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Obituary E. C. Pelham-Clinton

A. M. Emmet

Edward Charles Pelham-Clinton (*), who died on Christmas Day, 1988, was born in 1920. He was a keen lepidopterist from his boyhood days, and after specializing in Entomology at Cambridge University, his whole working life was devoted to the science. His principal appointment was at the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh (now a branch of the National Museums of

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Scotland), where he became Deputy Keeper of Natural History, serving from 1960 until his retirement in 1981. His duties required coverage of all orders and his knowledge was encyclopaedic ; however, the British Lepidoptera formed his main field of study and his personal collection was virtually confined to the native fauna. He travelled more extensively in the British Isles than possibly any other lepidopterist and he kept meticulous records of every species in every locality. As a collector he was self-disciplined and restrained, being mindful of the necessity for conservation ; he seldom took more than one or two specimens, especially if the species was rare. His personal interest lay in the Microlepidoptera, in particular the Elachistidae. He added a number of species to the British list and discovered several new to science ; *Scrobipalpa clintoni* Povolný, 1966 (Lep., Gelechiidae) is named in his honour, as are also a beetle and fly.

He wrote all too little, but with great clarity of style. As an Associate Editor of the series *The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland,* he imposed high standards of accuracy and objectivity and was himself author of several families such as the Tineidae, Choreutidae and Glyphipterigidae ; at the time of his death he was working on the Elachistidae. He has bequeathed his collection, his extensive note-books and much of his library to the museum in Edinburgh where he spent so many happy years of his life.

Teddy, or Ted, as he was known to his friends, was one of the best-liked and most highly respected of modern British entomologists and he will be widely missed. His good humour and enthusiasm were infectious and he was a man of high integrity. Only a few weeks before his death he succeeded to the family title, becoming the 10th Duke of Newcastle. He was unmarried.

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