THE GEORGE MERCER AWARD

Dr. John J. Christian is the recipient of the George Mercer Award for 1957. This was announced at the annual dinner of the Society at Stanford in August. Details of the award and presentation will appear in a later issue of the BULLETIN.


EMINENT ECOLOGIST

At the annual meeting in Stanford in August, the Ecological Society of America was proud to announce that Dr. Karl Patterson Schmidt, Curator-Emeritus of Zoology at the Chicago Museum of Natural History, had been awarded the title, Eminent Ecologist. Dr. Schmidt was unable to be present at the meeting and was notified of the award by mail. Before he could reply and furnish autobiographical details for his citation, he died suddenly on September 26.

Dr. Schmidt's colleagues at the Museum have kindly furnished biographical material, and a combined citation and Resolution of Respect for Dr. Schmidt will appear in a later issue of the BULLETIN. [see below]

THE BLOOMINGTON MEETING

A. I. B. S. has announced that its 1958 meeting will be on the campus of Indiana University, August 24 through 28. The Council of the Ecological Society voted to hold its annual meeting with A. I. B. S. at this time. Suggestions for the program for this meeting and for field trips in conjunction with it should be addressed to Dr. John H. Davis, Department of Botany, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. Dr. Davis is chairman of the Society's Committee on Meetings.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE INDIANAPOLIS MEETINGS

A housing reservation coupon and details of hotel reservations for the 124th AAAS meeting can be found in SCIENCE for October 4 (and others) and in THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY for August. Reservations should not be sent directly to the hotel, but should be sent to AAAS Housing Bureau, Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1201 Roosevelt Building, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Coupons for registering for the meetings in advance, and receiving the full AAAS program early by mail, appear in the October 11 SCIENCE, and in several SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY issues. Registration headquarters during the meeting will be the Murat Temple.

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ANNUAL MEETING

The reports of the Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager, Editors, Executive Committee and Council and the Finance Committee were presented in detail and accepted at the business meeting on August 27 at Stanford University.

Resolutions of appreciation to the host institution, the members of the Local Committee, the retiring Zoological editor of Ecology, and to the retiring Treasurer and Secretary were adopted. The members voted that the Ecological Society of America should withdraw its membership from the Natural Resources Council. Another motion instructed the President to refer to an appropriate committee the question of "formalizing the Society's position as it is related to conservation activities."

The report of the Nominating Committee as printed on page 54 of the September issue of the Bulletin was read. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the Secretary cast one ballot signifying the unanimous election of the slate as printed. Those elected were: Representative to the A.I.B.S. Governing Board — David E. Davis; Council Members-at-large, 2-yr. term—Lincoln Ellison, 1-yr. term—Clarence C. Goodnight; Editor of ECOLOGY (Zoology)—La Mont C. Cole; Associate Editors of ECOLOGY (Botany)—John Pelton, Philip Whitford, R. R. Humphrey (Zoology)—H. T. Odum, W. T. Edmundson, N. E. Collias; Associate Editors of ECOLOGICAL MONOGRAPHS — (Botany) F. H. Bormann, (Zoology) N. G. Hairston; Member of the Committee on Publications—Frank Pitelka; Treasurer—J. S. Dendy; President-elect—Thomas Park; Vice-president—Frank Preston; Chairman of the Committee on Applied Ecology—D. D. Allen; Chairman of the Committee on Historical Records—W. A. Dreyer; and Chairman of the Committee on Meetings—John H. Davis, Jr.

Adjournment followed.

August 27, 1957

John F. Reed
Secretary

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT
KARL PATTERSON SCHMIDT
1890-1957

Dr. Karl Patterson Schmidt, internationally known herpetologist and life member of the Ecological Society of America, died on September 28, 1957, 24 hours after being bitten by a juvenile boom-slang. With his passing, the Society lost one of its distinguished members.

Dr. Schmidt was born at Lake Forest, Illinois, in 1890. His father was professor of German at Lake Forest Academy. The cultured atmosphere of the family home was reflected in Dr. Schmidt's deep

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understanding of people, his love for books, and his innate desire for knowledge far beyond the confines of his speciality. After attending Lake Forest College for one year and spending several years on the family farm in Wisconsin, he studied at Cornell University, graduating in 1916.

