

Smithsonian Institution Archives
Record Unit 9609

Oral History Interview

with

Paul Louis Illg
Former Curator of Invertebrate Biology
National Museum of Natural History,
1947-1952

Interview 1

ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

OF THE

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION



CITY OF WASHINGTON

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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 Louis Illg Interview [RU9609] was conducted on March 23, 1978, when he visited the National Museum of Natural History for a memorial for Waldo LaSalle Schmitt. Pamela M. Henson from the Smithsonian Archives' Institutional History Division conducted the interview. The interview consists of approximately 1 hour of reel-to-reel audiotape that has been digitized into two digital .wav preservation files and two digital .mp3 reference files, and 33 pages of transcript, and it occupies 0.5 cubic foot of shelf space.

Illg was interviewed for his achievements in the field of invertebrate biology, and his work at the National Museum of Natural History in the 1950s, and reminiscences of life in the museum during that era.

The interviews are available for use without restriction. The recordings and transcripts may be consulted in the Smithsonian Institution Archives, located in the Capital Gallery Building, Suite 3000, MRC 507, P.O. Box 37012, Washington, D.C., 20013-7012. The Archives is open to researchers from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays. Written, telephone (202-633-5870), and email (SIHistory@si.edu) inquiries are also welcome.

Finding aids to other collections of Smithsonian oral histories, records and personal papers are available in the Archives through our archives database at collections.si.edu.

Tammy Peters, Acting Director
Smithsonian Institution Archives
October 2018



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Institutional History Division

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION ARCHIVES ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION PAUL L. ILLG INTERVIEWS RU 9609

RECORDING PREFACE

This recording of oral history interviews may be used by scholars in accordance with the general procedures established by the Smithsonian Institution Archives.

I wish to apply the following restrictions to the use of this recorded interview:
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(signed) *Liz Illg*
(Liz Illg)

(date) 4/2/2014

Understood and agreed to:

Patricia M. Henson 4/2/2014
(Patricia M. Henson, interviewer) (date)

Anne Van Camp 4/2/2014
(Anne Van Camp, SIA Director) (date)



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Institutional History Division

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION ARCHIVES
ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION
PAUL L. ILLIG INTERVIEWS
RU 9609
TRANSCRIPT PREFACE

This manuscript is the result of one or more recorded interviews. The reader should bear in mind that he is reading a transcript of the spoken rather than written word.

It is my understanding that the Smithsonian Institution Archives will allow scholars to read and utilize this transcript in accordance with the Archives' general procedures. This transcript may be reproduced, published, and made available via the Internet.

(signed)


Liz Illig

(date)

4/7/2014

Understood and agreed to:



(Pamela M. Henson, Interviewer)

(date)

4/2/2014



(Anne Van Camp, SIA director)

(date)

4/2/2014

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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 of Crustacea, conducting fieldwork 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.

DESCRIPTIVE ENTRY

Box 1 Transcript of Interview

Interview 1: (23 March 1978) discusses Illg's education at the University of California at Berkeley; his years as Associate Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the National Museum of Natural History from 1947 to 1952; completion of his Ph.D. at The George Washington University; and his reminiscences of colleagues, especially curators Waldo LaSalle Schmitt, Fenner A. Chace, and Theodore Bayer; c. 1940s to 1950s.

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

Recordings of Interview

Interview 1: (23 March 1978) consists of one 5" reel-to-reel analog audiotape and two digital audio .wav preservation files, of 1.0 hour of recording time, which are in security storage; and two reference .mp3 digital audio files.

Pamela M. Henson
October 2018

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Page 2: Paul Louis Illg, 1914-1998 at work in the U.S. National Museum. Courtesy of Department of Invertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History
Image Name: Illg_Paul_Louis_1.tif.

Page 4: Paul Louis Illg, 1914-1998 on telephone in the U.S. National Museum. Courtesy of Department of Invertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History
Image Name: Illg_Paul_Louis_2.tif.

Page 6: Waldo LaSalle Schmitt, 1887-1977, at work in 1965. Smithsonian Institution Archives, Image Number: 92-1775.

Page 16: Paul Louis Illg in 1973, 1914-1998, by Alan Kohn. Courtesy of the University of Washington Archives
Image Name: PaulIllg from UW Archives.

Page 28: Liz Illg and Paul L. Illg, by P. Morse. University of Washington, courtesy of Elizabeth Illg. Image Name: Liz&PIllg-UW-PMorse#6.

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Corporate Terms

Allan Hancock Foundation
Alaska King Crab Investigation
Biological Society of Washington
Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, University of Maryland
Civil Service Commission
Cosmos Club
Department of Biology
Department of Botany
Department of Zoology
Division of Marine Invertebrates
Entomological Society of America
Fannie May
Friday Harbor Laboratories, University of Washington
George Washington University, The
Harvard University
Helminthological Society
Malacological Society
Marine Laboratory of the University of Miami
National Academy of Sciences
National Museum of Natural History
National Science Foundation
Operation Crossroads
Pepperidge Farm
Prince Hall Freemasonry
R/V Albatross
Smithsonian Oceanographic Sorting Center
Society for Systematic Zoology
United States Hydrographic Office
United States National Museum
University of California, Berkeley
University of Maryland
University of Washington
Washington Academy of Sciences
Washington Biologists' Field Club
Washington Philosophical Society
Works Progress Administration
World War II

Geographic Terms

Alaska
Antarctica
Bikini Atoll
Boston
California
Capitol Hill
Jackson, Mississippi
Pacific Ocean
Paris, France
Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Plummer's Island
Potomac River
Puerto Rico
Seattle, Washington
Silver Spring, Maryland
Solomon's Island, Maryland
South Pacific
Takoma Park, Maryland
Tidal Basin
Washington, D.C.
West Coast
West Indies

Specialized Terms

Copepods
Crustacea
Decapods
Marine biology
Marine invertebrates
Mollusks
Sea anemones

Books Cited

Organization and Membership of the Washington Academy of Sciences