

## OBITUARY

DR. JOHS. IVERSEN

Dr. Johs. Iversen, the celebrated palynologist, expired on 17 October, 1971. His premature demise has caused the loss of an outstanding palynologist and plant ecologist, which will be felt by the scientists all the world over with great sadness. He was well known as a leading authority in Quaternary pollen analysis especially in relation to forest-clearance phases associated with prehistoric agriculture. In this field Dr. Iversen made a significant pioneer contribution, which provided the stimulus for similar investigations in Scandinavia as well as in other countries.

Johs. Iversen was born on 27 December, 1904. After having his general education successfully he took his Master's degree in Botany in 1930 from the University of Copenhagen and subsequently the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the same University in 1936 on the basis of his dissertation "Biologische Pflanzentypen als Hilfsmittel in der Vegetationsforschung", which was acclaimed with great honour. Later he came in touch with the grand old man of pollen analysis, Dr. Lennart von Post, Professor at the University of Stockholm, to study under his direction the principles of pollen analysis. This gave him inspiration and initiative in shaping the future of his scientific outlook.

In 1950, with Knut Faegri of the University of Bergen, he published an excellent book, Text-book of Modern Pollen Analysis, which soon became the guiding principle in pollen analysis all over the world. A much welcome revised and enlarged edition of this book came out in 1964. He had a number of high quality papers to his credit, some of them are: Sukundäres Pollen als Fehlerquelle (1936); Landnam i Danmarks Stenalder (1941); *Viscum, Hedera, Ilex* as climate indicators (1944); The influence of prehistoric man on vegetation (1949); The late-glacial flora of Denmark and its relation to climate and soil (1954); Problems of the early post-glacial forest development in Denmark (1960); Pollen morfologiske Definitoner og Typer (1950) with Dr. Troels-Smith. His lifelong devotion to pollen analysis originated from his love for nature and his close acquaintance with von Post, Firbas, Faegri and other proponents of Quaternary pollen analysis.

To honour his excellent contributions in the field of Quaternary vegetational history the Uppsala University conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (h.c.) in 1957 and Cambridge University the degree of Doctor of Science in 1966.

Dr. Iversen was a staff member of the Geological Survey of Denmark since 1931, where he became State Geologist in 1938, the post he occupied until the time of his death. At the same time he was an honorary lecturer in pollen analysis and Quaternary vegetational history at the University of Copenhagen (1955-1968).

Dr. Iversen was an extremely amiable and kind person. His charming personality owned him many friends and admirers. Selfless, silent, kind and simple, he was revered by his innumerable associates, friends and colleagues at home and abroad. His loss will be mourned by all who knew him and his work.

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