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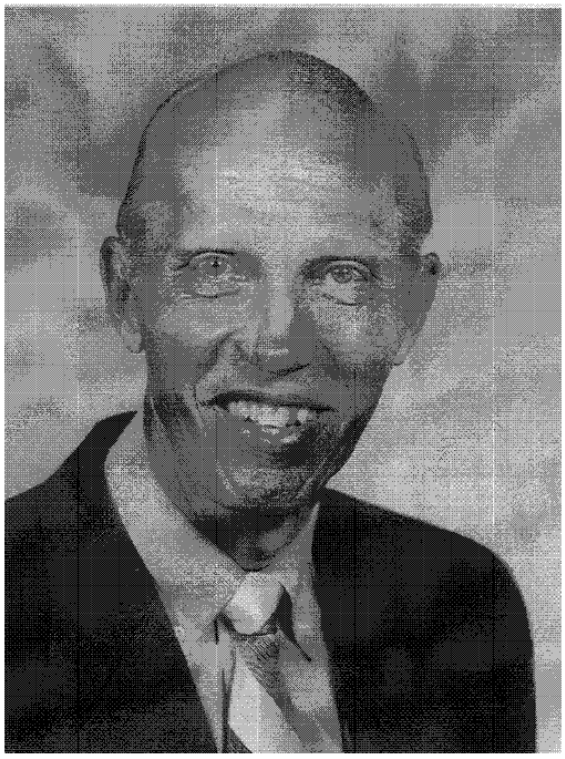
Robert A. Forsberg
Award for Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement



Dr. Robert A. Forsberg was affiliated with the small grain research and breeding programs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for over 39 years. He was an undergraduate student worker during 1949-1952 (B.S.), a graduate student/project assistant during 1956-1961 (M.S. and Ph.D.), and a faculty member from 1963 until he retired in January 1994. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow at North Carolina State University during 1961-1963. Dr. H.L. Shands served as his mentor, advisor, and faculty colleague until Dr. Shands retired in 1974. During his 31-year tenure as a faculty member Dr. Forsberg taught courses in biometry, experimental design, biometrical procedures in plant breeding, and taxonomy and seed characteristics of crop plants. He served as Chairperson of the Department of Agronomy during 1979-1989, and he served on many college and campus committees.

Dr. Forsberg's major research and breeding efforts dealt with the transfer of genes for disease resistance from diploid and tetraploid oat species to cultivated hexaploids followed by incorporation of these genes into genotypes worth of release as cultivars such as Centennial (1983), Horicon (1989), Dane (1990), Bay (1993), and X5673-2 (1995). His oat research encompassed the cytogenetic and breeding behavior of 6x amphiploids, of monosomic alien substitution lines, of hexaploid translocation lines, and of octoploid lines, and their use in interploidy gene transfer programs; quantitative

inheritance of panicle traits; inheritance of protein and lipid concentration; the genetics of physical physiological, and biochemical aspects of oat grain quality; and the possible role of 2n gametes in interploidy gene transfer and in the evolution of hexaploid oats. Dr. Forsberg, his graduate students, his technical support staff-especially Mr. Ron Duerst, and his colleague Dr. Marshall Brinkman--carried on breeding programs in oats, soft red winter wheat, barley, winter rye, and winter triticale, all of which resulted in the release of improved cultivars.

Dr. Forsberg was an active participant in national and international activities of the Crop Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy including several significant editorial and committee assignments. He was honored as a fellow of A.S.A in 1985 and of C.S.S.A in 1986. During 1989-1994 he also served as North American Editor of the Journal of Genetics and Breeding.

Dr. Forsberg was an active participant in many national and international oat organizations. He served as Chairperson of the American Oat Workers Conference (1978-1982), the U.S. National Oat Improvement Council (1978-1986), the North Central U.S. Regional Oat Workers Conference (NCR-IS) (1979-1980), and of the Legislative Liaison Committee of the Milling Oats Improvement Association (now the American Oat Association) (1978-1985). He was a member of the U. S. Oat Crop Advisory Committee during 1978-1994, and he played significant roles in preparing the first (1987) and second (1992) editions of the U.S. "Strategic Plan for Oat Research" documents. He currently serves on the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's Plant Variety Protection Advisory Board (1991-).

Internationally, Dr. Forsberg served as Chairperson of the International Oat Workers Conference during 1988-1992. Since 1990, he has been Wisconsin's representative on the Quaker Oats South American Oat Improvement Project working with Dr. S.H. Weaver (Quaker Oats), Dr. M.E. McDaniel (Texas A&M University), and Mr. Romulo Trombetta (Quaker South America).