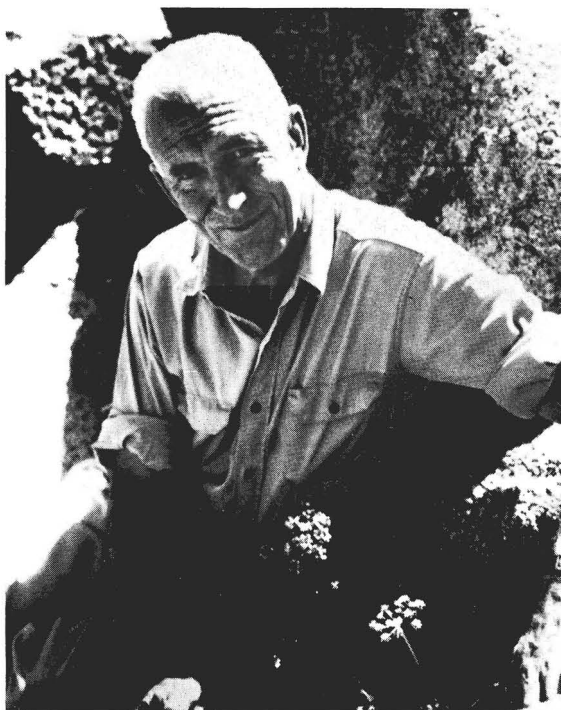


## OBITUARY



CHRISTOPHER HENNE (1905-1977)

The world of lepidopterology lost a great friend and lepidopterist when Christopher Henne, a long time member of the Lepidopterists' Society, passed away on October 8, 1977.

Henne was born in Denver, Colorado, on July 20, 1905, and at 18 months of age he and his parents moved to California. He grew up in Pasadena where he attended the Polytechnic Elementary School and the Pasadena Military Academy. In 1920, he went to Europe with his mother and spent two years in an English preparatory school in Switzerland. At the age of 17, he returned to the United States and finished his schooling at the Asheville School in Asheville, North Carolina. He then returned to southern California where he was to reside the rest of his life.

He was self-taught as far as his background in entomology was concerned, for he had never even had a course in general biology. He worked in a variety of entomologically related positions, including display preparation and teaching at the Los Angeles County Museum, later followed by the establishment of his own business, Henne Biological Supply, in which he practiced plastic embedding of insects for educational institutions.

In 1961, Chris and his wife Dorothy moved to a new home at the edge of the Mojave Desert in Pearblossom, California, where they retired to full-time collecting. During the next 16 years, his collection was to more than quadruple in size.

Henne's collecting started at age four when the family gardener gave him a *Cecropia* Moth for Christmas. This stimulated a lifelong interest and specialization in moths and butterflies. He soon drove his parents to distraction by his habit of removing the bathroom window screen at night and using the bathroom as a giant light trap for the local moths. As a teenager in Switzerland, he met his first professional lepidopterist, an Englishman, who took him on collecting trips.

After leaving Asheville and returning to Pasadena, Henne was to become one of the most diligent and thorough explorers of the southern California deserts and mountains, collecting in company with most of the noted California lepidopterists of the next five decades. Among his companions during these years of many exciting lepidopterological discoveries were John Adams Comstock, Charles M. Dammers, Jean Gunder, Charles Ingham, Lloyd Martin, C. N. Rudkin, and Munroe Walton. Collecting companions and visitors to his home in recent years included numerous members of the Pacific Slope Section of the Lepidopterists' Society. One could rarely drop in on the Hennes in their Pearblossom home without running into another lepidopterist enjoying their hospitality in the form of "Hennes-on-the-Rocks" (a rum and limeade drink) or "Entomological Goop" (a Noodles Romanoff concoction of shrimp, mushrooms and pimentoes).

