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HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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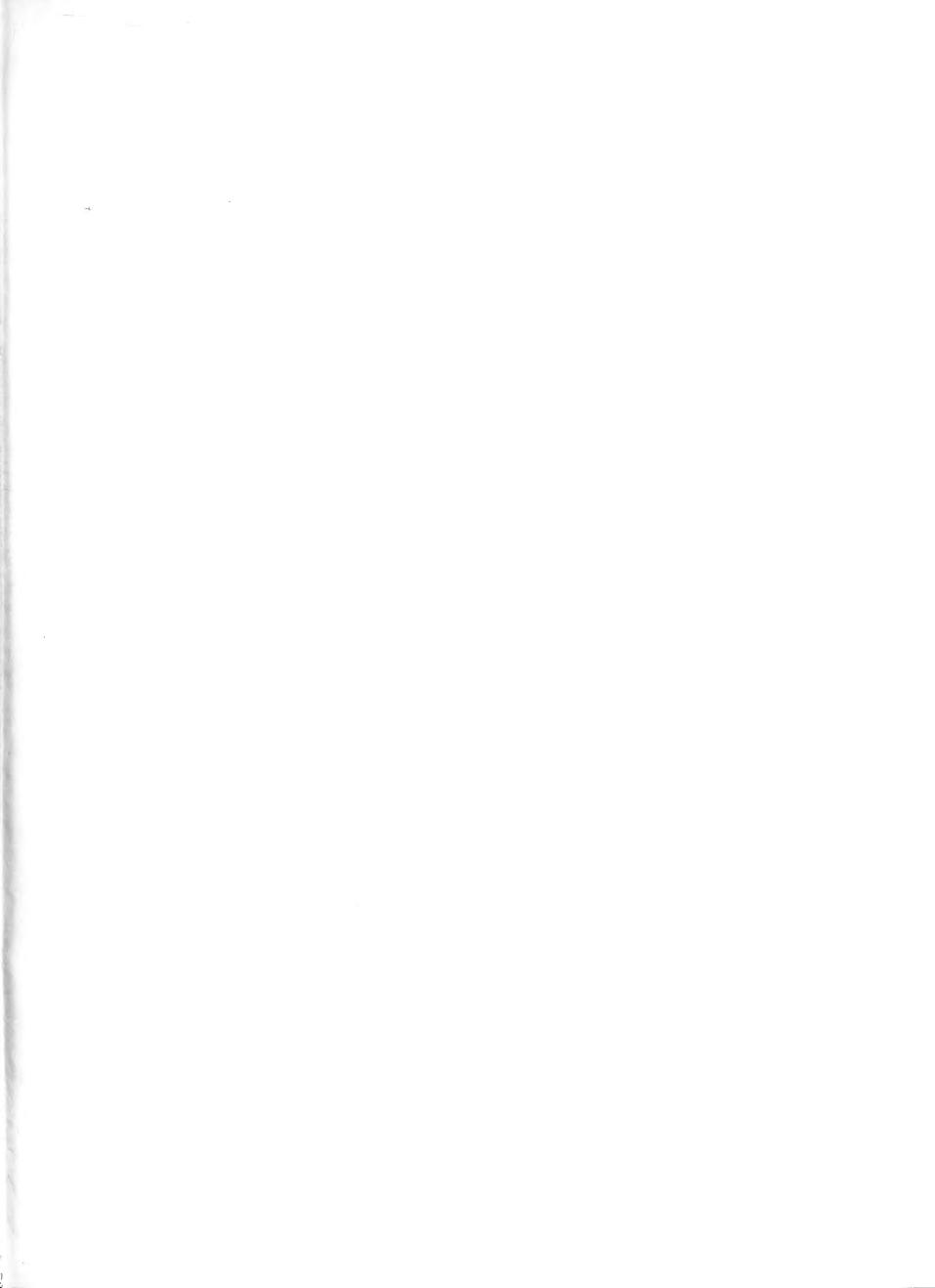
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Comparative Zoology









## MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY

## NEWSLETTER

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and is now resultanded in a bright ord see background. We have always prided ourselves on the privacy everyone can enjoy at the MCZ, if base and he wants to be left alone. We surely would not want to change this good tradition. On the other hand, our former graduate students over mand associates often express the wish te not muse who kept better informed on happenings at the MCZ. Indeed, even some of the nonbe been smokers inside the Museum have occasionally be your affelt a little out of touch.

