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Office of
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Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, New York 10024-5192
Telephone (212) 873-1300

DOROTHY E. BLISS -- Biographical Background

Dorothy E. Bliss, curator emerita in the Department of Invertebrates at the American Museum of Natural History, was born on Feb. 13, 1916, in Cranston, R.I. She received an A.B. degree, cum laude, from Brown University in 1937, an Sc.M. from Brown University in 1942 and a Ph.D. in biology from Radcliffe College in 1952. In 1972, she received the honorary degree of Sc.D. from Brown University.

Dr. Bliss has done extensive research on tropical land crabs, particularly on their limb regeneration and molting and their adaptations for life on land. For support of her research, Dr. Bliss received grants for the period, 1957-1978, from the National Science Foundation.

In 1956, Dr. Bliss was appointed assistant curator of invertebrates at the Museum, in 1962 she was promoted to associate curator and, in 1967, she became curator. On Feb. 1, 1980, she was appointed curator emerita after 24 years with the Museum.

From 1974-1977, Dr. Bliss served as chairwoman of the Museum's Department of Fossil and Living Invertebrates, as the Department of Invertebrates was then called. Under her leadership, the two separate departments, Fossil Invertebrates and Living Invertebrates, were effectively merged.

Dr. Bliss also worked at Albert Einstein College of Medicine as research assistant professor of anatomy (1956-1964) and as a visiting research associate professor of anatomy (1964-1966). She was an adjunct professor of biology at the City University of New York from 1971-1980. Since 1980, she has been an adjunct professor of zoology at the University of Rhode Island.

Early in her career, she was research fellow in biology at Harvard University from 1952-55, and teaching fellow, also at Harvard, in 1947-48 and in 1949-51. She taught at the Milton Academy Girls' School in Milton, Massachusetts from 1942-47 and 1948-49.

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She worked at the Lerner Marine Laboratory, a former field station of the Museum in Bimini, the Bahamas, in 1952, 1955 and 1972-1974; in Bermuda in 1950, and at the Stazione Zoologica in Naples, Italy in 1953. She is a member of the Corporation of the Bermuda Biological Station for Research, Inc.

Dr. Bliss has published over 40 articles on her work in scientific journals and has contributed to several books dealing with comparative physiology. She is the co-author with Dorothy M. Skinner of the book, "Tissue Respiration in Invertebrates," published in 1963 by the American Museum of Natural History. She is author of the book, "Shrimps, Lobsters and Crabs," published in 1982 by New Century Publishers, Inc. (Piscataway, N.J.).

Dr. Bliss is editor-in-chief of the 10-volume treatise, "The Biology of Crustaceans," published in 1982-1985 by Academic Press (New York). She co-edited Volume IX, "The Integument, Pigments and Hormonal Processes," with Dr. Linda H. Mantel.

Dr. Bliss is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and has served as chairwoman of the Section on Biological Sciences (1973), a member of the Council (1973), a member of the Committee on Council Affairs (1973-1975) and chairwoman of the Committee on Nominations (1973-1974).

She was president of the American Society of Zoologists in 1978, having served as chairwoman of the Division of Invertebrate Zoology in 1970. She is also a member of the American Institute of Biological Sciences and served as chairwoman of the Committee on "Bioscience" in 1974-1975.

Dr. Bliss was also a member of the Advisory Committee on Respiration and Circulation for the Biological Handbooks of the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology (1968-1971). She is a member of Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa, the Association for Women in Science, and The Crustacean Society.

Dr. Bliss has served on the editorial boards of the American Museum's Natural History Press (1966-1970), American Zoologist (1967-1972), Journal of Experimental Zoology (1970-1973), General and Comparative Endocrinology (1974-1978), as well as Curator (1968-1979) and Natural History (1970-1979) both published by the American Museum.

Dr. Bliss is listed in "Who's Who in America" and "American Men and Women of Science." She resides now in Wakefield, R.I.

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