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STEPHEN ROGERS STEINHAUSER

(1921–2007)

Stephen Rogers Steinhauser (Fig. 1), a life member of the Lepidopterists' Society, died on August 11, 2007 at the Sarasota Memorial Hospital at the age of 86. He was an avid collector of butterflies and moths from childhood, especially in the neotropics, where he also studied the life histories of several species. Steve was a Research Associate of the Allyn Museum of Entomology and the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida and published numerous taxonomic papers on the HesperIIDae and Nymphalidae. He is survived by his wife of 13 years, Josephine F. Steinhauser, his daughter, Nancy Murray, and son, Peter, West Hartford, Connecticut, a stepson Larry Lloyd, Houston, Texas, a stepdaughter, Mary Lloyd, Mesa, Colorado, two grandchildren and four step grandchildren.

Steve Steinhauser enjoyed a very rich and colorful life. Born on May 15, 1921 in Newburgh, N. Y., he was the son of Harry H. Steinhauser and Muriel W. Rogers. He lived in Weston and Westport, Connecticut, Madison, New York as well as New York City. He had one brother, Harry H. Steinhauser, Jr. His father was a civil engineer, and as children, they spent some time with their father in Guyama and Arecibo, Puerto Rico while he was building a dam. Steve graduated at the top of his class from George Washington High School in New York City. Both Steve and his brother attended Princeton University, with Harry graduating in 1941 and Steve in 1942 with a degree in geological engineering. Harry Steinhauser, Jr., went on to receive a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan, was a professor at MIT, and then became the Dean of Mechanical Engineering at the University of New Haven, Connecticut.

Steve had originally planned to enter the Navy V-7 Program in May, 1942 and had gone to New York for his physical. He was asked to return the following Monday to complete the exam. During the intervening weekend, he collided with another student during a softball game, suffered a concussion, broke his jaw, and one big toe. He contacted the Navy during the following week and was told to come back to New York once he could open his mouth again. This gave Steve an opportunity to reconsider his original plan, and he decided to take a position in essential industry as an

assistant mining engineer with Anaconda Copper Mining, Co., in Butte, Montana, where he worked from August 1942 to May 1944. In the spring of 1944, the age limit for industrial deferments was raised to 26, and Steve found himself eligible for the draft once again. He reapplied to the Navy and was awaiting his commission. However, the draft board in Connecticut told him to report for induction into the Army, and he was sent to Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Two days later his Navy commission came through, and he spent the next five days trying to make the transfer. He was eventually sworn into the Navy by an Army colonel and following that induction, he was discharged from the Army. These kinds of interesting and out of the ordinary experiences followed Steve throughout his service in the South Pacific. He was finally discharged in June, 1946. In retrospect, we believe that these experiences had a profound effect on his outlook on life and made him a survivor in any situation.

Following the war, he worked as a carpenter building houses and other jobs in Weston, Connecticut. Steve then had an opportunity to rejoin the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. as a mining engineer in October, 1948, continuing until June, 1952. He later was employed as a geologist with the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission (June, 1952–November, 1959) and was stationed in Richfield, Utah, Karnes City and Austin, Texas, and Grand Junction, Colorado. Steve met his wife, Levona, while working for the AEC in Grand Junction. In November, 1959, Steve joined the United Nations

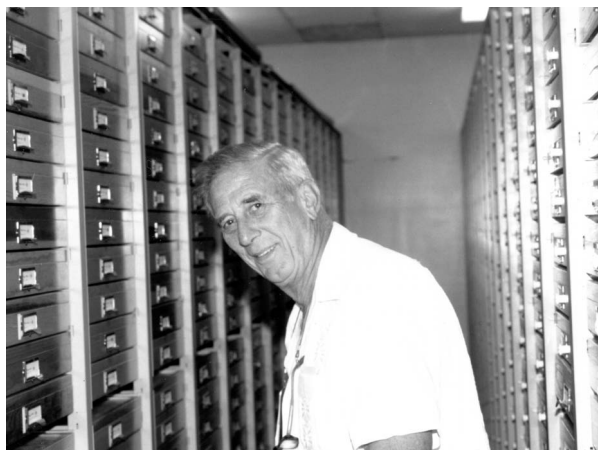


FIG. 1. Steve Steinhauser at work on HesperIIDae in the Allyn Museum collections in 2002.