Henne's first love was desert collecting and it was in the far reaches of the Colorado and Mojave deserts that he made his most interesting discoveries in Lepidoptera. He was one of the first collectors to investigate the Providence and New York Mountains, and he continued to make field trips to these desert ranges up to the time of his death. In the region around Pearblossom, he studied the biology of numerous butterfly and moth species, recording an immense quantity of information about their foodplants and life histories.

In collaboration with his good friend John Comstock, he worked out many hitherto unknown life histories. Henne collected this material, obtaining ova, larvae, and pupae, and sent it to Comstock who then prepared paintings and descriptions for joint publication. With Comstock's death in 1970, this partnership ceased, but Henne continued to amass data which will be valuable to current and future workers studying the California butterfly and moth faunas. Much of this information is recorded on the very detailed specimen labels on pinned adults in his collection.

He was particularly interested in diurnal moths, and this is reflected in the rich representation of diurnal species of Pyralidae, Ctenuchidae, Sesiidae, and Noctuidae in his collection. In this last family, he took a special interest in the genus *Annaphila*, of which he collected or reared large series of most of the California species. The plume moths (Pterophoridae) were another favorite of his, as evidenced by hundreds of specimens in his collection, many of which were reared.

One of his greatest entomological finds was the rediscovery of the day-flying sphingid, *Euproserpinus euterpe* Henry Edwards, formerly known from only a handful of specimens collected some 90 years ago. He collected a series of specimens while establishing the habitat and foodplant of this rare species.

He named two species, one subspecies (with Comstock), and one form of Lepidoptera, as follows: *Callophrys comstocki* Henne (Lycaenidae); *Copicucullia mcdunnoughi* Henne (Noctuidae); *Philotes enoptes dammersi* Comstock & Henne (Lycaenidae); and *Leptotes marina* form "burdicki" Henne (Lycaenidae). Insects named after him are: *Euphydryas chalcedona quino* transition form "hennei" Gunder (Nymphalidae); *Speyeria coronis hennei* (Gunder) (Nymphalidae); *Penstemonia hennei* Engelhardt (Sesiidae); *Abagrotis hennei* Buckett (Noctuidae); *Annaphila* (*Proannaphila*) *hennei* Rindge & Smith (Noctuidae); *Racheospila hennei* Sperry (Geometridae) (NOW *Nemoria obliqua hennei* (Sperry); *Eucosma hennei* Clarke (Tortricidae); and *Cophura hennei* Wilcox (Diptera: Asilidae).

The Henne collection was purchased in December 1977, by the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History Foundation. It consists of 36,896 specimens, of which approximately 88% are moths and 12% are butterflies. In the moths, the families

Noctuidae and Geometridae are best represented, along with relatively large numbers of Pterophoridae, diurnal Pyralidae, Ctenuchidae, and Sesiidae. In the butterflies, the genera *Apodemia*, *Philotes* s.l., and *Euphydryas* are particularly well represented. Each specimen is receiving an accession label and is being incorporated into the general collection of the museum, where all will be available for examination and study.

Next to Lepidoptera, Henne loved animals, especially dogs. Two of his pet dogs were orphans he found on collecting trips. He also had a keen interest in automobiles, and frequented car shows and races throughout southern California. Pursuing two hobbies simultaneously, his early trips over primitive desert roads to the famous Bonanza King Mine area of the Providence Mountains were made in a prized 1934 Auburn Speedster.

His inventive mind developed a number of novel techniques for rearing in his Pear-blossom laboratory. One of the spin-offs was the development of the Henne Clothes-Moth Trap. He also developed techniques in the field of plastic embedding which retained the natural color and shape of the insects used.

In everything he did, whether rearing larvae or spreading adult specimens, Chris Henne was a perfectionist. His collection of immaculately curated material, with incredibly detailed data, is as aesthetically pleasing as it is scientifically valuable. Anyone who sees this collection will immediately appreciate the copious time and effort put into it by one of California's most prolific and gifted lepidopterists. He will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege and pleasure of knowing him.

