

RECENT DONATIONS OF LEPIDOPTERA TO THE
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

During the past three years (1972-1974) four major private collections of Lepidoptera, totaling over 86,000 specimens, have been donated or permanently loaned to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. All this material is being incorporated into the general collection after receiving distinctive labels where necessary.

Carl W. Kirkwood, who died on 3 March 1972 at his home in Summerland, California, amassed one of the largest private collections of North American geometrid moths in history, containing 1,220 species, or 86% of the known fauna. The collection consists of 33,720 specimens, all but 1,700 of which are fully prepared and identified, and includes 355 paratypes. A valuable part of this collection consists of 2,060 associated genitalic slides, as well as 13 loose-leaf notebooks with typed copies of the original descriptions of all 1,416 North American species, plus the descriptions of all subspecies and synonyms. With the accession of this material the Natural History Museum is now one of the largest repositories of North American Geometridae.

Edwin Ray Hulbirt gave his worldwide collection of Lepidoptera to Citrus College, Azusa, California, in January 1963 (see Comstock, John A., "Edwin Ray Hulbirt (1886-1965)," *J. Lepid. Soc.* 19: 243-244, 1965). In late 1972 Citrus College, faced with a shortage of storage and exhibit space, transferred the entire collection, except for some specimens without data, to the Natural History Museum as a permanent loan. Hulbirt was particularly interested in the HesperIIDae and LycaenIDae, although he exchanged for all groups of butterflies, and some moths, with other collectors throughout the world. His collection, consisting of 19,340 specimens (over 14,000 of them spread and labeled), is especially valuable in that it greatly strengthens our growing collection of "exotic" Lepidoptera.

Oscar E. ("Elton") Sette was a very active butterfly collector until his death in July 1972. Most of his specimens are from California localities, including several, such as the foothills adjacent to Chula Vista in San Diego County, which have been virtually destroyed by "development." Sette compiled three volumes of notes on the locality or source of every specimen added to his collection, and each locality label on the specimens bears a number referring to these notes. The Sette Collection, particularly rich in LycaenIDae and HesperIIDae, consists of 22,476 butterflies, of which 11,039 are fully prepared, with the balance in papers.

Mumroe L. Walton, of Glendale, California, was perhaps better known for his enormous collection of North American land snails than for his impressive collection of Lepidoptera. Following his death at the age of 84 on 18 July 1974, the insects were donated to the Natural History Museum. This collection, consisting almost entirely of California material, contains virtually every species and subspecies of butterfly known from the state. Of the 10,472 specimens of Lepidoptera, all of which are immaculately prepared, 6,190 are butterflies. Particularly well represented in this collection are the Noctuidae (2,470 specimens), NymphalIDae (2,087 specimens, of which 577 are *Euphydryas*), and LycaenIDae (1,795 specimens, including 73 specimens of the extinct *Xerces Blue*).

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