# Remington Kellogg 1892–1969

Frank C. Whitmore, Jr.

Remington Kellogg, retired Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and former Director of the United States National Museum, died of a heart attack on 8 May 1969, in his seventy-seventh year, at his home in Washington, D.C. He had been recuperating from a broken pelvis suffered in a fall on the ice the previous January. Except for that period, he had been constantly and productively engaged in research at the National Museum for more than 49 years. To him retirement, which came in 1962, brought welcome relief from administrative duties and an opportunity to intensify his study of fossil marine mammals. The years 1962 to 1969 were among his most productive.

Arthur Remington Kellogg, as he was christened (he early dropped "Arthur" from his name), was born in Davenport, Iowa, on 5 October 1892, the son of Clara Louise (Martin) and Rolla Remington Kellogg. He was descended from colonial stock on both sides of the family. One ancestor, Sergeant Joseph Kellogg, came from England in 1651, settling first in Farmington, Connecticut, and finally at Hadley, Massachusetts, in 1661. Sergeant Kellogg helped to defeat the Connecticut Indian tribes at Turner's Falls, Masschusetts, in 1676.

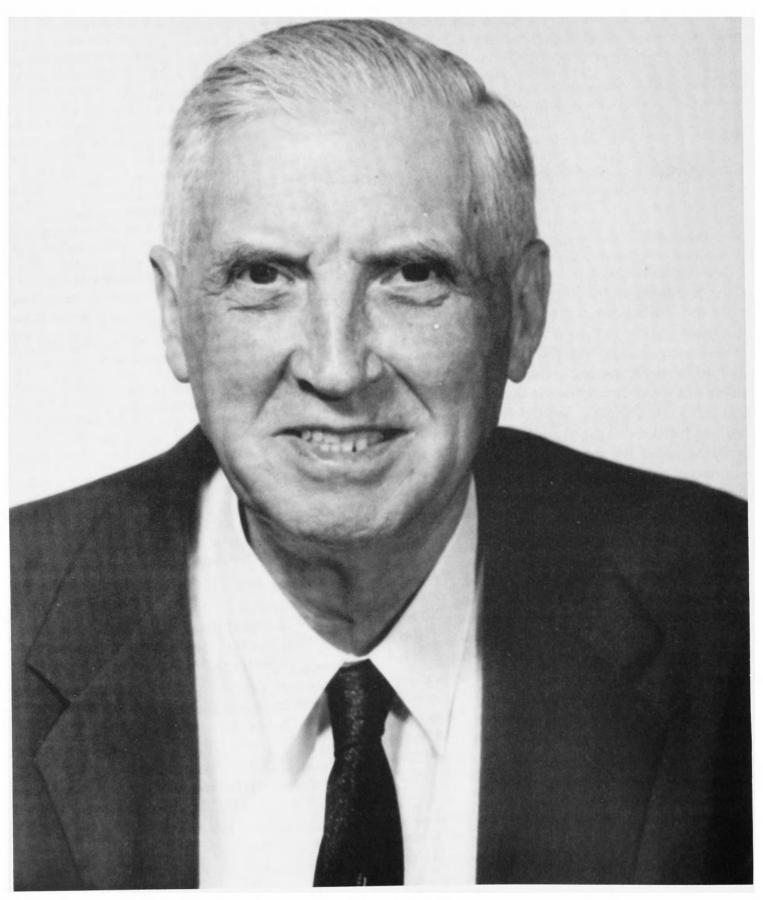
Kellogg's paternal grandfather taught Latin and Greek in high school in Davenport, Iowa. His father was a printer, who at one time or another was owner of several printing shops. Remington's mother was a school teacher before her marriage. The Kelloggs moved to Kansas City, Missouri, when Remington was 6 years old. Of his early years Dr. Kellogg said:

I do not recall that I disliked any particular study. Westport High School in Kansas City was considered at the time to be an academic rather than a manual training high school. The courses given were in accordance with a regular schedule of four years of English, history, mathematics, science, and Latin . . . .

From the fourth grade onward while attending public grade and high schools most of my spare time outside of school hours was devoted to studying wild life in the nearby woods, and by the time I graduated from grade school I had prepared a small collection of mounted birds and mammals.

