

*To Doctor Thompson
with warmest personal
regards of Ray & Truex*

A TRIBUTE TO
ELIZABETH C. CROSBY

Upon presentation of the
HENRY GRAY AWARD

April 3, 1972

by
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Reprinted from

The Proceedings of the American Association of Anatomists
eighty-fifth meeting, THE ANATOMICAL RECORD, Volume 174,
pp. 70-73, September 1972.

The Henry Gray award, established by Lea and Febiger "in recognition of sustained and meritorious service to the entire scientific community through scholarly accomplishments in original investigation, teaching, and writing in the field of Anatomy," was made by Past President Truex. President Truex's tribute and awarding speech to Dr. Elizabeth C. Crosby follows:

"In 1970 and 1971 the numerous stars in the field of Anatomy were thoroughly surveyed in the search of two super stars. In 1970 'Boyden's Belt' was observed in the constellation of Pisces, and in 1971 'Duncan's Diad' was discovered under the sign of Aquarius.

"Tonight I am happy to report another successful celestial exploration by members of the Selection Committee — a quest for another star to add to the luster of the two previous recipients of the Henry Gray Award. We circled the zodiac, we navigated the Milky Way en route to the cluster of stars that shine over the fields of Anatomia — when lo, in the galaxy of Scorpio we discovered Antares, a super-star that possesses luminescence a thousand times greater than that of the sun itself. Antares has an inner source of energy and light that warms the planets around her as she benignly rules the constellation of Scorpius. The search was ended — we had found another super-star to complete the celestial triad. Our selection for the 1972 Henry Gray Award is Queen Antares of Anatomia — nee Elizabeth Crosby, Professor Emeritus of Anatomy at the University of Michigan and at the University of Alabama Medical Center. She is an inveterate traveler and it will interest many to learn that she still spends one fortnight each month in Ann Arbor, the other in Birmingham. This arrangement permits her to pursue several active research interests in both institutions while serving as Consultant to the two Departments of Neurosurgery. Long may Dr. Crosby, the Emeritus flying archangel, continue to dispense neurologic knowledge at the undergraduate and graduate levels in order to perpetuate the pleasures of her customary eighteen-hour day. For one so young in heart — so full of the zest for life — for one who reads

poetry and detective stories while jetting through midwestern and southern skies, there can never be such a thing as a generation gap.

"The one we honor tonight is an exceedingly smooth blend of a rugged German-English ancestry, parental encouragement in all endeavors, and the rich benefits that accrued from the fullest of symbiotic associations with several outstanding anatomists. Only Dr. Crosby could identify and evaluate the indelible threads that became woven into the fabric of her full and eminently successful life by three of her colleagues — namely, C. Judson Herrick, G. Carl Huber, and C. U. Ariëns Kappers.

"Neither poetic words, nor those of this ardent admirer, are adequate to evaluate the colossal mind and solid research contributions of this dynamic yet demure lady of science. Appreciation of the past often lends enchantment to the future, so began for me a search for the real Elizabeth Crosby as seen through the eyes of some who knew her best as student, teacher, research colleague and friend. Regrettably, time permits only a few brief samples from an enchanting box of stardust.

"Elizabeth Crosby, the only child of Lewis Frederick and Frances Kreps Crosby, was born of Scorpio on October 25, 1888, in the little town of Petersburg, Michigan. Even her birthplace conjures up visions of good things to come, for Petersburg is comfortably nestled amidst towns with such euphonious names as Dundee, Maybee, Blissfield, and Temperance. Being outstanding in alertness and intellectual capacity, she deciphered symbols and sentences at a very early age. She read Jane Eyre, the History of the French Revolution, and many other volumes before she received formal reading instruction in school. One can only speculate on the re-