- Jan 1023-1140-04, even some of the hon-

With this statement from the Director, we inaugurate a new serial from the MCZ, and hope that you will find it useful and informative.

Those of you who have been away for a while won't recognize the place when you come back for a visit and find that both stairways have been rebuilt. That vast, slippery, open central stairway has been replaced by a smaller enclosed structure, with a fire door on each floor, and good firm footing. Best of all, the space saved provides extra work space on each floor. And if you ever wondered what "decorator's colors" means, here's your chance to find out.

A new Department of Biology program encouraging graduate studies in comparative morphology, systematics, paleontol gy, population genetics, population ecology and ethology is supported by a NSF training grant providing research funds and assisting graduate students to carry out field work. A descriptive booklet, "Graduate Studies in Evolutionary Biology," is available.

Cooney on Nov. 5, 1961. Ceil had been secretary to Drs. Whittington and Kummel since 1954 and was a familiar face to all who had occasion to visit or work in their department. Not only was she an able and conscientious worker, her warm and friendly nature made it a pleasure to know her. She will be missed by us all.

raity of Arizana where On a much happier note, it is a pleasure to be able to say that Mr. Maxwell French, who suffered a coronary heart attack in October, is now out of danger and on the road to recovery. The doctor is confident that he will be discharged from the hospital in time to spend Christmas with his family. However, he still faces a long period of recuperation and any cards or other messages will be appreciated. Same can be sent to 8 Pond Street, Stoneham 80, Mass.

Catherine McGeary

MUSSUM OF COMPARATIVE SCOLOCY

Paleontology. In the vertebrate paleontology department work is proceeding on several new items for exhibition. A family tree of mammals is almost completed in the hall of fossil mammals, and a family tree of reptiles is in preparation. Our mounted dinosaur (Plateosaurus) has been moved from the first floor to the third, and is now resplendent in a bright orange background.

The preparation department is busy chiseling the South American fossils from the rock, and sorting great quantities of Wyoming sand, hunting for tiny mammal teeth and bones. the actor hand, our former grad

James Jensen left us in August to assume new duties in Provo, Utah, where he is attempting to set up a natural history museum for Brigham Young University. While from Utah, again, came our new assistant preparator, Dee Hall. Mrs. Gail Triff has been added to the staff to do the fine sand sorting, and Linda Loring has moved upstairs to help with the cataloging and to assist Professor Patterson.

Craig Black was here early in December to take his final exam on his thesis. 

Mollusks. Josef Vagvolgyi expects to complete his thesis, a clinal study of a group of North American land snails, and take his final exams in February 1962. He has recently been awarded a post-doctoral fellowship to continue his work at the MCZ on the distribution of molluscan land shell families. A new Benzemant of st

Dr Clench and two students, Mr. Kenneth Boss and Mr. Samuel Fuller, had a successful seven week trip collecting freshwater mollusks in eastern Georgia.

Ruth Turner attended the 10th Pacific Science Congress in Honolulu and stayed on after the meetings to work in the Bishop Museum. Visits were also made to the California Academy of Sciences, Stanford Univ., and the Univ. of British Columbia and the Biological Station at Nanaimo, B.C. and tronger by such asomuse down daily all the

Mr. Richard Foster, Associate in the Department, spent seven months collecting in Madagascar. The resulting material greatly enriches our collections.

Dr. J.C. Bequaert is now at the University of Arizona where he is active in both entomology and malacology, collecting, and assisting in the parasitology course. now out of danger numbers and to recovery. The danger of the that the will be discharged from the hospital in the contribution of the contribution

Catherine McGeery

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ouperation and any eards or other messages will be appreciated.

Library. Sally Morris has announced her engagement to Gail English Thwing who teaches biology at Westwood High School.

The entire library staff went to the first meeting of the July 1 1982 Harvard Library Club which had its first meeting at Fogg Museum, November 14.

Miss MacKenzie attends the departmental librarians' monthly luncheon at the Faculty Club as the guest of Paul H. Buck, Director of the University Library.

Do you know that the library exchanges publications with 1,000 institutions all over the world and receives 1931 journals from these exchange partners? Miss MacKenzie has visited the principal Natural History Museum libraries in Washington, D.C., New York, Pennsylvania, England, France, Germany, and Italy and discussed the exchange of publications as well as checked the exchange lists of these libraries for new exchanges. These libraries are mostly in government museums and we learned that we have the largest University Museum library in the world. Therefore, we have much more autonomy in our exchange program.