Before completing his high school studies, Kellogg had decided to attend a university where there were natural history collections. This interest led him to the University of Kansas, the training ground for many famous naturalists. Remington found it necessary to find employment as a salesman in a dry goods store, as a worker in the smoke house of a packing plant, and as a cement worker on a construction crew in order to save enough money for college. In his first years at the university he cooked his own meals and delivered papers. He sold trunks as a traveling salesman during the summer after his freshman year. At the university he concentrated first in entomology; later he changed his field to mammals. From 1913 to 1916 he was a taxonomic assistant for mammals under Charles D. Bunker, curator of birds and mammals in the Museum of Natural History at the university. His first paper,

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Remington Kellogg 5 October 1892-8 May 1969 (Photograph, 1963)

published in 1914, resulted from this museum work. Bunker took Kellogg to his cabin where he instructed him in skinning and preserving vertebrate specimens. Upon the death of an instructor during his senior year, Kellogg helped give a class in ornithology. He received his A.B. in January 1915 and his M.A. in 1916.

In Kellogg's freshman year there began a lifelong friendship with Alexander Wetmore. In 1911, Wetmore joined the Bureau of Biological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and helped Kellogg in getting summer jobs with the Survey, conducting field surveys of plant and animal life in the West. The two men worked closely together for many years in the Smithsonian Institution, first as curators and later in administrative positions, when Wetmore was Secretary of the Smithsonian and Kellogg, Director of the Smithsonian's United States National Museum. Another admired friend of undergraduate days was Edward A. Preble of the Biological Survey. Preble was an editor and frequent contributor to the magazine Nature, then published in Washington, D.C. Among many wildlife monographs he published a study of the fur seals of the Pribilof Islands.

Immediately after graduation, in the winter of 1915–1916, Kellogg worked for the Biological Survey in southeastern Kansas, and, during the following summer, in North Dakota. Of this assignment he said,

I remember the first year I went out to Wahpeton, North Dakota, the first day the chief of the survey took me out and we walked all over the area. Then he said, "Well, I'm leaving. You know all about it." From then on I was alone. I had to cover everything—plants and animals—and write a report. It didn't faze me a bit—I guess I didn't know any better.

While at the University of Kansas, Kellogg made his first acquaintance with marine mammals in the form of skeletons of white whale, porpoise, walrus, and seal. In the fall of 1915, at the end of his summer's fieldwork, the Biological Survey paid his way to Washington, D.C. He made a tour of museums in the eastern United States, which undoubtedly gave him further opportunity to examine whales, pinnipeds, and sir-

enians. At about this time he made his decision to study the evolution of marine mammals, and in the fall of 1916, he entered the University of California at Berkeley to concentrate in zoology. At Berkeley, Kellogg met several men who became lifelong friends and in various ways influenced his professional growth. Perhaps the most revered of these was David Starr Jordan, ichthyologist and president of Stanford. Joseph Grinnell, Director of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California, stimulated Kellogg's interest in ornithology. Chester Stock, a fellow graduate student and later Professor of Vertebrate Paleontology at California Institute of Technology, shared many hours of discussion of evolution.

The most lasting influence resulting from the Berkeley years was that of John C. Merriam. Kellogg was given a teaching fellowship and was invited by Merriam to study the fossil record of the seals, sea lions, and walruses whose remains had been found in Pacific Coast Tertiary formations. This project resulted in Kellogg's first important papers on marine mammals (1921 and 1922a), both dealing with fossil pinnipeds. With the thoroughness, coupled with deceptively modest titles, that was to characterize his published work throughout his career, the second of these (entitled "Pinnipeds from Miocene and Pleistocene Deposits of California") incorporated a critcal review of the literature of fossil pinnipeds of the world. This work remains the basis upon which modern research on fossil pinnipeds stands.

In the summer of 1917, Kellogg again did fieldwork for the Biological Survey. He went to Montana and then to California, where he studied the *Microtus californicus* group of meadow mice. A monograph resulting from this work was published in 1918.