Development Programme (UNDP) and served as an economic geologist on various projects for more than 20 years, including stops in Rangoon, Burma, now Myanmar, (1959–1962), the Bawdwin Mine, Northern Shan States, Burma (1962–1964), Ovalle, Chile (1964–1966), Pan Cordillero, Mendoza, Argentina (1966), Santiago, Chile (1966–1967), San Salvador, El Salvador (1967–1972), and Cali, Colombia (1973–1976). Steve was the project manager for the last two stations (1967–1976). He ultimately did one more contract with the UNDP as a Project Director, at Camp Jaguar, New River Area in southern Guyana near the Brazilian border in 1980. As a project director, Steve was noted for his relaxed managerial style that fostered an atmosphere in which people really enjoyed doing what they were paid to do (pers. comm. L. Lloyd and I. Naylor). Given the amount of bureaucracy involved with each different country, they managed to accomplish much while enjoying each country and its associated culture to the fullest.

There were many adventures in Burma, including the fact that they were in Rangoon when General Ne Win completed his coup d'état in 1962, and the family experienced the nationalization of Rangoon which occurred thereafter. On many occasions, Steve was accompanied into the field with government escorts due to insurgents. There were other memorable moments concerning the cultural differences while working in a foreign country. For example, there had been some problems with the motor on the UN jeep at the Bawdwin mine, Burma. One afternoon, Steve arrived home to find the entire motor removed from the vehicle and various parts of the motor carefully taken apart and neatly lined up by one of his assistants. Steve was assured that the motor would be fixed and would be in working order shortly. Surprisingly, the assistant was able to fix the shims on the pistons, and the jeep worked very well for the rest of their stay. On another occasion while celebrating Thanksgiving at the Bawdwin mine, the meal consisted of buttered rice and spam. His stepson, Larry Lloyd, also remembers Steve and him crawling through an underground mine with just enough room to squeeze through to find the miners sitting next to canaries in cages. The workers at some of these remote mines were paid with opium. Such experiences put everything about life in perspective.

Steve spent a number of years at each location and his family often accompanied him. When he went into the field to do geological exploration, this not only afforded him some time to look for interesting mineral deposits but allowed him an opportunity to collect unusual butterflies, so his butterfly net and associated

equipment always went along. Occasionally he was on horseback or on an elephant, depending on the country, holding a mining pick in one hand and a butterfly net in the other. The roads in a number of these remote areas were not the best, and sometimes Steve and his crew spent several hours, indeed some days, along the side of the road stranded due to torrential rains and mudslides. Steve always made the most of any free time by also searching for larvae. It is rather unusual that as part of his resume, Steve listed butterfly collecting in Papua, New Guinea (June 1964) and also during some vacation time in El Salvador (Dec., 1972–May, 1973). The remarkable aspect about the development of his collection was that Steve did not become interested in the Hesperiidæ until long after his travels to Myanmar and that side trip to New Guinea. He certainly made up for lost time later.

We first met Steve and his then wife, Levona, at the 1972 Annual Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society at Louisville, Kentucky. During the Thursday evening mixer at the home of Charlie and Betty Covell, we had an opportunity to speak with them at length about the possibility of ultimately retiring to Sarasota, Florida. In 1973, we hosted the Lepidopterists' Society meetings at the Allyn Museum of Entomology, and Steve and Levona made the trip from El Salvador in a Volkswagon microbus. Just prior to those meetings, Arthur Allyn, our Director, purchased their collection for the Museum. Due to their nomadic lifestyle, this was for the most part a basic synoptic collection with the bulk of the specimens still in papers. However, there was much material (including moths) from Burma, Argentina and elsewhere that now, with other collections, provides a historical time line for species biodiversity in those countries. In addition, there were also some very uncommon butterflies, such as a series of *Hermathena oweni* (Riodinidae) and *Argyrophorus argentius* (Satyrinae), but most importantly, there were also long series of skippers from various locations, including a number of reared specimens.