Since September the Library has had visitors from Hawaii, Japan, Argentina, and the United Arab Republic, as well as from many institutions in the U.S.A.

Some recent gifts to the Library: From the American Museum of Natural History: Butterflies of the American Tropics, by W.P. Comstock.

From the Sedgwick Museum, University of Cambridge, England: A Catalogue of the collection of Cambrian and Silurian Fossils, 1873.

From Prof. H.B. Bigelow: Encyclopaedia Zoologica, illustrated in colours (Japanese), 4 vols.

Check your spelling - the 1961 Webster's Unabridged is in the Library.

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Jessie Bell MacKenzie

# # # #

Entomology. Bob Taylor of the Biological Laboratories and the MCZ is one of the first recipients of funds from the Evolutionary Biology Committee. In February Bob and his wife Wendy will leave the rigors of winter in Cambridge for Fiji, Samoa, eastern Queensland, Australia, and New Guinea, where the big hunt will be on for Ponerine ants to be used in an ecological study.

Howard E. Evans has recently returned from a very profitable and enjoyable one month stay in London where he studied the collection of solitary wasps at the British Museum.

The man behind the bookcase barricade in the Entomology Department is James E. Gillaspy, Research Associate, who is working with Howard Evans in determining the evolution of structure and behavior patterns of nyssonine digger wasps. Before coming to the MCZ, Dr. Gillaspy was a member of the Biology Department of Sul Ross State College in Alpine, Texas.

Other new-comers to the department are Sue Koelle and Christine Curtis. Sue, who came to us from Vassar with a bachelor's degree in biology, spends her hours here sorting centipedes and millipedes, an ambitious project full of surprises. From this alcoholic collection of myriapods, she has found, among other items, a tadpole, some sea shells, and an unusual little creature that had even our eminent entomologists stumped for a while!

Chris is also at work in the Arachnology Section, as an assistant in that office. Among her many jobs, Chris sees that the tarantulas are well watered.

New graduate students whose work at the Biological Laboratories also involves work with this department at the MCZ are Joe Beatty, from University of Arizona, who works with spiders, and Ellis Mac Leod, from the University of Maryland, whose attention is centered on the neuropteroid insects.

An interesting lot of Carabidae and spiders collected by Mr. Luis E. Peña in Tierra del Fuego was purchased recently. The insect material is now being readied for mounting and Miriam McKown is busy laundering the beetles in detergent in order to rid them of their greasy coating. I wonder if the makers of Tide realize how important their product really is?

In November Dr. Elwood C. Zimmerman presented a series of three very informative seminars to the Tuesday noon seminar group. He discussed the origin of the Hawaiian Islands and the zoogeography of that area, and showed some excellent slides and films, including a spectacular sequence of actual volcanic eruptions.

The Cambridge Entomological Club has been holding meetings as usual on the second Tuesday evening of the month. At the last meeting, held December 12, Dr. Howard Evans discussed the evolution of prey carrying mechanisms in wasps and illustrated this very interesting talk with movies and slides he had taken in the field.

Many entomologists have visited the department in the past few months to study and work with the collections. Among the visitors were: William L. Brown of Cornell University, who spent some time here this summer continuing his work on ants; Willis W. Wirth of the U.S. N.M. who put our Diptera collection in order; Barry P. Moore of C.S. I.R.O. in Canberra, Australia, whose interest is in our collection of Australian Carabidae; T.E. Woodward of the Department of Entomology at the University of Queensland, who studied our Hemiptera; Henry F. Howden of the Entomology Research Institute in Ottawa, Canada, who worked on our scarabs, especially subterranean breeders that feed on mushrooms underground; George E. Ball of the Department of Entomology at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada who was interested in certain types and South American Carabidae. visitors who were here at one time or another during the summer months included Melville H. Hatch of the University of Washington; Jean L. Laffoon from Iowa State University; Oliver S. Flint, Jr. of the Smithsonian Institution; Dr. A.M. Chickering of Albion College, Michigan; Dr. R.A. Crabill of the U. S.N.M.; Dick L. Desnier and Raymond Gagne of Iowa State Univ.; John A. Wagner, of Northwestern Univ.; Marius Wasbauer of the Dept. of Agriculture of California; David Miller and David McCorkle of the Univ. Washington; Elwood

Montgomery of Purdue Univ.; Sidney Camras of Chicago; Richard White of Ohio State Univ.; Dr. J. Abalos from Argentina to study black-widow spiders; Dr. A. Fain from the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, to study mites and pentastomida; Mrs. Nel Causey of the University of Arkansas to examine milliped types; Wesley R. Norwell of the Medical Service Corps of the U.S. Air Force.

