

# Societas entomologica.

„Societas Entomologica“ gegründet 1886 von Fritz Rühl, fortgeführt von seine Erben unter Mitwirkung bedeutender Entomologen und ausgezeichneter Fachmänner.

Journal de la Société entomologique internationale.

Toutes les correspondances devront être adressées aux héritiers de Mr. Fritz Rühl à Zurich-Hottingen. Messieurs les membres de la société sont priés d'envoyer des contributions originales pour la partie scientifique du journal.

Organ für den internationalen Entomologenverein.

Alle Zuschriften an den Verein sind an Herr Fritz Rühl's Erben in Zürich-Hottingen zu richten. Die Herren Mitglieder des Vereins werden freundlichst ersucht, Originalbeiträge für den wissenschaftlichen Theil des Blattes einzusenden.

Organ for the International-Entomological Society.

All letters for the Society are to be directed to Mr Fritz Rühl's inheritors at Zürich-Hottingen. The Hon. members of the Society are kindly requested to send original contributions for the scientific part of the paper.

Jährlicher Beitrag für Mitglieder 10 Fr. = 5 fl. = 8 Mk. — Die Mitglieder genießen das Recht, alle auf Entomologie Bezug nehmenden Annoncen kostenfrei zu inseriren. — Das Vereinsblatt erscheint monatlich zwei Mal (am 1. und 15.). — Mit und nach dem 1. Oktober eintretende neue Mitglieder bezahlen, unter portofreiem Nachbezug der Nummern des Winterhalbjahres, nur die Hälfte des Jahresbeitrages.

## Hints on sending lepidoptera by post or rail.

by Frank Bromilow, F. E. S.

As this is a subject of much importance to collectors and entomologists generally, I have thought that a few notes under the above head may, perhaps, be acceptable. To begin with, the sending of

### Ova

by post, first claims attention. When wishing to forward eggs by post, it is of great importance that they should be gathered, if possible, when freshly laid, otherwise there is much risk of the young caterpillars hatching out from the ova *en voyage*, and probably perishing. Those parts of the plant on which the eggs are deposited, should be carefully clipped off, and put into a square (never round) tin box (one such as is used for mustard, by choice); or the ova may be cut out and gummed on to paper, put into a small card pill-box, or into a quill, the ends being plugged with cork, and the space between the pill-box or quill and the outside box, filled up with cotton-wool, then a hole should be bored in the side of the tin, (never the lid, which might come off), near either end, and a piece of strong cord or string inserted, firmly secured to the tin-box by a knot at the end. After this, a parchment label with the address of the intended recipient, the name of the sender, and a specification of the object sent, should be affixed to the other end. Parchment labels are stronger than any other. The tin should then be wrapped round with wadding, about an inch in thickness, covered over with paper, and the address written a second time. It is

important that the ticket should be made *thoroughly* secure, otherwise it is quite possible that the label may get detached from the packet, and your correspondent, instead of receiving a nice little parcel, will only get the label: a thing which happened to an acquaintance of mine, (through my negligence), not very long since! If you have reason to suspect that your packet is likely to become the object of a too inquisitive attention on the part of the post-office authorities, it is advisable to write on the ticket „Natural History specimens“ instead of „Eggs“ or „Living larvae“, etc. This has the merit of strict adherence to the truth, without a too rigid particularisation of facts. If the parcel is of value, it can be registered at the post-office, as an additional precaution — but this is not recommended in the case of living caterpillars, for instance. When sending lepidoptera — either ova, larvae, pupae, or imagines, always write to the consignee first, saying that you are forwarding so-and-so.

### Larvae.

Caterpillars should be treated much in the same way as eggs, *i. e.* simply placed in a small tin canister, with a sufficient supply of the larvae's growing food-plant, being afterwards well packed and labelled. If the distance to which the caterpillars are to be sent, is a long one, the packet may be marked „Immediate“.

