

In Memoriam

Harold Garnet Callan (5 March 1917 – 3 November 1993)

Harold G. Callan died on 3 November 1993 in Dundee, Scotland. Although he was never a member of the Editorial Board of *Chromosoma*, there is hardly any scientist who would be remembered more adequately in *Chromosoma*: H.G. Callan was one of the pioneers of classic chromosome research. His name in the scientific community is inevitably connected with research on lampbrush chromosomes, which he studied throughout most of his scientific career until his unexpected and untimely early death. However, his interest in biology extended much beyond lampbrush chromosomes, and his knowledge and expertise covered all the classic cytology. The fundamentals of chromosome research will remain closely connected with his name.

When I remember Mick Callan, I remember a scientist of impressive experience and expertise in his field and, at the same time, an impressive personality. During the past ten years his expertise has extended far into modern molecular biology, largely due to Callan's close connection with his friend Joe Gall. Gall made it possible for Callan, after his retirement, to continue his research in Gall's laboratory in Baltimore since it seemed impossible to do so in St. Andrews. Together they continued to share their findings on amphibian lampbrush chromosomes, which over recent years yielded a new series of papers with fundamentally important conclusions and implications for chromosome metabolism in general.

Rather than counting the merits of Callan's scientific work, which is known to everybody interested in chromosomes, or his many contributions to *Chromosoma* as an author or reviewer, I wish to recall his outstanding

and quite unusual personality. I can still remember the first time I met Mick Callan during my Ph.D. work in Beermann's laboratory in Tübingen. This documents the influence of his personality, which I recognized in more detail only later. During my postdoctoral time in Edinburgh, I visited him repeatedly in his laboratory in St. Andrews. At the University of St. Andrews he had worked in the Zoology Department since his appointment as Professor of Natural History from 1950 to his retirement in 1982. I learned to appreciate him as a critical, fair, and straightforward scientist who did not participate in intrigue or intentionally discourage others. I also found him to be a colleague who was not only open to discussions with much younger colleagues, providing stimulating inspiration, but also had the gift to provoke new ideas and views. I also appreciated the relaxed and friendly environment in his home. His wife, Amaryllis Maria Dohrn, the daughter of Professor Reinhard Dohrn (the director of the Stazione Zoologica, Naples), created this supportive environment for his scientific career.

The last time I met Mick was a few days after his 75th birthday, which he had celebrated with his family in Baltimore. We met in Joe Gall's laboratory where Callan showed me enthusiastically his latest slides with beautiful *in situ* hybridizations on lampbrush chromosomes. His enthusiasm, his modest and friendly personality, and his scientific work will remain in my memory and in that of many other colleagues as well.

Wolfgang Hennig, Nijmegen