Roger Sperry Dies
from Caltech Public Relations

Roger Wolcott Sperry 1913-1994

Roger W. Sperry, Nobel laureate and Board of Trustees Professor of Psychobiology, Emeritus, at Caltech, died of muscular dystrophy early Sunday morning, April 17, 1994. He was eighty.

A native of Hartford, Connecticut, Sperry earned his bachelor’s degree in English literature from Oberlin College in 1935, then focused his attention on psychology, earning his master’s in that subject in 1937, also from Oberlin. For his doctorate, he studied zoology, earning his degree from the University of Chicago in 1941.

His academic career was equally diverse. He held fellowships at Harvard from 1941 to 1946, where he worked in the Yerkes Laboratories of Primate Biology, and performed military service from 1942 to 1945 by taking part in the OSRD Medical Research Project on Nerve Injuries. He taught as an assistant professor in the University of Chicago’s department of anatomy until 1952, then in 1952-53 served as an associate professor of psychology at the school and simultaneously as thr

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sperry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FROM PAGE 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| ary 1994 issue of Humankind Advanc
| ing, which was dedicated to Sperry, “Reflection on the manifestations of conscious awareness in the surgically divided brain led Sperry, in 1965, to publish the first of a remarkable series of philosophical papers.” In these papers, Sperry proposed a new theory of mind that, though greeted with initial skepticism, was destined within ten years to replace behaviorism as the dominant foundation of behavioral science. It is for this, more than his studies of vision, neuronal growth, or split-brain patients, that Sperry wanted to be remembered.

Besides sharing the Nobel Prize in 1981 with David H. Hubel and Torsten N. Wiesel, Sperry also received the National Medal of Science in 1989 from George Bush, the Wolf Prize in Medicine and the Albert Lasker Medical Research Award in 1979, and the California Scientist of the Year Award in 1972.

In addition to his talents as a researcher, he was “the most artistic person I’ve ever known,” said longtime laboratory assistant Lois MacBird in a 1981 interview. “He sculpts phenomenally.” [The Sperry’s] home is filled with his work.” Sperry was also an avid paleontologist, with an extensive collection of prehistoric mollusks.

“He was one of the premier experimental neurobiologists of his time,” said Norman Davidson, the Norman Chandler Professor of Chemical Biology, Emeritus, and Executive Office for Biology at Caltech. “Those of us who have known him since those early years will always remember the courage and tenacity with which he continued to carry on his work in later years in spite of a debilitating degenerative disease. It was an inspiration to all who knew him.”

Sperry is survived by his wife of 45 years, Norma Deupree Sperry of Pasadena; his brother, Russell L. Sperry, of Bend, Oregon; his son, Glenn Tad Sperry, of Philadelphia; his daughter, Janeth Hope Sperry, of Cleveland; and two grandchildren.

The family asks that, in lieu of sending flowers, donations be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, or to the Children’s Lung Fund, Cleveland, Ohio.