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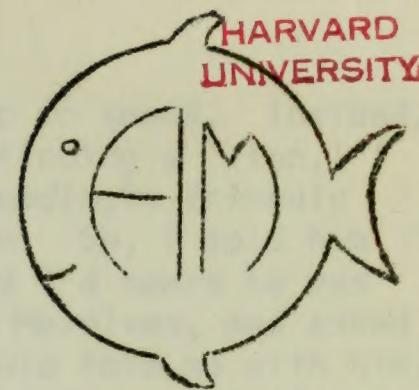
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MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

No. 10
May 1968



From the Director

It is with pleasure that we announce the establishment within the Museum of Comparative Zoology of the Henry Bigelow Professorship of Ichthyology, the field of ichthyology to be interpreted in a broad sense. This professorship is intended to stand as a monument to the scientific achievements of the late Dr. Bigelow and to his life-long dedication to Harvard University and the Museum.

The foundation for this professorship was laid in 1962 when an endowment fund was established by Dr. Bigelow and a number of his friends. Now Mrs. Bigelow and others have generously added to the endowment, raising it to the level required by Harvard for the establishment of a chair. This seems particularly appropriate in the MCZ considering that fishes were Louis Agassiz's specialty and their study has been a major concern of the MCZ ever since its founding. Responsibility for our large Fish Department and for the numerous graduate students attracted to ichthyology creates a burden that is too much for a single curator. Availability of the Bigelow chair will raise ichthyology at the MCZ to a new level of activity and excellence.

Our crowded facilities (in the Fish Department as elsewhere) make an appointment at this time impossible. There will be two floors for ichthyology in the new wing and as soon as it is completed we will have appropriate facilities for a Bigelow Professor. In the meantime we are hoping to bring here one of this country's most distinguished senior ichthyologists on a "one semester each academic year" basis for a period of five years.

The creation of the Bigelow chair demonstrates once again the value of departmental endowment funds. I am happy to be able to report the steady growth of such funds in ornithology, malacology, arachnology and entomology. These endowments are one of the most positive ways to ensure continuing support for the Museum, particularly in times of rising costs and financial hardships.

Our organization of Friends of the MCZ, although still in its infancy is alive and growing. In January, the Director gave a talk on "How Man Evolved," followed by discussion from the floor, and a lively social hour. This month there will be a "Bring Your Own Picnic and Tour" of the Concord Field Station.

--Ernst Mayr

Dr. Henry Bigelow

On December 11, 1967, Dr. Henry Bryant Bigelow, Alexander Agassiz Professor, Emeritus, died after a brief illness. Dr. Bigelow's life-long association with this Museum has given him a permanent place among its honored, and with his passing comes an end of an era for "The Agassiz Museum." Dr. Bigelow always felt that he had been profoundly influenced by Alexander Agassiz, and through Dr. Bigelow, perhaps all of us here at the MCZ felt a little more kinship with the Agassiz family.

Dr. Bigelow was born on October 3, 1879, in Boston. He attended Harvard University, graduating in June, 1901, cum laude. In his autobiography, Memories of a Long and Active Life, published in 1964, he said that his undergraduate days were relatively unspectacular until his senior year. Then, as he described it:

"During my undergraduate days, Mr. Alexander Agassiz occupied the director's room whenever he was in Cambridge. Most of us had heard, in one way or another, of his extensive explorations in the Pacific Ocean, but he did not give any courses of instruction, so none of us came in personal contact with him.

"During the winter, however, of my senior year (1901), we heard that he planned a trip to the Maldives Islands, and while I hadn't the least idea where the Maldives were, I decided I'd like to go along too! Finally I got up my courage and 'bearded

the lion,' so to speak. Instead, however, of finding a 'lion,' I found an exceedingly friendly old gentleman. So, I told him my name, said I'd heard he was going to the Maldives, and asked him if he would take me with him. His answer which was 'yes,' not only initiated my close association with Mr. Agassiz which continued until his death in 1910, but which greatly influenced my subsequent scientific career."

In 1906, Dr. Bigelow received his Ph.D. from Harvard. He then became a member of the curatorial staff of the MCZ, the teaching faculty in 1921, Professor of Zoology in 1931, and Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology in 1944.

Dr. Bigelow was also interested in oceanographic studies in the Gulf of Maine, and because of this interest the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution was founded in 1931, and Dr. Bigelow was appointed its first director.

