

## PROFESSOR AUBREY MANNING (24.04.1930–20.10.2018)

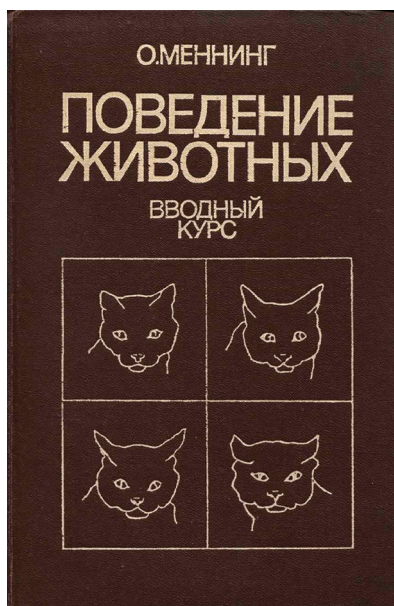


World science has suffered an irreparable loss. Aubrey Manning has passed away. He was a kind man loved by his friends and an outstanding scientist who made an important contribution to the development and teaching of modern ethology and behaviour genetics.

Aubrey Manning started his scientific career in the laboratory of Niko Tinbergen, the founding father of ethology (1). Studies by Aubrey Manning and Margaret Bastock in the 1950s and 1960s laid the foundations of modern evolutionary genetics of behaviour. They showed the important role of mutations affecting animal

behaviour in the process of speciation: in the formation and breakdown of reproductive isolation. Aubrey Manning conducted one of the first breeding experiments concerning *Drosophila* mating behaviour, and demonstrated that artificial selection for behaviour led to rapid and significant changes in a number of other traits. In the 1970s and 1980s, he published a series of important papers on the genetics, evolution and physiology of various forms of sexual, parental and social behaviour in insects and in mammals.

In the 1960s, Professor Manning, working at the University of Edinburgh, wrote a textbook 'An Introduction to Animal



Behaviour'. It immediately became, and still remains, a handbook for students and research workers on animal behaviour. In 1982 the book was translated into Russian by I.I. Poletaeva and Z.A. Zorina, and was published by Mir Publishing House under the title 'Behavior of Animals. Introductory Course (2)'. It was one of the first books that conveyed the basics of modern ethology and behavioural genetics to Soviet readers.

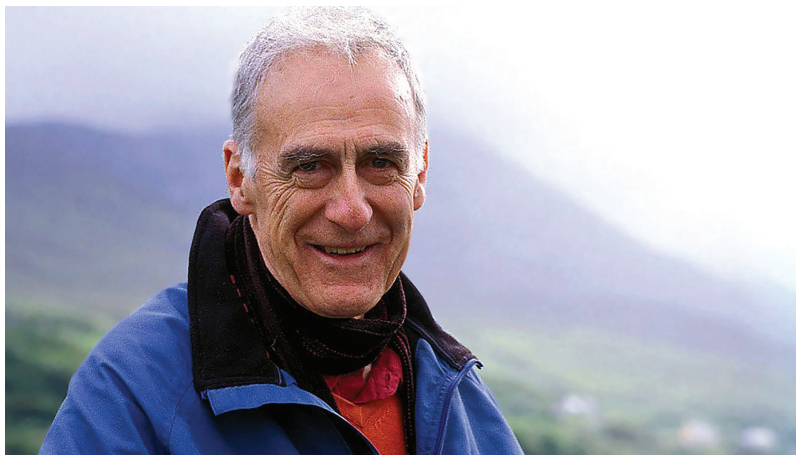
The interests of Aubrey Manning and D.K. Belyaev in the evolution of behaviour and the role of selection in this process inevitably brought

