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ARTHUR C. ALLYN (1913-1985)

We have lost a good friend and a valued colleague whom we shall miss. Dr. Arthur C. Allyn, the Director Emeritus of the Allyn Museum of Entomology, died on 22 March 1985 after a lingering illness. He will be remembered by the lepidopterological community for his generosity and service to the science.

Arthur Cecil Allyn was born in Evanston, Illinois, on 24 December 1913, and spent most of his life in the Chicago area. He graduated from Evanston Township High School and subsequently attended Dartmouth and Beloit Colleges. In 1981 he received a Doctor of Science degree from the University of Florida. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Dunklau Allyn, one daughter, Dorothy A. Lavick, and two sons, David D. Allyn and William N. Allyn, in addition to eight grandchildren.

He was first employed by Chapell Brothers as a laboratory assistant, and then by California Packing Corporation as manager of their Biological Laboratory. In 1949 he joined the family company, A. C. Allyn & Company, then a member of the New York Stock Exchange. In later years the parent holding company, Artnell Company Inc., was highly diversified with interests in manufacturing of truck seating and garments, poultry farms, oil production and oil well survey, a commercial testing laboratory in addition to the sports field with the Chicago White Sox. The international subsidary operated in Australia, Indonesia, Republic of South Africa, Nigeria, Canada, England, Germany, Guatemala, and Mexico. During the sixties and into the late seventies Dr. Allyn had interests in a number of aviation companies, either commuter airlines or sales and ground operations for private aircraft. Arthur Allyn also served for a short time as the Director of the San Diego Natural History Museum in 1979-80.

As a citizen and philanthropist, Arthur Allyn was involved in both the cities of Chicago as well as Sarasota. He made possible the construction of various buildings such as the hospital wing at Mercy Hospital in Chicago and the Robarts Sports Arena and Convention Center in Sarasota. Active in the Asolo State Theater in Sarasota, Dr. Allyn and his wife

coproduced a number of plays and were also involved in various civic organizations, both in Chicago and Sarasota.

History of the Allyn Museum Collection

Dr. Allyn was always attracted to the sciences, whether it was tinkering with a chemistry set as a young man in the attic of his parents' house or later with electronics associated with basic research. His intense curiosity to explain the way and what of how things work and the explicit reason for such observations were a common thread throughout his entire life. His life-long hobby, however, was the butterflies — an interest generated from finding

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two specimens in the shrubbery of his parents' house. His fascination with butterflies was subsequently encouraged by his mother.

His private collection originally began like those of many amateurs with the capture and preparation of specimens from the local area. Gradually he began to acquire material from other countries, purchasing specimens from several collectors. During the sixties he purchased various collections, some at auctions, notably Rousseau-Decelle at Paris, 1964. The purchase of the Sasko Collection in 1964, and finally that of W. J. Kaye in 1967. These provided the nucleus of his expanded scientific collection. In these collections, especially Kaye's, there were a number of type specimens. It was then Dr. Allyn determined that this burgeoning assemblage had simply grown far beyond his capabilities to care for it, and that he needed to acquire professional help.

Thus, the Allyn Museum of Entomology was originally the result of a hobby collection which knew no boundaries and outpaced a single individual's time to curate it. After speaking with Drs. Rupert Wenzel and Henry Dybas at the Field Museum of Natural History, in the fall of 1967 he advertised for a lepidopterist and hired the authors. At this point, there were many questions to be asked about the collection. For example, it was determined that the Museum would specialize in butterflies and some, but not all, groups of moths on a worldwide basis, rather than specializing in all of the Lepidoptera from a circumscribed area. The collection would have to grow taxonomically so that it could become an important research resource, and in the early days the services of many collectors were enlisted to make this possible. It was Dr. Allyn's wish that various collections not be broken up and sold at auction, as have so many recent ones, but also that these collections would be amalgamated into the main series for ease of access.