Dr. Bigelow retired officially in 1948, but this was only a technicality, for the Museum continued to enjoy his presence up until almost the day of his death. He received innumerable honors, including four honorary doctorates and many medals, but perhaps the two which pleased him most came from the Oceanographic Institution. In 1948, a chair of Oceanography was founded in his name, and in 1960, a Bigelow Medal for eminence in oceanography--a compliment he appreciated especially, he said, because this was the first time in as far as he knew when a medal had been founded before the nominee had died. He did indeed live "a long and active life"!

In the Field

Dr. Herbert W. Levi left in mid-March to spend five weeks in Europe working at the Banyul Biology Laboratory, France, visited the Genoa (Italy) Museum, and attended the fourth Congress of European Arachnologists in Paris, where he gave a paper on the mating physiology and taxonomy of Araneidae. The congress is under the auspices of the Centre International Documentation Arachnologique (CIDA), of which he is vice-president.

Dr. E. O. Wilson, Associate in Entomology, is on leave from the Biological Laboratories and is living in the Florida keys with his family. He has finished sampling the last of the defaunated keys (they have all been reinvaded), and is now working on his book on social insects.

Stewart Peck (Entomology), during late March, went down to the Keys to assist Dr. Wilson with his project on experimental biogeography. Stew came back to Cambridge with a tan which "would show up the Miami beach set," but he says he acquired it while "sitting on top of mangroves all day." In any case, he returned just in time to pack for Jamaica, where he spent the spring recess.

Merrill Foster (Invert. Paleontology) spent two months in Antarctica, where he collected recent brachiopods. Collections on the Ross Sea were particularly fruitful this year -- the GNP being almost five times that of his 1967 trip. He also visited Australia and New Zealand.

Through an arrangement between the Smithsonian Institutions and E. H. Link of Ocean Systems, Dr. and Mrs. Giles Mead had an opportunity, in late February, to accompany Link's

Sea Diver to three localities in the Tongue of the Ocean, Bahamas. There they descended in Link's deep submersible Deep Diver to a depth of over 700 feet. The object of the trip was to evaluate the Deep Diver as a biological research facility, and the Meads "returned enthusiastic about the possibilities."

Dr. and Mrs. Philip J. Darlington, Jr., returned in early April from a four week trip in England and France. Dr. Darlington (Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology) went mainly to look at types at the Paris Museum and the British Museum, a purely taxonomic business obviously, but being broadminded, the Darlings stayed in a hotel in Paris called the Claude Bernard, which they found pleasant and not expensive. During the last week of their trip, the Darlings visited southern England (Salisbury) found the "nicest inn" to use for home base, and hiked out from it each day, including several trips around Stonehenge. Dr. Darlington describes the country as one-third chalk, one-third nettles, and one-third trout, which they could not catch. And in spite of snow, ice and cold, they had an enjoyable week.

Dr. William J. Clench, Honorary Associate in Malacology, spent several weeks in Florida (for lecturing and collecting snails) in March, but had to come back home to warm up.

Dr. Ruth Turner, Research Associate in Malacology, has been in Puerto Rico working on the developmental biology of the Teredos. "Experimental studies on the bacterial contents of the alimentary canal of the ship worms are aimed at discovering the source of the enzymes responsible for the digestion of cellulose." Dr. Turner was also in England participating in a conference on the biology of marine boring and fouling organisms.

More Field Notes

Since last October, Dr. Juan Arturo Rivero, Associate in Herpetology, has made two trips to Venezuela collecting specimens and data for his studies on the origin and distribution of the Andean Frog Fauna. He has traveled for thousands of miles, on paved and unpaved roads, up, down and around the Andes, during wet and dry seasons, and by plane (thanks to the Venezuelan Air Force) and boat to the Upper Orinoco region. "Invaluable observations have been made of frog behavior and natural history during the course of these trips, but perhaps the greatest single benefit ... has been the opportunity to see and get acquainted with the topographical and ecological factors that affect frog distribution in Venezuela."

Preston Webster, an undergraduate, is working, under the guidance of Dr. E. E. Williams, on a research project on lizards. He has just returned from a collecting trip in Puerto Rico, where his major problem was the post office. It seems the most successful way to ship lizards is to seal each one in a small plastic bag, and put the little bags all together gently in a well-constructed box for mailing. But, the P. O. insists that a box containing live material must have breathing holes.

