

## Harold E. Anthony

### *President*

Harold E. Anthony was born in Beaverton, Oregon, on 5 April 1890. His father was a well-known Pacific Coast ornithologist and collector. From an early age, he hunted and trapped and loved the out-doors and, although his primary field came to be mammalogy, he retained a broad interest in natural history throughout his life. He was married in 1916 to Edith Demerell, who died shortly after their son, Alfred Webster Anthony, was born. Four years later he married Margaret Feldt, and they had a daughter, Margery Stuart, and a son, Gilbert Chase. He was an officer (1st Lieutenant and Captain) in the field artillery during World War I (1917–1919) and saw action in France.

He attended Pacific University for 2 years (1910–1911) and received B.S. and M.A. degrees from Columbia University in 1915 and 1920, respectively.

He began his career as a field collector for the Biological Survey in 1910 and in the same year was employed by The American Museum of Natural History as naturalist on the Albatross Expedition to Lower California. The following year he joined the Museum staff full-time as a cataloger and general handyman in the Department of Mammals and Ornithology. He was appointed Associate Curator in the Department of Mammalogy in 1919, Curator in 1926, and Emeritus Curator upon his retirement in 1958. In addition to serving as Chairman of the Department of Mammalogy from 1942 to 1958, he held the posts of Dean of the Scientific Staff (1942–1948) and Deputy Director (1952–1957) of the Museum. After retirement, he was Appointed Curator of the Frick Laboratory, a paleontological research laboratory at the Museum supported by the Charles Frick Foundation, and served in that capacity until 1966.

Anthony's research involved both Recent and fossil mammals, with an emphasis on the Caribbean and Central and South American regions. In addition to his work in the Neotropics, he participated in expeditions to various regions of western United States, Alaska and the Arctic Ocean, Canada, Africa, and Burma. Among his major contributions were the two volume *Mammals of Puerto Rico, Living and Extinct* and *Field Book of North American Mammals*, which for many years was the major guide to mammals of the region. He was active in the Museum's exhibition program, playing a key role in the creation of the Hall of North American Mammals, the Akeley Hall of African Mammals, and the Hall of South Asiatic Mammals. An ardent conservationist, he served as Chairman of the Committee on Preservation of Natural Conditions of the National Research Council's Division of Biology and Agriculture.

Anthony was a Charter Member of the ASM. Besides the presidency, he served as a Councillor, Trustee, and Vice-president. He also was a director of both the New York Explorers Club and National Audubon Society, Treasurer of the New York Academy of Sciences, and an Honorary Life Member of the Sociedad Colombiana de Ciencias Naturales.

In addition to his scientific interests, Anthony was a financial expert. As was once stated in an article in an American Museum employee newsletter "he knew that a bear market wasn't

always a place where grizzlies and kodiaks are sold, and that there are two kinds of bulls.” His financial expertise made him a particularly valuable member of the Museum’s Pension Board and Welfare Committee.

As a youth, he discovered the pleasure and satisfaction of growing plants and this became a lifetime avocation. Orchids were his specialty. He served as President of the Greater New York Orchid Society and Treasurer of the American Orchid Society, from which he received a gold medal in recognition of his contributions. Cooking was another of his long-time interests, and his culinary skills were attested to by his induction into the Society of Amateur Chefs.

He died of a heart attack on 29 March 1970, while on a family outing in Paradise, California.