



VIGNETTES OF COASTAL PLAIN GEOLOGY

HENRY VAN WAGENEN HOWE
(1896-1973)

Born in Fulton, New York, in 1896, "Heinie" Howe, as he was affectionately known, spent his early life in Oregon. Becoming interested in paleontology he went to Stanford University, to study with J.P. Smith, receiving his Ph.D. in 1922. The same year he accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Geology in the nearly defunct department at Louisiana State University. While revitalizing the department he rose rapidly through the professorial ranks, becoming Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, in 1944. Despite the press of administrative duties, he managed to continue paleontological research and became an international authority of Cretaceous and Tertiary ostracods and foraminifera, publishing several important works on the microfossils of the Gulf Coast. His principal contribution, perhaps, was his recognition of the value of micropaleontology in correlating the thick sedimentary sequences of the Gulf Coast. For 40 years he accumulated mollusks, bryozoans, and especially, ostracod and foraminiferal specimens. Upon his retirement in 1966, these collections were donated to the University and became the basis of the H. V. Howe Collection of Microfossils and the macrofossil collections of the present L. S. U. Museum of Geoscience.