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THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND'S FIRST FIFTY YEARS

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In 1923 there were more professional entomologists in Queensland than in the rest of Australia (Table 1). One of them, G. H. Hardy, saw this as the opportunity to realize his dream of a society of all Australian entomologists publishing a periodical devoted entirely to entomology. Sixteen people who attended a meeting at his home on 16 March 1923 decided, however, that it was advisable to form a local society initially, and the formation of an Entomological Society of Australia was simply included as an objective in the constitution that was approved at the inaugural meeting of the 'Entomological Society, Brisbane' held on 14 June 1923. The name was changed to 'Entomological Society of Queensland' in September 1926.

TABLE 1
(Compiled in 1923 by G. H. Hardy)

STATISTICAL TABLE OF COMMONWEALTH ENTOMOLOGISTS

PROFESSIONAL	Qld.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Tas.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.
Prickly Pear Board	9	—	—	—	—	—
Agricultural Department	10	3	2	1	2(?)	2
Museum	1	2	1	—	2	—
University	2	1	—	—	—	—
Health Department	1	—	—	—	—	—
NON-PROFESSIONAL						
Those writing important papers	2	6	—	—	2	—
Those engaged in other classes of work	2	4	—	—	2	—
STATE TOTAL	27	16	5 (sic)	1	8	2
COMMONWEALTH TOTAL			59			

There were 14 foundation members: J. L. Froggatt, A. A. Girault, F. G. Holdaway, H. Jarvis, J. H. Simmonds (Queensland Department of Agriculture and Stock); L. Hitchcock, J. Mann (Commonwealth Prickly Pear Board); H. Hacker (Queensland Museum); E. J. Goddard, G. H. Hardy, F. A. Perkins (University of Queensland); and H. Pottenger, R. Illidge, A. J. Turner (amateurs). The meeting elected Professor E. J. Goddard President, J. L. Froggatt Secretary and G. H. Hardy Treasurer. F. A. Perkins gave the inaugural address on 'The Queensland Fruit Fly Problem'.

Four factors contributed to continuing success from this small beginning: the energy of the first officers who served together for six and a half years, the steady support of meetings by Brisbane members, concern for the interests of country members, and close association with the Biology and, later, Entomology Departments of the University.

Goddard, as first President, saw that the Society was established on scientific lines with a broad outlook. He was a persuasive orator, skilled in arousing public interest in scientific matters—a 'PR man' (a term then unknown) for the University and the Society. The Minister for Agriculture chaired the first Annual Meeting in 1924, but the highlight of Goddard's presidency was the 1928 Annual Meeting for which 260 gilt-edged invitations were issued and which was chaired by the Governor,



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Sir John Goodwin. Besides the Presidential Address, there were addresses by the Governor and the American hymenopterist, T. D. A. Cockerell, followed by a *Conversazione*, at which exhibits from institutions and members were set out, and by a buffet supper. Expenses were almost £17, leaving the Society with £9.12.6 which seems to have been an all-time low. No function on a comparable scale was organized until the Golden Jubilee.

Goddard was succeeded in 1930 by A. J. Turner, and since then Presidents have held office for only one or two terms. Until membership became large, most Brisbane members served on Council for a short period, continuity being maintained by a few. Both A. R. Brimblecombe and F. A. Perkins were President, Secretary for two years and Treasurer for 14 years; Brimblecombe served 24 years between 1936 and 1963 and Perkins 20 (1929-48). A. P. Dodd served 19 years between 1926 and 1953, including two terms as President. E. M. Exley was President, Secretary for five years, and served 16 years between 1949 and 1970. H. Hacker and J. Mann each served 11 years, including a term as President, and B. Blumberg 11 years, including 8 as Secretary. G. H. Hardy was Treasurer for nine years, and R. P. Kleinschmidt was Secretary for seven years, and President in 10 years on Council. B. R. Champ was Editor for 6 years. The Society, whenever possible, chose as Councillors, representatives of the various entomological laboratories to provide a personal link between members and Council.

The Constitution was altered in 1924 to admit undergraduates to associate membership and in 1925 to admit country members, both at reduced fees. In 1927 provision was made for Honorary Members, the first being R. Illidge.

From the outset at least two meetings a year were devoted entirely to notes and exhibits, while at others a paper, or two or three shorter contributions were presented. Exhibits were acceptable at all meetings and usually two or three were tabled—a custom which has declined in recent years. There can be no doubt that the special character and attraction of the early meetings was due to the exhibits, which epitomised the work and knowledge of the members, who had a lively interest in native insects and brought their recent collections to be discussed. A. J. Turner, L. Franzen, G. H. Hardy, and especially H. Hacker, were outstanding contributors. Another feature of meetings over the years has been progress reports on the search for and introduction of insects for biological control. Continuation of discussion and general yarning over supper have been enjoyed by members since the Society's earliest days, and it was not long before the meetings themselves developed a fairly informal character.

By 1926 copies of some papers were being sent to country members, and regular circulation of full minutes to all members soon became a feature that has held and attracted members throughout Australia.

