

WILLIAM BEVERLEY SCOTT

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WILLIAM BEVERLEY SCOTT

DAVID G. SMITH

On the title page of his papers and books, he is W. B. SCOTT. To his friends and colleagues, he has always been simply Bev—no further identification necessary. At the age of 88, the dean of Canadian ichthyologists lives in retirement in a high-rise overlooking Lake Ontario, in the city of Kingston, gateway to the beautiful Thousand Islands area. Much of his attention these days is devoted to caring for Milly, his wife of 63 years. He visits the nursing home every day except Tuesday, when he catches up with work around the house. This week, he has reserved Tuesday for his visitors from the south, who have come to talk with him about his long and distinguished career. Bev is a modest man and probably could not imagine why he had been singled out for such treatment, but he generously agreed to the interview and assembled photographs, documents, and other material that might be of interest. Over parts of the next three days, we enjoy a wide-ranging discussion that takes us through the life and times of one of Canada's most accomplished scientists.

William Beverley Scott was born on 7 July 1917 in Toronto, Ontario, the only child of William James Scott (1884–1961) and Elsie Irene Lowry Scott (1896–1939). Bev explains that his unusual middle name was chosen by his mother, who thought she would have a girl. When Bev showed up instead, she kept the name, but his father insisted on putting “William” in front of it. It didn't stick, however, and Bev has always been known by his middle name. Although more often used for women, Beverley occurs in both genders; the masculine form is usually spelled with “-ley,” the feminine form more commonly with “-ly.”

Bev's father worked as a tool and die maker for the manufacture of small implements. The family home was only a couple of blocks from the Lake Ontario shoreline, and Bev and his friends liked to spend time walking on the beach. Later, a boardwalk was built, which became a favorite place to ride bicycles. He liked to venture out into the countryside and gained some knowledge of the local animals. In the winter, he enjoyed ice hockey and skiing. One week out of every summer, the family went camping at a site on Lake Nipissing, some 250 km north of Toronto. Bev and his father spent most of their time fishing for bass, perch, pike, and walleye. After a successful day on the lake, his mother would

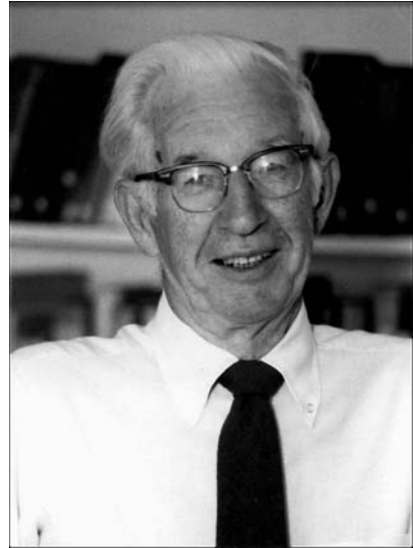


Fig. 1. William Beverley Scott.



Fig. 2. Bev at age 6 or 7, 1923–24, Toronto.

cook the fish on a home-made stove built by his father. This was Bev's real introduction to fishes.

Around the time he entered high school, Bev was given a couple of small aquarium fishes; he thinks they were probably guppies. He soon became fascinated with these fishes and began to expand his holdings, adding tanks and increasing the diversity. With his father's help, he fixed up a room in the basement to house his aquaria. Neighborhood kids began dropping by, and visiting relatives would come to see the show. Eventually, Bev had more fish than he needed for his own activities and began to sell them. He built a successful little business out of his hobby.

The family weathered the Depression relatively well, as Bev's father had steady work throughout, and Bev contributed with his tropical fish hobby/business. Others were not so fortunate, however. In his own extended family, his uncles were often out of work. He remembers men occasionally coming to the door asking for food, which was usually given. "Although one is inclined to think that this might seem threatening," Bev recalls, "I don't remember it being threatening. You just felt sorry for the people who were looking for support." The hard times seemed to generate a sense of solidarity, a feeling that everyone was in this together.

The Scotts had a boarder during this period, a public health nurse named Margaret Ferriman. She was a good friend of the family and became an honorary "Aunt Marg" to Bev. It was through her that Bev was first introduced to the world of professional science and scientists. One summer, with some help from Marg, Bev got a job with the Toronto Public Health Laboratory. One of his responsibilities was taking water samples from the Lake Ontario beachfront to check for the presence of poliomyelitis virus. Bev recalls how impressed he was at the awe and respect afforded the medical doctors at the lab for their knowledge and work ethic.

