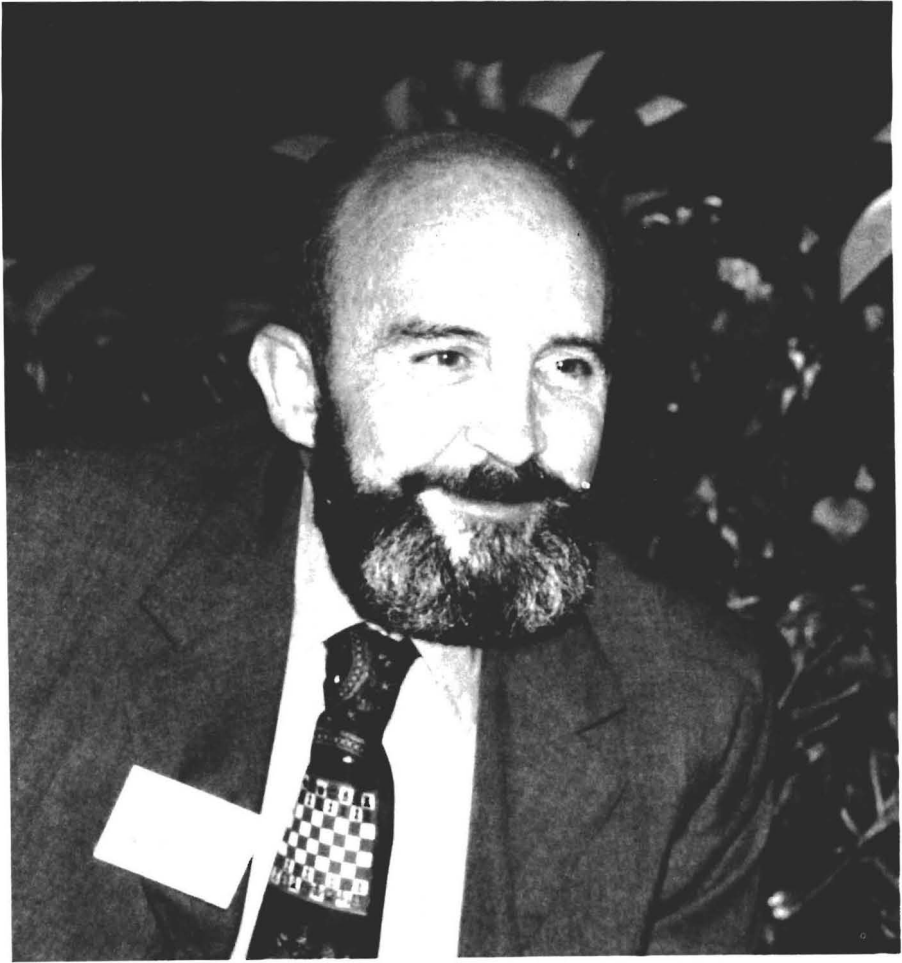


IN MEMORIAM
Harry Kendon Clench



HARRY KENDON CLENCH
(1925-1979)

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OBITUARY

HARRY KENDON CLENCH

(1925-1979)

The world lost a great lepidopterist, and most of us lost a fine and true friend on the night of 31 March-1 April 1979. Harry K. Clench had just seated himself with a cup of coffee to watch the 11 p.m. newscast when he was stricken with a massive heart attack. He never regained consciousness and was pronounced dead at approximately 12:15 a.m. on 1 April.

Harry was born 12 August 1925 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and shortly thereafter his family moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where he attended public schools. He came by his scientific inclinations honestly: his father, Dr. William J. Clench, is Curator Emeritus of mollusks at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. His late mother, Julia, supported his scientific career from its earliest manifestations. Harry became interested in butterflies while accompanying his father on land mollusk collecting trips throughout the eastern United States and the Bahamas, areas that were to intrigue him throughout his career. Another reason for Harry's decision to specialize on butterflies, rather than beetles or true bugs, was his acquaintance with Mr. Don Thomas, for whom *Hemiargus thomasi* Clench was described when Harry was in his teens.

