

GEORGE HENRY PENN FOUNDING EDITOR OF TULANE STUDIES IN ZOOLOGY

The passing on May 10, 1963 of George Henry Penn, Professor of Zoology at Tulane University and Editor and founder of Tulane Studies in Zoology, ended a ten year reign of conscientious and scholarly guidance of the development of Tulane Studies in Zoology to its present prestige. From the release of the first number on June 1, 1953 Dr. Penn devoted much of his time to the management and direction of the journal and simultaneously conducted a highly successful and productive career as a teacher and researcher.

Dr. Penn was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on November 20, 1918. His early education was received in New Orleans; he attended Tulane University earning the B.S. and M.S. degrees in zoology in 1939 and 1941 respectively. His studies were interrupted by World War II in which he served as a commissioned officer in a U. S. Navy malaria control unit in the Southwest Pacific. During his service tour he accumulated considerable material on the mosquitoes of the area and after his separation from the navy he developed this information into a doctoral dissertation, "The Pupae of the Mosquitoes of New Guinea", at Cornell University where he earned the Ph.D. in 1947 in medical entomology under the direction of Dr. Robert Matheson.

Professor Penn's interest in zoology was an early one cultivated by his tutor and beloved friend, a notable Louisiana naturalist, the late Percy Viosca, Jr. On many occasions he reminisced of his early days as Percy's assistant; the influence of the varied experiences working with Viosca is reflected in the diversified topics reported in literature by Dr. Penn.

Following his graduation from Cornell University Dr. Penn was appointed Assistant Professor of Zoology at Tulane University. He rose to Associate Professor in 1952 and to Professor in 1957. At the time of his death he was Assistant Head of the Department of Zoology at Tulane and served as Acting Head during 1958-1959. His campus activities were wide and varied: he served on many important University committees. At the beginning of each academic year he and his wife were the gracious hosts to graduate students in the Department of Zoology, for he felt strongly about making personal social contact with all students in the department. Students were always welcome to discuss their problems with Dr. Penn.

Professor Penn was never one to publicize himself and many of his efforts might easily have gone unnoticed. He authored at least 70 papers on parasites, molluscs, branchiobdellids, crustaceans, porocephalids, mosquitoes, reptiles, and birds. He was a world authority on crayfishes. There is an unconfirmed rumor that he and his colleague and friend, Dr. Horton H. Hobbs, Jr., Head Curator of the Department of Zoology of the U. S. National Museum, had divided the United States between them for purposes of studying crayfishes! At the time of his death he was compiling a crayfish omnibus and was engaged in a study of competition and behavior of the dwarf crayfishes (*Cambarellus*). In spite of his interest in crayfishes, Professor Penn liked to regard himself as a general biologist rather than a specialist. He was a serious teacher who led scores of undergraduates into useful and productive careers in biology and medicine. His graduate students are many, and their theses are primarily on invertebrate animals.

At the time of his death Professor Penn was a member of 11 learned societies: Louisiana Academy of Sciences, Tennessee Academy of Sciences, Entomological Society of America, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, Society of Systematic Zoology, American Institute of Biological Sciences, Association of Southeastern Biologists, American Society of Zoologists, Ecological Society of America, Society of the Sigma Xi, Biological Society of Washington, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is listed in *American Men of Science*, *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*, and *Leaders in American Sciences*. In 1962 he was elected a Fellow in the AAAS.

As editor of Tulane Studies in Zoology Dr. Penn exerted every effort to prevent the journal from becoming a captive one publishing only local manuscripts. Over half

the manuscripts came from authors elsewhere in the world. Editor Penn actively sought the advice and criticisms of experts on each manuscript submitted: this approach plus his meticulous attention to the preparation of copy and format has given us a journal of which we are proud.

The memory of George Henry Penn will long be held by those associated with him at Tulane and by the present and future generations of biologists whose studies focus on crayfishes.

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