Arnold Menke of the Department of Entomology, University of California at Davis spent one month here at work setting our collection of Sphecinae to rights.

Carl Lindroth of the Univ. Lund visited early in September and gave a lunch seminar on Geographical Distribution of Circumpolar Animals.

At last this department is able to set aside our trusty moth ball grinding machine for we've been lucky enough to locate a supplier of flake naphthalene for the fumigation operations.

Dolores Bush

# # #

Museum Shop. The Museum Shop, started in May 1960, has expanded several times. Since summer of 1961, it has been operating in the black, having paid off the substantial costs of fixtures and a large inventory. Income from the shop is used exclusively for the exhibition program, for which the MCZ no longer sets aside funds. Upkeep and renewal of exhibits depends entirely on the shop's proceeds. Our fine staff has made a multitude of friends for the MCZ. Our thanks to Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Price.

Ray Paynter

# # #

The editor will be glad to receive news items for the next issue, and additions or corrections to the mailing list.

Lorna Levi

# # #

To all of you who gave so generously it is a pleasure to report that \$330 has gone to Mr. French and his family as a Christmas gift from all of his friends as the MCZ.

Marjorie Sturm

# # #

A last minute news flash as we go to press is that Miss MacKenzie is making a satisfactory recovery from major abdominal surgery. Cards will reach her in care of Mrs. Toop, 412 Mt. Auburn St., in Cambridge.

# MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, no. 2
Published
once in a while

27 March 1962 Harvard College Cambridge 38, Mass.

When Andy Konnerth's curatoring turned up two undetermined, queerly shaped, thick fossil bones (thickly dust-covered label: Plicene, Florida), it was the fourth time in some 30 years that I formed the end of a line of people questioned about that type of thing. But it was my first fossil case; the other inquirers had been a Czech invertebrate paleontologist to whom such half-egg-shaped bone lumps had been sent from Red Sea shores, a Dutch geologist, and Harvard archaeologists. Now I felt I must do something against such widespread ignorance of the fact that there exist and existed numerous species of fishes in which all sorts of bones can swell up to abnormal size and curious shape. Of the whole teleost skeleton they should be the elements most likely to succeed in becoming fossils! Wherefore I did some reading-up.

Neo-ichthyological knowledge of such normal hyperostoses I have traced back to 1793. In paleontological literature, it seems that American specimens are mentioned altogether twice (1850, 1889). A discovery in the long string of European literature (1833-1960) about such indeed abundant (Pliocene-Pleistocene) fossils is the reason why I tell you MCZ people about it all. Guess who was the European who first determined their nature? Louis Agassiz, 1839.

Tilly Edinger

# # #

Invertebrate Palaeontology. Prof. Kummel is on leave studying the Triassic rocks of the Salt Range, Pakistan, and Madagascar. He left Cambridge in August and until late February was working in the field in the Salt Range, the last month accompanied by Dr. Curt Teichert, of the U.S. Geological Survey, who is working temporarily with the Geological Survey of Pakistan. Prof. Kummel is now in Calcutta at the headquarters of the Geological Survey of India, examining and photographing type specimens of Triassic fossils. He will be back in Cambridge in September.

Since January 1960 Dr. W.D. Ian Rolfe has been with us as an assistant curator, working on the collection of non-trilobite arthropods. He expects to stay at least until the end of this year, by which time he may have this collection curated and have a catalogue ready to publish. He is particularly interested in Ceratiocaris and its allies, and is preparing the section on these fossils for the Treatise. His temporary appointment has been made possible by the NSF funds granted to the Museum for rehabilitation of the collections. We shall at least have one collection in good shape when he leaves.

This January the invertebrate palaeontology exhibits on the first floor were dismantled - the last of the exhibits on this floor to be so taken down. All these exhibits will be reinstalled on the third floor, the invertebrate room to be next to the new bird room. We hope this room may be completed in the next year or two, but funds

for exhibition work are nonexistent. In the meantime this exhibition, which is much used for teaching, will be sorely missed.

The former exhibit rooms on the first floor have been taken over by Invertebrate Palaeontology, and we have moved into them collections that were in the hall, in Prof. Kummel's old room and adjacent rooms. The last of these moves is now in progress - putting the echinoderm collection where the invertebrate exhibition used to be. The rooms so vacated have been partitioned for offices for use by various departments of the Museum, students, and visitors. When all this moving is over, we shall have gained little or no space but will have our collections better housed and in some respects more reasonably arranged. The Department itself becomes a more consolidated unit, and the renovation of the old student rooms, palaeonItology lab. and lecture room has also brought great improvement.