Soon after graduation, Dr. Schmidt joined the staff of the American Museum of Natural History. In 1922 he accepted a position at the Chicago Natural History Museum, then known as the Field Museum of Natural History. Until he became Chief Curator of Zoology in 1941, Dr. Schmidt headed the Division of Reptiles and Amphibians. On retirement from active administrative duties in 1955, he became Curator Emeritus of Zoology.

Dr. Schmidt’s profound interest in snakes dates from 1915. From the very beginning, however, his interests extended far beyond the mere collection and identification of specimens. In connection with his work, Dr. Schmidt was able to travel extensively and to observe living animals in their natural surroundings. Being especially interested in the New World, he made several trips to the West Indies and Central and South America. As scientific leader of the Crane Pacific Expedition in 1928 and 1929, he visited most of the important islands of the South Pacific.

The productive life of this unusual man is manifest by a wealth of technical publications chiefly concerned with amphibians and reptiles, both recent and fossil. In addition to many papers, he was the author or co-author of several books. One is the popular Field Book of Snakes of the United States and Canada, written with D. Dwight Davis and published in 1941. This handbook has stimulated many a young person to become interested in herpetology. Of more technical nature is A Check List of North American Amphibians and Reptiles published in 1953. Of broader scope is the Living Reptiles of the World written in collaboration with Robert F. Inger and published in 1957.

Although Dr. Schmidt will be remembered best through his basic contributions to herpetology, several books in the field of animal distribution and ecology will perpetuate his name in the hearts of at least another generation of students. The superiority of his published works shows a remarkable ability both as a scientist and as a man of letters. His acquaintance with the German language made effective his collaboration with W. C. Allee in the translation and rewriting of Hesse’s Tiergeographie auf oekologischer Grundlage. This important work, the second edition of Ecological Animal Geography, appeared in 1951. In the preparation of Principles of Animal Ecology, Dr. Schmidt, as one of five collaborators, not only aided in writing parts of the text but also served as general editor of the manuscript. The logical organization of subject matter and uniformity of style are expressions of Dr. Schmidt’s ability.

Dr. Schmidt was active in several professional organizations. He
was the herpetological editor of Copeia for 13 years and, since 1927, was section editor of the Amphibia and Reptilia for Biological Abstracts. From 1942 to 1946, Dr. Schmidt was president of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. He helped organize the Society for the Study of Evolution and served as treasurer from 1946 to 1951 and president in 1954.

During his lifetime, Karl Patterson Schmidt was the recipient of many honors. At the time of his retirement and in honor of his sixty-fifth birthday, the thirty-seventh volume of Fieldiana: Zoology was designated the Karl Patterson Schmidt Anniversary Volume; and in 1956 he was elected to the National Academy of Science. A recent honor came in August, 1957, when the Ecological Society awarded him the title of Eminent Ecologist. In spite of the deep gratification that must have come from these honors, Dr. Schmidt obviously received his greatest personal satisfaction through helping those who sought his advice and assistance.

Dr. Schmidt is survived by his widow, Margaret Wightman Schmidt, and two sons, John Mungo and Robert George. In his death, members of his immediate family have experienced deep distress and his colleagues and associates have lost an irreplaceable friend.

Albuquerque, New Mexico
January 30, 1958

C. J. Goodnight
W. T. Penfound
C. C. Hoff, Chairman,
Committee on Resolutions

1958 MEETING OF THE WESTERN SECTION

Logan, Utah—June 16-20

The annual summer meeting of the Western section of the Ecological Society of America will be held at the Utah State Agricultural College at Logan, Utah, in conjunction with the meetings of the Pacific Division of A.A.A.S. June 16-20, 1958. The program will include a symposium on Natural Selection as an Ecological Concept as a half-day session, and 3 half-day sessions for contributed papers. An evening dinner meeting and an all day field trip are being planned. All members of the Society both Western and Eastern are cordially invited to attend and to participate.

Call for papers. We hereby solicit papers. Any member of the society wishing to present a paper please communicate with the Secretary of the Western Section. Copy of the final program must go to press on April 15, so titles and abstracts must reach the secretary of the western section by that date. Please indicate need for special projection equipment or other illustrative provisions. Address all correspondence to: Dr. Herbert L. Mason, Department of Botany, University of California, Berkeley 4, California.

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