Dr. John Lawrence (Assistant Curator of Insects) spent February on Barro Colorado Island in Panama on a one-man expedition to collect the "savage" ciid beetles. In spite of his handicap ("a walking blood meal for a few thousand chiggers and ticks"), he managed to collect over 50 species of Ciidae on the island alone and to gather much information on host specificity in these and other fungus feeding insects. He returned "just as pale as a winter Bostonian (Are there any? Ed.), since not much sun gets through that forest canopy."

On Feb. 24th, Dr. A. M. Chickering, Associate in Arachnology, left for a two month spider collecting trip through Florida. Visits with kindred spirits, such as Jon Reiskind in Gainesville, made his trip just so much more enjoyable!

Dr. Charles C. Porter, Research Fellow in Biology, writes from Argentina of his wasp collecting trip in Bolivia: "It is much cleaner, more European, and more generally progressive-appearing country than Peru."

Robert M. McDowall, graduate student in Ichthyology, recently returned from a six week trip through southern Chile and Argentina. He was attempting to round off his experience with New Zealand Galaxiid fishes by examining their New World counterparts.

Dr. Ernst Mayr spent a week this spring bird watching in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. He found the bird life remarkably impoverished, but was appalled at the frequency of the mongoose. One wild-life specialist on the island estimates that there are three mongooses per acre, an almost unbelievable figure. "One wonders how much richer the native animal life would be if this alien pest had not been introduced."

George Hunt, a graduate student in ornithology, will again go to Maine this summer to study the comparative feeding biology of various species of gulls and their ability to take advantage of man-made changes in their environment.

Research Notes

From Dr. A. S. Romer, comes the following:

"Since Christmas I have been working on a detailed skull anatomy of a curious little amphibian from the Texas Permian, Pantylus, both from whole specimens and serial sections. This is nearly completed. Meantime, my ex-student, Bob Carroll, at McGill, is working up the post-cranial skeleton of this animal, which in the past has been quite perplexing. I have started on the task of studying the cranial anatomy of the Permian shark "Pleuracanthus," and hope to finish this summer. This is being mostly done from a number of sets of serial sections, and when completed will be the first detailed account of the skull in any fossil shark."

"Work on the Chanares fossils from South America is coming along well, and we are nearly to the point where we will be able to make a survey of what is what in the entire material. A paper by Barry Cox, describing the three dicynodonts in the collection, is now in proof. I expect to start definite description of further forms by summer. Sometime this spring or early summer we will probably have a visit from José Bonaparte of Tucuman.* This is a very able and likeable young Argentinian paleontologist who, encouraged by our good results, has gone on to explore other Triassic regions in South America and has made some very interesting finds. He has a Guggenheim Fellowship and currently is spending a couple of months in England."

*He has just arrived!

Following acquisition of a jury mast and towing blocks for the Salvatore, the oceanography-minded students under Dr. H. B. Fell "are now accumulating funds for extra rope

and a power-block, in order to attempt sampling of the off-shore submarine valleys, hitherto out of reach of our limited equipment."

Dr. Giles W. Mead, Curator of Fishes, has been working jointly with Jim Craddock of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, completing a study of the mesopelagic fish collections assembled last year during the cruise of the R. V. Anton Bruun.

Dr. Mead also reports that Bob Topp is doing his dissertation work on tropic specialization in pomacentrid fishes in Panama under the direction of Ira Rubinoff and Martin Moynihan. Also, Jack Musick is completing his dissertation on Urophycis (of codfish family) while serving as a biologist of the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences.

Professor Allen Keast, of Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, who received his degree here about a dozen years ago, has returned to the MCZ to spend part of his sabbatical year. He is working on several papers dealing with habitat (or niche) utilization in birds and other vertebrates and its effect on their morphology (e.g. bill structure).

New Degrees

Since publication of the last Newsletter, three students have received their doctorates. Susan Trussell (Mrs. W. John Smith) presented a thesis in ornithology entitled "Communication and Other Social Behavior in Parus Carolinensis." The other two students were in ichthyology: Robert McDowall with a thesis entitled, "Galaxiid Fishes of New Zealand"; and Naercio Menezes, with a thesis entitled, "Systematics and Evolution of the Tribe Acanthorhynchini (Pisces, Characidae)."

Additions and Subtractions

Since February 1, 1968, Mrs. Ruth Hill, our cataloguer, has been MCZ Librarian, and she can be found in her cheerful new office, 204B (i.e., when she isn't back in the stacks somewhere!). Two physical changes in the library are the new call slips, as all have no doubt noticed, and the eight volume G. K. Hall Catalogue, which is a photographic reproduction of the card catalogue in book form (\$595). The latter will greatly increase the value of the library to scholars everywhere, who will now know just what books and periodicals are available in our library.