Harry spent much of his formative years in the friendly confines of the MCZ, where he began his systematic work. One of those who influenced him greatly during the MCZ days was Vladimir Nabokov. He was the source of one of Harry's favorite stories on himself. Harry had agonized over a small "*Thecla*" from southern Brasil, and his frustration was well known to Nabokov. One evening Harry left the specimen in a box on his work bench, and went home; the following morning when he returned, Nabokov was nowhere to be seen, but the specimen had a neatly printed determination label on it from Nabokov proclaiming it to be "*Thecla caramba* Hewitson." One has

but to know how many Neotropical Theclinae Hewitson described (Comstock and Huntington's list had not yet been published) to imagine Harry's frantic search through the literature to find the original description of "*Thecla caramba*." It is a tribute to Nabokov's puckish sense of humor that Clench never found the description he sought, because Hewitson wrote no such description. Harry, however, liked the name, and adopted it. It now stands as the valid name of a Neotropical thecline, despite the admonition of one of the elder Clench's Latin American graduate students: "You shouldn't use that name, Harry, it is just like calling your butterfly '*Thecla Hell*'!"

Clench received his B.S. degree in Zoology from the University of Michigan in 1949, and his M.S. (Zoology) from the same institution two years later. He began work toward his doctorate, but in 1951 he accepted appointment as Assistant Curator of Entomology at Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He never completed his doctoral work. He was employed for the rest of his life at Carnegie, achieving the rank of Associate Curator in 1953, a title he held at his death.

During his tenure at Carnegie, Clench published more than a hundred papers (see Bibliography this issue) on the systematics, ecology and zoogeography of a variety of lepidopteran families. In his later years, however, he restricted himself increasingly to the Lycaenoidea and the butterflies of the Bahamian fauna. His major manuscript on the butterflies of the Bahamas is largely complete and will be published eventually.

It is with the Lycaenoidea of the New World and Africa that we most associate Harry Clench. His contributions to knowledge of the latter fauna are among the few American works on the butterflies of the fascinating Ethiopian region. His works on Neotropical hairstreaks, though far less extensive than we (or he) would have wished were of high quality. Many incomplete papers remained in his files, and these are now being completed so that these parts of Harry's work might be published. Examples of three such papers are included in this issue of the Journal.

Harry was involved in the publication of three butterfly books, two on North America and one on Africa. These were: the Theclini and Lycaenini in Ehrlich and Ehrlich (1961, *How to Know the Butterflies*), the Lycaenoidea in Fox et al. (1965, *The Butterflies of Liberia*); and as copy editor and author of major sections in Howe (ed.) (1975, *The Butterflies of North America*). With the exception of the forthcoming Bahamian manuscript, Clench's other booklength manuscripts are now lost to us.

In 1947, Harry married Odette M. Rigaud (now deceased), and had one daughter, Jocelyn (now Mrs. Hari Aas). Harry was divorced in 1967, and in the same year he married Dr. Mary Heimerdinger, Associate Curator of Birds at Carnegie Museum of Natural History, who survives him. Harry and Mary were field companions, as well as being together constantly in the home and the laboratory. Perhaps their best known expedition was during 1976 when they were part of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History Expedition to the Bahamas. There they searched for both butterflies and overwintering Kirtland's Warblers on many islands. The coverage they achieved suggested the feasibility of Harry's doing a book on Bahamian butterflies.

All members of the Lepidopterists' Society owe Harry debts of gratitude. He, with Charles and Jeanne Remington, founded the Society in 1947. Harry helped during the "bad old days" with stencil typing and mimeographing the first two volumes of the *Lepidopterists' News*, and generally aided in nursemaiding the Society from a struggling young entity to its present preeminent standing in the entomological community. Along with Theodore Sargent, Harry edited and generally ramrodded the *Commemorative Issue* (1977). In 1973-1974, Harry Clench served as President of the Lepidopterists' Society.

These professional details, however, imposing and impressive as they are, cannot convey a feeling of the man himself and his impact on others. Harry was an extremely warm and helpful person. He had strong affections, but at the same time he had equally strong dislikes: there was never a question as to how one stood with him. Some of his opinions, never hidden or unspoken, created animosity, but there was never a question about the honesty or consistency of his feelings. Attributes such as these instilled in those whom Harry liked, a sense of loyalty that was difficult for his detractors to understand.

And we, his friends, are stronger for having known Harry, and almost certainly we are better scientists because of his influence. He was a genius, with all that implies, but at the same time he was very patient with enthusiastic beginners (he certainly was with me!). Through his efforts we were guided into more scientific patterns of thinking. Harry would painstakingly go through drafts and the conclusions that we had reached, pointing out errors and new perspectives on the data we had obtained. Subsequent rewrites would receive the same careful attention. People with this kind of patience are all too few and far between.

