

## HARTLEY H. T. JACKSON AND THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS

"*I had a dream* that there should and could be a society of mammalogists" was confided to me many years ago by Hartley Jackson. The dream he referred to was in 1902 when he was a student at Milton College, Wisconsin. He went on to say he discussed this idea with his boyhood friend and fellow student, Ned Hollister, and his biology professor, Ludwig Kumlien. His friend had some reservations about such a society, but the idea was firmly implanted in the mind of the 21-year-old Jackson.

Jackson completed his degree at Milton College in 1904 with majors in zoology and chemistry, and then followed 4 years of teaching at Carthage Collegiate Institute in Juda, Wisconsin, and Waukegan, Illinois, high school. He returned to his native state in 1908 to work for his master's degree at the University of Wisconsin. His Ph.D. degree from George Washington University was delayed until 1914.

In 1910, he married Anna Marcia Adams and accepted a position with the United States Bureau of Biological Survey. There he was put in charge of the growing mammal collection. In this same year, he attended a meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union. Jackson told me that, as a result of this meeting, "I became more thoroughly convinced that we could make a success of a mammal society." For the next few years, Jackson "muddled along with ideas [for a mammal society], worked on a possible constitution or bylaws, and figured on possible sources for members."

In 1915, Jackson discussed such an organization or society with Edward A. Goldman when they were in the field at Horsehoe Cienega, Arizona. He said that Goldman's reaction "was more or less negative." When in the field again in 1916 with Goldman and Walter Taylor on the Nantan Plateau, Arizona, they also discussed this

matter. Goldman was still pessimistic but Taylor was "rather enthusiastic over the idea."

In 1918, the U.S. Biological Survey was under the leadership of E. W. Nelson. By custom, staff meetings were held periodically, but Jackson said they had become disorganized. To rectify this situation, a committee of three—A. K. Fisher, Vernon Bailey, Walter Taylor—was appointed to plan such meetings. Among other things, this committee recommended that the scientific staff hold meetings monthly at the home of different staff members. At the third such meeting, held at Vernon Bailey's home on 5 December 1918, Jackson arranged that part of the discussion concern "the question as to the advisability of launching a new organization for the promotion of mammal study." At this meeting, Dr. Nelson appointed a committee "to canvas the situation and to make a report at the next meeting, suggesting a working plan for the proposed organization as well as submitting lists of prospective members by states," as indicated in the minutes of the meeting as recorded by Walter Taylor. Appointments to this committee were: Jackson, chairman, Arthur Howell, Ned Hollister, E. A. Preble, and Taylor. Anna Jackson was immediately pressed into service to gather much of the necessary data. Hartley rented her a typewriter, typing desk, and chair for use in their apartment. Added to this committee were Wilfred Osgood, Joseph Grinnell, Glover Allen, J. A. Allen, and Witmer Stone. The committee now consisted of five Washington people and five from outside Washington.

Jackson worked feverishly in January, February, and March 1919, in drawing up a list of prospective members, gathering funds to start such an organization, and drafting the bylaws and rules. Jackson told

me he modeled the latter after the constitutions and bylaws of the A.O.U., American Society of Naturalists, Wisconsin Natural History Society, Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, and the Biological Society of Washington. He initially sought voluntary contributions of \$2.00 from persons in the Washington area. In addition, between December and March, Jackson chaired or steered at least eight meetings that involved the formation of the new society.

All of Jackson's planning came together in a highly successful first annual (called organizational) meeting of an American Society of Mammalogists, attended by about 60 persons but with 240 persons on record as charter members. Although the Society was off to a good start, Jackson was busy trying to make it better. In May 1920 he wrote, apparently to the Directors, "It seems to the corresponding secretary [=Jackson] that an endowment—a publication fund—is essential if the Society is to live up to standards worthy of its membership. The income from such a fund would nourish the *Journal* through its precarious infancy, and could later be utilized for publishing monographs or for whatever worthy cause the Society might deem desirable."

Without a Hartley Jackson, there would have been an organization of mammalogists, but it could not have started more successfully and better planned than the "dream" of Hartley's. Jackson was a determined, well-organized, methodical individual. He set lofty goals for himself and was a bit of a dreamer. He was opinionated and easily ruffled, but he did not give up. He

liked to plan for the future, and he planned well. All of these added up to produce a young man with a dream of forming a society of mammalogists, an organization second to none; a young man who spent many off-duty hours planning for such a society with the ingenuity and skill to maneuver it through to reality.

In 1969, Dr. Jackson, at age 88 and in declining health, sent me a note to be read at the 50th anniversary meeting of The American Society of Mammalogists. In part it read "There is no event that I would rather attend than the 50th Anniversary Celebration of The American Society of Mammalogists, unless possibly it would be its 100th anniversary. What I want to say is 'Cheerio, greetings, and best wishes to all members and friends of the Mammal Society. Through your efforts it is a wonderful organization. I am sorry I cannot be with you in person, but I am in spirit.' Sincerely, Hartley H. T. Jackson."

DONALD F. HOFFMEISTER, *Historian, The American Society of Mammalogists.*

*Editor's Note.* To help commemorate the 75th anniversary of The American Society of Mammalogists, Donald F. Hoffmeister has selected photographs of early mammalogists to appear on the cover of each issue of volume 75 of the *Journal of Mammalogy*, and he has prepared brief accounts of the early history of the ASM and some of its members. In addition, several photographs will appear on a space-available basis near the end of each issue in 1994.