

IN MEMORIAM PROFESSOR BASIL ELWOOD MONTGOMERY



In the early afternoon of January 21 a telephone call from the SIO National Office in the United States brought the incomprehensible message that our Monty is no more among us. Within a few hours this shocking news has spread from the Editorial Office throughout the world. From Japan to Canada, from United States to Britain, from Germany to Holland, the leading odonatologists and the SIO Officers became speechless. With Monty's departure an epoch in odonatology came to a sudden conclusion...

This epoch was characterized by the activities of our Society, the very roots of which are firmly anchored in Monty's life-long philosophy of a "united odonatological community". Neither the International Odonatological Society, nor this or any other of its journals could ever have gained ground without Monty's pioneer work in organizing the international odonatological community around his famous Purdue Colloquia of Odonatology, and, above all, through his SELYSIA, the first truly international newsletter of Odonatology. In this, and in many other ways, Monty is the true "Father of SIO".

His weak health during the past few years has prevented him from participating in the business of the Society as actively as it was his custom during the early, but most difficult period of SIO. Nevertheless, he did "yield" to requests from the Council to accept the responsibilities of the Presidency for the forthcoming period 1983-1987. On December 31, 1982, the nomination procedure was closed in accordance with the constitutional regulations, and it became apparent that the odonatologists throughout the world, from almost 60 countries, were supporting his nomination unanimously and without a single exception. It is tragical indeed that he will be unable to assume this high office.

Monty's biography and odonatological bibliography were published in the 1974 volume of this journal. No doubt many more obituaries and evaluations of his momental work will appear in the SIO periodicals and elsewhere in the near future.

The flowers sent by the Society for his funeral should tell Mrs ESTHER MONTGOMERY, and their daughter, Mrs EMILY ALWARD, how much our Monty will be missed by his worldwide "dragonfly family".

[Editors]

A SELECTION FROM MONTY's SIO ALBUM

Fig. 1. September 9, 1965, Utrecht, Holland: during Monty's stay in the Netherlands the possibilities of setting up an international odonatological periodical were discussed for the first time. The names suggested were *Folia odonatologica* and *Notulae odonatologicae*. (Photo B. Kiauta)

Figs 2-6. The Fourth International Symposium of Odonatology, Gainesville, Florida, United States, August 1-5, 1977: (2) A superb Chairman of the SIO Plenary Business Meeting; — (3) Member of Honour of the International Odonatological Society and Member of the Symposium Committee of Honour: replying to a toast at the Symposium Banquet; — (4) At the Banquet, with Mrs and Dr T. W. Donnelly; — (5) A brief encounter prior to the beginning of an evening Slide Program (from left to right: Monty, Dr C.F. Byers, Mrs L.K. Gloyd, Mrs M. Belle and Dr J. Belle); — (6) During a session break: chatting with the Editor of *Odonatologica* (Dr B. Kiauta). (Photo Dr R. Rudolph)

Figs 7-13. The Fifth International Symposium of Odonatology, Ste-Thérèse, Montreal, Canada, August 5-11, 1979: (7) Meeting of the SIO Executive (from left to right: Dr J.K. Waage, Monty, Dr G.H. Bick, Dr J.M. van Brink, Dr B. Kiauta, Dr J.-G. Pilon, Dr H. Dumont); — (8) In discussion with the Editor of *Odonatologica* and with the SIO Secretary-General (Dr K.J. Tennessen); — (9) In the Symposium "Informal Evening Meeting Room": always tireless, with his manuscripts and card files (with Mr R. Hutchinson and Mrs M. Westfall); — (10) Waiting for the Symposium bus (from left to right: Dr and Mrs J. Belle, Dr C. Nimz, Monty, Dr G. Pritchard, Dr R.A. Cannings, Dr S. Nicholls); — (11) A quick lunch during the sessions, with Dr M.J. Parr and Mrs M. Westfall; — (12) The Laurentian Hills field trip is drawing at its conclusion: counting the participants boarding the bus; — (13) Monty's last SIO photograph: in the dormitory corridor, with the luggage packed up, bound homewards. He was leaving Ste-Thérèse full of plans for the forthcoming trip with his granddaughter to Mexico, carrying with him Dr Donnelly's draft for computerisation of odonatological literature, which the mail had delivered to the Symposium Office just a few minutes prior to Monty's departure. (Photo M. Kiauta)

Portrait on p. 1 dated August 5, 1979. (Photo M. Kiauta)



