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## PHIL LEWIS MARSH

1891-1957

The death of Dr. Marsh (plate 7) on October 12, 1957, was a serious loss to American malacology and the many fields to which he contributed. Phil was born in Tombstone, Arizona, on February 4, 1891. His father was E. O. Marsh, a teacher, a Greek scholar, and a collector of good books, which fascinated Phil and furthered his interest in literature. These had much to do with his strong convictions that the professional man should have a well rounded education, not only for development of skill, but also for personal satisfaction. Books about great philosophers helped Phil formulate a sound concept of life, which did not place science and religion in conflict. In the years ahead, he was to help perplexed students and scientists to formulate their own beliefs.

Upon graduation from the University of Michigan (A.B.) in 1911, Phil entered the Medical School. But he enlisted on December 14, 1917, in World War I. As a member of the Medical Corps, he served until July 13, 1919, on the Alsace front, Chateau Thierry and Fismus offensive, and in Jurigny, Mt. Fancon, Barrtheville and Haramont actions. After his return to Michigan, he was granted his M.D. in 1919 and M.A. in 1923.

Following his internship, he was appointed to the staff of the Medical School, and served in Internal Medicine, as instructor from 1921 and assistant professor from 1924 to 1926. During these years, he was associated with Dr. L. R. Newburgh in many research projects, and together they developed the high fat diet for treatment of diabetes mellitus, before the discovery of insulin. Since he knew this diabetes was hereditary, he grappled with the problem of increasing the life of young diabetics until they might

produce children, some of whom would also be diabetics—an unsolved problem to date.

Later he practiced internal medicine in Detroit for 10 years, and was a part-time consultant for the Chrysler Motor Company. He was made a member of Sigma Xi in 1922, a charter member of the Detroit Academy of Sciences in 1929, and joined the American Malacological Union in Ann Arbor in 1937.

His interest in collecting shells undoubtedly was fostered by the years he spent on Muskinosa, an isle which belonged to his family, off of Drummond Island. After 1935, when he collected marine shells in California, Phil's interest in mollusks, his knowledge of systematics and his zeal for collecting developed with characteristic rapidity. In 1936, the collections of the late Bryant Walker moved to Ann Arbor. Calvin Goodrich, then Curator of Mollusks, solicited Phil's assistance, to work with our small group in cataloguing the 100,000 lots in the Walker collections. In 1938, he was appointed Honorary Associate Curator of Mollusks, a position which he held for almost 20 years.

One of his major interests was the distribution of land mollusks in Michigan. His studies led to a publication on the *Stenotrema monodon* group (Naut. 54:113-116, 1941), in which he carefully delimited the ranges of the two species and one form as they occur in this state. But he keenly appreciated that the patterns revealed by the detailed maps of all the Michigan species were inaccurate, because only the regions around active centers were represented reasonably well in collections. Consequently, Phil worked intensively to fill in the gaps in the neglected areas. Plans are under way to publish his data posthumously.

Early in 1940, Phil joined Alan Archer on a collecting trip into southeastern states. After a few days in Florida with the late Dr. Bales, the McGintys and the Kotos, they explored the southern Piedmont eastward to near Augusta, Georgia. In August, 1941, Phil accompanied Goodrich on a collecting trip into the Rocky Mountains, and proved that *Zoögenetes harpa* (Say) did occur there. (Naut. 55:97-98, 1942).

Phil's hobbies included travel, gardening, fishing, writing limericks, concocting puzzles, cooking and just visiting with people.



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When he married Ola Gladys Hylton,<sup>1</sup> a doctor in Public Health, who also had been associated with the University of Michigan, they combined their mutual interests. From their home in Ann Arbor, they collected extensively in Washtenaw County, and helped greatly to make it the most thoroughly collected in the Great Lakes region.—HENRY VAN DER SCHALIE.

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<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Marsh kindly supplied interesting and pertinent information for this article.

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