Graduate work was interrupted by service in World War I. On 11 December 1917, Kellogg enlisted in the 20th Engineer Battalion at San Francisco, and on 19 February 1918, he sailed from Hoboken for France. By a stroke of good luck, for a naturalist, Kellogg was transferred in May 1918 to the Central Medical Department Laboratory at Dijon, where he was promoted to

sergeant and found himself under the command of Major E.A. Goldman, one of the last of the general field naturalists. One of their major assignments was rat control in the trenches and at the base ports. During his service in France, Kellogg observed and collected birds and small mammals, and sent collections to Joseph Grinnell at Berkeley and Charles D. Bunker at the University of Kansas. His notebook contains almost daily observations from 17 November 1918 to 23 February 1919. The climax of this period was a motor trip that he took between 29 January and 23 February with Major Goldman and Lieutenant A.C. Chandler from Dijon to Toul and "such other places in depts. of Meurthe-et-Moselle, Meuse, and Ardennes as is necessary to carry out instructions of Chief Surgeon, in connection with preparation of medical history of war." During the period of this reconnaissance, his notebook lists 30 species of birds and five of small mammals.

Upon his return to Berkeley, Kellogg gave a talk to the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club entitled "Experiences with Birds of France," and in 1919, he published, with Francis Harper, who had also been in the Army in France, a Christmas day bird census made at Is-sur-Tille in the Department of Côte d'Or, where the Army Medical Laboratory was situated.

In June, Kellogg returned to the United States. He was discharged from the Army at Newport News, Virginia, on 2 July 1919 and returned immediately to Berkeley to complete the residence requirements for his doctorate. He transferred from zoology to vertebrate paleontology under Merriam, resumed his teaching fellowship for a semester, and then, on 1 January 1920, was appointed assistant biologist in the Biological Survey, with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

While at Berkeley, Kellogg had met a fellow student, Marguerite E. Henrich, a native Californian. They were married in Berkeley on 21 December 1920 and set up their home in Washington, where, with many interludes of travel, they were to spend their entire married life.

For the next eight years, Kellogg performed

various assignments in field and laboratory for the Biological Survey. He was well suited for such work by inclination and training and by a tremendously retentive memory and systematic use of the literature. All his life he was an inveterate reader and maker of reference cards with annotations, filed taxonomically by subject and by author.

Much of Kellogg's work with the Biological Survey had to do with the feeding habits of hawks and owls, which entailed both field observation and the examination of hundreds of pellets. Observations were also made of the feeding habits of diving ducks, which were suspected of depleting trout populations. In a travel authorization issued in 1920, Kellogg is referred to as "Assistant in Economic Ornithology."

Between 1920 and 1927, a great deal of time was devoted to the drudgery of examining pellets and stomach contents from owls and hawks, and the principal results were published in 1926, 1928(b), and 1932(b). Concurrently with his ornithological work, Kellogg spent much time studying toads, mainly museum specimens, including examination of stomach contents. In 1922, he published a Biological Survey Circular (1922c), one of a number that he wrote, on the toad, and during that year he planned a revision of the toads of North and Middle America. The entire project was not completed, but it did result in an important monograph on Mexican tailless amphibians in the United States National Museum (1932a).

Another dietary study was made of alligators. In the 1920s, there was a controversy over whether alligators should be protected from indiscriminate hunting. Kellogg was given the task of finding out how predatory they actually were, and in 1929 he published a Technical Bulletin of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "The Habits and Economic Importance of Alligators."

At about the time Kellogg joined the Biological Survey, his professor, John C. Merriam, was appointed president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Merriam arranged an appointment for Kellogg as a research associate of the Carnegie Institution, a position which he held from 1921 to 1943. Annual research grants from the institution helped Kellogg to carry on research on marine mammals concurrently with his extensive projects for the Biological Survey. It was decided that an investigation of the earliest known predecessors of the typical cetaceans, the Archaeoceti, found in older Tertiary rocks, would be supported by a grant. In October 1929, Kellogg went to Choctaw and Washington counties in Alabama to collect zeuglodont material to supplement the archaeocete collections in the United States National Museum. The monograph resulting from this study, "A Review of the Archaeoceti," published in 1936, is a landmark in cetology.

Merriam's increased administrative duties left him little time for paleontology, and he encouraged Kellogg to begin a project that Merriam had long had in mind: the study of the marine mammals of the Calvert Cliffs in Maryland. Beginning in the early 1920s, Kellogg devoted many weekends to collecting, adding significantly to the collections of his predecessors, William Palmer and Frederick W. True. By the time of Kellogg's death, the collection of fossil marine mammals in the National Museum collections was probably the best in the world.

The most fascinating aspect of marine mammals is the way in which existing mammalian organs have been modified for life in the sea. Kellogg decided to make this theme the basis for his doctoral thesis, which, because of the war and other matters, had yet to be written. Using the literature, but also drawing heavily on his own original studies, he wrote "The History of Whales: Their Adaptation to Life in the Water" (1928a), for which he was awarded his doctorate by the University of California. This paper is still the best summary of the subject.

