



HERBERT FERLANDO SCHWARZ

Reprinted from ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS, 72: 5: 85-89. 1961. By permission of Editor and Author.

HERBERT FERLANDO SCHWARZ

1883-1960

After a full life of service and devotion to family, friends and country, Herbert Schwarz died on October 2, 1960. He was one of those rare individuals whose high code of honor and genuine sincerity charmed all who met him. He left behind friends in numbers in all parts of the world who will long remember him for his kindness, generosity and graciousness. A man of exceeding modesty, he took pleasure in praising the deeds and works of others but never mentioned his own. A man of great patriotism and love of country, he served in the Field Artillery during the First World War. A dedicated scholar all his life, he applied his broad knowledge to several fields with outstanding success. He stood high in the esteem of scientific colleagues throughout the world and left as his monument papers on bees that will long remain definitive works on the group. To his closest friends Herbert Schwarz personified all that was fine and noble in man.

Herbert Schwarz was born on Fire Island, near Long Island, New York, on September 7, 1883, the son of Frederick A. O. Schwarz and Caroline Clausen Schwarz. His preparatory schooling was acquired at the Phillips Exeter Academy, from which he graduated in 1900. After four years of work at Harvard University, he received the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1904. His liberal education emphasized literature, writing and languages, and in 1905, after a year of graduate study he was awarded the Master of Arts degree in philosophy. Continuation of his schooling at Columbia University brought him another Master of Arts degree in Elizabethan literature in 1907. Among his later honors was election to Sigma Xi. As an undergraduate he developed a keen interest in natural history and anthropology, especially Indian lore, which was responsible for taking him into the Southwest in 1904 and 1905 for study of the aboriginal cultures of that area. Fascinated by the lives and myths of the Navajos and the Pueblo tribes, he brought together a large body of notes on these

peoples. One of his first published papers was concerned with the "Spider Myths of the American Indians" and brought to light many of the charming details of this Indian mythology.

Herbert Schwarz always identified himself with the metropolitan area and spoke in the manner of the cultured New Yorker. His father had come to this country from Herford in Germany and had established the F. A. O. Schwarz toy company on Fifth Avenue, which in its specialty has become one of the landmarks of the city. Herbert was associated with the business for over fifty-five years, as an officer of the corporation in its early days and as a director during the last twenty-seven years of his life. His proficiency in modern languages was undoubtedly aided by numerous travels to all parts of the world. He spoke and read German fluently and had an excellent knowledge of Spanish, French and other Romance languages which he continued to study most of his life.

Schwarz in 1910 married Dorothy Constable, who was his frequent companion on subsequent trips and maintained a close interest in all his activities. Their four daughters are: Mrs. Barbara French, Mrs. Eleanor Stock, Mrs. Dorothy Hines and Miss Marjorie Schwarz.

During the period from 1909 to 1919 Herbert Schwarz acted as head of the editorial department and member of the board of G. P. Putnam's Sons in New York City. With a command of word and phrase reserved only to the gifted, it was inevitable that Schwarz would shine in the editorial and publishing field. He wrote fluently with a bold, handsome script and was a voracious reader of good books. A grievous fault, or so he told me, was his addiction to polysyllabic words and a ready acceptance of repetition with eddying currents of thought to bring out finer flavors and more exact meanings in writings. His leanings toward anthropology and natural history qualified him for editorial participation in the Putnam Field Book series.

To Schwarz, as editorial and lay adviser, came a book which was to have strong influence in shaping his future life. This was the "Field Book of Insects" by Dr. Frank E. Lutz, then curator of insects of the American Museum of Natural History. This work was published in 1918 and still remains, after forty years, the outstanding field guide on insects for the amateur and general student. Lutz and the gentle, reserved Schwarz were about

the same age and they quickly became close personal friends. They were opposites in many ways, with Lutz a man of penetrating mind who loved nothing more than to shock friend and foe with piercing barbs. Lutz kindled in Schwarz his first interests in insects and, because of his own liking for the biology and physiology of the bees, directed Schwarz's attention to the study of these captivating social interests. On many occasions Herbert Schwarz expressed his great admiration for Frank E. Lutz and regarded him as his teacher and mentor.