Dr. Heinrich Ristedt, who was here for fifteen months as a post-doctoral fellow in Invertebrate Paleontology, has returned (in March) to Bonn, Germany.

Miss Mary Jane West, post-doctoral fellow in Entomology, and William Eberhard, graduate student in Arachnology, were married on November 28, 1967, in Plymouth, Michigan. We wish them many years of happy spider-wasp watching together.

And another joining of two major groups is imminent with the announcement of the engagement of Miss Gloria Klizicki, who is a graduate student in Vertebrate Paleontology, to James Sprinkle, a graduate student in Invertebrate Paleontology. They plan to be married in the fall, and again our best wishes.

On February 11, 1968, Robert Matthews, graduate student in entomology, and his wife, Janice, presented the academic world with another future scientist of note by the name of Michael Stuart, who weighed 7 pounds 7 ounces. Congratulations!

Dr. H. B. Fell, Curator of Invertebrate Zoology, reports that there will be several visitors in his department this spring: Dr. John Grindley, Director of the Port Elizabeth Museum, Oceanarium and Snake Park, Dr. E. P. Hodgkin from the University of Western Australia, and Dr. Neil Powell from Canada. Dr. Grindley is a specialist on copepod crustaceans, and plans to do research here until mid-summer. Dr. Hodgkin is going to study the MCZ collection of Australian sea-stars, and Dr. Powell will study Bryozoa. [And chances are that Biology 121 (Marine Invertebrates) will be hearing directly from these distinguished men.]

It is with regret that we announce the death, on February 25, 1968, of Dr. Stanley Cobb, Associate in Zoology. Dr. Cobb was Ballard Professor of Neuropathology, Emeritus, of Harvard, and an early worker in this country in psychosomatic medicine, but had a special interest in the central nervous system of birds, and a strong interest in conservation of wildlife. His "Death of a Salt Pond," published in 1962 by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, was a short but passionate protest to the indiscriminate use of DDT spraying.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hall, long time manager of the MCZ Museum Shop has been on the sick list for sometime. She is now on the mend and her many friends and associates wish her a speedy recovery.

Book Fund Growing

To date, the MCZ Book Fund established in memory of Dr. Tilly Edinger has grown to over \$500, thanks to the friends and associates of Dr. Edinger.

Lectures Here and There

In contrast to last year, Dr. and Mrs. Romer are staying at home this year -- except for: (1) a trip to Dartmouth to lecture in February; (2) an excursion during April for "lecturing at Davis, California, and in a series of universities from Minnesota down to Texas."

In mid-March, two Alexander Agassiz Lectures, sponsored by the MCZ, were delivered by Professor Emil L. Smith from the Department of Biological Chemistry, School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles. His overall subject was "Protein Structure and Evolution," with the first lecture specifically entitled "Species Differences; Lessons from Cytochrome C," and the second, "Development of New Structures and Functions." Dr. Smith, educated at Columbia University, so long a center for studies of genetics and evolution, demonstrated brilliantly that biochemistry and evolutionary biology can indeed complement one another.

Professor M. J. D. White, Professor of Genetics at the University of Melbourne, Australia, has been Alexander Agassiz Visiting Professor of Zoology during this spring semester here at the Museum. In late March he gave a series of formal lectures on cytogenetics in evolution, particularly as shown by his work on Australian grasshoppers. Professor White also gave several less formal lectures and some workshops.

Dr. William J. Clench, while in Florida, lectured at the Florida Presbyterian College in St. Petersburg and the University of South Florida at Tampa.

Dr. Frank M. Carpenter, Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology and Curator of Fossil Insects, gave the Griswold Lecture at Cornell University on April 8, 1968. His subject: "Evolution and Geological History of the Insects."

Dr. Mary Jane West Eberhard also lectured at Cornell -- on February 29th as one of a series in a seminar on group selection. Her title: "Wynne-Edwards and the Wasp: Explication of a 20th Century Myth." She has also lectured at Yale and M. I. T. on various aspects of her research in social wasp behavior and evolution.

Dr. George Gaylord Simpson visited the Museum briefly in mid-April (while Mrs. Simpson was giving some lectures at Wheaton College), and if the Simpsons are true advertisements, Arizona is the place to live!

