

OBITUARIES

ARTHUR C. ALLYN (1913-1985)

Dr. Arthur Cecil Allyn, life member of the Lepidopterists' Society and Director Emeritus of the Allyn Museum of Entomology, died on 22 March 1985, after a lingering illness. He will be remembered by the lepidopterological community for his generosity, dedication, and service to the science.

Dr. Allyn was born in Evanston, Illinois on 24 December 1913, completed primary and secondary schooling there, and attended Dartmouth and Beloit Colleges. He received a D.Sc. from the University of Florida in 1981 in recognition of his accomplishments in and service to entomology. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy D. Allyn, and three children, David D. Allyn, William N. Allyn and Dorothy A. Lavick, as well as eight grandchildren.

Dr. Allyn had a successful and diversified business career with international interests in oil, manufacturing, farming and sports in many countries, including Australia, Indonesia, Canada, South Africa and countries in Latin America. He was a philanthropist of note, being responsible for a wing at Chicago's Mercy Hospital and the Convention Center and Roberts Sports Arena in Sarasota. He was interested in the arts, especially theater, and he and his wife coproduced a number of plays at the Asolo State Theater in Sarasota. But, his abiding interest was in lepidopterology, and he amassed a huge collection of these insects. Finally he decided that the chore was too much for one man part-time; thus began our association with him in 1968.

Arthur Allyn's interest in Lepidoptera and his desire to establish a quality institution for their study led to the formation of the present-day Allyn Museum of Entomology. During the early days of the Museum, Dr. Allyn continually purchased material that was needed to enhance the Museum collections, often obtaining entire collections or entire season's catches from people throughout the world. Later, collections or individual



specimens were donated to the museum, and less material was purchased, but the growth of the collection continued to its present size of about 850,000 specimens from throughout the world. Dr. Allyn insisted that the collection be worldwide and accepted the necessity of long series of specimens to show individual variation within taxa.

In 1973 the Museum moved to its present home, and it became apparent that it would outgrow the new collection range rapidly if something were not done. Dr. Allyn had been impressed by the compactor housing the collections at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, and we immediately decided that the museum needed such housing. Thus was installed the first entomological compactor in the United States, a system that served as the model for similar systems elsewhere in this hemisphere. It was an excellent choice.

Concern about the backlog of papers in many lepidopterological journals led to the founding of the *Bulletin of the Allyn Museum* late in 1971. This publication, patterned after *American Museum Novitates*, has gone through 105 numbers as of this writing, with indices after every 20 numbers. The *Bulletin* rapidly evolved into a refereed publication, but final responsibility for the content of numbers rests with individual authors.

Dr. Allyn became an accomplished scanning electron microscopist largely through his own efforts. One of his photographs was featured on the cover of an issue of *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*. After studying a number of entomological papers with which he disagreed, based on his knowledge of the physical sciences, he began to publish papers on structures of Lepidoptera not only with Museum staff, but also with such authors as Dr. John C. Downey, Dr. Miriam Rothschild and Professor David Spencer Smith. Other papers were in varying degrees of completion at his death, some of which may appear in future *Bulletin* numbers. Those papers that were published are standards for the field, and it is a tribute to Arthur Allyn and his coauthors that they are frequently cited not only in lepidopterological, but also in sources oriented toward scanning electron microscopy. Dr. Allyn also cooperated with various researchers in other fields, and his photographs have appeared in publications on optic, muscular and nervous systems of both vertebrates and invertebrates. A complete listing of Dr. Allyn's publications is given in the *Bulletin of the Allyn Museum*, number 97.

Eventually, Dr. Allyn began to search for an orderly transition from the independent nature of the Allyn Museum of Entomology to a more structured, but secure status to assure its permanence. After examining many options, he presented the Board of Directors of the Allyn Museum with a proposal from the University of Florida Foundation which was accepted, and the Museum became a part of the Florida State Museum in 1981. Eventually the present facility will be moved to Gainesville, and the Museum's metamorphosis will be complete.

Arthur Allyn was a benefactor of the Lepidopterists' Society in numerous ways. In the late 1960's, the Society faced severe financial difficulties from which Dr. Allyn rescued it in return for financial accountability from the officers. Through a series of excellent treasurers, the Society has managed to remain a viable entity ever since. Equally important was the establishment of the Karl Jordan Medal for papers of lepidopterological excellence. There have been ten Jordan Medal awards since 1973, and the award winners have been truly international. Not only is the United States represented by Jordan Medal laureates, but also France, Canada and England.

Those of us who were close to Arthur Allyn will miss him for his generosity, excellent judgment and common sense. He would not want this, however, to become an overriding emotion: he would demand that we continue as before. Lepidopterology, along with many other pursuits, is better for its association with him.

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