

Jaffe, National Public Radio, for a report, "Biochemistry and violins," broadcast on NPR 25 November 1983.

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## Robert V. Ormes

### 1921–1984

*Science* associate publisher Robert V. Ormes, who died on 21 May of leukemia at the age of 62, joined the journal in 1954 in the entry-level job of editorial assistant.

Ormes served as managing editor from 1961 to 1981, during the period of major growth in readership and advertising revenue for *Science*. The managing editor title ordinarily denotes responsibility for day-to-day editorial operations but from the time he assumed the post Ormes was increasingly occupied with the production and business aspects of the journal. As the economics and technology of periodical publishing changed rapidly in the 1960's and 1970's, Ormes demonstrated a notable capacity to inform himself on the complexities of successive problems facing *Science* and to help fashion practical measures to meet them.

Ormes played a key role in managing the budget stresses that hit the AAAS and *Science* in the early 1970's when rapidly rising costs were outstripping revenues. *Science* editor Philip H. Abelson, who was acting executive officer for the association at the time, with Ormes's

aid instituted a series of economies and cost-control measures designed to restore equilibrium.

Ormes originally came to *Science* at a time when the members of the small staff had to be versatile, and he retained a high degree of adaptability throughout his career. Much of his effort went into the task of preparing annual *Science* budgets and negotiating printing contracts. Economies won in the conversion to current printing and typesetting technology helped to keep the books in balance in a period of high inflation. He also proved himself an effective problem-solver in even more specialized sectors. When postal costs escalated, for example, Ormes became the journal's guide through the maze of domestic and foreign postal rates and regulations. In an especially litigious period, he developed an astute layman's understanding of libel law. He made a solid personal contribution to the development of a standard style guide for biology journals. And his self-taught knowledge of copyright law made him a resourceful defender of the *Science* name when it was threatened with infringement. In more than one of these fields he earned the solid respect of the experts.

"*Science* absorbed Bob" said Executive Officer William D. Carey. "In the best and worst of times his hand was steady and his dedication total. He was the classic professional. But this does him less than justice because Bob loved science and practiced generosity, and to the end he drew on a vein of strength that awed us and revealed the essential quality of the man."

Ormes was born in New York City but had strong family ties in Indiana. He was graduated from Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana, in 1943 and after Navy service in World War II returned there to teach for 2 years as an instructor in English and mathematics. Despite a subsequent stint as a graduate student at Columbia University and nearly 30 years at *Science*, his low-key personality and unabrasive management style always retained a midwestern flavor.

His immediate survivors are his wife, the former Mary Ann Otto, and three daughters, Julia, Caroline, and Margaret.

## Botanical Essays

### Available

Two Pacific Division presidential addresses can now be ordered from the Division. The addresses are "The Importance of (Tropical) Diversity," by Mildred Mathias (University of California at Los Angeles; 1978; 11 pages) and "The Future of Plants and Vegetation Under Human Influence," by Herbert G. Baker (University of California, Berkeley; 1983; 14 pages).

Orders, together with \$1 per copy to cover postage and handling (\$1.50 if ordering both addresses), should be sent to the Pacific Division AAAS, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California 94118.

## Theme of Arctic Science

### Conference Is "Science and Public Policy"

The AAAS Arctic Division will hold its 35th annual conference 3 to 5 October 1984, in Anchorage, Alaska. Under the broad theme, "Science and Public Policy," symposia are planned on science education, credibility, and acceptance of science in the North, telecommunications and policy, and earthquake hazards reduction.

Special topic symposia will include meteorology and oceanography of North American high latitudes, pure and applied mathematics, and vegetation inventory and mapping:

For further information, contact John Davies, 1984 Conference Chairman, AAAS Arctic Division, P.O. Box 80271, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708, or call 907-474-6166.



Robert V. Ormes