

for reference brought out the following rather surprising situation:

Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia	1867
American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston ...	1867
Boston Society of Natural History	1867
U. S. Army Medical Library, Washington, D. C.	1871
Harvard University Library	1878
Yale University Library	1882
Library of Congress and Smithsonian Institution	1883
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Library	1896
New York Public Library	1897
Columbia University Library	1898

This list may not be complete and does not, of course, include possible personal copies which may have been sent at that time direct to individual American scientists.

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CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAM OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

IN 1943, the writer published "An Index to the Opinions of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature."¹ Publication of the index was preceded by an extended correspondence (1934 to 1943) with the late Dr. Charles Wardell Stiles, formerly secretary of the commission, and officials of the Smithsonian Institution, which published Opinions 1 to 133. Typescript of the index was placed in the hands of the publishers early in March, 1943, and the material was in type when SCIENCE for July 2, 1943, carried the first note which had come to the writer's attention regarding continuation of the Opinions by the International Commission through its publication office in London.

In a letter from Mr. Francis Hemming, secretary of the commission, under date of January 4, 1944, the writer's attention was directed to certain statements in the introduction to the index which were held to contain "inaccurate and damaging statements regarding the position of the International Commission." The statements thus referred to included an honest, if possibly unsound, expression of doubt as to the

possibility of future continuation of the programs of the congress and the commission because of factional difficulties which seemed to threaten effective operation of either the congress or its commission on nomenclature. Evidence to the contrary was not available at the time the manuscript was prepared.

It is now obvious that the obstacles to further co-operative effort were not insurmountable. The commission began an independent program of publication of additional opinions in 1939, and thanks to the industry and vision of the members of the commission, and especially its secretary, Mr. Hemming, "The Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature" was established in 1943 as a clearing house on problems of zoological nomenclature.

The university library placed a standing order for both the *Bulletin* and the *Opinions* immediately upon receipt of information regarding their availability in July, 1943, but because of obvious transportation difficulties the first issues of the *Bulletin* were received in November and the first shipment of the *Opinions* came through in January.

Through the *Bulletin* it is a matter of record that beginning in 1939 an active program of publication of *Opinions* beyond the 133 incorporated in the index was well under way and that by October, 1943, *Opinions* 134 to 147 had been issued and eleven additional opinions rendered by the commissioners had not yet been given publication. However, knowledge of the existence of the *Bulletin* and of the start of the new volume of *Opinions* was not generally available to American zoologists until the July 2, 1943, issue of SCIENCE carried the memorandum by Dr. James E. Peters.

It is with the deepest appreciation that American zoologists view the continuation of the international cooperation in nomenclature. Any misleading statements which the writer may have made regarding cessation of such activity were unintentional reflections of personal opinion, inadvertently inaccurate because facts to the contrary were not available at the time the Index was prepared.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

GARDEN ISLANDS

Garden Islands of the Great East. Collecting Seeds from the Philippines and Netherlands India in the Junk "Cheng Ho." By DAVID FAIRCHILD. 239 pp. Many illustrations. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1943.

THE reviewer of David Fairchild's new book is

¹ *Amer. Midland Nat.*, 30(1): 223-240.

somewhat in the position of one required to describe, in prose, the merits of a poem. It is impossible, in a brief account, to do justice to the excellence of the narrative and the interest of the topic. The Malay Archipelago of Wallace, in spite of all the changes due to man, still includes many islands, and parts of islands, in their original condition, full of new or little-known plants and animals. The Malay flora is extraordinarily rich in species of woody plants, and