The beginnings of the Museum were somewhat modest, yet the collection was rather overwhelming when we arrived in a nearly empty office in the Chicago Loop in July of 1968. There we found small storage box after small storage box of spread butterflies and moths as well as some unprepared material, a great percentage of which was from the LeMoult collection purchased by the Curator on Dr. Allyn's behalf in February of that year. We agreed on Cornell drawers as our basic storage units. There were twelve of the fine English cabinets which housed the W. J. Kaye collection, and in one month 500 drawers arrived without the cabinets! There were perhaps 100,000 largely unarranged specimens, and we set about trying to rearrange various families taxonomically. During this period, Dr. Allyn would spend two to three hours each day (as his business schedule permitted) helping us sort through unprepared specimens and cataloguing these away for future preparation.

The single office in Chicago grew to two rooms on separate floors during the first year, and the number of cabinets trebled. In the fall of 1969, Dr. Allyn called us into his office to ask if we would be willing to move to Sarasota, Florida. Due to the illness of his first wife, he was moving there on a more permanent basis. We were enthusiastic at the prospect, and the entire collection was moved in November into two moving vans to spacious new quarters in a bank building in Sarasota, and the work of building the Museum collection began in earnest.

During the first year in the Sarasota area, the initial major arrangement of the collection was accomplished, since all portions of the collection, including those from the two office rooms as well as the material which was located in the recreation room of his house in Evanston, were finally in one location. It was also during this period that we were involved in trying to get a number of taxonomic and morphological papers published in various scientific journals. As usual, there existed at that time a tremendous backlogue of papers accepted for publication in the highly specialized journals for Lepidoptera. Dr. Allyn queried as to what was involved in the publication of a journal, particularly as far as the legal aspects were concerned. These problems were quickly solved, and the first three issues of the *Bulletin of the Allyn Museum* were mailed on 19 November 1971, including one with a color plate. This scientific journal continues with the same initial dedication to the taxonomic, systematic and morphological aspects of lepidopterology, and has achieved an international reputation.

Although Dr. Allyn was still heavily involved in business interests, it was in Sarasota

that he began to really take an active part in the growth of the collection, especially to the research aspects. He acquired a scanning electron microscope, the only one at the time between Gainesville and Miami. With some assistance from the scientific firm and an abiding interest in electronics and photography, he trained himself as a competent SEM operator (one of his photographs was featured on the cover of an issue of the *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*). He became fascinated by the possibilities of doing microanatomical studies on the Lepidoptera in an effort to properly unlock some of their secrets. In the early seventies he already had begun several notebooks with photos of wing scales from various lepidopteran families and specialized in the Lycaenidae and Pieridae. He began to work with several researchers on various projects, and in later years these ranged from amphibian eggs to shark and later human retinas. However in Lepidoptera, other than the Museum staff, he was most closely associated with Dr. John Downey from the University of Northern Iowa. His training in the physical sciences enabled him to interpret the photographs and explain phenomena observed, while John provided much of the biological expertise. Through this close association and sometimes painstaking efforts, various techniques for the proper preparation of entomological materials for the SEM and the proper descriptive terminology were perfected.

It became apparent in 1971 that even the new quarters would not be large enough, and planning began on a more permanent facility for the Museum collections. The present facility was designed totally by Dr. Allyn with some input from the curatorial staff. It provided for 2500 sq. ft. of collection area, exclusively and an additional 3000 sq. ft. to house the library, offices, scanning electron microscope, dark room, and rearing laboratory. On 15 March 1973, the present facility was formally dedicated with a number of museum personnel from other institutions present. However, even at that time the collection room was more than three-quarters full with standard 25 drawer cabinetry and conventional aisle space. When we casually mentioned that we wondered how soon it would be before the new room was filled to capacity, Dr. Allyn gave us something of a glare, but soon set about the task of considering future expansion. On a visit to the Missouri Botanical Garden, Dr. Allyn saw a compactor unit for the herbarium specimens and was quite impressed by the economical use of floor space. He soon began investigating various manufacturing firms within the U.S. which could provide such a unit. Because he knew that he was dealing with a somewhat traditional curatorial staff, Dr. Allyn was quite surprised when the purchase of such a unit met with little opposition, particularly since it doubled the capacity of the collection range. After considerable planning the compactor unit was installed in the summer of 1974, and this unit was the prototype model for a number of museum entomological departments in this country.

