

**OBITUARY**

**ALEKSANDR ALEKSANDROVITCH STACKELBERG  
1897-1975**



A. A. Stackelberg (center) in a light moment with friends E. P. Nartshuk (left) and G. J. Bey-Bienko (right) on a street in Leningrad, May, 1971. Photo by C. W. Sabrosky.

With great regret the passing of A. A. Stackelberg on 23 November 1975 is announced. Stackelberg, one of the most distinguished Soviet zoologists, was born in St. Petersburg (now Leningrad) on 22 April 1897. He began the study of entomology early, specializing on flies. His first scientific paper was published in 1914. Entomology in Russia was then in its infancy and the fly fauna was almost unknown. The greatest native dipterist of the preceding generation, C. R. Osten Sacken, forsook his homeland for America and his compatriots, Portschiński and Pleske, while producing fine studies and descriptions of various flies, never produced monographs such as those of their European contemporaries, Loew, Rondani, and Schiner. Stackelberg filled this void, so that today many of the finest manuals on Diptera are his work or that of his students. His first concise key to Diptera appeared in 1926, followed by long sections on Diptera in *Insect Keys of the European Part of the USSR* (1928, 1931, 1948, 1970). He also monographed an essential group as the mosquitoes for the Fauna of the USSR (1937 & 1967, in part), a series he helped initiate. While the writings of Stackelberg run into the hundreds, including more than 160 scientific papers, and undoubtedly had considerable influence, it was through the various positions

Stackelberg held that he was able to shape the nature and scope of Systematic Entomology in the USSR. In 1920 Stackelberg joined the staff of the Zoological Museum of the Academy of Sciences; in 1927 he became a senior scientific officer; in 1929 he was made the Director of the Diptera Division; and from 1942 he was the Head of the Department of Entomology. During his last years he was the Honorary President of the All-Union Entomological Society. In addition Stackelberg taught numerous students who have extended his influence further. I. A. Rubtsov, B. B. Rohdendorf, Ye. N. Savchenko, and N. A. Violovitch are a few of these students.

Stackelberg was always generous, and many people throughout the world called him a friend. The senior author of this note specializes in Syrphidae, a favorite family of Stackelberg's, and corresponded with him in the past few years on that group. The junior author was privileged to meet him at the Congresses of Entomology in London (1964) and Moscow (1968) and to visit him and the Diptera Section of the Zoological Institute at Leningrad in 1971. He was a generous, kindly, friendly, gentle man, a gentleman with the courtesy of an older generation, a valued counselor, and a respected leader in Russian entomology and taxonomy.

The honors and tributes given to Stackelberg are too numerous to mention and are an insufficient measure of his stature. Only in our remembrances of him in his work as well as that of his students is there a true measure of the man. That measure is without question one of greatness and will be missed.

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