



IN MEMORIAM
HARRY O. HILTON

Major Harry O. Hilton, U.S. Air Force retired, of 23 Blenheim Road, Shalimar, Florida, died 3 November 1988 at the age of 68 following a prolonged illness. Harry was born 8 March 1920, in Akron, Ohio. He attended North High School in Akron. Before graduation he joined the U.S. Military service 4 August 1932. His training included Naval Radar Equipment Course, Flight Radar School, Officer Candidate School at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, Field Radio Course, AW Ground Reporting Equipment, Radar Counter Measures, Air Command Officers Course at Craig Field, Alabama, and Atomic Weapons School. He served in Hawaii, Guam, Japan, Korea, England, and Morocco. His military awards included The World War II Victory Medal; The Army of Occupation Medal (Japan); The National Defense Service Medal; The Korean Service Medal; The Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with 4 bronze Oak Leaf Clusters; The United Nations Service Medal. He served as Honorary President, Signal Company Aircraft Warning Hawaii-Signal Aircraft Warning Regiment Hawaii Association. Major Hilton retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1962 after completing over 24 years of military service. After his retirement from the Air Force, he was employed for 15 years with Vitro Corporation in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Survivors include his wife, Diana Rene Hilton, of Shalimar; a daughter, Kathleen E. Hatcher, of Indianapolis, Indiana; a sister, Anne Shirey, of Bradenton, Florida; four grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

Harry was a talented, energetic man with an intense interest in almost everything connected with the world of physical sciences—astronomy, microscopy, explosives, chemistry, electronics. Harry had to know, to understand whatever piqued his curiosity. Following his retirement from the Air Force, Harry visited me in Gainesville at the headquarters of the Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture where he expressed an interest in learning to collect, process, and identify insects. That was the beginning of a close friendship between Harry and me. Harry was a perfectionist, and that quickly became evident when Harry returned after a week of collecting insects in southern Florida. He had pinned, spread, and hand labeled butterflies and moths he had captured as neatly as an experienced collector might have done. Harry soon afterward became a Research Associate, one of the first, of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods. In the years which followed he made extensive year around collections of Lepidoptera in the Florida panhandle, especially in the vicinity of Shalimar

and Fort Walton Beach. He produced numerous first records of Lepidoptera for Florida. This collecting interest led to life history studies of Lepidoptera, and this led to photography of high quality. Harry modified his Hasselblad, a Speed Graphic, and a Pentax to take some excellent life history photographs of the Lepidoptera he studied. Interestingly, Harry never learned to fly during his Air Force career, only to learn to fly after he retired. He and his wife, "Billie," obtained their pilot licenses, bought their own airplane, and then combined flying with aerial photography. Harry photographed hundreds of species of Florida and Massachusetts moths and butterflies in support of studies made by another FSCA Research Associate, the late Mr. Charles P. Kimball. In 1965 Kimball's *Lepidoptera of Florida* was published as volume I of *Arthropods of Florida and neighboring land areas*. It contained numerous records from Harry's collecting. An extensive set of color slides of Lepidoptera taken by Harry is deposited with his Lepidoptera collection in the FSCA at the Doyle Conner Building in Gainesville, Florida. In 1965 Harry made an insect collecting trip to Mexico with my wife, Camilla, and me. The group included two other Research Associates of the FSCA, the late Mr. Charles F. Zeiger of Jacksonville, Florida, and the late Dr. George W. Rawson of New Smyrna Beach, Florida. George celebrated his 75th birthday on that field trip and lived to the ripe old age of 96. That Mexican adventure was one of the most enjoyable of many trips Camilla and I have made to many parts of the New World.

Later, Harry became acquainted with another talented young man who was retiring from an Air Force career, Mr. Terhune S. Dickel. Harry helped Terry get started collecting and processing butterflies. That interest continued to grow so that today Terry Dickel is one of the most active Lepidoptera collectors in Florida. Terry, like Harry, is a perfectionist and has produced numerous first Florida and first North America records for Lepidoptera, discovered a growing number of undescribed species in southern peninsular Florida and the Florida Keys, and is making a major contribution through his genitalia studies of Macro- and Micro-lepidoptera. Harry's influence continues to bear fruit. He will be missed by those of us who had the good fortune to know him.

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Howard V. Weems, Jr.
Taxonomic Entomologist and Curator
Florida State Collection of Arthropods
Division of Plant Industry
Florida Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services
Gainesville, Florida 32602

