

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council at its meeting, February 21, 1941, approved the applications of Mr. Haller Belt, Mrs. George Victor Biber, Mr. Walter C. Clifford, Mr. Aubery Drury, Dr. C. D. Duncan, Dr. Joseph Goodman, Mr. Hubert H. Hall, Mr. C. A. Harwell, Mrs. Lionel B. King, Mr. Don Longbella, and Mr. John F. Steckner for MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after February 27, 1941, they will be considered elected.

SECTION 562 PL. & R.

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

Number 15

March, 1941

## *March Announcement*

THE REGULAR MARCH MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Assembly Room (third floor) of the San Francisco Public Library on Wednesday evening, March 5, 1941, at eight o'clock. The speaker of the evening will be Dr. Leo George Hertlein, Assistant Curator of the Department of Paleontology of the California Academy of Sciences, whose subject will be "The Marine Mollusks of Tropical Western America."

Among the lower forms of animal life perhaps none are so well known as the group referred to as mollusks or, more popularly, shellfish. From the earliest historical times they have been an important source of food for the human race and to this day are a natural resource of considerable economic value. Among many of the tribes of North American Indians the shells of certain molluscan species served as a medium of exchange known as "wampum."

Aside from the economic value, the aesthetic and cultural value of these animals must not be overlooked. Few of us indeed advanced far with our education without becoming familiar with the chambered nautilus, immortalized in verse by Oliver Wendell Holmes. The designs used by many native tribes inhabiting the Pacific region are modelled after the patterns on certain tropical sea shells. The latter have been used for ornamental purposes the world over.

Dr. Hertlein has been engaged in a study of the marine mollusks of western America for a number of years. This region has a particularly rich fauna, there being over two thousand molluscan species occurring between the Bering Sea and San Diego and an equal or greater number between San Diego and Peru. Their distribution is, to a great extent, due to the ocean currents. At certain points along the coast the change in the marine fauna is very noticeable. One of these localities is at Point Conception, California, and another is at Cedros Island, Lower California, where the tropical fauna begins.

The lecture will be well illustrated by lantern slides.

The public is cordially invited to hear Dr. Hertlein.

*Published Monthly by*

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK · SAN FRANCISCO

## ACADEMY PERSONALITIES

MR. JOSEPH MAILLIARD, Curator Emeritus of the Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy of the California Academy of Sciences, holds the distinction of being the oldest member of the staff of the Academy. Born in Bordentown,



JOSEPH MAILLIARD  
Member of the Academy since 1897

New Jersey, on December 30, 1857, Mr. Mailliard came west with his parents when ten years of age. Settling in Marin County they lived in San Rafael for several years until a new home was completed on the Rancho San Geronimo, eight miles west of San Rafael, in 1873.

Mr. Mailliard's first interest in ornithology began, as did that of many other ornithologists, with the collecting of birds' eggs as a boy. While in Yosemite Valley in 1873 he collected what was probably one of the first eggs known of the Townsend Solitaire. Later, on entering the University of California in 1878, Joseph Mailliard turned his collection over to his brother, John Ward Mailliard, who maintained and increased it during his absence. Both brothers had become

keenly interested in collecting eggs and skins of birds after meeting Charles A. Allen, who lived on Rancho San Geronimo and collected specimens to sell to eastern collectors and museums.

Between 1882 and 1892 Mr. Mailliard was too occupied with business to carry on his ornithological pursuits. After this period, however, he devoted more and more time to the study of birds and the building up of the Mailliard collection in conjunction with his brother. A trip to Alaska in 1896 and to Chile in 1902 greatly added to the Mailliard collection of birds and eggs although specimens taken on the latter trip were later deposited at the California Academy of Sciences and perished in the San Francisco fire of 1906.

Poor health and business duties often interfered with Mr. Mailliard's scientific pursuits, but the collecting of scientific specimens and the publishing of the results of ornithological research nevertheless continued. In 1918, on discussing the matter of the Mailliard collection, which then amounted to about 10,000 bird skins, a somewhat larger number of birds' eggs and several hundred nests, with the late Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, who was then Director of the California Academy of Sciences, it was agreed that the Academy would accept and house this collection.

In 1919 Mr. Mailliard was appointed Honorary Curator of the Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the Academy, a position which soon developed into that of active Curator. The following eight years were energetically devoted to the collecting of and research upon the avifauna of various regions in California. This resulted in the publication of a number of faunal reports, notably on the Modoc, Plumas and inner Coast Range regions of northern California.

In 1927 Mr. Mailliard resigned as active Curator and was appointed Curator Emeritus—a position which he holds at present at the age of eighty-three. To his great credit Mr. Mailliard is responsible for the publication of nearly one hundred and sixty separate papers, and still actively, when health and the weather permit, engages in the care of his collection. One of his recent interests at the Academy has been the supervising of an exhibit of the birds of the San Francisco Bay Region as a memorial to his brother, the late John Ward Mailliard, who was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Academy from 1910 to 1926.



### ANNUAL MEETING HELD

On Wednesday evening, February 19, 1941, the annual meeting of the California Academy of Sciences was held in the Simson African Hall. The annual report of the President was read by Dr. Frank M. MacFarland. Following this the annual reports of the Director, the Treasurer, and of the various departments of the Academy were read. The meeting was then addressed by Mr. Norman B. Livermore, President of the Board of Trustees.

The election of the following Trustee and Officers was announced: Bruce Cornwall, *Trustee*; F. M. MacFarland, *President*; M. E. Lombardi, *First Vice-President*; E. P. Meinecke, *Second Vice-President*; Charles L. Camp, *Corresponding Secretary*; Olaf P. Jenkins, *Recording Secretary*; Francis P. Farquhar, *Treasurer*.

Mr. Herbert Hoover, who was First Vice-President of the Academy from 1934 to December 1940, was elected to Honorary Membership. On December 13, 1940, Mr. Herbert Hoover presented to the Council his resignation from the office of First Vice-President of the Academy, owing to pressure of other duties which demand his almost continuous absence from California and prevent his active service with the Academy. His resignation was accepted with great regret by the Council.