In 1928, Kellogg had transferred to the United States National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution as assistant curator of mammals under Gerritt S. Miller, Jr., and became curator in 1941. With his transfer to the Smithsonian, he was able to devote more time to the study of marine mammals. He has described the course of his research

as follows (1968b:283-284):

In the earlier stages the marine mammal studies were largely descriptive but as they progressed the importance of fossil cetaceans for geological correlation became apparent. As a collateral investigation, the recorded occurrences of migrating whales in the several oceans were collated. These observations confirmed the belief, more recently supported by whale marking, that the Recent whalebone whales make seasonal migrations from tropical calving grounds to the food banks located on or near the colder waters of the Arctic and Antarctic regions. The location of fossil remains tends to confirm the conclusions that the precursors of present day whalebone whales followed similar migration routes, and that similar types of fossilized skeletal remains occur in geological formations of corresponding age on the old shores that bordered these oceans.

Examination of fossilized cetacean skeletons excavated in sedimentary strata deposited on ancient beaches, estuaries and river deltas revealed that although these air breathing mammals had been adapted for habitual aquatic existence, no fundamentally new structures had been added in the course of geologic time, and that the functioning of the entire body is conditioned by adjustments of old organs to an exclusive life in the water.

The Archaeoceti, the most primitive of the three suborders of whales, dating from Eocene and early Oligocene time, are well represented in fossil collections. So also are whales from the Miocene epoch, a period of tremendous evolutionary radiation of Cetacea. Much less well known are the Oligocene ancestors of modern whale types.

While he was treating the Archaeoceti systematically, Kellogg simultaneously worked on the description of Miocene Cetacea from both coasts of North America. This study was of major concern to him from the time of his description of the humpback whale *Megaptera miocaena* from California in 1922(b), to his last paper, "Cetothere Skeletons from the Miocene Choptank Formation of Maryland and Virginia," published in 1969, the week after his death.

The difference in Kellogg's approach to the Archaeoceti and the Miocene Cetacea is significant and proper. The Archaeoceti are unified by primitive characteristics, which permit standard taxonomic treatment, whereas the variation among the Miocene forms is such that Kellogg,

rightly, usually refused to assign genera to families or to express opinions as to their relationships to modern forms. At the same time his meticulous treatment of both specimens and literature clarified many a taxonomic problem, even though it was as yet insoluble because of a paucity of data. An example is his treatment of the Squalodontidae (1923), published under the title "Description of Two Squalodonts Recently Discovered in the Calvert Cliffs, Maryland, and Notes on the Shark-Tooth Cetaceans." All genera assigned to the family are recorded and are either accepted, reassigned, or placed in limbo as insufficiently known. This last course was often preferred by him over the formal declaration of a nomen nudum, because the number of available specimens was so small that he felt it wise to wait for further information before making such decisions. The squalodont paper remained the definitive work on that group until Rothausen, in 1968, built upon it in his "Die systematische Stellung der europäischen Squalodontidae." Kellogg was not always taxonomically so cautious, however. In "Miocene Calvert Mysticetes Described by Cope" (1968a) he declared a number of Cope's genera, based on mandibular fragments, to be indeterminate.

Although Kellogg avoided formal taxonomic assignment to higher categories of most of the Miocene Cetacea that he described, he often discussed relationships, paleoecology, and geographic distribution. The great mass of his work on Miocene forms is indispensible for all workers on cetacean evolution: it not only furnishes them with clear and accurate information, including many evolutionary ideas, but also leaves them free of premature taxonomic assignments that would only have to be undone. This attribute of his work is particularly noticeable in his treatment of the Miocene porpoises. The Miocene produced many porpoises of modern type, undoubtedly including both forerunners and members of the modern families. At this stage of evolution, however, the distinctions between families are subtle, and it is easy to be misled by obvious characters that probably result from parallelism or convergence. While describing or analyzing a number of genera—such as Eurhinodelphis, Zarhachis, Kentriodon, Phocageneus, Schizodelphis, Hadrodelphis—he left their assignment to higher taxa for future workers. At the time of his death, he was reviewing the Miocene porpoises.

