

Dedication:

John R. Laughnan

Maize Geneticist

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John R. Laughnan (1919–1994) was a powerful figure in maize and *Drosophila* genetics who made important contributions to maize breeding. His insightful investigations on the *shrunk2* locus and his subsequent efforts, carried out on his own as a sideline, profoundly altered the sweet corn industry. His work on the *a1* locus and cytoplasmic male sterility provided important advances to our knowledge of maize genetics. John Laughnan was far sighted, a dedicated scientist, an excellent teacher, a wise administrator, and a loyal friend. This dedicatory chapter in his memory is but a small measure of our regard and respect for him.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Laughnan was born on a farm in Irish Valley, Wisconsin. His father died when he was an infant and his mother had to sell the farm and move to Sauk City to be near relatives. This general area of Spring Green is a beautiful part of Wisconsin, now famous as Frank Lloyd Wright country and the Wright “school” at Taliesin is on the old Laughnan farm.

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