As he progressed through high school, he began to think about what he wanted to do for a living. He was clearly interested in fishes and in science, but in the context of the times it did not occur to him that he might be able to make a career out of it. As a boy, he had always been intrigued by the tool and die business, and all else being equal he might well have gone into it himself. His father, however, discouraged Bev from following him. "He wanted me to do something with my head, not my hands," Bev says. He valued education and encouraged Bev to get as much of it as he could.

In addition to the standard courses, his high school offered some elective courses that students could take to fill out their requirements.

One of these was Zoology, which Bev elected to take because of his interest in fishes. The course was taught that year by a substitute teacher named S. B. McCready. McCready was highly knowledgeable in his subject and had an important influence on Bev's development. Bev recalls McCready as a forceful but kindly man and a very perceptive teacher. He could sense a student's interests and would come up with suggestions for activities that the student might find useful. He knew of Bev's interest in fishes and told him that there was a small aquarium at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Bev was unaware of this; although he knew where the museum was, he had never been there. At McCready's suggestion, he went to see it.

What he saw deeply offended his sensibilities. "I was appalled," he says. The aquarium had nothing but goldfish, very little sand, and no plants. To a dedicated aquarist like Bev, an aquarium was more than just a tank with water and some fish. It was, as he puts it, a moving portrait. It told a story; it had something to say about nature and about life. Like a great painting or a well-planted garden, it should leave an esthetic impression on the viewer, and it should teach something as well. None of this was apparent in what he saw at the museum. He was indignant and felt he had to talk to someone about it. He approached the guard standing nearby and asked whom he should see. The guard referred him to the museum's Director. So, he marched down the hall and soon found himself sitting opposite the Director himself, John Richardson (J. R.) Dymond (1887-1965). In addition to being the Director of the ROM, Dymond was a Professor of Zoology at the University of Toronto (at the time, the University ran the museum) and was probably the leading authority on Canadian fishes.

Dymond greeted his young visitor and asked what he could do for him. "Well, sir," Bev replied, "I think it's what I can do for you," and he proceeded to tell Dymond what was wrong with the aquarium. Bev still has a vivid memory of that interview, of Dymond listening attentively, his hands folded under his chin, as Bev made his case. There should be some native fish in the tanks, Bev explained, and some tropical fish, and plants. When Bev had finished, Dymond thanked him for his views and explained that the individual responsible for the aquarium had other duties and could not devote sufficient time to the aquarium. He took down all the details, including Bev's name and address. As Bev was about to leave, Dymond informed him that the museum might be able to use his services as a volunteer, if he were interested. Bev was

surprised at the offer, but he quickly agreed, and shortly thereafter he received a letter from Dymond formally offering him a position as a volunteer. Bev may not have realized it at the time, but when he walked out of the museum that day, the door to his future had been opened.

Bev enrolled at the University of Toronto in 1938. Because of his interest in biology, and undoubtedly influenced by his experience at the public health lab, his initial plan was to study medicine. Once at the university, however, he came increasingly under Dymond's influence and turned to zoology and fisheries, where his real interest and aptitude lay. Apart from his parents, Dymond was undoubtedly the greatest single influence on Bev's life and career.

J. R. Dymond was one of those rare individuals whose talent was equally distributed among research, education, and administration. He started his career as a seed analyst with the Canadian Department of Agriculture but later returned to the University of Toronto to pursue postgraduate studies in zoology. He stayed on to become a Professor of Zoology and Director of the ROM. Dymond studied various aspects of natural history, but his favorite subject was fishes, on which he published numerous papers. He himself thought that his greatest contribution might have been in teaching and administration, both of which he enjoyed (Scott, 1965). Many of his students went on to successful and influential careers in Canadian science. He was a long-time active member of ASIH and served as President in 1940–41. In 1961, the Society elected him its first Distinguished Fellow. Bev remembers Dymond as a quiet, serious, well-read individual, very intense, a good organizer, and a good administrator. He was deeply concerned with the welfare of his staff and students and tried to make sure that they looked out for their own safety while in the field. In one letter sent to Bev on a field trip to northern Ontario, he closed with the words "always remember, never take chances."

