

**In Memoriam  
Bobb Schaeffer, Ph.D.  
1913-2004**

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Dr. Bobb Schaeffer, one of the most prominent paleontologists of his generation, passed away on June 2, 2004 at the age of 90. Bobb was Curator Emeritus at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, and a Research Associate of the British Museum (Natural History), London. A highly respected expert on fossil fishes, especially those of the Mesozoic, Bobb's research spanned a wide range of topics in vertebrate evolution.

Bobb was born in New Haven, CT on September 27, 1913, but grew up in Philadelphia. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in zoology from Cornell University in 1936. He then began graduate studies in zoology at Columbia University. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia in 1941, the same year that he married Elizabeth Chapin White, who also earned a Ph.D. at Columbia. Shortly after finishing at Columbia, Bobb served four years in the Army Medical Administrative Corps in North Africa during World War II. In 1946, just back from the war, he began his long and productive career at the American Museum of Natural History as an assistant curator in charge of fossil fishes.

Bobb was one of the founding members of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in 1940. In 1988, he was the recipient of the Society's lifetime achievement award, the Romer-Simpson Medal. The last meeting he attended was in Chicago in 1996, where he co-authored a poster presentation on lower actinopterygian fish.

Bobb spent the last decade of his life in Rochester, NY, where he continued to pursue his interest in relationships among the lower actinopterygian fish. I was fortunate to be able to work with him and to enjoy his stories about the other great men who helped shape the field of vertebrate paleontology and evolution in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. His many publications don't come close to recording the wealth of information he had assimilated throughout his distinguished career.

Betty Schaeffer passed away shortly after Bobb, on July 8, 2004. They are survived by their two children, Richard W. Schaeffer and Elizabeth S. Brickman, three grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

#### **Additional biographical information**

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