

# Harald Alfred Rehder Oral History Interviews, 1976-1977

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#### **Collection Overview**

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu

Title: Harald Alfred Rehder Oral History Interviews

**Identifier:** Record Unit 9519

**Date:** 1976-1977

**Extent:** 6 audiotapes (Reference copies).

Creator:: Rehder, Harald Alfred, 1907-, interviewee

Language: English

#### Administrative Information

#### **Prefered Citation**

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 9519, Harald Alfred Rehder Oral History Interviews

#### Use Restriction

Restricted. Audio recordings may not be used without permission. Contact SIHistory@si.edu to request permission.

#### **Historical Note**

Harald Alfred Rehder (1907-1996), was an invertebrate zoologist specializing in systematic malacology. The son of a botanist, Rehder developed an interest in natural history early in his youth. These interests were fostered through shell clubs and the Boston Society of Natural History, especially by Charles W. Johnson. Rehder received the B.A. from Bowdoin College in 1929, M.A. from Harvard University in 1933, and Ph.D. in zoology from the George Washington University in 1934. During his Harvard years, Rehder studied fresh water land snails and Caribbean non-marine mollusks under the malacologist William James Clench. His career at the United States National Museum (USNM) began in 1932 as Senior Scientific Aid to Paul Bartsch, Curator of the Division of Mollusks. Rehder advanced to Assistant Curator in 1934 and Associate Curator in 1942. After assuming the Curatorship in 1946, Rehder focused his research program on the systematics and geographic distribution of Indo-Pacific marine mollusks, and has been on many expeditions to that region. In 1965 he was appointed Senior Zoologist in the division, and after his retirement in 1980 continued his research as Zoologist Emeritus.

#### Introduction

The Smithsonian Institution Archives began its Oral History Program in 1973. The purpose of the program is to supplement the written documentation of the Archives' record and manuscript collections with an Oral

History Collection, focusing on the history of the Institution, research by its scholars, and contributions of its staff. Program staff conduct interviews with current and retired Smithsonian staff and others who have made significant contributions to the Institution. There are also interviews conducted by researchers or student on topics related to the history of the Smithsonian or the holdings of the Smithsonian Institution Archives.

Rehder was interviewed for the Oral History Collection because of his long and notable research career at the USNM. On May 13, 1982, Rehder was honored by his colleagues for fifty years of service to the Institution.

## **Descriptive Entry**

Rehder was interviewed by Pamela M. Henson on five occasions between June 1976 and March 1977. The interviews cover his youth, early interests in natural history, education, career in the Division of Mollusks of the USNM, reminiscences of Paul Bartsch, Austin Hobart Clark, Waldo LaSalle Schmitt, and other colleagues, field work, and research in the systematics and geographic distribution of mollusks, especially marine mollusks of the Indo-Pacific region.

### Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

#### Subjects:

Interviews
Mollusks
Museum curators -- Interviews
Oral history

#### Types of Materials:

Audiotapes Transcripts

#### Names:

Bartsch, Paul, 1871-1960 Henson, Pamela M., interviewer National Museum of Natural History (U.S.) National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Division of Mollusks Rehder, Harald Alfred, 1907-United States National Museum. Department of Biology

## **Container Listing**

Interviews

Interviews Interview 1: June 14, 1976

Interviews Covers his youth; early interests in natural history; influence of Charles W.

Johnson and William James Clench; education; and early career at the

USNM; c. 1907-1940.

Interviews Transcript, pp. 1-20, of audio recording, 1.0 hour.

Interviews Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 1.0 hour

Note: • Original Masters: 1 5" reel-to-reel analog

audiotape

Reference Copies: 1 audiocassette tape

Interviews Interview 2: June 16, 1976

Interviews Covers his field work with Clench during his Harvard years; work as Assistant

Curator in the USNM; and reminiscences of Paul Bartsch and Austin Hobart

Clark; c. 1926-1940.

Interviews Transcript, pp. 21-47, of audio recording, 1.5 hours.

Interviews Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 1.5 hour

Note: • Original Masters: 2 5" reel-to-reel analog

audiotapes

Reference Copies: 2 audiocassette tapes

Interviews Interview 3: October 6, 1976

Interviews Includes his reminiscences of the Biological Society of Washington and

the Washington Academy of Sciences; Bartsch's estate, Lebanon; USNM curators Austin Hobart Clark and Waldo LaSalle Schmitt; USNM field work;

and the curatorial routine in the Division of Mollusks; c. 1934-1950.

Interviews Transcript, pp. 48-67, of audio recording, 1.0 hour.

Interviews Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 1.0 hour

Note: • Original Masters: 1 5" reel-to-reel analog

audiotape

Reference Copies: 1 audiocassette tape

Interviews Interview 4: February 7, 1977

Interviews Covers his role as Curator of the Division of Mollusks; care of the mollusk

collections; division participation in Crossroads Operation; and development

of his research interests in Indo-Pacific marine mollusks; c. 1940-1977.

Interviews Transcript, pp. 68-86, of audio recording, 1.0 hour.

Interviews Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 1.0 hour

Note: • Original Masters: 1 5" reel-to-reel analog

audiotape

• Reference Copies: 1 audiocassette tape

Interviews Interview 5: May 10, 1977

Interviews Discusses administration of the USNM during his curatorship; field work; and

reminiscences of William Healey Dall; c. 1950-1977.

Interviews Transcript, pp. 87-105, of audio recording, 1.0 hour.

Interviews Recording of Interview: Total Recording Time: 1.0 hour

Note: • Original Masters: 1 5" reel-to-reel analog

audiotape

• Reference Copies: 1 audiocassette tape