In the summer of 1938, Bev's parents rented a cottage near Haliburton, a popular vacation area north of Toronto. Among the other vacationers in the area was a family named Fairfield, with whom his parents were acquainted. The Fairfields had twin daughters about Bev's age. When Bev visited that summer, he was introduced to them, and immediately found himself attracted to one of them, Mildred Grace (Milly for short). He had heard that the twins liked to go out together, so he rounded up a friend and arranged a double date. It proved to be a momentous evening. Not only did Bev and Milly eventually marry, but his friend married Milly's sister.

In September of 1939, as Bev began his second year at the university, two events occurred that affected him deeply. One of these was the death of his mother from breast cancer at the age of only 45. It was the first real personal loss he had experienced. He was comforted by the fact that his mother was well acquainted with Milly and knew that her only son would be in good hands. The other event was the outbreak of World War II in Europe. It would sweep up Bev and countless others and change the face of the world.

As a member of the British Commonwealth, Canada immediately entered the war alongside the mother country. Along with many of his classmates, Bev joined the Canadian Officer Training Corps (COTC), and upon graduation he went into active service with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, which handled all aspects of communication for the Army. Because of his background in science, he was assigned to a meteorology unit attached to the artillery. The accuracy of the big guns depended on meteorological factors, especially the force and direction of wind at various altitudes, so it was important that the gunners had accurate and up-to-the-minute information. In the fall of 1942, he was sent overseas to England, where he continued training and preparation for the eventual invasion of Europe. It was a year of decidedly mixed emotions, as a much happier event occurred that same summer: Bev and Milly's wedding.

A month after D-Day, on 7 July 1944, which also happened to be his birthday, Bev's unit landed in France. In war, life or death often hinges on pure luck, as Bev soon found out. As they approached the beach, the landing craft in front of his hit a mine and exploded, killing many of those on board. Bev's boat was spared and landed the crew safely on the beach. The unit reassembled and began the long and dangerous march across France toward Germany. The land armies worked in close cooperation with the air force, the bombers attempting to soften up the enemy positions before the army advanced. This, of course, required precise knowledge of the location of both enemy and friendly forces. One hot summer day, things went terribly wrong. The radio operator in Bev's unit picked up a message of instruction to the RAF bombers assigned to that day's mission. It said simply "Bomb on yellow smoke. Don't drop short." The problem was that the first bomb kicked up a cloud of yellowish dust from the dry fields. The planes that followed mistook the dust for the yellow smoke and dropped their bombs directly on the Canadian positions. Bev watched

helplessly as three of his men were killed. He himself caught a piece of shrapnel in his foot, causing an injury that affects him to this day. But he survived. Once again, luck had spared him. After his injury, he was taken out of combat and sent to England until the following February, when he was well enough to return to his unit.

By another quirk of fate, our interview took place on the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki. As one who has seen it close up, Bev reflected on war. Although he did not resent being in the army, the whole thing just seemed senseless. "To deliberately foment an action that requires you to try to kill your fellow man," he says, "strikes me as a pretty useless activity. I'm always amazed that we are able to . . . entice young people to give their lives for purposes they don't really understand. But it's 'my country needs me,' so you go to try to kill your fellow man, with what in mind? Probably nothing."

While convalescing in England, he visited the British Museum at the request of Dymond, who wanted information on an anadromous whitefish native to Ireland (*Coregonus pollan*). Dymond had heard rumors of a similar fish that occurred in Nova Scotia and wanted to compare the two populations. To Bev, the Museum was a welcome distraction from military life and kept him in contact with his civilian interests. Dymond corresponded with him while he was there, sending him news from back home and encouraging him to think about returning to the university after the war to pursue a Ph.D. While at the British Museum he remembers meeting Rosemary McConnell and a Russian ichthyologist, V. Tchernavin. He would eventually follow up on the whitefish project, and he later described the Canadian fish as *Coregonus canadensis* (preoccupied, later renamed *huntsmani*; Scott, 1967, 1987).

After the war, he returned home to resume his civilian life. The best part was his reunion with Milly. After three years of separation, they could finally begin their life together. When he returned, Bev did not have any clear plans to attend graduate school, but he soon realized that he had much to learn and that he was just beginning his study of fishes. Dymond had already decided that Bev should enter a Ph.D. program, and it did not take much persuasion for Bev to agree.