Publication of "The History of Whales" (1928a) established Kellogg as an authority in the field of cetology, and soon thereafter, in 1930, a new and important phase of his life began. In April of that year he went to Berlin as a delegate to a conference of experts on whaling matters, held under the auspices of the League of Nations. This was the first of a series of conferences on international regulation of whaling, a series that included the Washington conference of 1946, which formulated the International Convention providing for the establishment of the International Whaling Commission. In 1937, Kellogg was appointed by the State Department as United States delegate to the International Conference on Whaling at London, which resulted in the protocol of 1937, prohibiting the killing of all right and gray whales and establishing minimum legal lengths for commercial kinds of whales. The protocol of 1938 established a "sanctuary for two years for baleen whales in a sector of the Antarctic Ocean . . . and absolute protection of all whales against pelagic whaling in the North Atlantic sector of the Arctic Ocean." Kellogg was chairman of the American delegation to the conferences of 1944 and 1945 and was chairman of the Washington conference of 1946. He was United States Commissioner on the International Whaling Commission from 1949 until 1967, was vicechairman of the commission from 1949 to 1951, and chairman from 1952 to 1954.

J.L. McHugh, Kellogg's successor as United States commissioner, has evaluated his work in the International Whaling Commission (1972, pers. comm.):

Although the United States had long since ceased to be a major whaling nation, it continued to exert a substantial influence in world whaling matters, largely through the efforts of Remington Kellogg. He was Head of United States Delegations to the first 16 meetings of the International Whaling Commission and attended his last meeting of that body, the 16th, at Sandefjord, Norway, in June 1964. By this time, scientific evidence of the alarming condition of the stocks of blue and humpback whales in the Antarctic was indisputable, and the Commission had already recommended, and the member nations had adopted, a complete ban on killing those species in the Southern Ocean. The scientists also had presented evidence that the fin whale resource in this region was overexploited, and that the catch quota for the Antarctic must be substantially reduced to prevent a continuation of this overharvesting. Dr. Kellogg fought very hard at the Sandefjord meeting to obtain agreement on a rational catch limit on Antarctic whaling, based on the scientific evidence. He returned from that disastrous meeting deeply discouraged by the failure of the Commission to act responsibly, and pessimistic about the future of world whale resources. It was unfortunate that illness prevented him from participating in subsequent meetings of the Commission, for the bitter controversy of the 1964 meeting, which almost destroyed the Commission, led eventually to a reversal of its do-nothing record. Since 1965, although this has not been widely recognized, a number of positive steps have been taken to place world whaling under rational scientific control. Although it has not solved all of its problems, the Commission has come a long way toward meeting its responsibilities since 1964. Remington Kellogg remained interested in the affairs of the Commission until his death, although illness prevented active participation, and his influence is still felt in many ways.

An important byproduct of the 1930 trip to Europe was the opportunity to meet European specialists and to study fossil whales in museums in Berlin, Munich, Stuttgart, Vienna, Padua, Bologna, Florence, Turin, Brussels, Haarlem, Amsterdam, and London. Whales of Miocene age have been found in sedimentary basins in Belgium, Austria, and Italy and observation of the European specimens was essential to the attempt to establish the worldwide pattern of Miocene whale distribution. Understandably, specimens described in Europe and America had almost always been given different names, yet the habits of whales today indicate the probability that Miocene genera and even species ranged widely over the oceans. Detailed comparisons with European specimens are frequent in Kellogg's papers; yet, as in his approach to taxonomy, he was conservative in suggesting trans-Atlantic relationships.

Kellogg's position in the Division of Mammals

of the U.S. National Museum naturally involved him in work on groups other than marine mammals. He published an annotated list of West Virginia mammals in 1937, one of Tennessee mammals in 1939, and (with Wetmore) one of the mammals of Shenandoah National Park in 1947. He produced several studies of fossil and subfossil mammals from caves and archeological sites and in 1942 led a party in excavating Pleistocene mammals in Rampart Cave, near Boulder Dam on the Colorado River. He collaborated with his old commanding officer, E.A. Goldman, in naming 10 new white-tailed deer from North and Middle America (Goldman and Kellogg, 1940) and in a review of the spider monkeys (Kellogg and Goldman, 1944).

