

## Paul F. Bruggemann

(1890-1974)

Mr. Paul F. Bruggemann, Fellow of the Arctic Institute of North America and a former Editor of *Arctic*, died in Ottawa on 18 August 1974 after a prolonged illness.

He was born on 28 February 1890 in Germany, where he received his formal education and graduated in mechanical engineering. His lifelong devotion to natural history began during his early years before the First World War, a period when he also developed an enthusiasm for aeronautics (he flew one of the early Wright machines) and succeeded in becoming a champion figure skater. His capacity for individual initiative showed itself in exploits as a motorcycle despatch rider during his war service in the German army.

In 1926, he emigrated to Canada. He lived for 25 years in Lloydminster, Alberta, where he set up a small business for the repair of automobiles and farm machinery. During these years he also formed an extensive collection of moths, butterflies and plants from the surrounding region. He spent one winter alone in a small cabin in the forest country of northern Saskatchewan making a special study of English and the Scandinavian languages.

In the spring of 1949, Paul Bruggemann joined the staff of the Entomological Research Institute of the Canadian Department of Agriculture as a field worker with the Northern Insect Survey. He continued in that capacity until 1954, conducting insect and plant surveys in the Dawson region of the Yukon Territory, and in the Northwest Territories in the regions of Repulse Bay, Melville Peninsula, Alert and Eureka on Ellesmere Island, and Mould Bay on Prince Patrick Island. While at the latter location he discovered a new species of grass which became known as *Puccinella bruggemanni*. During his winter breaks from field work he photographed type specimens of Lepidoptera for the International Union of Biological Sciences.

Following his retirement from the service of the Canadian Government, he edited *Arctic* with distinction for the eight years 1956-64. He then broke new ground by becoming a free-lance translator into English, mainly of papers on biological subjects in German, French, Norwegian, Swedish and Portuguese — work which he continued until shortly before his death.

Paul Bruggemann was a member of the Entomological Society of Canada and the Lepidopterists' Society, a contributor to an annotated list of the Lepidoptera of Alberta, the joint author of three publications on arctic botany and entomology, and the editor of a work on the flora of Alaska.

(Prepared from notes supplied by the late Dr. T. N. Freeman.)

Nora Corley has contributed the following memoir:

I first met Paul Bruggemann when he became editor of *Arctic*, and I was privileged to work with him and to learn from his varied experiences.

He was a most meticulous worker, setting extremely high standards for himself, and thus for *Arctic*. As a "stubborn Westphalian" (his own words), he would allow no lessening of these high standards, even in the face of proposals that the journal should have greater popular appeal. As may be surmised, he did not suffer fools gladly. Once he brought me a manuscript to read that was so badly written that he shook with indignation at the temerity of its author in having submitted it. He returned it with the comment that he would not publish the story of "babes lost in the woods—where there were no trees". One renowned arctic scientist who has published articles in many journals said that Paul was the most exacting editor he had ever encountered.

Even after taking up his final career of free-lance translator, to which he was dedicated, Paul still found time to pursue two of his loves: motoring and the Arctic. He travelled by car to northern Canada and Alaska, and visited the Maritime provinces of Canada for the first time; and in 1972, at the age of 82, he completed alone a round trip of over 17,000 miles from Ottawa, reaching British Columbia and covering the full length of the Alaska Highway. Less than a year later he was in hospital where he was to remain, except for one short period.

Paul was an exemplary, though somewhat unusual, patient. His hospital bed was cluttered with paper, dictionaries and a postal scale, and his encyclopaedia lay on the window sill, while he carried on translating as before. When in a reminiscent mood during my visits, he would regale me with tales of his adventures in the North, or speak of his youth in Germany, his family and his war experiences. It is a pity he did not keep a journal.

His spirits remained high, even as his condition worsened. He planned in every detail another trip to the Yukon and Alaska for the spring of 1974. Inevitably, and probably for the first time in his life, he had to admit defeat when the doctor forbade him to travel that year; but until close to the time of his death he thought he would do the trip the following summer.

Paul Bruggemann was a sensitive, shy, generous, dedicated person, popular with his colleagues, and a good friend to those who were fortunate enough to be taken into his confidence.