His thesis research was on the biology and systematics of ciscoes (*Leucichthys*), primarily in Lake Erie. From May to September of each year between 1946 and 1949, Bev conducted fieldwork in Lake Erie. In the process, he worked closely with commercial fishermen, whom he came to like and admire. He found them to be very



Fig. 3. Bev working in the fish collection, Royal Ontario Museum.

knowledgeable and receptive to any new information he was able to provide them. He also seined many of the tributaries and accumulated a large collection of fishes from the area. Although he worked mainly on ciscoes, he became intrigued with another fish, the so-called blue pike (*Sander glaucus*), now apparently extinct. How did it arise, he wondered, and what was its precise relation to the common walleye (the "yellow pike" of Lake Erie)? He regrets not having pursued this problem at the time, when the fish still existed.

When he received his Ph.D. in 1950, Bev was fortunate to step into a job as Curator of Fishes at the ROM. He had been the Acting Curator during much of his tenure as a graduate student (as mentioned earlier, the museum was part of the university at that time). Now he was promoted to full-time Curator, the first ever to hold that position at the museum. While a graduate student, he had begun teaching a part of J. R. Dymond's fish course at the University of Toronto. When he graduated and became a Curator at the ROM, he was simultaneously appointed to the staff of the University's Department of Zoology, where he continued to be involved in teaching, initially as a Lecturer and then as an Associate Professor, Professor, and eventually Professor Emeritus.

About this time, the Scotts' two adopted children arrived: Paul James, on 9 May 1950,

and Patricia Louise, on 19 December 1952. Both Bev's professional life and his personal life were now complete.

During his years at the ROM, much of Bev's research was devoted to Canadian freshwater fishes, work that would eventually lead to the classic book *The Freshwater Fishes of Canada* (Scott and Crossman, 1973). The book's genesis goes back many years and undoubtedly originated with J. R. Dymond. Beginning in the 1920's, Dymond published a series of papers on the fishes of various Canadian lakes and regions, among them one with Bev as a second author (Dymond and Scott, 1941), which was Bev's first publication. Initially, Dymond concentrated on his home province of Ontario, but he was interested in the fauna of the total country. He had concluded that the Canadian fish fauna fell into two major groups, one in the Pacific drainage and one in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico drainages. At the time, the ROM had little freshwater material from western Canada, and so Dymond's first attempt at a comprehensive treatment was a list of the freshwater fishes of eastern Canada (Dymond, 1947). Much of the activity at the ROM during the postwar years—and much of Bev's time—had been devoted to filling in gaps in the collections from eastern Canada and in perfecting the knowledge of this fauna. At the same time, as Acting Curator and then Curator, Bev began looking for a way to improve the holdings of western fishes.

The opportunity to expand the studies nationwide came with the arrival of Edwin J. Crossman at the University of Toronto in 1952. Ed received his Master's degree there under F. E. J. Fry (working on muskellunge), but he also worked closely with Bev, who became a mentor. During this time, Ed developed a keen interest in ichthyology in the general sense and in museum work in particular. He decided to go to the University of British Columbia for a Ph.D. This was a fortunate turn of events for everyone. Ed was going to study western fishes, and Bev felt that the ROM might be able to hire a second ichthyologist with expertise in the very area that was needed to complete its coverage of Canadian freshwater fishes. After receiving his Ph.D. in 1957, Ed returned to Toronto and was hired as a curator at the ROM, with a simultaneous appointment to the faculty at the University of Toronto. Thus, the team of Scott and Crossman was born. Bev and Ed became good friends and developed a very close working relationship. They went on field trips together and collaborated on a number of publications.

Bev recalls Ed as a big man in stature, with a good intellect, a keen fisherman, and a good

writer and speaker who communicated well with people. He organized himself well and was devoted to the fishes of his native Canada. Here, Bev gives credit to their respective wives, who helped organize them and who got along well together themselves. An excellent synergy developed between Bev and Ed and their families, a synergy that contributed greatly to the success of their published work.

In order to document Canada's freshwater fish fauna, extensive collecting was needed, and Bev was heavily involved in this during his years at the ROM. A glance at a map will reveal the magnitude of the task. Canada is studded with lakes and rivers of all sizes and in numbers almost too great to count. All of this vast area had to be sampled. His fieldwork began as soon as he arrived at the University of Toronto. By the time he had obtained his B.A. degree, he had already collected in Quebec and in Ontario as far north as Fort Severn on Hudson Bay. In graduate school, he concentrated on Lake Erie and its tributaries. After he became Curator of Fishes at the ROM, he began collecting more widely. Almost every summer, Bev went off to some far corner of the country to collect fishes. Many places were too remote to be reached by road, so he and his team were sometimes dropped off by airplane and left to fend for themselves until they were picked up. Indeed, an airplane is about the only way to get around in much of Canada's vast northern wilderness.