During this period, Steve and Levona began to look around the Sarasota area for a potential place to retire. They ultimately found 10 acres north of the city along a then dirt road (County Line Road, now University Parkway) and were finally able to move there in 1977. They expanded the small house to 5,000 sq. ft., based on Steve's own architectural plans and did a lot of work themselves, including finishing the interior. He was an expert carpenter and hand crafted the kitchen cabinets. Steve added some unusual features to the house, such as the wood spiral staircase from the kitchen to the upstairs areas. He also made one of the most unusual



FIG. 2. The curatorial-phylogenetic “chorus line” at the Annual Meetings, at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. From left to right, Phillip Ackery, Dick Vane-Wright (both of BMNH), Steve Steinhauser and Lee Miller in 1989.

coffee tables, which was a cross section (6 ft. x 10” thick) through a large tree obtained in Argentina. He was also a skilled woodcarver and craftsman, who built his own butterfly storage cases and beautiful cabinets.

Steve had a broad variety of interests. He enjoyed bowling and was active with the leagues in El Salvador, Colombia, and Sarasota for a number of years. He was a jazz enthusiast and had hundreds of recordings in his archival library. In addition, Steve enjoyed cooking and was an avid reader. He liked to garden and enjoyed growing and cooking all kinds of hot and regular peppers. He developed an inordinate number of recipes for stuffed green peppers and could have written a cookbook on the subject. Steve occasionally took some of the semester courses offered at various sites in Sarasota with topics that ranged from politics and economics to energy reduction (including battery powered cars), long before this current wave of discussion on sustainability.

Capturing the essence of Steve is rather difficult. As a colleague at the Museum, he was exceedingly serious about examining various morphological characters and puzzling out some of the close affinities of hesperiid species. During his work day, there was always some

new joke or observation on the world at large that brought a smile to your face or a new outlook on life. Dr. Gavin Naylor, son of Ian Naylor, one of the project team in El Salvador and now an Associate Professor of Biological Science at Florida State University provided a few of these. Steve pointed out that when anyone called and left a message on the telephone answering machine stating, “Please call back. It’s important.” it invariably meant that it was important for THEM, not you!

An inveterate story, punster and joke teller, Steve went for more than a week on a fishing trip and never repeated a single joke much to the amazement of all present. He was a fun loving guy and traveling with him was always an experience. We drove to Laramie, Wyoming, for the annual meetings in 1982, and Steve regaled us with stories and jokes the entire way. Cliff Ferris, the chair of the meetings, had organized everything exceedingly well. However, when we got to the Sunday morning session, there was coffee and tea, but the donuts were limited. Steinhauser remembered the jalapeno cheese bread that we had purchased the day before for a taste test. Steve thought that it was far too mild, but it became part of the Sunday morning

break menu and was consumed without any complaints. Then there were the meetings in Albuquerque, New Mexico, when Phillip Ackery and Dick Vane-Wright both won the Karl Jordan Medal for their work on the *Biology of Lepidoptera* and especially for their volume on the *Milkweed Butterflies*. One evening, we decided to go out to dinner to one of the better restaurants that overlooked the city. This also included Karolis Bagdonas and that made six people in a mid-sized car that should only accommodate five. Steve piped up that this traveling group of troubadours should be known as the “Albaturkeys”, and things went on from there. Following dinner, we went to put some books and backpacks in the trunk. The ever reserved Phil Ackery decided that he wanted a more relaxed ride back and jumped into the car trunk before anyone could say anything more. Once this camaraderie started, it continued through the end of the meeting and resulted in the phylogenetic photo (Fig. 2) the following day in the dormitory parking lot, with Phil, Dick, and Steve (the chorus line), and Lee, the outgroup. Lepidopterists are indeed unusual individuals, but we do have fun.

One of Steve's true passions was Lepidoptera, especially the HesperIIDae, and this included taxonomic and systematic in addition to life history studies. When he arrived in Sarasota, he just took a little time to learn how to complete expert genitalic dissections of both males and females. Although he began with just lateral views of male genitalia, these efforts were expanded to dorsal and ventral views. Consequently, he discovered a number of unique and different features. He also began to use female genitalia as part of his revisionary studies, including the development of the accessory glands as an important structure. He took great pride in the inked versions of his drawings, using a 000 pen to complete them. Later he became accomplished with various computer programs for illustrations and cladistic analyses.

