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## ARTHUR HALL: BUTTERFLY COLLECTOR

Arthur Hall was born in 1873. He lived in Croyden, Surrey, and later moved to Brighton, Sussex. Shortly after his twenty-first birthday he went to Europe on a touring holiday with a friend. It was at this time that Hall appears to have started collecting natural history specimens. He had a wide interest in natural history and collected both plants (mainly British) and Lepidoptera. His real interest lay with butterflies and although concentrating on the Nymphalinae he also collected and studied members of the other butterfly families. During his life he built up a large collection (some thirty cabinets) which is housed at the Booth Museum of Natural History, Brighton.

His collection contains in the region of 650 types, many described by Hall himself, in addition to figured and voucher specimens. Many of his specimens are to be found in most of the major world entomological collections including the British Museum (Natural History) and the Allyn Museum of Entomology, Florida.

Hall obtained the bulk of his specimens through exchange with and purchases from other contemporary collectors such as Talbot, Joicey, Rosenberg, Staudinger and Geist. Other specimens were bought at natural history sales (particularly Stevens). However, much of the South and Central American material was obtained in the field by either Hall or his hired native assistants. In all, Hall made thirteen trips to the Americas between February 1901 and February 1939. Most of the trips are chronicled in a series of diaries. The trips lasted from between two and five months and they were paid for by Hall who worked during the intervening periods and saved up his earnings. Even in Hall's day such trips were expensive and his trip to South America of 1919-1920 cost him £847 13s. 10d. World War I interrupted his collecting and Hall was enlisted into the Army where he rose to the rank of sergeant.

In 1906 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society of London and he remained a Fellow for forty-one years. Then in 1947 there was an increase in subscriptions and Hall wrote informing the Society of his decision not to pay!

Between 1917 and 1940 Hall published many papers on South American Lepidoptera. He also wrote his 54-volume Monograph and catalogued his extensive collection.

On his death in 1952 his collections of insects, British plants, books, diaries, notes, catalogue and monograph were given to the Brighton Museums.

Unfortunately Hall never published his monumental 54-volume monograph and it remains in hand-written manuscript form, illustrated by many fine original coloured figures. In 1980 it was decided to make this useful and important work more generally available for those working on the Nymphalinae. To produce a 6,000 page set of paper-bound volumes would be prohibitively expensive and the only viable alternative was to publish the monograph in fiche. The entire monograph was reduced to 180 'pages' of fiche and is available at cost price from the Booth Museum for £70, including postage and packing. Further details concerning the Monograph can be obtained from Dr. Gerald Legg, Keeper of Biology, The Booth Museum of Natural History, 194, Dyke Road, Brighton, BN1 5AA, England.