

OBITUARY

In memoriam HANS ELIAS

Prof. Dr. phil. Hans Elias "Honorary President" of the International Society for Stereology deceased April 11th, 1985. He was born June 28th, 1907 in Darmstadt, Germany. After his education in the classical secondary school he began his studies in biology and in mathematics at different universities in Germany and graduated to Dr. phil. in Giessen, Germany (Prof. Dr. W. E. Schmidt). In 1934 he left Germany via Zürich to Padua in Italy. In 1939 he emigrated to the USA and received a professorship for histology at the Middlesex School of Veterinary Medicine. From 1949 on he was prof. of Anatomy in the Chicago Medical School until he became emeritus in 1972. The evening of his life was spent in San Francisco where he had the function of research stereologist at the University of California.

He was a productive scientist having written over 230 papers, five textbooks (one with 5 editions) and three scientific monographs. One of his most important activities was the foundation of "Stereology" as an international science. He has given strong impulses for its development. I am sure without Hans Elias the consolidation of the broad interdisciplinary background of stereology would not have been possible.

Beside his stereological work he was an excellent scientist in the field of the structure of liver and cancer. Half of his publications deal with these subjects. In addition to his remarkable scientific abilities, Hans Elias was a talented artist who produced sculptures and paintings and drawings with three-dimensional sights. Hans Elias had a warm-hearted and charming personality and was able to convince his listeners of his opinion as well as to accept the ideas of other scientists by integrating them into his own viewpoint.

The ISS has lost a great scientist and stereologist. The society will not forget its first president and honorary president.

H. Hauq, Past President of the ISS