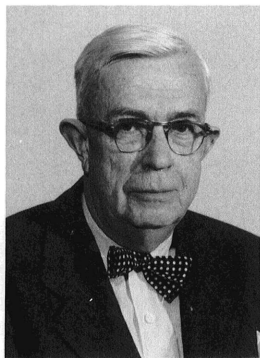


### Walter Hagemeyer Burkholder, 1891–1983

R. L. Millar, W. F. Rochow, and L. J. Tyler



Walter Hagemeyer Burkholder, Emeritus Professor of Plant Pathology at Cornell University, died January 30, 1983 in Ithaca, New York. He was born in Crawfordsville, Indiana, where he obtained the A.B. degree in Botany and English from Wabash College in 1913. He then joined the Department of Plant Pathology as a Fellow to begin the doctoral program. This association with Cornell University continued for 46 years until his retirement and appointment as Professor Emeritus July 1, 1959. He

received the PhD in 1917 and held an appointment as Investigator until 1921 when he was designated Assistant Professor, and was appointed Professor in 1927.

Professor Burkholder began his scientific career investigating fungi that cause disease in plants. In particular, he was concerned with diseases of beans. For his outstanding research he received a Meritorious Service Award from the Bean Improvement Cooperative, a national organization dedicated to improvement of bean crops. He became a world authority on bacteria that cause disease in plants. For many years he was editor of the section on phytopathogenic bacteria in *Bergey's Manual of Determinative*

*Bacteriology*, a definitive reference work for bacteriologists. Over the years he assembled a large collection of plant pathogenic bacteria, which were made available to scientists all over the world. For many years, he taught a section of the advanced graduate course on bacterial diseases of plants. His numerous research contributions ranged from fundamental studies on the physiology and taxonomy of these organisms to the development of resistant bean cultivars by which to control them and reduce losses sustained by bean growers. He was a member of Sigma Xi, the Society of American Bacteriologists, the Ecological Society of America, and the New York Academy of Sciences. He was a life member of the American Phytopathological Society, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Burkholder was an avid reader of poetry and fiction and especially enjoyed light opera. He was a connoisseur of fine food and liquor, the subtle delights of which he happily introduced to others. Burkie also was an outstanding person who exemplified the words gentleman, scholar, and scientist. He was a friend of students whom he counseled and regularly entertained, of growers whom he respected and was admired by in turn, and of people throughout the University community. To all these he was affectionately known as "Burkie." He had such warmth of personality and good humor, such diverse interests and experiences, that people sought his company and simply enjoyed him greatly.