

Jesse R. Singleton, 1918-1962

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Jesse R. Singleton, 1918-1962

Abstract

Obituary - Jessie R. Singleton - by D.D. Perkins

JESSE R. SINGLETON
1918 - 1962

Jesse R. Singleton died on July 5, 1962 at the age of 44 following surgery for cancer at Memorial Hospital, New York City.

Singleton received his undergraduate training at the University of Missouri and at Northwest Missouri State Teachers College, Maryville, and his M. A. in Botany at the University of Missouri. Following four years of army service, he resumed graduate work at California Institute of Technology where he received his Ph. D. in 1948, with a major in Genetics and minor in Experimental Embryology. His thesis, based on work carried out in association with Barbara McClintock, was entitled "Cytogenetic studies of *Neurospora crassa*."

He next worked for some months with B. O. Dodge at the New York Botanic Garden. He was Assistant Professor of Botany at the University of Missouri from 1948 until 1954, when he joined the faculty of the Department of Biological Sciences at Purdue University.

Singleton's abilities as a cytologist and geneticist were of a high order. He possessed a vigorous and cultivated mind, and was a perfectionist in all he did. His scientific interests were broad, and he was articulate and dedicated as a teacher. For several years he had been deeply engaged in developing at Purdue a rather remarkable course to serve as an adequate introduction to modern biology.

In the summer of 1961, while a visiting investigator at Stanford University, Singleton carried out the first cytological investigation of a paracentric inversion in *Neurospora*, and projected a long range program of cytogenetic studies. A research grant awarded to him by the National Science Foundation for cytogenetic mapping of the chromosome complement of *Neurospora crassa* would have been activated on July 1, only a few days before his death.

In addition to numerous unpublished cytogenetic data, Singleton left a manuscript "A mechanism intrinsic to heterozygous inversions affecting observed recombination frequencies in adjacent regions," which it is hoped can be prepared for publication.

He is survived by his wife, Katerina Zarudnaya Singleton (also a biologist), and a son, John.

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