Prof. Whittington is continuing his work on Newfoundland trilobites, and spent two months in the field on the west coast of Newfoundland last summer. Six graduate students are working on various projects in palaeontology and stratigraphy, ranging from Devonian trilobites of the Arctic to Cretaceous of the southeastern United States.

The week of March 5-9 Dr. Martin F. Glaessner of the University of Adelaide visited the Department of Geological Sciences as an American Geological Institute lecturer. He expressed a wish that a conference on evolution of Crustacea could be arranged when he came to Harvard. Such a conference was arranged at MCZ with the generous aid of the National Science Foundation, and some 30 specialists on Crustacea assembled for three days. Those from abroad included Dr. Rolf Siewing, Kiel, Germany; Dr. Erik Dahl, Lund University, Sweden; Dr. S.M. Manton, British Museum (Natural History), London. We hope that out of the discussions may come a summary to be published in the Bulletin.

H.B. Whittington

# # #

Dr. Kummel has provided an example for all travelling MCZ staff members. He has written a letter. Excerpts follow:

"So far my sabbatical year has been nothing less than tremendous. Had  $3\frac{1}{2}$  months of field work in the Salt Range. Sending home nearly 4 tons of specimens. Really have fabulous material.

"We came to Calcutta on Feb. 9 and found people at the Geol. Surv. of India extremely kind and helpful. I am now working over the original types of the Salt Range study (1895). So far have taken 900 photographs - have something like 2000 more to go.

"Thethree weeks I spent in Russia were exceptionally rewarding. I really have an insight into their paleontological work and now understand much better what is going on. Visits like mine are extremely rewarding. Also the Russians could not have been kinder - they almost killed me with hospitality.

"I will be going to Madagascar the last week in April, then spend up to 3 months in the field there."

# " # #

Ernest Williams returned in mid-December from a six weeks lizard-watching tour of the West Indies and reported on his trip in an exclusive interview for the Newsletter. With Stan Rand, now at the University College of the West Indies, Jamaica, Dr. Williams studied intergrade zones between several forms of Anolis, each usually restricted ecologically to either wet or dry habitat. Both clinal and sharp distinctions between populations were found. A species of Anolis until recently known only from the type was taken again.

On Trinidad he visited Garth Underwood at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, and observed two sibling species of Anolis, species morphologically indistinguishable but with differences in habitat and color of the live animals. Both species live in trees on the college campus, but only one or the other species in any one tree.

There were also brief trips to Martinique to confer with Pere Pinchon, "specialist in the Lesser Antilles," to Antigua to see the two Anolis species there, and to Venezuela and Surinam to see tropical forest and the South American mainland.

# # #

Charles Lyman writes from Cornell: "I am up here for this semester teaching a modified Biology of Mammals course and catching up on my reading and writing. My official title is visiting professor, which has all the advantages of the title with none of the administrative headaches.

"The course is much larger than I expected, 68 all together, mostly undergraduates from arts and sciences; about 1/6 from agriculture and a few graduate students plus some auditors. It involves two lectures a week and a long term paper. I wanted to have student seminars but there are too many students. Fortunately I have a good assistant to help correct exams, otherwise I'd be up here until July.

"The country here is lovely, and real country is only a short distance from the campus, which makes field work much easier than at Harvard. Perhaps as a result the students are much more interested in the whole animal than in his molecular structure, so the air above Cayuga's waters is indeed refreshing. Apart from the fact that I can seem to live on my own cooking, that seems to be all the news, except that everyone has been extremely nice to me."

# # #

Arthur Merrill is working in the mollusk department for the year, on leave of absence from the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries at Woods Hole. "I plan to work on two problems while here. One is mostly systematics - monographing the family Architectonicidae; the other is a blend of taxonomy and ecology in a study of the Anomidae, a common fouling group. Both studies include those species found only in the Western Atlantic."

# # #

Richard Foster is now in the Cook Islands, on the Island of Raratonga, on a joint expedition with the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

# # #

Mrs. Crozier has resigned from the library staff, but we will still see her when she drops in occasionally to help out. Nancy Dodson has taken over in her place at the desk.