He vividly recalls an incident at Redrock Lake in the Northwest Territory. He and his team were camped a short distance from the lake. At those latitudes in the summer it never gets completely dark at night, but the sun does sink below the horizon for several hours. Early one morning, before sunrise, he went down to the lake to get water. He waded out a few meters to avoid water stirred up by wave action. Coming back, as he glanced idly along the shoreline, he noticed the fresh track of a large grizzly bear. He had never seen a grizzly track before, but he knew immediately what it was. What impressed him most was the sheer size. It inspired more fascination than fear. "It wasn't that I was afraid," he says, "it was just the massiveness of what that animal must have been." There was another surprise awaiting him. As he walked back toward camp, he noticed the track of a cub. During the night, while the scientists slept, a female grizzly and her cub had passed by the camp, less than 100 meters away. "The camp was visible; they must have known we were there," Bev says. It was a stark reminder that here nature still ruled—and a reminder not to track dead fish back to camp.

Another of his favorite memories is of a trip to Newfoundland with Ed Crossman to sample the freshwater fishes of that island. They did not expect to find a great diversity, but the inland fishes had never been surveyed, so they had no idea what was there or not there. The marine fishes were fairly well known, but not the freshwater ones. Much of the land in Newfoundland is owned by timber companies, so Bev and Ed had to get permission to use the companies' roads to get to the various streams and lakes. One day while they were driving through the forest, they rounded a curve and came face-to-face with an enormous bull moose standing right in the middle of the road. Ed, who was driving at the time, reached for the horn button to scare the moose off the road. Bev, however, feared that the sudden noise might have the opposite effect. With visions of being stranded in the wilderness with a radiator full of moose antler, Bev grabbed Ed's hand and stopped him. "Do you think it would charge," Ed asked? "I don't want to guess," Bev replied, "I don't even want to try. Let's just back up slowly." They backed away, and after a short time, the moose walked off into the brush. Bev was very impressed with Newfoundland, both with the extraordinary scenery and especially with the friendliness and interest of the people. He strongly recommends it as a place to visit.

In 1966, the Fisheries Research Board of Canada approached the ROM with the offer to publish a monograph on the freshwater fishes of Canada. A similar offer had been made some ten years earlier, but it had not been possible then to accept it. Now, however, with Ed on board, the museum was in a much stronger position, and a contract was signed. Bev and Ed then began to plan the structure of the work and to divide up the coverage. Ed immediately took the esocids and Bev the salmonids, as those were the groups they each had the most experience with. The rest of the fauna was portioned out between them. They wanted the book to be more than just an identification guide. They wanted it to be of interest both to biologists and to interested laymen. For each species, there should be a section that would be of obvious application and interest to non-biologists, to people who wanted to know something about the animal, where it fit into the system, and why it was important. That section was called "Relation to Man." Many of the ideas incorporated into the book were discussed in the ichthyology course that they taught, so they had the opportunity to get reaction and input from the students.

All of their hard work ultimately paid off. The book was published in 1973 to universally favor-

able reviews. One reviewer called it the most important work on North American freshwater fishes since Jordan and Evermann. To top it off, it sold for only \$11.70, surely one of the greatest bargains in all of ichthyological literature. The very success of the work ultimately raised questions about a revision. Over the following years, they had compiled additional information that was added in the form of authors' notes to subsequent printings. The two of them differed on the wisdom of doing a complete revision. Ed was strongly in favor, but Bev had reservations. He felt that the existing book should stand as a benchmark. As Bev puts it, "It would give us some idea of what the state of the populations was at the time it was written." He feared that a revision would be a never-ending process. By the time the last part had been completed, the first part would already be out of date. Ed's enthusiasm carried the day, however, and they signed a contract with a publisher. Ed's untimely death in 2003 put an effective end to the project. Bev thought more deeply about his reservations and discussed the matter with several of his colleagues. In the end, all of them agreed with Bev that the original book should stand as a benchmark. The contract was cancelled.

