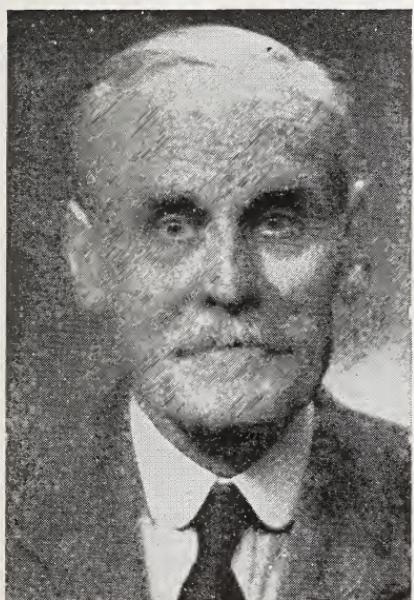


Personalia

Obituary: Brisbane C. S. Warren, * 29. III. 1887 — † 22. I. 1979. (*)



Brisbane Charles Sommerville Warren, who died in Folkestone in January 1979, was born in the south of Ireland, the son of the Dean of Cork. He collected butterflies in the field for 58 years, from 1902 to 1960, and continued doing research until 1972 — 70 years of his active work resulted in 112 original papers published over a period of 68 years. He was a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society of London for 70 years and a member of Societas Europea Lepidopterologica since its foundation in 1976, elected Honorary Member in April 1978.

In the spring of 1894, on the death of his Father, Warren came first to live in Freiburg im Breisgau (Germany) and in the same year he paid his first visit to Switzerland,

which was to become his favourite country. In 1901 he returned to live in Freiburg for the second time and made many happy collecting trips in the Schwarzwald, to the Höllental, Titisee, Kaiserstuhl and Moosalb, which he remembered all his life. In 1904 and 1906 he went for walking tours of Switzerland visiting the Brunig, Grimsel and Simplo Passes, Berisal, Fusio, and collecting *Erebia flavofasciata* with G. Wheeler on the Campolungopass. In 1910 and 1911 he went for long collecting tours in France with H. Rowland-Brown, spending a fortnight collecting at Gavarnie with P. Rondou and C. Oberthür in July 1911.

As well as entomology, Warren's interests were wide. Very musical he sang in Church choirs wherever he lived, was a member of the Freiburg Oratorioverein, and a keen opera-goer — his favourite composer

(*) The autobiographical note of B.C.S. Warren appeared in 1978 in Nota lepid. 1:77-81.

was Wagner. He loved all animals, especially cats and alpine marmots. He was also keenly interested in botany, especially the alpine flora of Switzerland, and geology. He greatly enjoyed skiing, badminton and tennis. But over and above all else his great love was walking in the Alps. Originally interested in the Alps as localities of butterflies, he came to love them for themselves, especially the Engadin. He started his walks at 7.00 or 8.00 a. m. and went up to 30–50 km in a day, climbing 1000 m, or more, and down again, collecting on the way.

On his marriage in 1922 he went to live in Lausanne. There he wrote his famous *Hesperia* and *Erebia* Monographs (Nota lepid. 1:78, 1978; nos. 14 and 39); the latter was first all written with two lead pencils and then typed on an ancient typewriter. The photographs for the plates were all taken with a mahogany half-plate Sanderson camera, and a microscope camera of his own design, using the focusing screen and plate holders of the Sanderson on top of a mahogany box-stool stand over the microscope.

In 1925 Warren attended the Third International Congress of Entomology in Zürich and there he met Professor T. Esaki; this was the beginning of his friendship with many Japanese entomologists. In 1926 he visited Corsica, where he collected the larvae from which he bred his fine series of *Papilio hospiton*; he remembered the wonderful scent of the maquis ever since. In 1934 he spent the whole summer in the Dolomites collecting the interesting local forms of butterflies in long series and from 1948 to 1960 he made annual happy collecting trips to Switzerland.

Twice when he had been ill Warren thought he had finished with the butterflies; and twice a mass migrations started him working again: that of *Colias crocea* at Folkestone in 1947 and *Artogeia bryoniae flavescens* in the Haslital in 1958. In 1964, at the age of 77, he lost his left leg through bone tuberculosis, spending over four months in hospital. He learnt to walk again out of doors with an artificial leg and two sticks, but in the house he always used a wheel chair as this left his hands free for work. No longer able to stand to focus his microscope camera, he made a base board to hold the microscope on the floor and so was able to work sitting down.

B. C. S. Warren was a most careful and accurate worker. His photographs of butterflies were always exactly life size and the exact magnification of microphotographs was always given. He printed his own labels, always clear and accurate, with full data. He was most punctilious in answering letters and tried to help anyone who asked him for information or advice. His election in 1978 to an Honorary Membership of SEL brought him great pleasure.

E. J. M. Warren