### Pupae.

Chrysalids are best put up separately in little paper packets, forwarded in a strong wooden box, well packed with cotton-wool. The whole should be covered over with paper, addressed, and the label

attached in the same way as before indicated — *not* forgetting to well secure the label.

### Imagines

are perhaps the most difficult of all to shed, and demand great care. There are several ways of sending these — „in papers“ or „set“. If the former method is decided on, the lepidoptera should first have their wings folded together, wing to wing, and be put up in little triangular paper packets, gummed all round, each one being labelled with the names and sex of the insect contained, together with the locality in which it was taken, and the date of its capture. „Set“ butterflies and moths, of course, should each bear similar data. The lepidoptera should then be placed in a shallow box (those used for cigars are best), with a good layer of wadding surrounding each packet, so that the specimens cannot be shaken about. The box should then be wrapped in wadding, and covered with paper, addressed, also ticketed by securing the string of the label through a hole in the box (as before mentioned). It is then ready to go on its travels.

This plan is not recommended, as a rule, for specimens that have to go very long distances. Travellers and others, who are not generally able to carry much impedimenta, usually bring their insects home in papers, so that they thus occupy little space. A second plan is to pin the lepidoptera, previously „set“, in a little box lined with cork, which is then sent through the post in the ordinary way. Naturally, only a few specimens can be sent by this means, room being limited. But this device, too, is risky to the safety of the insects concerned, even when the box is enveloped in cotton-wool. Probably one of the most interesting inventions comes from Paris. It is a small wooden box of a size convenient for the post, padded throughout inside, like an arm-chair.

Inside this, is inserted another smaller box, made entirely of cork, lid and all, containing the insects pinned into be sent. Between the lid of this the smaller box and the box itself, is fixed a small kind of window, made of silk gauze stretched on a framework of card-board.

This gauze covering can, of course, be opened, when it is desired to remove the lepidoptera. The advantage of the above ingeniously conceived arrangement, is that the specimens contained, can be examined by the most inexperienced, without any necessity of disturbing them, beyond merely opening

the lid of the little box. The last plan, and that generally followed on the continent, is the sending of insects „by rail“, in double boxes. The lepidoptera to be forwarded, are first pinned in a box lined with turf (this is best), cork, or „agavé“ (fr: aloés), tied round with paper and string, and packed with fine shavings or cotton-wool, in a larger box. A piece of paper with the address of the consignee, is then pasted on the outer box and it is sent off in the usual way. It is advisable to describe the specimens sent, as „prepared“ or „dried“, otherwise one is liable to be asked „Are they alive?“ (!) It is best before sending, that the turf, or cork of the inner box or boxes should be covered over with a thin layer of wadding drawn out fine, and made fast by digging it into the turf, here and there, with the point of a pen-knife. This material catches the antennae and legs of the insects, which may get detached in transit. Turf (obtainable at most dealers') is preferable to any other substance, as it secures the pins better than anything else, and resists jolting them, to a larger extent, perhaps, than most other substitutes. „Agavé“ is the soft interior of a tree, common in the South of Europe, but a native of Central America. Some lepidopterists have small windows to the lids of their inner boxes, through which it is possible to examine the contents of a box, without opening the lid. Large fry, such as the big sphinges — *Acherontia atropos*, etc. should have their bodies (which, by reason of their weight and bulkiness, are not unlikely to break off with any shock, and cause damage to the other inmates of a box) made secure.

This is effected by fastening the abdomina cross-wise with pins wrapped round with cotton-wool, in the box. The double box plan is altogether the best method of sending specimens, and this is more particularly the case where large quantities of lepidoptera are concerned.

### Raupenfütterung mit präparirtem Futter!

Von Dr. Lud. Heissler.

Herr Ernest Hein, Karlsbad, berichtet seine diesbezügliche Methode und deren Resultate seit einiger Zeit. Dabei spielt das Einfrischen des Futters in verschiedene Tintenlösungen die Hauptrolle. Es sollen damit grossartige Farbenveränderungen erzielt werden.

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