Although he spent most of his time at the ROM working on freshwater fishes, he also began to work on Atlantic fishes. His interest in Atlantic fishes began when he was working on the boats on Lake Erie. The abundance and diversity of the fishes in this large body of water greatly impressed him. In a way, it was almost like working on the ocean. Then one summer, he and Milly took a holiday trip to the Atlantic coast. When they got to St. Andrews, New Brunswick, he met an old army buddy who was working there at the biological station operated by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada (FRBC). The Scotts liked the scenic coastal town and found that it was full of people they knew. While there, Bev got a chance to go out on the laboratory's boats, and he was greatly impressed by the diversity of fishes that were caught. "They were adapted in such a variety of magnificent ways, that it was impossible not to admire them," he says. The crew was throwing half the catch overboard, but Bev was busily collecting and preserving specimens to take back to the museum. That trip marked the beginning of his long association with St. Andrews, which deepened over the years. He and Milly returned again and again, and eventually began to think of buying property there. They found a half-acre lot that appealed to them and purchased it for the princely sum of \$1800.

After 1962, the bulk of his fieldwork shifted from freshwaters to the Atlantic. He worked



Fig. 4. Bev and Milly Scott, St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

mostly in Canadian waters, but he also participated in cruises to more southerly latitudes, as far as the Caribbean. He collected fishes for the ROM and also gathered material for the ichthyology course that he taught at the University of Toronto. The progression of his work on Atlantic fishes followed the pattern seen in the freshwater work: a series of increasingly comprehensive papers on the Canadian Atlantic ichthyofauna. He published a brief checklist (Scott, 1963), followed by a more complete checklist with identification keys (Scott and Scott, 1965), and finally by what became for many years the standard reference: *Fishes of the Atlantic Coast of Canada* (Leim and Scott, 1966). The latter came about when he was asked to complete a manuscript begun by A. H. Leim, who had died before it was finished. He had relatively little flexibility in preparing this book, as the contract simply called for completing the manuscript as it stood. Unlike *The Freshwater Fishes of Canada*, therefore, Bev never considered *Fishes of the Atlantic Coast of Canada* to be a benchmark. It was a good learning experience, but in the back of his

mind, he always felt that eventually it would need to be expanded and updated.

In 1976, after 25 years at the ROM (more, counting his student days), he became eligible for retirement. With *The Freshwater Fishes of Canada* published, and Ed Crossman firmly in place as a curator, Bev thought it was time to move on. He already knew where he wanted to go: St. Andrews. For Bev, it would not be so much a retirement as a change of direction. He and Milly knew the area well and owned land there, so it was a natural progression. He had no specific plans beyond pursuing his research on Atlantic fishes, but shortly after arriving, he was offered the position of Director of the Huntsman Marine Science Centre, a laboratory run by a consortium of Canadian universities and located next door to the FRBC lab. He accepted and served until 1982, when he became a Senior Scientist.

Bev hardly slowed down when he arrived in St. Andrews. He immediately took on a project nearly as large as *The Freshwater Fishes of Canada*. That was the revision of Leim and Scott, a

comprehensive treatment of the Atlantic fishes of Canada. His coauthor this time was his wife, Milly. She was an experienced editor who, among other things, had worked on FAO publications, both in French and English, so she was well acquainted with scientific publishing. The book was published in 1988 as *Atlantic Fishes of Canada* (Scott and Scott, 1988). It covered 538 species, an increase of 240 over Leim and Scott.

Another of Bev's accomplishments at St. Andrews was the establishment of the larval sorting center. The idea had come to him some years earlier while he was doing a project on swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*). In the course of that study, he established a small sampling program for larval swordfish, in order to determine where the fish spawn. He saw that the Huntsman lab was well situated to set up a facility for sorting larval fishes of all kinds. Such a center could do contract work for various organizations and generate some income for the lab. He raised the idea with the chairman of the Huntsman's board of directors but was greeted with skepticism. It wouldn't work, he was told, and where would we get the people to do the sorting? We could train them, Bev countered. No, forget it, was the reply; it won't work. At this point, Bev's independent streak took over. He still thought it was a good idea, and, as he puts it, "I didn't come down here to be told what to do by a chairman, friend or not." So, he went ahead and established a larval-fish sorting center anyway. It turned out to be a great success. Personnel were trained to sort and identify the larvae, contracts were obtained, and the lab has produced a steady stream of income over the years.

In 1998, with Milly's health failing, the Scotts left St. Andrews and moved to Kingston, where better medical facilities were available. Kingston was a homecoming of sorts for them. Here they had spent their honeymoon in 1942 and later rented a flat while waiting for Bev to finish his military training before going off to war. Dr. John Casselman, senior staff biologist at the nearby Glenora Fisheries Station, arranged for Bev to have an office and a business address there.

