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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title: Paul L. Illg Oral History Interview
Identifier: Record Unit 9609
Date: 1978
Extent: 1 audiotape (Reference copy).
Creator:: Illg, Paul L. interviewee
Language: English

Administrative Information

Prefered Citation
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 9609, Paul L. Illg Oral History Interview

Use Restriction
Restricted. Contact SIHistory@si.edu to request permission.

Historical Note

Paul Louis Illg (1914-1998) received his B.A. in 1936 and M.A. in 1941 from the University of California at Berkeley. He began his Ph.D. program at Berkeley but his studies were interrupted by World War II. After completing his wartime service, Illg was appointed Associate Curator of Invertebrate Zoology in the National Museum of Natural History from 1947 to 1952, while completing his Ph.D. at The George Washington University in 1952. Illg spent the remainder of his career at the University of Washington teaching zoology, as Assistant Professor in 1952, then Associate Professor, and Professor from 1969 to 1982. He specialized in the systematics and evolution of Crustacea, conducting field work from the Friday Harbor Laboratories. Illg published prodigiously for more than fifty years on parasitic copepods, particularly those living in ascidians. His research on microscopic ascidicolous copepods greatly extended biological and taxonomic knowledge, and illuminated evolutionary processes in these extremely complex parasitic crustaceans.

Introduction

The Oral History Program is part of the Smithsonian Institution Archives. The purpose of the program is to conduct interviews with current and retired members of the Smithsonian staff who have made significant contributions, administrative and scholarly, to the Institution. The project's goal is to supplement the published record and manuscript collections in the Archives, focusing on the history of the Institution and contributions to the increase and diffusion of knowledge made by its scholars.
The Paul L. Illg interview was accessioned into the Oral History Collection to capture his reminiscences of the staff of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology at the National Museum of Natural History, especially Waldo LaSalle Schmitt, Fenner A. Chace, and Theodore Bayer.

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Descriptive Entry

The Paul Louis Illg Interview was conducted on March 23, 1978 by Smithsonian Archives Historian Pamela M. Henson. The interview discusses his years at the Smithsonian and reminiscences of the staff. The collection consist of approximately 1.0 hour of audiotape and 38 pages of transcript.

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Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Invertebrates
- Marine invertebrates
- Museum curators -- United States -- Interviews
- Museums -- Employees
- Museums -- Employees

Types of Materials:
- Audiotapes
- Interviews
- Oral history

Names:
- Bayer, Ted
- Chace, Fenner Albert
- Henson, Pamela M., interviewer
- Illg, Paul L.
- National Museum of Natural History (U.S.)
- National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Department of Invertebrate Zoology
- Schmitt, Waldo L. (Waldo Lasalle), 1887-1977
- United States National Museum
Container Listing

Interviews

Interview 1: March 23, 1978

Discusses his education; his years as Associate Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the National Museum of Natural History from 1947 to 1952, and his reminiscences of colleagues, especially curators Waldo LaSalle Schmitt, Fenner A. Chace, and Theodore Bayer; c. 1940s to 1950s.

Interviews

Transcript, pp. 1-38, of audiotape recording, 1.0 hour.

Interviews

Audio Recordings of Interviews: Total Recording Time: 1.0 hour

Note:

• Original Master: 1 5" reel-to-reel analog audiotape
• Reference Copy: 1 audiotape cassette