



The American Museum of Natural History

CENTRAL PARK WEST AT 79TH STREET, NEW YORK 24, NEW YORK

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ANGELINA ROSE MESSINA -- Biographical Background

Miss Angelina Rose Messina, Associate Curator of the Department of Micropaleontology of The American Museum of Natural History, was born in New York City on April 23, 1910. She received her A.B. from New York University in 1932 and her M.A. from Columbia University in 1935.

Miss Messina is one of a relatively small group of women micropaleontologists in the world, and is an internationally-recognized expert on Foraminifera, the minute, single-celled organisms that are economically important because their study helps the oil industry determine sub-surface conditions.

Her association with the Museum began in 1934, when she was appointed as supervisor of a research project on the Foraminifera. In 1941, she was appointed Associate Curator in the Department of Micropaleontology, the position she now holds.

Before joining the Museum, Miss Messina was an Assistant in Geology at New York University from 1931 to 1933, and an Instructor in Geology at Brooklyn College from 1933 to 1934.

Miss Messina has done extensive field work in the United States, the Bahamas, the Caribbean area, Europe and in North Africa. In 1952 she attended the International Geological Congress in Algiers, and spent part of her time living on a French boat and studying marine fossil formations of the coastal areas. In 1960 she made an extensive collection of Foraminifera from the classic Danian section in northern Europe. Many of the fossil specimens now in the Museum were collected by Miss Messina during these trips.

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With Dr. Brooks Ellis, Chairman and Curator of the Department of Micropaleontology, she is co-author of the 63-volume Catalogue of Foraminifera and the 19-volume Catalogue of Ostracoda, and co-editor of the quarterly publication, Micropaleontology.

She is a fellow of The American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Geological Society of America. She is a member of The American Association of Petroleum Geologists, The Paleontological Society, The Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, The Societa Paleontologica Italiana, Deutsche Geologische Gesellschaft The Paleontological Society of Japan. She is also a member of the Science Honor Society of Sigma Xi.

Miss Messina resides in Manhattan.

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