

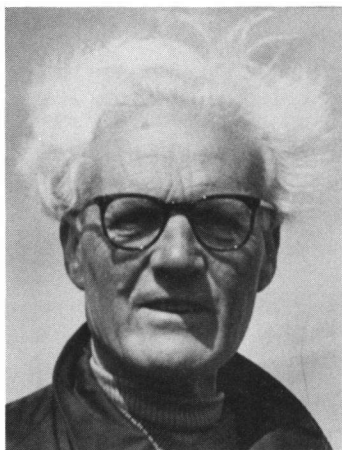
TO MR. D.E. KIMMINS ON HIS 70th BIRTHDAY

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A short biography of D.E. KIMMINS, odonate curator of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), is followed by a list of his odonatological publications (1929-1974).



DOUGLAS ERIC KIMMINS was born on August 4th, 1905. For the whole of his professional career he was connected with the British Museum (Natural History), where he was a part-time "unofficial worker" from 1925 until 1948. He then became a fully established member of the Museum Staff, retiring in 1970. After this he was re-employed in a temporary capacity for a further two years, sub-editing the Museum Bulletins.

He was primarily concerned with that heterogeneous group of orders embraced by the Linnaean name "Neuroptera", and affectionately known to many entomologists as the "Kimminsioidea". Although his contributions to Odonatology alone were sufficient to assure him an honourable place in the history of Entomology, he worked as fully on the other orders, was the author of Handbooks on the Ephemeroptera and on the Plecoptera published by the Royal Entomological Society of London, and wrote extensively on the Neuroptera and Trichoptera.

With the late Dr W.E. CHINA, he was responsible for evacuating the Museum's Entomological collections prior to the outbreak of the 1939-45 War to the Headquarters of the Freshwater Biological Association at Wray Castle, where he continued to work on them for some time. He helped to teach in some of the Field Courses held there, and many a student owes him a debt of gratitude. He was a great walker, and his former colleagues at Wray Castle remember with pleasure walking and collecting with him round the Lake District. He was later released to join the R.A.F., where he did valuable work in the interpretation of aerial photographs. In due course, back in civilian life, he supervised the return of the collections from Wray Castle to South Kensington.

Another valuable service he did to the Museum was to arrange for the purchase of the McLachlan Collection, when he heard from the late Colonel F.C. FRASER that this collection was about to be put on the market by the executors of McLachlan's nephew. As McLachlan was an intimate friend of de Selys, and they freely shared and exchanged their material, most of the specimens described in the latter's classic monographs which are not to be found in the Brussels Museum are in the McLachlan Collection, so now readily available to those using the British Museum.

He was a meticulous worker, and very skilled both as photographer and draughtsman. Many papers by other workers, especially in the pre-war part of his career, were beautified by figures from his pen. He was also very much at home

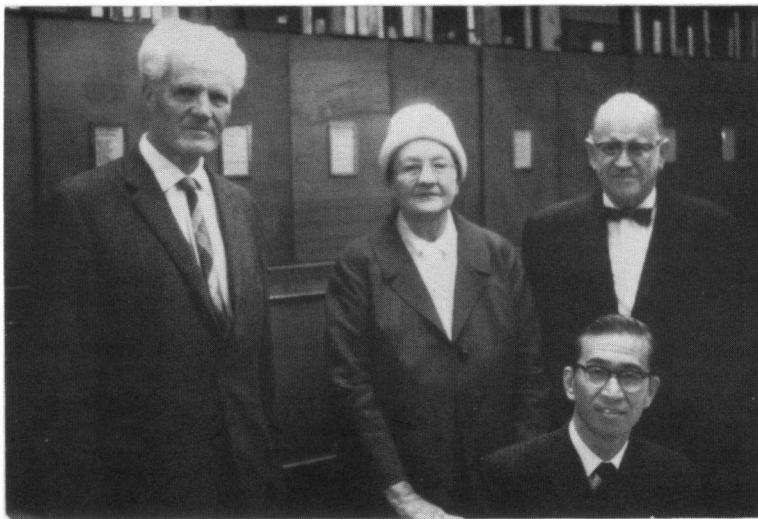


Fig. 2. Mr. D.E. Kimmins with his guests in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) collections; August 18, 1968. From left to right: D.E. Kimmins, Miss C. Longfield, Dr. B.E. Montgomery and Dr. S. Asahina (seated).

among the intricacies of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, and was always willing to guide younger workers in their application.

We wish him and his wife every happiness in their retirement.

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