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Alan Stanley Horowitz (1930–1999)

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Dr Alan Stanley Horowitz, 68, passed away on 18th February 1999 in Bloomington, Indiana, after a protracted battle with leukemia. He was curator of Paleontology, an emeritus Senior Research Scientist, and part-time Professor of Geology at Indiana University.

Alan was born on 12th June 1930 in Ashland, Kentucky, the son of Samuel and Irene Strouss Horowitz. He was an Eagle Scout and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Washington and Lee University in 1952. In 1953, he completed a Masters degree on igneous rocks of the Nunatarssuaq area, northwest Greenland at The Ohio State University and followed that with a Doctoral degree on the fauna of the Late Mississippian Glen Dean Formation at Indiana University in 1957. His Greenland work was subsequently published in 1964 in a paper co-authored with A.T. Fernald.

After obtaining his Ph.D., Alan accepted a position as a research geologist with Marathon Oil Company in Denver, Colorado, where he worked from 1957 to 1965. At Marathon he served as palaeontologist with a team that pioneered the use of new techniques and approaches to the study of carbonate rocks. Alan returned to his alma mater, Indiana University, in 1966 to become Curator of Paleontology and he served in that capacity until his retirement in 1996. He willingly expanded his duties beyond research and curator of collections to include service on graduate research committees and teaching graduate courses. These extra contributions were formally recognized in 1980 with his appointment as research scientist and Professor of Geology (part-time).

An expert on the geology of Indiana and the south-central United States, Alan specialized in Late Mississippian (Chesterian) rocks and fossils. He was an internationally known authority on fossil bryozoans and blastoids, authoring or co-authoring 53 papers, 57 abstracts, 1 fieldtrip guidebook, 5 bulletins and monographs, and 1 book (*Introductory Petrography of Fossils*, co-authored with Paul E. Potter [1971]). He also made major contributions to palaeontology by compiling data from the published literature on various fossil groups. His research was supported by grants from The Petroleum Research Fund of the American Chemical Society and from The National Science Foundation. Additionally, Alan was a visiting professor at Aarhus University in Denmark in 1971-

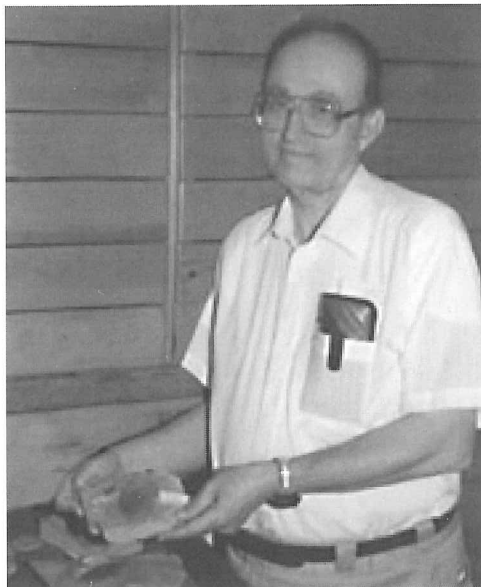


Figure 1. Alan Stanley Horowitz

1972. He regularly attended meetings of the Geological Society of America, the International Carboniferous Congress, and the International Bryozoology Association.

Alan was a recognized bibliophile, with a library exceeding 3000 books. He could usually be found wearing his ever-present visor in a corner of his darkened office surrounded by shelves and stacks of books. In the field, he'd usually have his nose "to the rocks", wearing knee pads and blinders on his glasses to cut out peripheral distractions. Alan would always lend a sympathetic ear to both faculty and students when problems (academic, scientific, or personal) arose. Generations of geology graduate students benefited from his counsel whether or not his name appeared on the signature page of their dissertation.

Alan collaborated extensively with a number of fellow geologists and palaeontologists, including especially Joseph Pachut, Johnny Waters, John B. Droste, Paul Potter, and James Stratton. Alan's scientific legacy consists of numerous goals that he continuously communicated to his students and colleagues. First, look for everything in the fossil record, not just the large conspicuous fossils (e.g. robust trepostomes). Second, compile and archive the existing scientific knowledge concerning any organic group, and generate computer-based compilations that are as complete as possible. Third, analyze your data quantitatively and apply as many new and modern techniques as you can to old problems. Alan's influence can be seen in the scientific work of all the paleontologists with whom he has worked.

He is survived by two sisters, Mrs Carol Picker of Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania and Mrs Ann Itkin of Brooklyn, New York, four step-children, Mrs Paula Jarrett, Peter Perry, Michael Perry and John Perry, and 12 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lillian Perry Horowitz.

We have lost a major contributor to the study of bryozoans. However, Alan will be remembered even more for his friendship and genuine warmth toward his colleagues. If pressed for a single item that characterizes him it would have to be his optimistic view of life. He was a classic example of a person who professed "the glass is half-full" view of life, always able to perceive the positive aspects of an issue, a person, or a difficult or complicated situation. As we continue to attempt to develop a similar outlook (we tend to "make haste slowly"), his encouragement and assistance will be missed.

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