

MEMORIAL

ROUSSEAU HAYNOR FLOWER (1913–1988)



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Rousseau Haynor Flower was born March 21, 1913, at the family home near Troy, New York, in a house built by John George Snyder, a captain in the War of 1812. About his birth, Rousseau once told me, "I was not born in a hospital, probably because I was not sick at the time." The house had 27 rooms and was occupied by his parents, Franklin Rousseau Flower and Ethna Hayner Flower; his great grandmother, Mary Ann Bornt Snyder; grandparents, Franklin J. Hayner and Estelle Snyder Hayner; and aunts, Inez Hayner and Lilian Flower. Lilian Flower taught in the one-room schoolhouse that Rousseau and his younger brother Donald (born in 1914) attended for many years.

Rousseau attended high school in Troy, New York, some 10 miles from the family home. High school exposed Rousseau to the world of biology and music; he found the compound microscope and the cello. Rousseau also managed to win a tuition scholarship to Cornell University, entering Cornell in September, 1930. At Cornell, Rousseau majored in entomology. He completed his undergraduate degree in 1934 and then took an M.A. degree under Dr. J. G. Needham, completed in 1935. His thesis dealt with the hind angle of the hind wing of the Libellulinae, and, although never published, part of the terminology used was incorporated in Needham and Westfall's "Dragonflies of North America," published in 1955. Rousseau's first introduction to fossils came via a course in historical geology that he took in his senior undergraduate year. He continued to study paleontology as a minor for his M.A. degree. Rousseau intended

to complete a Ph.D. in entomology under Dr. Needham, but in 1936 he had an opportunity to accompany Professor Harris on a collecting trip aimed at the Gulf Coast Tertiary. They were joined midway by Katherine Palmer; this trip solidified Rousseau's desire to concentrate on paleontology at the expense of entomology.

During Rousseau's Cornell years, Professor Harris began the Paleontological Research Institution and initiated the *Bulletins of American Paleontology* and *Paleontographica Americana*. Rousseau formed a close association with Kenneth Caster and became engrossed in cephalopod morphology and evolution. Rousseau admired a cephalopod paper by Carl Dunbar and wanted to study under him at Yale. However, Dunbar informed Rousseau that a former student was doing the cephalopods and another was not needed. Rousseau became a regular visitor to the New York State Museum, where Rudolph Ruedemann and Winfred Goldring encouraged Rousseau to continue working with cephalopods. Ruedemann especially set Rousseau to looking at cameral deposits, then only recently studied by Teichert in 1933.

Not finding encouragement to attend Yale, Professor Harris helped Rousseau get a tuition scholarship at the University of Indiana under E. R. Cummings, an earlier student of Harris. Rousseau remained at the University from September 1936 to June 1937, and did much collecting and studying of Silurian cephalopods. Family problems forced Rousseau to remain in New York through 1937, but he did extensive collecting for the New York State Museum and the Buffalo Museum of Science.

By 1938, Caster managed to get Rousseau support at the University of Cincinnati, where Rousseau completed his Ph.D. in June 1939 with the "Study of the Pseudorthoceratidae" as his dissertation, which was published in *Paleontographica Americana*. Rousseau was unemployed until September 1940 and lived on a small inheritance but managed to actively collect in New York. In 1940, Walter Bucher left Cincinnati to assume a position at Columbia University. Kenneth Caster assumed Bucher's position teaching paleontology and historical geology, and Rousseau, in turn, took over Caster's position as curator, a position he retained until 1944. The Cincinnati years were full and happy for Rousseau; he published more than 25 papers and formed friendships that continued across the years with people such as Helen Duncan, Aureal Cross, and Robert Kosanke. In 1944, Rousseau taught at Bryn Mawr for a year and by the end of 1944 was back at the New York State Museum as Assistant State Paleontologist, a position he held until 1951.

In 1951, Rousseau married Margaret (Peg), decided not to become State Geologist of New York, and accepted a position at the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources offered by the then Director, Eugene Callaghan. Rousseau became NMBM&MR Stratigraphic Geologist on September 2, 1951; the title was later changed to Senior Paleontologist. Rousseau's Bureau years were filled with collecting and still more collecting in and about New Mexico as his base, and throughout the world. The Bureau provided Rousseau virtually complete freedom to pursue his research as he saw fit, and extensive publication support. Although technically retired late in March

1978, Rousseau remained active virtually to the end despite a progressively frail constitution.

When asked to consider what he believed his major scientific accomplishments were, Rousseau listed the following: recognition of the cameral mantle and growth relationships and surface patterns of its deposits; revised classification of the cephalopods; monographs of the orders Discosorida (with Teichert) and Ellesmeroceratida; a new concept of coral phylogeny; revision of the early Paleozoic stratigraphic units of New Mexico; and the description of about 100 cephalopod genera and more than 400 species.

Rousseau died suddenly at his home February 27, 1988. He is survived by his beloved wife Peg, son John Flower, and daugh-

ter Peg Rushing. His brother Donald lives in Syracuse, New York. Rousseau was a colorful and complex individual; Flower stories have entered paleontological lore forever. His prowess with bullwhip and cello are well known; despite embellishments, almost every Flower story contains a core of truth. Yet, beneath the surface was an individual who cared for opera, classical music, and literature, and above all else, a totally dedicated paleontologist.

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