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FERGUSON COLLECTION TO SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Dr. Douglas C. Ferguson, formerly of the Nova Scotia Museum and Yale University, recently assumed a position as specialist on Geometroidea and Pyraloidea with the United States Department of Agriculture at the National Museum of Natural History. Shortly after joining the staff, Dr. Ferguson presented to the Smithsonian Institution his excellent collection of Lepidoptera. Over 51,000 insects are contained in this collection, of which nearly 48,000 specimens are Lepidoptera. Dr. Ferguson's donation represents over 23 years of concentrated collecting, conducted for the most part in the Atlantic Provinces of Canada. Nearly all major families of Lepidoptera are represented, and the total coverage of 3,000 species from an area previously not well documented in the collections of the National Museum is particularly noteworthy. The collection is extremely rich in Noctuoidea and Geometroidea, containing approximately 38,000 beautifully prepared specimens of those groups. Over 150 species of identified lepidopterous larvae, associated with reared adults, are also included. Although no holotypes are present in the collection, about 300 paratypes of 50 species are, as well as many undescribed species.

The addition of this generous gift has significantly improved the overall representation of North American Lepidoptera at the Smithsonian Institution.

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