

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES SCHAEFFER. COMPILED  
FROM MEMORANDA FOUND AMONG THE  
PAPERS OF THE LATE CHARLES  
W. LENG

BY WM. T. DAVIS

As about eight years have elapsed since the death of Charles Schaeffer, it seems appropriate that a tribute to his memory should appear in the Journal of this Society which he served so long and well. He not only served on numerous committees, but also as Recording Secretary, Librarian and from 1912 to 1919 he was Editor of the Journal.

Charles Frederick August Schaeffer was born in London, England, on July 12, 1860, of German parents. His education was completed in Germany in 1876. For several years thereafter his entomological talent was unknown until his acquaintance with Gustav Beyer, Ottomar Dietz, and Charles Tuneson brought it to light about 1889. In 1892 the New York Entomological Society was organized, with Mr. Schaeffer as one of its first members. He was destined to serve it in various capacities for thirty-five years.

Mr. Schaeffer's professional career began in 1898 as assistant to William Beutenmuller in the American Museum of Natural History. There he remained for four years. In 1902 he joined the staff of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences as curator of Coleoptera, in which position he remained, happily and usefully employed until his death, following a long illness, on August 29, 1934. In the early part of this period, 1902 to 1905, he made collecting trips to Mt. Mitchell, N. C., to Brownsville and vicinity in Texas, and to the Huachuca Mountains in Arizona. As a result of these trips and of studies extending over several years, Mr. Schaeffer was able to make notable additions to our knowledge of the subtropical fauna which earned for his ability recognition here and abroad.

During his later years he was occupied principally with the study of the Chrysomelidæ, in which the same painstaking dis-



crimination was manifest. The genus **Donacia** was for about five years constantly under investigation and eventually became the subject of a comprehensive review.

Mr. Schaeffer's work throughout dealt particularly with species and genera, in the recognition of which, whether previously described or new to science, he displayed unusual accuracy of observation. In making identifications for the younger entomologists who visited the museum, he was always helpful in this respect; and in acknowledgment of the gifts received from other collectors, always thoughtful.

Mr. Schaeffer was happily married, though his wife Maria unfortunately died some years before him. He left a son Charles L., and a daughter Mrs. Ernestine A. Rose, of Oradell, N. J., by whom his personal collection was sold. The greater part of his types, it is understood, will be eventually placed in the U. S. National Museum.

After an acquaintance of a quarter of a century it may be permissible to recall his general disposition, his many kind deeds, his confidence in his own identification, exhibited once in the famous sentence, "even I can make a mistake," mingled with more personal recollections of his devotion to coffee, his oft repeated tales of Esperanca Ranch, and his dread that he might "commit a synonym," which indeed he seldom did.



Davis, William T. 1942. "In Memory of Charles Schaeffer. Compiled from Memoranda Found among the Papers of the Late Charles W. Leng." *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 50, 209–210.

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