Book Review

TV has its Emmys, Hollywood its Oscars, but we would like to toss a bouquet to a book we wish we had written. It is Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness, by a gifted writer, Edward Abbey. The author was a seasonal naturalist in Arches National Monument, and his book is an elegy, as he says, to "the most beautiful place on earth." In moving passages, he describes the desert and other wilderness areas, pleads for their preservation, and vehemently denounces those who would dam our rivers and pave our parks. "No, wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit, and as vital to our lives as water and good bread. A civilization which destroys what little remains of the wild, the spare, the original, is cutting itself off from its origins and betraying the principle of civilization itself."

--M. A. E.

Honors

It is with considerable pride that we announce the award of the William J. Walker Prize to Howard E. Evans, for his outstanding research on wasps. His work has contributed much to man's knowledge of this segment of the Insect world. The prize is awarded by the Boston Natural History Society (Museum of Science) in "recognition of meritorious published scientific investigation and discovery." Our warmest congratulations!

--Ernst Mayr

Frederick Ris, who has been working on computer programming of distribution data for marine invertebrates, has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, and hopes to take up graduate work at Oxford University next fall.

George Gorman, formerly a graduate student in herpetology, is now at Berkeley, California, where he has received a Miller Fellowship. This is for post-doctoral students, is a very prestigious, high-paying honor, and will enable Dr. Gorman to study (lizards) there for several years.

On May 24, 1968, a luncheon will be held for Miss Nelda Wright, who is retiring after thirty years of service to the MCZ, and fifteen of those years as Editor of Publications.

In November, Dr. A. S. Romer was made a corresponding member of "Die Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft."

Editorial

In the British journal, Nature, Volume 217, March 16, 1968, beginning on page 1000 and going over onto the following page, is an article summarizing the latest Annual Report from the MCZ. It begins as follows:

"The Museum of Comparative Zoology, the Agassiz Museum at Harvard University, bristles with famous names among its staff -- Professor Ernst Mayr, the director, Professor F. Carpenter, Professor P. J. Darlington, jun., Professor B. Patterson, Professor G. Gaylord Simpson, Dr. A. Sherwood Romer, Dr. W. J. Clench-- to name a few."

Bristles, indeed! But to show that we are not without honor in our own country, we are going to quote from a letter received here at the Museum from a little girl in California:

"I am planning to be a curator. I would like some information concerning this subject. Such as, how much I will earn, and what I would have to do while working. I would like to know what to feed them, and to care for them. I want to know where I would send for them, and where to get workers to do these things.

"I would appreciate all the help I can get. Thank you."

So would we!

--Mary Alice Evans

Editorial

The Museum of Comparative Zoology
the Harvard Museum of Natural History
over one thousand dollars to the
Society for the Protection of Birds
in 1908. Mrs. Martha Simberloff
gives the following:

The Museum of Comparative Zoology
the Harvard Museum of Natural History
University, President of the Association
names should be sent to the
Chairman, the Director, Prof.
Fessor F. Carpenter, Professor
R. L. Dallington, Jun., Prof.
Fessor G. Patterson, Prof. A.
Gaylor Simpson, Dr. W. T. French--
and Mr. C. H. Smith,
to name a few.

work of the University by
that we are the only institution
and comparative zoology to
choose from a list of
the Museum from a little
in California:

noted as of gaining us 1"
I would like some information
concerning this subject. Since
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what I would like to do in
showing. I would like
one of the best or
most work of your
for this. I would like
I would send for them, and
to get some idea of what
of the work.

After the discussion I
also feel I

so big we

Mary Alice Evans

Honors

it is with considerable pride that
we announce the award of the Miller
Prize to Horace E. Evans.
For his outstanding research on
birds. His work has contributed
much to man's knowledge of this
group to the insect world. The
is shared by the Poston Nature
History Society (Musum of Sciences)
in "Recognition of Scientific
and Practical Contributions
and Outstanding Coupli-
tions!

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Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Oxford Street has been working
Harvard University to its
Museum of Comparative Zoology
will need several weeks
to carry out the work
of the Harvard University next fall.

Geologic Survey, together with a department
of Entomology, is now at
Dr. C. H. Towne, where he has
had a Miller Fellowship. This
is a postdoctoral studies, is a
new addition, high-ranking honor
and (1911) there for several years.

On May 24, 1908, a luncheon will be
held for Miss Mary Middell, who is
leaving after thirty years of service
to the MCS, and fifteen to those
as Editor of Publications.

In newspaper, Dr. A. S. Boule was made
a corresponding member of the
Geological Society,