Goddard provided accommodation for the Society's meetings in the Biology Department in George Street, and in 1927 they were moved to a new Entomology laboratory, behind old Government House, which remained the meeting place of the Society for the next 35 years. F. A. Perkins was appointed Lecturer in Entomology in 1926. His friendliness and his activity as a Society Councillor made his laboratory a focal point for members to drop in for a chat. When the Department moved to St. Lucia in 1962, the Society's meeting place moved with it. Goddard also arranged from the outset for



ERNEST JAMES GODDARD



JOHN LEWIS FROGGATT

the Society's typing to be done in his department and this continued for ten years, after which circulars were produced by a typing agency. During the 1939-45 war Council cancelled subscriptions by members on active service, and the financial situation deteriorated as costs rose. In 1950 Perkins offered to have the minutes typed in his Department and this continued until his retirement in 1965.

A rent-free meeting room with the lights and microscopes needed for exhibits and free typing services have been great assets. The Department has also been a fertile recruiting ground for members, as its students have always been encouraged to join the Society as associate members and many have continued membership thereafter. These close links with a University Department were probably a major factor in survival of the Society through periods when activities of entomological groups in other states ceased. There has been mutual benefit, for the Society through its members and its activities has provided stimulus to the Department.

The Society never forgot its original objective, participation in the formation of an Entomological Society of Australia and its essential adjunct, publication of a journal. The steps it took have been detailed by Marks and Mackerras (1972). Enquiries in 1927-28, 1939, 1948-49 and 1953 were fruitless: there were insufficient demands for a national society and insufficient funds to support a journal.

Publication came first. The subscription had been raised from 10s 6d to 15s in 1950, and with minimal running costs the bank balance rose. Trustees were appointed in 1955 and by 1959 the Society had £350 invested in interest-bearing stock. A subcommittee of Council (A. R. Brimblecombe, B. R. Champ, A. W. S. May, T. E. Woodward) appointed in 1960 to consider how to utilize the funds recommended publication of a journal of high scientific standard. Members approved and the Constitution was appropriately altered in May 1961. Council appointed B. R. Champ Editor, and Vol. 1 of *Journal of the Entomological Society of Queensland* was published on 12 March 1962. Vols. 1 and 2 received a generous subsidy for establishment costs from the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Membership had risen to 74 in 1930 and remained between 60 and 80 until 1947, with attendance at meetings averaging 10 to 15. From 1929 more than half have been country members. In 1951 membership reached 101, and following publication of the journal it rose to 205 in 1963.

Then came formation of the national society. A meeting of entomologists held in Sydney in August 1962 asked our Society to gauge the interest of entomologists throughout Australia, the Society reported to a meeting in Canberra in January 1964, and the inaugural meeting of the Australian Entomological Society was held in Hobart on 17 August 1965.

Two complex decisions now faced the Society—its relationship to the new society and the future of its *Journal*. Members desired a close link with the national body, but placed too high a value on the special characteristics of their own society to risk losing them by complete subordination; affiliation provided an acceptable solution. The *Journal* was well supported, but finances would not permit expansion; a national society must have a publication which necessarily would compete for papers and outside funds. The Society had indicated several times since 1961 that its *Journal* could be the forerunner of a national one. After publication of Vol. 5 in 1966, a merger agreement was reached with the Australian Entomological Society which has continued the volume sequence.

Taking over an established journal contributed substantially to the immediate success of the Australian Entomological Society, and the Entomological Society of Queensland thus saw this original objective achieved. There was some concern that membership would fall without a journal, but funds were now available for a much better monthly *Bulletin*, and membership continued to increase and reached 300 in the Society's fiftieth year.



FREDERICK ATHOL PERKINS

The Society became a legally incorporated body in 1971, changed its title to The Entomological Society of Queensland Incorporated and provided the necessary common seal.

Following an appeal for designs and a ballot of members, a Society emblem submitted by S. R. Monteith featuring the North Queensland stag beetle *Phalacrognathus muelleri* Macleay was adopted in 1973 and now appears on Society stationery.

The Society has had other projects. Excursions have met with initial but waning enthusiasm; five were held in 1931, a few from 1954 on. A new impetus has been given since 1970 to occasional weekend excursions to sample fauna of potential national park areas. A reprint library was started in 1937 on the initiative of A. R. Brimblecombe, who took charge of it for many years; it contains over 2700 items, but use of it by members has been disappointing. Prizes have been awarded to students of entomology—the first in 1932 for an associate member's collection to W. J. S. Sloan with present honorary member J. G. Brooks receiving a special prize. Since 1967 prizes have been given for entomological projects by secondary school pupils entered for Science Teachers Association awards, and seniors have been given a year's associate membership. In 1973 Council appointed a Fauna Committee to collate information in support of proposed National Park areas, and an Expert Committee on Mosquito Control to keep the Society abreast of current measures. On the social side, the Society organised activities for visitors to Brisbane before and after the 14 International Congress of Entomology held in Canberra in August 1972, including two well-attended barbecue parties.

A modest celebration marked the Silver Jubilee; the Symposium to celebrate the Golden Jubilee signifies the advancement the Society has achieved since then and provides an augury for a successful future.

REFERENCE

- MARKS, E. N. and MACKERRAS, I. M. (1972).—The evolution of a national entomological society in Australia. *J. Aust. ent. Soc.* **11**: 81-90.