

PAUL F. BRUGGEMANN, 1890-1974

CHARLES D. BIRD, Department of Biology, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, T2N 1N4.

The Canadian National Collection of Insects, located at Agriculture Canada's Biosystematics Research Institute in Ottawa has a large collection of butterflies and moths collected in Alberta near Lloydminster, and in Saskatchewan near Harlan, by Paul Bruggemann from 1938 to 1949. These specimens, and those collected by Dick Fitch in the same general area, have made the Lepidoptera of this region better known than that of most other areas in west-central Canada.

Paul Bruggemann was born on 28 February 1890 at Gut Mindenerwald, Gemeinde Hille, Westphalia, Germany. His father was the prosperous owner of a box factory. Paul grew up in an area of meadows, forests and mountains and soon developed an interest in, and love of, natural history. He received his formal education in Germany and graduated in mechanical engineering. Especially intrigued with airplanes, he once flew with one of the Wright Brothers.

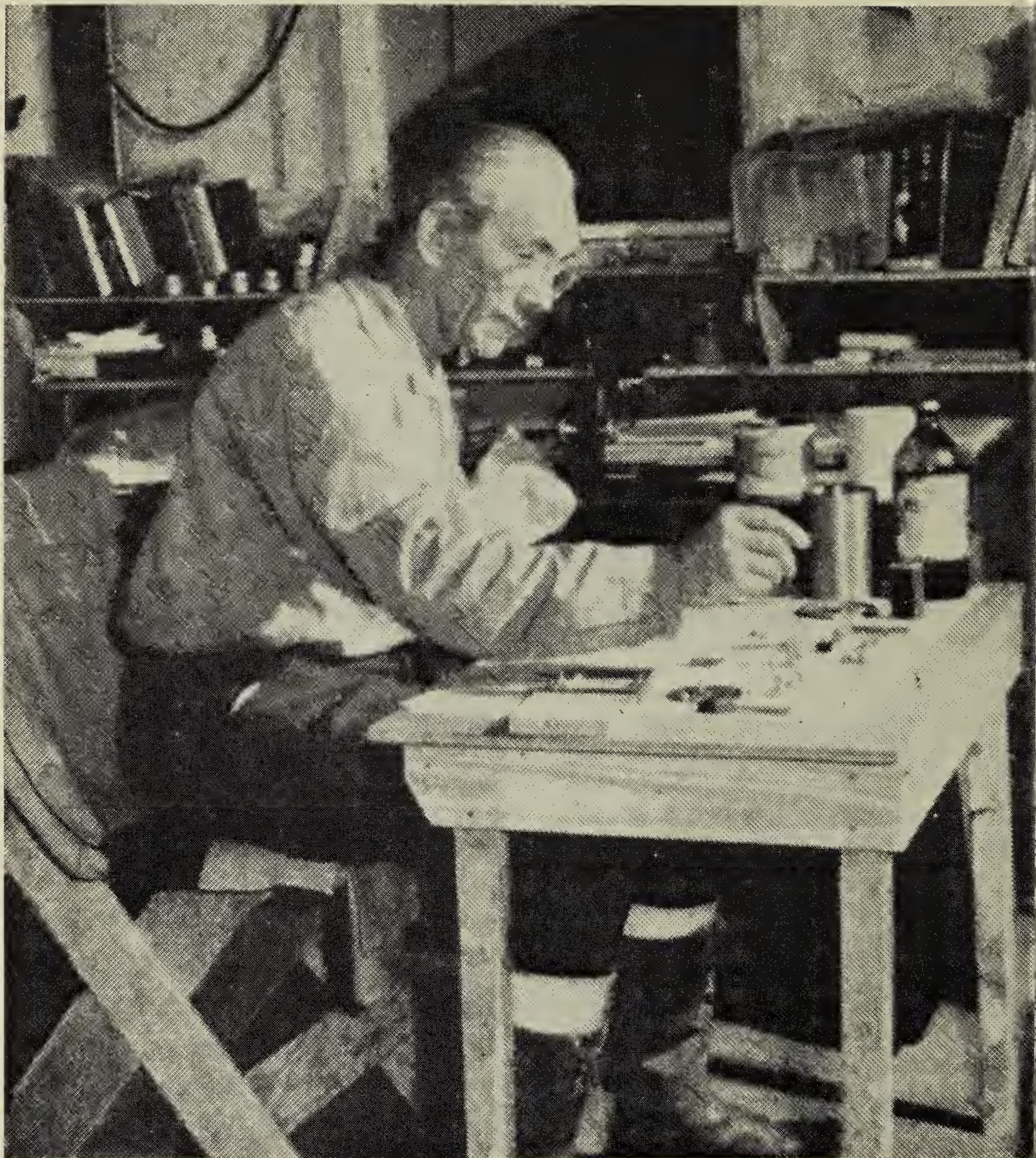
Though reticent to talk about the period during and after the First World War, Bruggemann was known to have served as a motorcycle dispatch rider who later investigated airplane crashes. His parents and only brother died either during or shortly after the war and the family fortune was also lost during this period.

