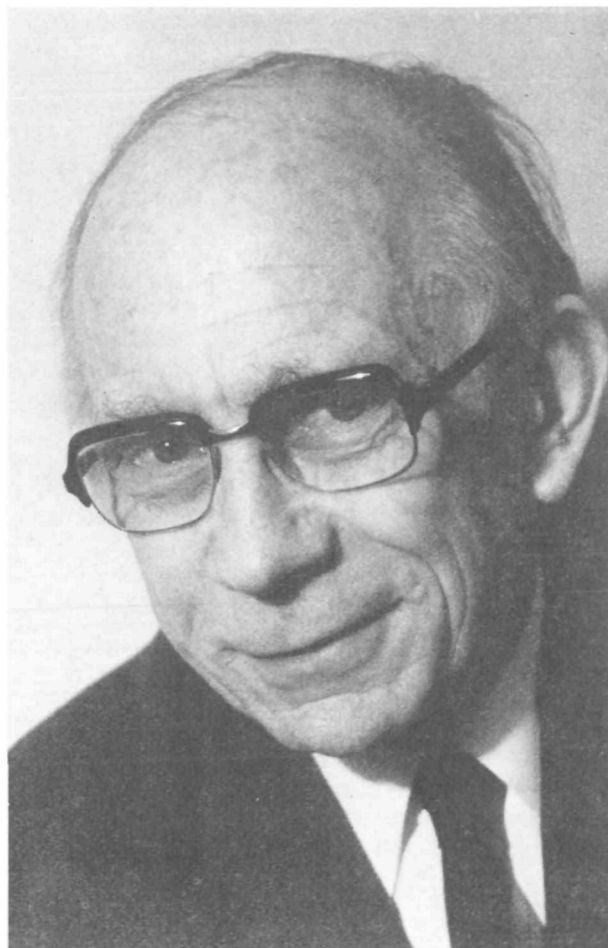


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Johannes Krey
1912–1975

Professor, dr. Johannes Krey died on 10 May, 1975 in Kiel after several years of bad health. He will be remembered as the man who was responsible for the rebirth of the tradition of plankton science at the University of Kiel. Until the beginning of the twenties one of the important centres – if not the most important – of marine plankton investigations was found in Kiel.

During the ICES meeting in 1939 in Berlin Krey gave his first contribution to marine science by presenting a paper later published in this Journal about the measurement of chlorophyll in water samples from the sea. He was not the first to measure chlorophyll in the sea, but his predecessors had used phytoplankton collected by means of fine silk nets, a most unsatisfactory procedure. Krey's technique made it possible to use the method for evaluating the standing stock of phytoplankton.

The war caused a break of nearly 10 years in Krey's scientific activity. Just after the end of the war he was busy with the rebuilding of the marine institute (Institut für Meeresforschung) at the University of Kiel.

It is interesting to note that Krey's scientific activity again centered around methods to be used in the plankton science. His most outstanding contribution in this period was the introduction of the biuret reaction for the quantitative determination of protein in plankton. He also introduced to the marine science the term seston, which previously had been used by some limnologists. Seston includes besides the plankton all particular matter, organic and inorganic.

In 1953 Krey was appointed associate professor, and in 1965 he took over the new chair in marine planktology at the University of Kiel. He had many students: 24 doctorate promotions have taken place under his guidance. Professor Krey was always helpful and friendly and therefore very popular. He took part in many cruises and published many articles concerning the plankton. He was mainly interested in primary production but wrote several papers on zooplankton and detritus.

In the later years of his life Krey took an active part in the International Oceanography. He started this part of his career as chairman of the Plankton Committee of ICES, 1960–1965. He made extensive journeys as coordinator for SCOR of the International Indian Ocean Expedition and participated in the cruise of "Meteor" in the Indian Ocean. After the expedition he was both Chairman of the Consultative Committee of the "Indian Ocean Biological Centre" in India and the chief editor of the atlases summarising the results of all the cruises during the International Indian Ocean Expedition. He did not succeed in publishing the atlas on plankton before his death. He was, however, the author of "Primary Production in the Indian Ocean".

At the same time he had several other activities both international and national. He was thus a member of the IBP Committee on productivity of marine communities. In retrospect, he was perhaps unwise to use so much energy on all these international activities. Krey had his first heart attack during the First Oceanographic Congress in New York in 1959. Unpractical as he was, he walked to the hotel from the air terminal carrying his luggage. Very few of the other participants in the congress did so: it was New York in August with the ordinary heat wave!

Johannes Krey will be remembered by all his many friends as a man always ready to do his best in all situations. He did not want to spare himself. It was sad to see how his health declined during the latest years. Nor was he spared for personal sorrows. We will honour him not only as a scientist who added much to the understanding of planktology but also as an outstanding personality.

E. Steemann Nielsen