Herbert Schwarz's career at the American Museum of Natural History began in a modest way in 1919 when he spent three months in Colorado as a volunteer assistant with Dr. Lutz on a field expedition from the Department of Entomology. It was on this or a similar trip that he first met T. D. A. Cockerell who further encouraged his interest in bees and with whom he shared a close friendship and engaged in voluminous correspondence until Cockerell's death. In 1921, Schwarz was appointed as Research Associate of the Department of Entomology and he retained this post until his death, on a nearly full time basis. His interest in the American Museum and its manifold activities was very great and he participated in many ways. Thus, from 1921 to 1925 he was editor of *Natural History* magazine, and, following the death of Dr. Lutz in 1943, Schwarz was appointed acting chairman of the Entomology Department of the Museum, and he gave unreservedly of his time during the war period.

Once he had succumbed to the lure of insects, Herbert Schwarz swiftly became a full-fledged entomologist and participated in many museum field trips to far places. On most of these he was accompanied by one or both of his closest personal friends, Frank E. Lutz and Irving Huntington, but other trips were taken alone. Some of the areas visited were: Colorado, 1919; southern Florida in 1923; the Brownsville region of Texas in 1925; Barro Colorado Island, Canal Zone, in 1930 and 1933; the Cauca Valley of Colombia, in 1935; central Mexico and Yucatan in 1946; and southern Mexico in 1947. In addition to these collecting and field study expeditions Schwarz visited museums and scientific institutions all over the world, often with his wife and members of the family.

During his life Schwarz was active in many organizations to which he gave generously of time and money. As a Harvard graduate with fondest memories of early school years, he main-

tained close ties with his university and its Museum of Comparative Zoology and served on many committees. He often entertained friends and visitors at the Harvard Club on West Forty-fourth Street in New York, where his geniality as host will always remain a bright spot in the memories of his guests. As a Corresponding Member of the American Entomological Society, Schwarz was personally well-known to the older group of its membership. To Mr. J. A. G. Rehn, he was a good friend and "one of nature's noblemen, beloved by all who knew him for his many kindnesses, his courtesy—things increasingly rare in this matter-of-fact world."

Local organizations claimed a large share of Schwarz's interest. In 1919 he joined the New York Entomological Society and maintained a constant interest until his death. Here he fraternized with such now departed or inactive entomological stalwarts as William T. Davis, John D. Sherman, Ernest Bell, Andrew Mutchler, Charles Leng, and Frank Watson. He served on many committees, on the Board, and as President of the New York Entomological Society in 1935. He was also active in the National Audubon Society and the New York Academy of Sciences. Of the latter he was a Fellow and Council member for many years and Editor of Publications from 1925 to 1936. Another of his great interests was the Explorers' Club which he joined in 1921 and to which he gave sterling service as a Director and on various committees for many years. He was also for many years a member of Squadron A, a local cavalry group, which had its headquarters in the Old Armory.

Many of Schwarz's early papers were published in *Natural History* magazine during his tenure as editor. The broad scope of his writing is reflected in such titles as "Floral Designs in Textiles," "Eclipses, as Interpreted by the American Aborigines," "Swinging a Net in Southern Florida" and what may well have been his first published writing, "Tobacco as a Cure for Ailments." Thereafter, most of his publications, totalling at least sixty, were scientific contributions dealing rather exclusively with the bees of two groups. Much of what is known on the megachilid bees of the subfamily Anthidiinae we owe to Schwarz whose series of basic papers is still the standard reference for the group. The stingless honeybees of the family Meliponidae (or Apidae) became Schwarz's special province and

made him known to entomologists throughout the world. His greatest work is a voluminous tome exceeding five hundred printed pages, profusely illustrated, and entitled "Stingless Bees (Meliponidae) of the Western Hemisphere," which was published as a Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History. Almost one third of these pages are devoted to the biology and natural history of stingless bees of the entire world and the remainder assigned to the systematics of the principal genera of the New World. This work will long remain a personal monument to the untiring devotion of a fine man. In its size and scope we see so much of what we admired in the man; it is the fruit of a keen, inquiring mind delineated in a boundless wealth of expression, an enduring work on a group of insects which he grew to love.

WILLIS J. GERTSCH



Gertsch, Willis John. 1962. "Herbert Ferlando Schwarz 1883-1960." *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 70, 4–9.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/206458>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/179788>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In Copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder

Rights Holder: New York Entomological Society

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/>

Rights: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.