

The American Museum of Natural History

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CENTENNIAL YEAR -1969

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

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DOROTHY E. BLISS -- Biographical Background

Dr. Dorothy E. Bliss, Curator of Invertebrates in the Department of Living Invertebrates at The American Museum of Natural History, was born on February 13, 1916 in Cranston, Rhode Island. She received an A.B. degree, cum laude, from Pembroke College in Brown University in 1937, an Sc.M. from Brown University in 1942 and a Ph.D. from Radcliffe College in 1952.

A specialist in the study of crustaceans, Dr. Bliss has done extensive research on hormonal control of growth and water balance in a common tropical land crab. Her investigations have a bearing on current research regarding the role of the nervous system in endocrine function. For support of her research, Dr. Bliss received first a three-year grant (1957-60), a five-year grant (1960-65), and then two shorter grants (1966-67, 1967-69) from the National Science Foundation.

In 1956, Dr. Bliss was appointed Assistant Curator at the Museum, and also Research Assistant Professor of Anatomy at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. In 1962 she was promoted to Associate Curator of Invertebrates at the Museum, and on July 1, 1964, she was promoted to Visiting Research Associate Professor of Anatomy at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. In 1967 Dr. Bliss became Curator at the Museum. Before receiving these appointments, 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 American Museum's Lerner Marine Laboratory, Bimini, British West Indies in 1952 and again in 1955; 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 extensively on her work in scientific journals and has contributed to several books dealing with physiology. She is the co-author with Dr. Dorothy M. Skinner of the book Tissue Respiration in Invertebrates published by The American Museum of Natural History.

Her professional associations include Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa, the Society for Developmental Biology, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of which she is a fellow, the New York Academy of Sciences, the American Society of Zoologists, and the American Institute of Biological Sciences. She is currently Chairman-Elect of the Division of Invertebrate Zoology of the American Society of Zoologists. She is also on the Editorial Board of the American Zoologist.

Dr. Bliss makes her home in West Nyack, New York.

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