The Museum collections continued to increase markedly over the next few years with utilization by various scientists and researchers world-wide. With his penchant of having everything orderly and handled in a business like manner, Dr. Allyn began to think seriously about the final disposition of the collections and its staff. While a number of institutions might readily accept such a large donation, he was looking not only for the security of the collections but a place where it would be utilized to the fullest on an international scale. Additionally, he expected such an institution to continue to maintain the criteria for scientific excellence, as well as the publication of the *Bulletin* and other programs of the Allyn Museum, and in turn enhance similar programs already in place at a such institution. All of the above were found at the University of Florida and the Florida State Museum. In February, 1981, the Allyn Museum Board donated all of the assets and collections of the Museum to the University of Florida Foundation, Inc. and the Florida State Museum. At that time it included some 500,000 prepared and 250,000 unprepared specimens. Dr. Allyn remained as Director Emeritus of the institution and continued to work with the same fervor. Although the Allyn Museum has enjoyed working relationships with various museums and scientific departments throughout the world, the Museum collections now have cooperative working relationships with the Departments of Zoology as well as Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida, in addition to the Florida Collection of Arthropods, a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture. The amalgamation thus had accomplished the very goals which Dr. Allyn had envisioned.

Arthur Allyn appreciated and demanded excellence. During the initial years of arranging the collection on a world-wide basis, he was sometimes impatient with the time involved in categorizing taxa from different faunistic regions. When told that innumerable literature sources had to be consulted, including papers from various journals, and that in some cases the original research was still to be done, he was quite curious as to why more taxonomic and revisionary studies were not done. When we noted that systematics and taxonomy were not exceedingly popular fields at the moment, he wondered what could be done to generate enthusiasm for such projects. Thus the seeds were sown for the Karl Jordan Medal, a prize established in recognition of the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Lepidopterists' Society and funded by A. C. Allyn through the Allyn Museum of Entomology. This special prize honors Dr. Karl Jordan, one of the original Honorary Life Members of the Society and an entomologist active in the field for more than half a century, who produced an extraordinary volume of work of the highest quality. In conjunction with the Lepidopterists' Society meetings, the award may be given annually in recognition of outstanding original research in Lepidopterology, and which emphasizes particularly the fields of morphology, taxonomy, zoogeography and "natural history". The prize consists of an engraved Karl Jordan Medal, $1,000.00 cash award plus travel expenses for the recipient to attend the meetings and address Society members present. As part of the transition in 1981, the University of Florida Foundation, in conjunction with the Florida State Museum, has continued to fund this award.

Arthur Allyn was as tough on himself as he was on those who worked with him. He was a generous man in that he provided opportunities for many people from all walks of life, but in the final analysis the opportunities were presented and individual initiative and achievement attained the final goal. In scientific circles, he fostered somewhat rather unconventional thinking and novel approaches to problems at times, but these thoughts always had their basis or foundations in previous physical or biological observations or concepts. He readily shared ideas with colleagues and other researchers and willingly aided many with photographic as well as scanning electron micrographic assistance. He required that his Museum, patterned knowingly or not after Rothschild's beloved Tring, be as fine a research facility as it was possible to build in a short period of time (it is necessary to remember that the Museum as such has existed for fewer than two decades). A *Chicago Tribune* reporter once remarked about A. C. Allyn, that he did not simply have hobbies, he had obsessions. In this respect this multitalented man attacked a hobby with the same passion and fervor as he would any job and did it well. Arthur Allyn was impatient that the Museum and its collections achieve an international reputation for scientific excellence and because of his enthusiasm for the project, it has happened in his lifetime. The Museum and its collections stand as a lasting monument to Arthur Allyn's life and accomplishments.

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Lee D. Miller and Jacqueline Y. Miller

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