Paul emigrated to Canada from Mainz in the fall of 1926 and settled in Lloydminster, Alberta. His English was poor to begin with and he worked the first three years as a farm labourer. He spent one winter alone in

a small cabin in the bush northeast of Lloydminster, making a special study of English and the Scandinavian languages. Later he established a small business repairing automobiles and farm machinery, often traveling from job to job in a 1927 Chev. He had a reputation of being rather slow but sure and thorough in his work, able to fix just about anything and to "make do" if parts were not available.

Paul lived for a number of years during the early thirties on the farm of Ronald Charles Craigie, a refined English bachelor, in the Rivercourse area (NE34-47-1-W4), 14 miles south and west of Lloydminster. He later moved a short distance to a house on the Sunnydale District school grounds and lived there until 1949.

It is not certain why he became interested in butterflies and moths but it is likely that his scientific curiosity was piqued through discussions with Dick Fitch, a local farmer who by then was collecting seriously. At any rate he apparently started collecting in the Sunnydale area in 1938 and soon was gathering material from farther abroad. Specimens in the Canadian National Collection are also from Cold Lake, Primrose Lake, Frog Lake, Prairie Lake, Big Gully, Streamstown, Lloydminster, Blackfoot Hills, Blackfoot Coulee, and Battle River, all in Alberta; and from Onion Lake and the Harlan area in Saskatchewan. By 1940 he was devoting less time to mechanics and more and more to collecting. Mrs. May Johnson mentioned that he often visited her parents in the Harlan district. He would stay for days at a time, and night would see him set off for moths



*Paul Bruggemann at Eureka, Ellesmere Island. Reprinted from Arctic 18 (2), p. 133.
S.D. MacDonald*

with his Coleman lantern and white sheet. He would slip into bed long after every one was asleep and would be up early the next morning looking over and mounting his catch of the night before. He soon had a collection of several thousand beautifully prepared specimens and became increasingly active in identification and in correspondence with authorities of the Canada Department of Agriculture. He was also a contributor

to Kenneth Bowman's "Annotated List of the Lepidoptera of Alberta."

In the spring of 1949 he eagerly jumped at the chance to act as a summer assistant of the Northern Insect Survey. This involved collecting insects, plants, and gathering natural history information around Dawson in the Yukon. On his return he accepted a full-time position with the Survey in Ottawa. The following years saw him

processing specimens during the winter and collecting during the summer. In 1950 he was at Repulse Bay on Melville Peninsula. In 1951 he worked out of Alert on northern Ellesmere Island with Stewart D. MacDonald from the National Museums of Canada. In 1952 he was at Mould Bay on Prince Patrick Island. In 1953 and 1954 he was at Eureka on Ellesmere Island where he carried out a two-year study of musk oxen for the Canadian Wildlife Service in addition to gathering insects and botanizing. He did not, however, carry out a cherished desire, that of spending a winter on Ellesmere Island. His plant collections, amounting to over 1000 exceptionally well prepared sheets, were sometimes of great interest and one, a grass, *Puccinellia bruggemanni*, was new to science and was named after him. He attended meetings of the Lepidopterists' Society in New York City in 1950 and at the Chicago Natural History Museum in 1951 and presented a paper on "Butterfly collecting 500 miles from the North Pole" at the latter meeting.

In 1954, at the age of 65, Paul changed jobs and was hired for two years as Secretary of the International Type-figuring Plan of the International Union of Biological Sciences. This involved the photographing of type specimens of insects.

In 1956 he attended the Tenth International Entomological Congress and presented a detailed summary paper on "Insects and environments of the High Arctic." At the age of 67 Paul accepted the position of Editor of *Arctic*, the Journal of the Arctic Institute of North America, and held this office until July 1, 1964. He had the reputation of being meticulous and of setting very high standards. He moved from Ottawa to Montreal on May 1, 1958, and lived there until retirement at which time he moved back to Ottawa. Paul then worked in a freelance

capacity for the foreign language section of the Government Translation Bureau and translated papers into English from German, Russian, French, Norwegian, Swedish and Portuguese. He continued working until shortly before his death on August 18, 1974.

From the early sixties until 1972 Paul made a trip every summer back to the Yukon and Alaska. He traveled in a VW and carried camping gear with him. On his way back he regularly stopped to visit Mrs. May Johnson and her family for a week or so to rest before journeying on to Ottawa.

Nora Corley aptly described him as being "a sensitive, shy, dedicated person, popular with his colleagues, and a good friend to those who were fortunate enough to be taken into his confidence." Paul did not leave behind a family as he never married but he will be fondly remembered by many.

Mrs. May Johnson, Mrs. Cecily Sutcliffe, Dr. Stewart MacDonald, Dr. Eugene Munroe and Dr. Bernard Boivin kindly supplied helpful details for this account.

Publications

- BRUGGEMANN, P. F. 1948. Lepidoptera hibernation. *Lepidopterists' News* 2(2):13.
- BRUGGEMANN, P. F. 1949. Creosote holders. *Lepidopterists' News* 3(4-5):49.
- BRUGGEMANN, P. F. and J. A. CALDER. 1953. Botanical investigations in northeast Ellesmere Island, 1951. *Can. Field-Nat.* 67:157-174.
- BRUGGEMANN, P. F. 1956 (1958). Insects and environments of the High Arctic. *Proc. of the Tenth Internat. Cong. of Entomol.* 1:695-702.
- He also contributed to the Field Season Summaries of the Lepidopterists' Society for 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951.