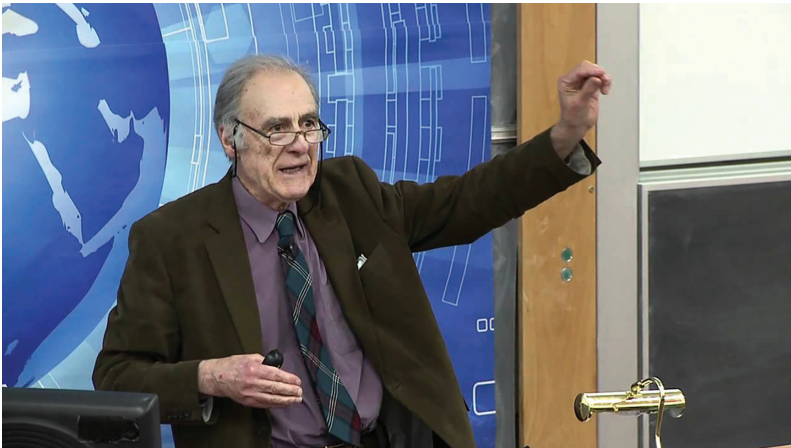
these two brilliant scientists together. They first met in Edinburgh at the International Ethological Conference and became lifelong friends. Aubrey Manning visited the Institute of Cytology and Genetics in Novosibirsk twice. The first time he came was in 1983 at the invitation of D.K. Belyaev. In 1987, two years after D.K. Belyaev's death, he took part in the first 'Belyaev's Readings'. In a lecture at the Readings he presented his vision of the famous experiment with foxes. In all subsequent editions of his textbook, Aubrey Manning emphasized the significance of this experiment for understanding the mechanisms of the evolution of behaviour and the wider role of behaviour in evolutionary processes (3).

In his memoirs about D.K. Belyaev, Aubrey Manning wrote «We all miss him very much - he was an excellent scientist and a wonderful man.» We now say the same words about Aubrey Manning himself. Everyone, who was lucky enough to have been acquainted with him remains forever fascinated by his charisma, his encyclopaedic erudition, his sincere and passionate interest in people and other animals, in life in all its manifestations. Charles Darwin was called "a man of enlarged curiosity", Aubrey Manning was just such a man. He viewed science as a wonderful tool to discover the secrets of the universe. He always rejoiced sincerely, and in almost child-like fashion in these discoveries.

His wonderful personality did not escape the attention of TV producers and filmmakers. In the 1990s and 2000s Aubrey Manning made an outstanding contribution to the public understanding of science. With him as presenter, a remarkable series of films called "Earth Story" were made, in which he, with his characteristic passion, told the audience fascinating stories of discoveries in the geological and biological history of our planet (4). This series was followed by other programs on British television and radio: "Seven Wonders of the World" (5), "Landscape Mysteries" (6), "Talking Landscapes" (7) "Unearthing Mysteries", "Sounds of life", and "Origins: the Human Connection".

Until the end of his days, Aubrey Manning conveyed to people his admiration and love for





life on Earth (8) and endeavoured to make life on our planet better (9). He was a great scientist and a wonderful man. We will all miss him terribly.

Pavel Borodin  
Lyudmila Trut

1. Richard Dawkins interviews Aubrey Manning: <https://youtu.be/yxeYvIYrXDc>.
2. Меннинг О (1982). Поведение животных: Вводный курс: Пер. с англ. Мир.
3. Manning A, Dawkins MS (2012). An introduction to animal behavior. Cambridge University Press.
4. Earth Story: <https://youtu.be/UFcKEcyWhGQ>.
5. Seven Wonders of the World: <https://youtu.be/la-Hd2FiLmA>.
6. Landscape Mysteries: <https://youtu.be/Svsb-DhVmUw>.
7. Talking Landscapes: <https://youtu.be/OK1MkEOCfTc>.
8. Learning to Live with our Planet: <https://youtu.be/5n4uqeBbVTo>.
9. Population: Can We Begin to Talk Sensibly?: [https://youtu.be/yag-v\\_T0IQk](https://youtu.be/yag-v_T0IQk).

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