

Here we have suffered much from the slow and inexorable hunger, from the nervous depression of our abominable slavery that no one can describe. Our museum and our collections are saved, but I have lost one of my two sons who was at the front, a fine boy of 24 years, a captain of engineers. I have lost a part of my small fortune and my health, but more I fear that the sufferings from hunger have compromised the future of my younger son and of my grandchildren.

The balance sheet is sad, and I have little courage to take it up. I would not, however, see the Catalogue, to which I have devoted myself for years, founder. This is why I call for your aid. Write to your entomological friends and sustain me,

Yours sorrowfully,

G. SEVERIN.

The Baron Edmond de Selys Longchamps (1813-1900) was known as the chief authority on the taxonomy and geographical distribution of the Odonata. He formed an extensive collection of these insects and of other "neuropteroids" from all parts of the world, and of the vertebrates and some other groups of Europe. These collections were presented, after his death, to the Brussels Museum by his two sons.

The publication of the *Catalogue Systematique et Descriptif des Collections Zoologiques du Baron Edm. de Selys Longchamps*, "designed to realize the supreme desire of their late possessor and at the same time to serve science," was begun in 1906 under the care of the two sons, M. Severin and a number of zoologists, who interlook, as specialists, the preparation of certain parts thereof.

It was planned to appear in 32 fascicules of a varying number of pages, of large quarto size, illustrated by text figures and some plates. The subscription price for the complete work was fixed at 25 centimes (20 centimes for the fascicules on Orthoptera, Lepidoptera and Vertebrata) per page of text, 2.75 francs per coloured plate and 2 francs per black and white plate, with an increase of 25 per cent. for subscriptions to separate parts only.

At the beginning of the war 21 fascicules had appeared, treating of the Orthoptera, Embiidæ, Perlodides, Megaloptera, Trichoptera, Ascalaphidæ, Libellulinæ, Cordulinæ, Aeschninæ, Birds, Mammals, Amphibia and Fishes, at a total price of 703.50 francs. The eight fascicules on the Libellulinæ by Dr. F. Ris, of Rheinau, Switzerland, constitute the most extensive monograph on that subfamily ever produced, and several other groups have been dealt with a similar fashion. Several fascicules are in such an advanced state of preparation or of printing that they can be issued in a short time.

There are many reasons—scientific, humanitarian, international, appreciative of the nation which has suffered so fearfully—why the Selysian catalogue should be carried to completion, and it is to be hoped that readers of this appeal will personally do all in their power to aid in this accomplishment by inducing institutions which they can influence to subscribe. All correspondence relating to subscriptions should be addressed to M. G. Severin, Musée Royal d'Histoire Naturelle, 31 Rue Vautier, Bruxelles, Belgium.

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