Too many "authorities" convey the impression that they "do not suffer fools gladly" and go out of their ways to avoid contact with beginning students. God knows, there are too few competent people

in our field, and perhaps we should take more guidance from Harry and try to encourage the promising younger ones far more than we do. Ultimately, we, the professionals in the field, will have to be replaced, so why not have a say in *how* we will be replaced? I suspect that Harry had the answer, as he so often did.

Harry Clench's sense of humor, well known to his friends (who could forget his horrible puns?), became better known (anonymously) to the lepidopterological fraternity through his editing of *Frass*, *A Journal of Paralepidopterology*. When I was Secretary of the Lepidopterists' Society I often received irate letters from librarians wondering where their current "Pellets" of this august journal were. Such was the popularity of the publication, that in a year when Harry couldn't get out a number, the Secretary received an inordinate number of requests (yes, demands!) for copies.

It was this sense of humor that carried Harry through some very hectic field trips. He was in Mexico twice, in various parts of the U.S. many times, and in the Bahamas eight times. No expedition ever goes without "glitches," but Harry's capacity for laughter and seeing the best of a situation was infectious enough to carry him and anyone with him through trying times. He was one of the better field companions for just that reason; he knew when to work very hard and when to "roll with the punches," and this ability kept him from being "down." Tomorrow would always be a better day, and tomorrow would always produce better specimens.

Harry's favorite story about himself, and one that personifies both his sense of humor and his dedication to lepidopterology, concerned the time he went A. W. O. L., and wrote a paper in England during World War II. He had shipped out for Europe near the end of the War, contracted jaundice and later pneumonia on the voyage and eventually ended up in a hospital in Glasgow while his unit went to the Continent. When he recovered, he was sent to Tidworth Barracks for reassignment, but in typical Army fashion and since the War clearly was almost over, Harry's assignment was lost. He simply sat around the barracks, no one caring and no reassignment forthcoming. After a while Harry decided that he was just wasting his time, left the barracks *without* checking out and went to Tring, where the Lycaenidae from the British Museum (Natural History) were kept. He introduced himself, and happily settled into a routine of work (the resulting paper was later published in *The Entomologist*). Everything was going along well until one day Mr. N. D. Riley appeared on the scene (he was usually in London) and said that he understood that Harry was there without the blessing of the U.S. Army, and while they were

glad to have him there, his presence could prove embarrassing to the British Museum should he be caught. Harry replied that he hadn't really thought of it in those terms and that he would go back. When he returned to Tidworth Barracks, Harry was chagrined that he hadn't ever been missed.

Perhaps those at Tidworth Barracks had not missed Harry Clench, but those of us who now remain surely do! We will miss his astute scientific observations, his helping hand whenever we needed it and his ever-present wit. Most of all, however, we have lost an irreplaceable friend. Know, Harry, that we think of you often and fondly.

LEE D. MILLER, *Allyn Museum of Entomology, 3701 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, Florida 33580.*

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TWO BOISDUVAL MANUSCRIPT GENERIC NAMES FIRST
PUBLISHED BY LACORDAIRE IN 1833

In the first installment of a paper on French Guianan butterflies, Lacordaire (1833, *Ann. Soc. Entomol. France* 2: 379-397) introduced two generic names which had been used by Boisduval in manuscript. These names were not recorded by Hemming (1967, *Bull. Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist. (Entomol.)*, Suppl. 9: 1-509).

The first such name is *Lucidia* (p. 387), which is valid and available, having as type-species (by monotypy) *Papilio albula* Cramer, 1776. A similar name (*Leucidia*) was introduced by Doubleday in 1847 (*Gen. Diurn. Lep.*: 77), for a different but related genus, indicating that it was a Boisduval manuscript name. Obviously, both *Lucidia* Lacordaire, 1833 and *Leucidia* Doubleday, [1847] were taken from the same Boisduval "label name," which probably had a variable spelling.

Lucidia Lacordaire (Pieridae) is considered here as a junior subjective synonym of *Eurema* Hübner, [1819].

The second name is *Peridromia*, which was given by Lacordaire (p. 392) to five nymphalids. I hereby designate *Papilio arethusa* Cramer, 1776, the last of the five species mentioned by Lacordaire, as the type-species of his genus *Peridromia*. By this action, *Peridromia* Lacordaire becomes a senior objective synonym of *Peridromia* Boisduval, 1836 (cf. Hemming, op. cit.).

Lt. Col. C. F. Cowan kindly advised me on this note.

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