

I. FOREWORD

The 1974 issue of the Maize Genetics Cooperation News Letter is the 48th volume of the series which began in 1932. The first of these News Letters consisted of a call for useful genetic stocks to be sent to Cornell, where they would be maintained and distributed, and of a summary statement of the informal meeting of maize geneticists held during the International Congress of Genetics at Ithaca. Subsequent News Letters at first appeared sporadically, but soon an annual issue was published regularly under the auspices of Cornell University. In 1955, Cornell expressed the desire to be relieved of the responsibility of publishing the News Letter and the maize geneticists gathered at the 1955 Meeting of the A.I.B.S. agreed to transfer the News Letter to the University of Illinois. The 1956, 1957, and 1958 volumes appeared from Illinois and subsequent volumes including the 1974 issue were sponsored by Indiana University as a consequence of my accepting a position there. Inasmuch as I retire formally this spring, Indiana will no longer publish the News Letter and next year's volume will appear under other auspices. As many of you know, the Maize Genetics Cooperation News Letter was the first of its kind. Its immediate success led Demerec to begin the Drosophila Information Service and, in following years, many other groups initiated News Letters. It is with some regret that I terminate my connection with the News Letter. I feel that it has played an important and significant role in furthering the progress of maize genetics. My involvement in the editing and arranging of the News Letter has in recent years been little more than serving in an advisory role. It is to Ellen Dempsey that all of us are indebted for her truly magnificent services to the News Letter. She and she alone in recent years has been responsible for all of the various tasks involved in publication.

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