

Nobel Prize '72 winner found dead

NEW YORK (AP) — Stanford Moore, 68, winner of the 1972 Nobel Prize for chemistry for his pioneering work in deciphering the structure of enzymes and proteins, was found dead Monday in his Manhattan home.

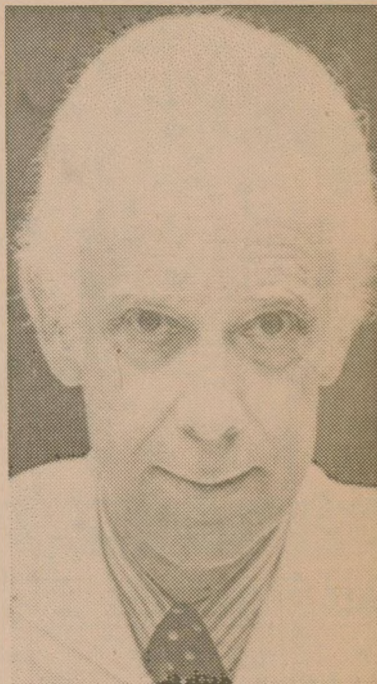
Police said a suicide note was found at the scene but added the cause of death was not clear.

Judy Schwartz, a spokeswoman for Rockefeller University, said Mr. Moore suffered from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a progressive nerve and muscle disease known commonly as Lou Gehrig's Disease, but had been working in his office as recently as a few days ago.

Mr. Moore was born in Chicago and grew up in Tennessee. In 1939, after earning degrees at Vanderbilt University and the University of Wisconsin, he joined what was then called the Rockefeller Institute.

He remained working there for the rest of his life. He and his associate, William H. Stein, developed an automatic amino acid analyzer now in use throughout the world.

In 1963, they announced that they had used that tool to decipher the structure of ribonuclease, which



Stanford Moore

consists of 124 amino acids and 1,870 atoms, the first enzyme ever deciphered and the largest protein puzzled out at the time.

Mr. Moore and Stein shared the 1972 Nobel Prize for chemistry for that research with Christian B. Anfinsen.

Mr. Moore, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, was also a member of the board of trustees of Vanderbilt University.

He left no known survivors. A private funeral was planned.

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STANFORD MOORE, A NOBEL LAUREATE

Helped Decipher the Chemical Nature of a Human Enzyme

By RICHARD SEVERO

Dr. Stanford Moore, who shared a Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1972 for research into the chemical structure of pancreatic nuclease, a human enzyme, died yesterday at his home in Manhattan. He was 68 years old and had suffered from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a progressive disease of the nerves and muscles.

The police said that they had found what appeared to be a suicide note in his apartment but added that they were still uncertain about the cause of death. An autopsy is scheduled to be conducted tomorrow. No other details were immediately available.

At the time of his death, Dr. Moore, a biochemist, was John D. Rockefeller Professor at The Rockefeller University, with which he became associated in 1939. Although ill, he had remained active until recent weeks, according to the university.

Dr. Moore and Dr. William H. Stein, with whom he shared the Nobel Prize, were co-researchers for 40 years. They were credited with making major contributions to the development of quantitative chromatographic procedures for the separation of amino acids, which are the basic components of proteins.

Development of Chromatography

Chromatography is a technique for separating biological substances that had not been used for amino acids until Dr. Moore and Dr. Stein developed their approach.

In 1959, the two researchers described chemically the structure of an enzyme and decoded the enzyme pancreatic nuclease, an enzyme that breaks down into ribonucleic acid. They were the first to find that pancreatic nuclease consists of a chain of 124 amino acids, consisting of 1,876 atoms and demonstrated how those acids composed the ribonuclease molecule. The discovery was vital in terms of understanding how a biological malfunction might be repaired in the human body.

"It is fundamental to medicine to know the structure of 2,000 enzymes by the year 2000," Dr. Moore said when he won the Nobel Prize. "Man's understanding of man is an even higher priority of research than man's understanding of the universe."

Dr. Moore, a tall, thin man with snow-white hair, was known for his articulate discourses in biochemistry. He was born in Chicago on Sept. 4, 1913. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Vanderbilt University in 1935 and his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Wisconsin in 1938, the year before he joined what was then called the Rockefeller Institute.



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Dr. Stanford Moore