Remembering John (Jan) W. Drake (February 10, 1932 – February 2, 2020)

At the end of the last century, friends and students of N.W. Timofeeff-Ressovsky were preparing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birthday. Timofeeff-Ressovsky was closely associated with American geneticists. We were advised to invite Drake to the centennial of Timofeeff-Ressovsky, who knew the history of genetics well.

Then Drake became one of the founders of the conference "Modern problems of genetics, radiobiology, radioecology and evolution", dedicated to Timofeeff-Ressovsky. Co-organizer of the conference became also the Genetic Society of America. In addition to his important lectures on mutagenesis and repair, we must say that he became a bridge between young scientists coming to the conference and American geneticists.

Drake took part in all conference events; especially he supported young scientists.

Together we wrote an article for the Foreword of the book "Genetics, evolution, and radiation" (2016). In this short article "Timofeeff-Ressovsky and American scientists", a connection is traced, sometimes large, sometimes breaking off, between Russian and American geneticists. This article also refers to the Conferences “Modern problems of genetics, radiobiology, radioecology and evolution”.

Yerevan, 2005

In his last letter in the summer 2019, Jan Drake wrote to me that he would like to be co-chair of the V Int. conference in October 2020 and wanted to go to Yerevan. We dedicated the conference Chapter “Genetics” to Prof. Jan Drake.

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