For all of his technical accomplishments, Bev has never been an ivory-tower academic. His important priorities have always included conservation, education, and public service. Of all the books and papers he has written, the one he probably enjoyed most was *The Freshwater Fishes of Eastern Canada* (Scott, 1954). This was, he says, a kind of rebellion against academia, which he perceived as being consumed with trivia. He wrote this book not for an academic audience, but for the public, with information that an

interested layman would find useful. It has been reprinted numerous times and is the only one of his books for which he still gets royalties. A partial list of the organizations in which he has served illustrates the breadth of his contributions: the Toronto Anglers and Hunters Association, the Metropolitan Toronto Zoological Society (planning the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo), the Sunbury Shores Arts and Nature Centre, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the Society of Systematic Zoology, the Canadian Council for Freshwater Fisheries Research, the American Fisheries Society (AFS), and the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. He has been recognized by his peers through numerous awards, including the Canada Centennial Medal in 1967, the Canadian Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977, and the American Fisheries Society's Award of Excellence in 1985. He was granted a D.Sc. degree by the University of New Brunswick (1985) and Queens University (1994). He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1983 and an Honorary Member of the Canadian Society of Zoology in 1993. He will donate his extensive personal library, which contains virtually every important reference on Canadian fishes, to Queens University, where it will be available to future researchers.

Bev joined ASIH while he was a graduate student at Toronto and attended his first meeting in 1947 at Higgins Lake, Michigan, site of the training school of the Michigan Department of Conservation. This was the first of two meetings held at this somewhat remote but scenic location; the other was in 1956. He drove there from Toronto with J. R. Dymond, who, although he owned a car, did not like to drive. The President of the Society that year was Carl L. Hubbs. Dymond was re-elected to another term on the Board of Governors and was also appointed to the Resolutions Committee. The attendance was 125, and the meeting covered four days, August 27–30. Twenty-seven papers were given over a two-day period, with no overlapping sessions. There were 14 talks on fish, 12 on herps, and one titled "Guatemala—Land of Eternal Spring." Among the amendments to the by-laws approved by the Board of Governors was an increase in the yearly membership dues to \$4.00. The banquet was held on the shores of Higgins Lake and consisted of "a delicious venison dinner . . . in a setting unequalled by any sumptuous banquet hall (Copeia, 1947:291)." Presumably, it did not rain that day. A planned boat trip for Saturday down the Ausable River was cancelled because "most of those in attendance were anxious to leave promptly to avoid Labor Day traffic."

That was the first of many ASIH meetings that Bev attended as he became more actively involved in the Society. He was elected to the Board of Governors in 1962 and served as President in 1973. He served for many years on the joint AFS-ASIH Names Committee and was a co-author of four editions of the *List of Common and Scientific Names of Fishes of the United States and Canada* (Bailey et al., 1961, 1970; Robins et al., 1980, 1991b) and of the *World List of Fishes Important to North Americans* (Robins et al., 1991a).

A word that recurs again and again in Bev's account of his life is "fun," applied even to such mundane tasks as reading manuscripts. It is obvious in listening to him that he immensely enjoys what he does, and that he finds great satisfaction in his work. Like all of us, he owes much to the people in his life who gave him opportunities to pursue and fulfill his interests and aptitudes: his father, who insisted that he work with his head, not his hands; J.R. Dymond, who saw something special in the earnest young man who came to him with his concerns about the aquarium; his colleague Ed Crossman, in whom Bev found the perfect collaborator; and perhaps most of all, his wife, Milly, who has been his constant companion and inspiration for six decades.

Bev's natural optimism colors his view of the future. With the tools at our disposal today, he thinks that the future generation has the opportunity to learn a great deal more about the origin and evolution of our fauna. He senses an increasing awareness of the fragility of the environment, and he thinks that this awareness will ultimately lead us to solutions. "I'm hopeful—I really mean that," he says. "You can be very negative if you wish, but it's not going to get us anywhere. I would say I am reasonably optimistic."

Postscript.—Bev Scott was interviewed at his home in Kingston, Ontario on August 8–10, 2005 by David Smith and Inci Bowman. We thank Bev for his hospitality and for his generous assistance in making this article possible. Milly Scott passed away on 10 January 2006.

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