# # #

Though Time magazine appears to have scooped your Newsletter in reporting the MCZ population of poisonous Loxosceles spiders (it was not really a scoop - just evidence of our greater discretion), the Newsletter has the most recent word. The spiders seem to be under control; however, many were brought to safety at the School of Public Health by Andy Spielman, who now reports a blessed event: spiderlings hatched in captivity.

We still do not know whether the spiders came from South America with Louis Agassiz or with more recent shipments.

# # #

Honors and Elections: George Simpson has been nominated for the award of the Linnean Society of London for 1962.

Ernst Mayr was elected President of the American Society of Naturalists at the last Christmas meeting.

# # #

New Appointments. Dr. Laurent has a research appointment in herpetology, supported by a two year NSF grant. His herpetological collections, numbering 150-200 thousand specimens from the Congo, are now arriving at the MCZ.

Frank B. Smithe has been appointed Associate in Ornithology.

# # #

Courses. Ernest Williams is giving a course in biology of reptiles and amphibians to 12 students.

Natural History Seminar. Howard Evans is now in charge of the Tuesday noon seminars. Some recent programs have been: Florida Reefs, by H.K. Brooks, Harvard; Biological Stations in the North American Tropics: Simla, by Miss C. Carter, MCZ Library; Bird Studies on Cerralvo Island, Baja California, by R.C. Banks, San Diego Natural History Museum; Recent Paleontological Work in the Fayum Desert, Egypt, by E.L. Simons, Yale; Indian Ocean Expedition, by John Ryther, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute; Diseases and Biological Control of Mollusks, by E.H. Michelson, Harvard Medical School; How to Make Your Way Underground: Burrowing Mechanisms of Amphisbaenids and Uropeltids, by Carl Gans, University of Buffalo.

# # #

Literature. Ernst Mayr reports that his long awaited Animal Species and Evolution has been accepted by Harvard University Press, to be published early in 1963.

Ernest Williams and Ben Shreve have in press a monograph on the frogs of the Port au Prince region, to be published in the MCZ Bull.

John Smith, after a very successful winter in Chile, Ecuador and Panama, where he was studying comparatively the behavior of Tyrant Flycatchers, is expected back here sometime in March.

# # #

To help former students and museum associates keep in touch with each other, some new addresses from our mailing list are attached:

Phillip Adams, Dept. Biol. Sci., Univ Calif. at Santa Barbara, Goleta, Calif. Donald Baird, Dept. Geol., Princeton Univ., Princeton, N.J. Craig Black, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa. Walter Bock, Dept. Zoology, Univ. Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

W.L. Brown, Dept. Entomology, Comstock Hall, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, New York
Arthur Clarke, Curator of Mollusks, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Lawrence DeMott, Geol. Dept., Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio
Gordon Edmund, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto 5, Ontario, Canada
Carl Gans, Dept. Biology, Univ. Buffalo, Bufffale 14, N.Y.
James Greenway, Mead's Point, Greenwich, Ct.
Terrell Hamilton, Dept. Zoology, Univ. Texas, Austin 12, Texas
Carl Helms, 1717 Market St., Lewisburg, Pa.
Margaret Cranston Parsons, Dept. Zoology, Univ. Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Clayton Ray, Dept. Biology, Univ. Florida, Gainesville, Fla.
Robert Robertson, Assistant Curator Mollusks, Acad Nat. Sci. Phila., 19th & the Parkway, Phila.3,Pa.
Joseph Rosewater, Associate Curator Mollusks, U.S. Nat. Museum, Washington 25, D.C.
Patricio Sanchez, Dept. Anatomia, Univ. Catolica Chile, Casilla 114-D, Santiago, Chile
Robert Willey, Dept. Biology, Ripon College, Ripoh, Wisc.

# # #

The elusiveness of graduate students has made it difficult to compile a list of those now working under the supervision of MCZ staff members. Here is a start; perhaps a later issue will have a more complete list: Richard Thorington, Ira Rubinoff and Roderick Suthers are working under the guidance of Ernst Mayr. Allen Brady and Joe Beatty working on spiders with Herbert Levi.

Mr. French paid the Museum a brief visit one day last week. It was good to see him and his new trim figure. We hope he will soon be back to work.

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Phillip Adoms, Dapt, Biol. Sci., Unic Californ Community Adoms, Dapt, Geol., Unicetor city., Commented Baird, Dapt, Geol., Colorate Craig Black, Carnegie Huseun. Colorate Nock, Dapt, Zoology, Chiv. Lillingis, Lub.

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