

A TRIBUTE TO LORUS JOHNSON MILNE

Dr. Lorus J. Milne, author, naturalist, professor, scientist, lecturer, photographer, and machinist, was outstanding in many talents. Even after retirement from the Department of Zoology, University of New Hampshire, he remained quite energetic in his work, giving lectures and tours at home and abroad. It was common to see him riding his bike or walking about Durham for exercise. Thus it was a greatly unexpected when he died May 4, 1987.

Lorus was born on a 200 acre farm of Crown Grant Land near Toronto, Canada, that was bestowed on his ancestors for their loyalty to the King during the American Revolution. His mother, Edna Shepard (Johnson), was a descendent of Scottish Quakers who settled in New Hampshire, and later in Pennsylvania, in the 1600's; his father, Stanley Milne, was a descendent of the Milne's of New York, merchants who contributed funds to Vanderbilt's Hudson River Dayline (a busy ferry line between New York City and Albany). Raised in rural Canada, Lorus developed a profound love of nature. Insects especially fascinated him, and he recalled mounting his first specimen, pinning a dragonfly with a safety pin at the age of ten. With encouragement from his parents he soon learned proper entomological techniques and amassed a collection for which he won first place in the Canadian Natural Exhibition in 1923, at the age of thirteen. As a result of this award he was offered a position at the Canadian National Museum, but when it was discovered that he was only a youth, the offer was postponed. His parents instilled in him the importance of supporting himself financially, so it was very fortunate that when he entered the University of Toronto, the previous award gave him the opportunity to pay for his education by working as a part-time assistant curator in the Royal Ontario Museum and the Canadian National Museum. He participated in several museum collection trips to Point Pelee National Park and the Ottawa region of Ontario and the Knowlton region of southern Quebec, and at this time he became especially interested in Trichoptera. In 1933 he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and gold medalist with highest honors, winning a scholarship to attend Harvard University, where he became a student of Nathan Banks and Charles T. Brues.

At Harvard he wrote and self-published his major contribution to Trichopterology, Studies in North American Trichoptera, which provided a key to the entire caddisfly fauna of the United States and Canada known at the time. He was a bit of a maverick at naming species, such as Pycnopsyche sonso (so-and-so) and 22 species of Rhyacophila, all with epithets beginning with y's.

Some of his types are at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. However, most of his personal collection of caddisflies, including types, was deposited at the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign, Illinois. The rest of his large and diverse insect collection was donated to the Entomology Collection at the University of New Hampshire.

Soon after arriving at Harvard he met Margery Joan Greene. Immediately Margery began to share his interest in caddisflies, because as she says, "He was dating other women at the time besides me, and I was terribly jealous." So Margery baited her hook with a caddisfly and went fishing for her man. Shortly afterwards they were married. They made a marvelous team; the many books and articles that they coauthored are a testament to the love and respect that they had for each other. Lorus received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard, and Margery received M.A. degrees from Columbia and Radcliffe and a Ph.D. from Radcliffe, all in the same biological field.

After leaving Harvard he decided that it was too difficult to make a living as a caddisfly taxonomist, and so he broadened his interests in the field of biology, teaching at several universities. He also worked with Nobel Prize winner Keffer Hartline on aviation medicine in the War Research Division, Johnson Foundation of Medical Physics, University of Pennsylvania.

After World War II he accepted a professorship at the University of New Hampshire where he taught for over 28 years, and where he earned a highly-deserved reputation as a naturalist writer and lecturer. Most of his books (57), awards, etc. are listed in Who's Who in America (and Canada). His writings were both technical and popular in nature and several have been translated into over 50 foreign languages. Two of his best known entomological

works currently in print are The Audubon Society field guide to North American insects and spiders, and The Audubon Society book of insects. He received many grants and scholarly awards, including a Ford Fellowship to South America, a Rockefeller Grant to the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, a National Geographic Society Research Grant, a United States-South African Leader Exchange Award, and a United Nations Educational Scientific Award.

His philosophy of nature is summarized best in his own words: "The unifying joy in my life stems from discoveries, both personal and from the observations of others, about the on-going interaction among all kinds of life; and from sharing my enthusiasm on these topics with others of all ages. A reverence for life and a delight in learning about plants and animals, I find, opens the way to friendly communication with people of all nations, regardless of language, education or economic status."

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PUBLICATIONS ON TRICHOPTERA

Lorus. J. Milne

1931. Three new Canadian Prophyganea (Phryganeidae, Trichoptera). Can. Ent. 63:228-32.
- * 1934-6. Studies in North American Trichoptera. Pt. I. pp. 1-19. Cambridge, Massachusetts. 1935. Pt. II. pp. 20-55. 1936. Pt. III. pp. 56-128.
1938. The Arctopsychidae of continental America north of Mexico (Trichoptera). Bull. Brooklyn Ent. Soc. 33:97-110.

Lorus. J. Milne & Margery J. Milne

1944. Caddis flies (Trichoptera) and pitcher plants. Psyche 51:179-82.
- (in press). Cadbaits: Net-weavers and case-builders. Sci. Amer.

Margery J. Milne & Lorus. J. Milne

1939. Evolutionary trends in caddis worm case construction. Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer. 32:533-42.
1940. A new species of Rhyacophila, described from metamorphotypes (Rhyacophilidae: Trichoptera). Bull. Brooklyn Ent. Soc. 35:153-6.
- * Reprints are still available, send \$4.00 (in USA), \$4.50 (others) to:
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ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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