

REVIEW

HANDBOOK OF SYSTEMATIC MALACOLOGICAL by Johannes Thiele. Published by Smithsonian Institution Libraries and The National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C., 1992, Part 1 (Loricata; Gastropods:Prosobranchia), pp. i-xiii, 1-625; Part 2 (Gastropoda:Opisthobranchia and Pulmonata), pp. i-xiv, 627-1189; 783 text-figs; each volume indexed separately.

Johannes Thiele (1860-1935) completed his seminal *Handbuch der systematisches Weichtierkunde* (1929-1935) only a few months before his death. It was originally issued in four parts by Gustav Fischer Verlag in Jena. The initial part was published in 1929; following this, Thiele supplied extensive additions and corrections in each subsequent part.

In this work Thiele proposed a systematic classification of the Loricata [Polyp-lacophora] and Gastropoda that has been the basis for arranging collections throughout the world since his time. Although his classification is now being challenged by current workers, anyone who must deal with the body of systematic literature published since 1935 cannot avoid being influenced by his work.

The German publication was reprinted in its original form in 1963 by A. Asher and Company, Amsterdam, but an English edition has never been available until now. The Smithsonian Institution Libraries, in cooperation with the National Science Foundation, has been involved in a program of translating scholarly subjects since 1960. The new edition of Thiele is the latest offering in this series and was translated from the German by Dr. J. S. Bhatti. The scientific editors were Rudiger Bieler, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, and Paula M. Mikkelsen, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Ft. Pierce, Florida.

In this English Edition the original pagination is indicated in the left-hand margin and the text-figures carry their original numbers. Inserted as footnotes are the additions and corrections provided by Thiele over the years, making this version much more complete than the original text. Any molluscan systematist is already familiar with the contents of this invaluable work. It only needs to be noted that the translation is excellent, as are the reproductions of the figures.

-E.H.V.

