OBITUARY

HELMUT E. ADLER, Ph.D. (1920–2001)

Helmut Adler, a consulting editor for this journal and a professor emeritus at Yeshiva University, died suddenly at his home in Queens, NY, on June 7, 2001. In addition to his work teaching and advising undergraduate students, he was an active writer and researcher, and was well known for his work in comparative psychology and the history of psychology.

Helmut was born in Nuremburg, Germany, on November 25, 1920. When he was 15 years old, he left Germany to attend boarding school in England. Five years later, he immigrated to the United States. After serving with the U.S. Army in the Philippines, he began studies at Columbia University, completing his B.S. degree in 1948, and his Ph.D. in experimental psychology in 1952. The subject of his dissertation research, conducted under Carl J. Warden, was observational learning in cats.

After a brief stint teaching at Columbia University, he joined the faculty at Yeshiva University in 1950, and remained there until his retirement. Early in his career, he studied the migration patterns of birds and cranes, which included the use of computer simulations, an innovative research technique for the time. He was indebted to his son, Barry, a computer specialist, for assisting him in this research.

Helmut was a Research Associate of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City where he investigated the sensory basis of spatial orientation in birds. In collaboration with his wife, Leonore Loeb Adler, he studied the behavior of Atlantic bottlenose dolphins, beluga whales, and California sea lions at the Mystic Marine Life Aquarium at Mystic, CT. Helmut and Leonore also collaborated on research investigating observational learning in dogs. He was the Secretary-General of the Section on Comparative Psychology and Animal Behavior of the International Union of Biological Sciences from 1972 to 1986.

One of his most important contributions to the history of psychology was his English translation of *Fechner's Elements of Psychophysics Vol. 1* (1966), which he undertook at the suggestion of famed psychology historian, E. G. Boring. He also wrote chapters on Gustav Fechner and Hermann von Helmholtz for the APA series *Portraits of Pioneers in Psychology*. He helped to organize several conferences at the New York Academy of Sciences and edited publications that grew out of those conferences. Included among them was a volume he co-edited with Robert W. Rieber, *Aspects of the History of Psychology in America (1892/1992)*, that was designed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Psychological Association. At the time of his death, he was preparing to write a chapter on Lillien Martin, a little-known pioneer of psychology.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Leonore, a frequent co-author and long-term consulting editor to the *International Journal of Group Tensions*. The couple has been a familiar sight at psychology conventions, from the local to the international level, for several decades. While Helmut pursued his degrees, Leonore was crucial in keeping the family afloat financially. While raising their three children, she attended night school and subsequently earned her Ph.D. in experimental psychology from Adelphi University. She continues to be a prolific writer and researcher. At different times, Helmut and Leonore each received the Wilhelm Wundt Award from the New York State Psychological Association for their contributions to academic psychology.

Helmut is also survived by his children Evelyn R. Agostini, Barry P. Adler, and Beverly S. Adler-Gross, a clinical psychologist, as well as seven grandchildren.

John D. Hogan, Ph.D.
St. John's University, New York