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Dr. Henry Clinton Fall (1862–1939)

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DR. HENRY CLINTON FALL (1862-1939)

With the passing of Dr. Henry C. Fall, students of the Coleoptera lost one of their outstanding colleagues and authorities.

Dr. Fall was born at Farmington, N. H. on December 25, 1862. He received from Dartmouth College the degrees of Bachelor of Arts in 1884 and Doctor of Sciences in 1929. He died at Tyngsboro, Mass. on November 14, 1939.

Because of his health, he early went to Southern California where he began his serious study of the Coleoptera. For more than forty-five years Dr. Fall was a contributor to the literature on this group. Students of the west coast are greatly indebted to him for his careful studies of the beetles of this region. The paper, *A List of the Coleoptera of Southern California*, published in the Occasional Papers of the California Academy of Sciences in 1901, pages 1-282, will long be of service to Entomologists of the Pacific Coast. Dr. Fall was not only a careful student of the Adephaga and Polyphaga, but he contributed much to our knowledge of the Rhynchophora. His papers, *Revision of the Species of Apion of America North of Mexico; A Brief Review of our Species of Magdalis with Notes and Descriptions of Other North American Rhynchophora; New North American Species of Apion and Apteromechus; and New Species of American Coleoptera of the Tribe Zygopini*, are indispensable when studying the weevils. Dr. Fall described 1,400 new species of Coleoptera of which 185 were weevils.

I had the privilege of visiting with Dr. Fall when I was at Tyngsboro, Mass., on August 5, 1928. His home which is typically New England in style, is on a little hill, surrounded with white pines, and overlooking the Merrimac River. He owned the home in which the noted Coleopterist Frederick Blanchard lived and died. I was received in a very cordial manner, being permitted to see specimens from many families and when I left I was given a box containing 83 species of beetles in which I was interested. I was impressed with the way he cared for his large collection. Everything was in order, the specimens were neatly mounted and arranged in Schmitt boxes. It was also of interest to see how accurately he studied his specimens with a small pocket lens. At this time he was greatly handicapped in his work because of poor health. Two years before my visit he had an operation on his right eye for an abscess. This had never healed up, it being necessary to dress it several times a day. This affected his sight and made his work extremely difficult. He informed me that his collection, which is one of the most important private ones in this country, would be deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University.

Coleopterists of the future will find Henry C. Fall's name inscribed along with LeConte's, Blanchard's, and Bowditch's when they frequent the cabinets and laboratories containing the thousands of specimens of Coleoptera that have been named and passed on to posterity by these masters.—V. M. T.