THIS second volume of Occasional Papers On Mollusks is dedicated to Dr. Joseph C. Bequaert, colleague and friend of many years. During the twenty-four years of his association with the Mollusk Department he was available at all times for advice or to answer the innumerable questions of both students and colleagues on many varied topics.

Dr. Bequaert was born in 1886 in Thourout, a small town in the province of West Flanders, Belgium, not far from the city of Bruges where he spent his youth and developed a lively interest in Botany and Malacology.

His early training was in Botany, and he obtained his Ph.D. in this subject at the University of Ghent, Belgium, in 1908. Between 1910 and 1912 he was Entomologist for the Belgian Sleeping Sickness Commission in the Belgian Congo, and from 1913 to 1915 was in charge of botanical explorations in the Belgian Congo for the Belgian Colonial Government.

In 1916 he migrated to the United States and became a naturalized citizen in 1921. His first position in the United States was Research Associate in Congo Zoology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York from 1917 to 1922. He moved to the Boston area in 1923 and at that time was appointed instructor in the Department of Tropical Medicine at Harvard Medical School, where two years later he became an Assistant Professor. At the same time (1929-1945) he was also an Associate Curator of Insects in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. From 1945 to 1951 he was Curator of Insects, and from 1951 to 1956, Agassiz Professor of Zoology in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. Upon his retirement from Harvard University in 1956 he joined the staff of the Department of Biology at the University of Houston, Texas, and in
1960 moved to Tucson, Arizona as visiting Entomologist, and later as Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Zoology, University of Arizona.

His first association with the Department of Mollusks was in the summer of 1927 upon his return from a fourteen months trip to Liberia, the Belgian Congo and East Africa. From then on until his retirement he was a frequent visitor, weekends at first, then almost daily during his curatorship at the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

He took over the task of curating our land and freshwater mollusks of Africa which is now considered one of the largest collections in the world from this continent. His many trips to Africa added a vast array of new material, and the many friends he made during these trips continued to send him specimens throughout the years. Trips to other areas also yielded much material, and since his retirement he has sent to the Department many hundreds of lots from Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and northern Mexico.

He is a member of many scientific societies in North and South America and in Europe.

The following summary of Dr. Bequaert’s expeditions and field studies shows the breadth of his interests and extent of his travels. All mollusca collected since 1926 have been deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. A set of each lot collected in Arizona, New Mexico and northern Mexico have also been deposited in the University of Arizona, Tucson. Our accession files credit Dr. Bequaert with 10,948 lots to date; the total number of specimens would probably run well over 100,000.

January to June 1910, to Algeria as holder of a Belgian University traveling fellowship, and again as a visitor in April and May 1913. Acquaintance was made with leading Malacologist of the country, Mr. P. Pallary, who guided him to the type localities of land snails described from the Oran area.
1910 to 1912, to the Belgian Congo as Entomologist for the Belgian Sleeping Sickness Commission. Incidental mollusks were collected along the Congo River, from the estuary to near the headwaters, particularly in Katanga Province, which at that time was virgin malacological territory. P. Dautzenberg and L. Germain studied this material, published on it in 1914, and deposited the types of the new species in the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale (formerly the Congo Museum) at Tervuren, Belgium.

1913 to 1915, botanical explorations for the Belgian government in the Belgian Congo, chiefly in the northeastern section and the mountains along the Uganda border (Ruwenzori, Kivu Volcanoes). The collection of mollusks made during this trip was part of the material used by H. A. Pilsbry for his two volumes on the Mollusks of the Belgian Congo, published in 1919 and 1927, the second volume being co-authored with J. C. Bequaert.

May to August 1917, with an expedition of naturalists organized by Prof. J. C. Bradley across the United States from New York southward to Alabama and then westward to California.

March and April 1924, to the Republic of Honduras for a study of the sandfly problem for the Medical Department of the United Fruit Company.

July to September 1924, as part of the Hamilton Rice 7th Amazon Expedition to Rio Negro and Rio Branco, Brasil, with a medical team from Harvard Medical School. Mollusks collected were reported upon by Pilsbry (1926) and by Bequaert (1925, 1926).

March and April 1926, to Cuba for a study of malaria mosquitoes for the Medical Department of the United Fruit Company.

May 1926 to July 1927, to Liberia, the Belgian Congo and East Africa, on a tropical African expedition organized by Dr. Richard P. Strong, as a member of a medical team from Harvard Medical School. Extensive mollusk collections were made.
MRS. BEQUAERT, FRANK BEQUAERT AND DR. BEQUAERT
Cambridge, Massachusetts
(photograph 1941)
July 1928, a summer trip to Colorado, including a stay at Granite Peaks Camp near Bayfield.

April 1929, to Dewees Island, near Charleston, South Carolina, for a study of ticks.

May and June 1929, to Yucatan, Mexico, as part of a medical survey for the Carnegie Institute. The mollusks collected were reported upon in a joint paper by W. J. Clench and J. C. Bequaert (1933).

July 1929, second summer trip to Colorado.

January to May 1931, to Guatemala for a study of onchocerciasis, with a team from Harvard Medical School led by Dr. Richard Strong.

October and November 1933, to European museums for the study of the Achatinidae and other African non-marine mollusks under a grant from the Milton Research Fund of Harvard University.

April to September 1934, to the Belgian Congo, particularly the Katanga, for a study of onchocerciasis. A large collection of mollusks was also made with native help.

June to September 1936, to Colombia for a study of yellow fever under the auspices of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation.

November 1943 to August 1944, to Liberia and Ghana (which was then the Gold Coast) to study African sleeping sickness and schistosomiasis. A large collection of mollusks was also made.

June 1947, a summer trip to Texas.

April 1949, to Hawaii for consultation on the Achatina fulica problem.

August and September 1951, to Europe and the Entomological Congress in Amsterdam.

September 1956 to date, local collecting in the southwestern states and Mexico with students and faculty members of the University of Houston and the University of Arizona which has resulted in large collections of land and freshwater mollusks from this little known area.

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