Steve was a self starter and initially began to work as a volunteer in 1979 and later as a part-time staff member at the Allyn Museum, answering inquiries, identifying skippers and integrating these into the main collection. He devoted an inordinate amount of time working on Evans' J group skippers, especially the small dark genera and did untold number of genitalic dissections trying to match up males and females from the same locality. Gradually his studies expanded into some rather large revisionary studies on the Pyrginae. His dissections on the group and illustrations were meticulous, and he never tired of trying to help others to identify material. Thus far, he is author or co-author

of more than 23 published papers, including the description of more than 88 subspecies. A number of other papers will be published shortly.

Steve has been honored with four patronymial names in Lepidoptera:

Narcosius steinhauseri G. T. Austin 1996. Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society, 50: 54–60.

Dalla steinhauseri H. A. Freeman. 1991. Tropical Lepidoptera, 2(1): 65–67

Dismorphia crisia steinhauseri 1984. J. de la Maza & R. G. de la Maza. Revista Sociedad Mexicana de Lepidopterologia, 9(1): 3–12.

Cyllopsis steinhauserorum L. D. Miller. 1974. Bulletin of the Allyn Museum, 20: 26–29.

Stephen R. Steinhauser was indeed a renaissance man in every sense of the word, and his life revolved around a lot of things, but primarily his alma mater, Princeton University, and Lepidoptera. As his wife, Josie, remarked, “On one hand, he was a happy-go-lucky guy, but when it came to science, and especially, butterflies, he was very meticulous in his pursuits.” He had a major impact on his children's lives by taking them into the field to discover nature whether it was fishing, looking for Inca artifacts, or watching male Atlas moths attracted to a newly emerged female at their house one night in Rangoon, Burma. He made a difference in a number of people's lives over the years by encouraging amateur collectors to complete dissections or just scan in a pencil genitalic sketch and finish it on the computer. Amateurs have contributed markedly to our knowledge of the Lepidoptera over the years, and Steve is a prime example of such major contributions. He instilled a sense of discovery and adventure for food, bugs, plants and/or anything else. Steve's sense of humor was legendary and despite his infirmities in later years, he continued to teach us how to deal with life. Steve was a scholar, a co-author, a friend, and a joyful person to be around whether you were the Keeper of the Entomology at the Natural History Museum, London, or the plumber, who came into to complete some repairs at the house. It is this human perspective that we will miss the most.

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- _____. 1975. An annotated list of the Hesperidae of El Salvador. Bulletin of the Allyn Museum 29: 1-34, 1 map.
- _____. & L. D. MILLER. 1977. Three new species of *Adelpha* (Nymphalidae) from Mexico and Colombia. Bulletin of the Allyn Museum 46: 1-10, 22 figs. (*A. levona*, *A. escalantei*, *A. jacquelineae*)
- _____. 1981. A revision of the proteus group of the genus *Urbanus* Hubner (Lepidoptera: Hesperidae). Bulletin of the Allyn Museum 62: 1-41, 61 figs. (*U. dubius*, *U. magnus*)
- _____. 1983. Notes on *Ridens* Evans, 1952 with description of a new species from Mexico. Bulletin of the Allyn Museum 79: 1-7, 6 figs. (*R. mercedes*)
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- _____. 1991. Taxonomic notes and descriptions of new taxa in the Neotropical Hesperidae. Part II, Heteropterinae and Hesperinae, *Vinius* group. Bulletin of the Allyn Museum 132: 1-79. (*Dalla nubes*, *D. pincha*, *D. xantha*, *D. bos*, *D. pura*, *D. simplicis*, *D. p. puracensis*, *D. puracensis quindio*, *D. puracensis cotopa*, *D. calima*, *Lento grosso*, *Zalomes banco*, *Z. coto*, *Z. naco*, *Wahydra* (new genus), *W. subhethis*, *W. nieblensis*, *W. obscura*, *Pheraeus covadonga loxicha*, *P. manes*, *P. rumba kofan*, *P. jariensis*, *P. maria*)
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