JOHN F. EMMEL, 41783 El Camino Drive, Hemet, California 92343.

THOMAS C. EMMEL, Department of Zoology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611.

#### PUBLICATIONS OF CHRISTOPHER HENNE

1. Comstock, J. A. & C. Henne. 1933. A new lycaenid from southern California. Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci. 32: 23-26.
2. Henne, C. 1935. A new form of *Leptotes marina* (Lepid.: Nymphalidae) (sic). Entomol. News 46: 100-101.
3. ———. 1940. Two new species of Lepidoptera from California. Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci. 39: 71-74.
4. Comstock, J. A. & C. Henne. 1940. Notes on the early stages of *Nemoria pistaciaria* Pack. Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci. 39: 78-80.
5. ———. 1940. A comparison of the larva of *Arachnis picta insularis* and *Arachnis picta maia*. Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci. 39: 189-190.
6. ———. 1940. Notes on the early stages of *Xanthothrix ranunculi*. Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci. 39: 198-199.
7. ———. 1941. The larva and pupa of *Trichoclea edwardsi* Sm. Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci. 40: 165-166.
8. ———. 1942. Notes on the life history of *Tolyte glenwoodii* Barnes. Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci. 41: 86-90.
9. ———. 1942. The early stages of *Arctonotus lucidus* Bdv. (Lepidoptera). Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci. 41: 167-171.
10. ———. 1943. The larva of *Copicucullia basipuncta* B. & McD. (Lepidoptera). Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci. 42: 45-46.
11. ———. 1943 (1944). Mature larva of *Graptolitha longior* Sm. Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci. 42: 132.
12. Henne, C. 1948. More notes on California winter Lepidoptera. Lepid. News 2: 42.
13. ———. 1957. Charles Henry Ingham (1904-1957) (obituary). Lepid. News 11: 169-170.

14. Comstock, J. A., C. Henne & F. Sala. 1957 (1958). The habits and life histories of *Cochisea sinuaria* and *Cochisea sonomensis*. Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci. 56: 169-177.
15. Comstock, J. A. & C. Henne. 1964. Studies in life histories of North American Lepidoptera. California Annaphilas. J. Res. Lepid. 3: 175-191.
16. ———. 1965. Notes on the life history of *Philotes enoptes dammersi*. Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci. 64: 153-156.
17. Hogue, C., F. Sala, N. McFarland & C. Henne. 1965 (1966). Systematics and life history of *Saturnia (Calostavernia) albofasciata* in California (Saturniidae). J. Res. Lepid. 4: 173-184.
18. Comstock, J. A. & C. Henne. 1966. Studies in life histories of North American Lepidoptera. California Annaphilas II. J. Res. Lepid. 5: 15-26.
19. ———. 1966. The larva and pupa of *Orthosia hibisci quinquefasciata* (Noctuidae). J. Lepid. Soc. 20: 213-215.
20. ———. 1967. Notes on the life history of *Philotes rita elvirae* (Lepidoptera; Lycaenidae). Bull. Soc. Calif. Acad. Sci. 66: 99-102.
21. ———. 1967. Early stages of *Sphinx sequoiae engelhardti* (Sphingidae). J. Lepid. Soc. 21: 27-31.
22. Henne, C. 1967 (1969). Field investigations preliminary to life history studies on the *lithosina-miona-casta* complex of the genus *Annaphila* (Noctuidae). J. Res. Lepid. 6: 249-256.
23. Comstock, J. A. & C. Henne. 1967 (1969). Studies in life histories of North American Lepidoptera. California Annaphila III. J. Res. Lepid. 6: 257-262.
24. ———. 1967 (1969). Early stages of *Lycomorpha regulus* Grinnell, with notes on the imago (Lepidoptera: Amatidae). J. Res. Lepid. 6: 275-280.
25. ———. 1969. Life history notes on *Lithophana subtilis* (Noctuidae). J. Lepid. Soc. 23: 15-18.