The advent of World War II brought new responsibilities to the Smithsonian. In 1943, as a participant in "the program for the furtherance of cultural relations with scientists of the Latin-American republics," Kellogg was one of three museum officials to visit Brazil. This three-month assignment was an experience that he remembered happily. He observed field stations and laboratories engaged in the study of tropical diseases, with particular reference to Brazilian mammals believed to be carriers of disease. In 1944 and 1945, he added to the literature of disease transmission with two papers on the macaque monkey (1944, 1945a) and with two on rodents (1945b, 1945c) in the South Pacific. In August 1947, he again visited Brazil as the delegate of the United States to the International Commission for the Establishment of the International Hylean Amazon Institute.

From the beginning of his service in the Division of Mammals, Kellogg had collaborated with Gerritt S. Miller, Jr., in the tremendous project of listing the North American Recent mammals. He carried on this work after Miller's death, and the 954-page volume was published as a bulletin of the U.S. National Museum (Miller and Kellogg, 1955).

In May 1948, Kellogg was appointed director of the U.S. National Museum, and in February 1958 he was appointed assistant secretary of the

Smithsonian Institution. He got a chuckle out of the fact that when he retired, in 1962, he was replaced by three appointees: an assistant secretary, the director of the U.S. National Museum, and the director of the National Museum of Natural History. The period of Kellogg's administrative appointments was an active one for the Smithsonian. Almost all the exhibit halls in the Natural History Museum were modernized; the scientific staff of the museum was enlarged, and many new research programs were initiated; and the new National Museum of History and Technology (now the National Museum of American History) was built. Despite the demands of these and many other activities, Kellogg managed to spend part of each day in research on fossil marine mammals.

Over the years, in addition to activities closely related to his research, Kellogg served on many bodies devoted to the advancement of science and the public interest. He was a member of the Board of Governors of the Crop Protection Institute, the Advisory Committee of the Chemical-Biological Coordination Center, the Pacific Science Board, the Board of Directors of the Canal Zone Biological Area, the Advisory Board of the Arctic Research Laboratory, the Committee on Research and Exploration of the National Geographic Society, and the Research and Development Board of the Department of Defense. He was vice-chairman of the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council, president of the American Society of Mammalogists, and president of the Paleontological Society of Washington. He was a correspondent of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, trustee of the National Parks Association, fellow of the Geological Society of America, foreign fellow of the Zoological Society of London, and member of Sigma Xi, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society. In 1947, he was given a citation for distinguished service by the University of Kansas. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1951.

In 1962, when he retired, Dr. Kellogg moved

to an office in the Division of Vertebrate Paleontology in the newly built east wing of the National Museum of Natural History. He organized the collection of fossil marine mammals, which had perforce been neglected during his years of administration. Then he plunged into the study of the Miocene marine mammals of Maryland; as always, he brought into this work comparisons based on his wide studies. Between 1965 and 1969 he published nine major contributions to the study of fossil marine mammals. He was always hard working, but he was never too busy to discuss paleontology with his colleagues, visiting students, or children who had found a porpoise vertebra on a Chesapeake Bay holiday.

A long-time friend, Edward P. Henderson, wrote of Remington Kellogg after reading this memorial:

The above outlines the accomplishments of this man, but neglects the unusual personality which those who were associated with him knew so well. He was recognized by all to be able in many fields, he accepted nothing as being true until it was proven, and usually he accented the negative side of all that was submitted to him, because he wanted more than one reason for accepting anything as a fact or policy. It is impossible to describe with words the expression on his face as he exploded into a few choice sentences often sprinkled with "Kelloggical" profanity and a well-known grin.

His door was always open not only to the professional colleagues but to all levels of the staff, and all who came could present their case.

Dr. Kellogg's wife of nearly 50 years, Marguerite Henrich Kellogg, presented Dr. Kellogg's library on marine mammals, including the bookcases that he built for his home, to the Smithsonian Institution, where it forms the nucleus of the Remington Kellogg Library of Marine Mammalogy. His books on land mammals were presented to the University of Kansas. In his will, Dr. Kellogg expressed his intent to establish a fund for the advancement of knowledge of fossil marine mammals. Such a fund, bearing Kellogg's name, has been established by Mrs. Kellogg at the Smithsonian Institution; the National Geographic Society and friends of Dr. Kellogg have also contributed to it. A memorial fund has also

been established at the Museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley, through the generosity of the late Dr. Leslie E. Wilson and

Edith P. Wilson. This fund is used to support research on the Cetacea by qualified graduate students.

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