of the cereal grains; he was a dominant figure in the early work in these areas with wheat and oats. His accomplishments in plant breeding, which he particularly enjoyed, stand as a landmark in the Agricultural history of New York. With some crops, particularly winter wheat and winter barley, his varieties were significant commercial successes in Ontario, Canada, Michigan and the Atlantic states. Especially noteworthy were Yorkwin and Genesee wheats and Wong barley.

Dr. Love was the author of many scientific papers dealing with genetics, plant breeding and statistics. In addition, he wrote two books dealing with statistics and experimental design. Late in his professional career he took over administrative duties and immediately devoted full-time efforts to expanding and re-vitalizing the departmental staff which had been depleted by retirement and the influence of the several war years.

Notwithstanding these activities, Dr. Love will be remembered as a pioneer in international agricultural cooperation. The "granddaddy" of aid programs was the Cornell-Nanking cooperative project of the 1920-1930s in which Dr. Love played an important role. All told, he spent several years in China. He also visited and spent periods of time in Puerto Rico and Taiwan. Following retirement, in 1950, he and Mrs. Love went to Thailand at the request of the Thai government to direct a rice improvement project. The Thai government later awarded him its second highest medal in grateful appreciation for his efforts.

Dr. Love was a good friend and counsellor to many people over the years. His colleagues would add a final accolade: he was good company.

--N. F. Jensen