

GÜNTHER EDMUND MAUL
(Frankfurt, 1909 – Funchal, 1997)

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GÜNTHER EDMUND MAUL, Jerry to his friends and close colleagues, came to Madeira in December 1930. He was hired by the Municipality of Funchal to occupy the post of Taxidermist in the recently established Museu Municipal do Funchal. Soon his expert taxidermy became famous and by 1933 he had finished the bulk of the collection in time for the opening of the Museum to the public. Indeed, today almost all the specimens admired by visitors can be attributed to him.

During these initial developments he realised that the long established deep-sea fishery for *Aphanopus carbo*, offered Madeira an enormous opportunity to do pioneering deep-sea ichthyology research. To exploit this tradition Jerry sought the collaboration of local fishermen and fishmongers who, for a small reward - usually paid from his own pocket - brought him rare or unknown species to study.

In 1940 he was appointed Director of the Museum, a post held until his official retirement in 1979. It should, however, be added that he continued his research at the Museum until a few weeks before his death in 1997.

As Director he was aware of the need to keep the international scientific community informed of the remarkable new discoveries from Madeiran waters. To this end he persuaded the Municipality to establish in 1945 the *Boletim do Museu Municipal do Funchal*. Through this journal he published the famous series of ichthyological papers “Monografia dos Peixes do Museu Municipal”. As well as this series he published extensively in foreign scientific journals and also contributed chapters to several books. Such productivity, more than 50 scientific publications, is reflected in the attached bibliography. More importantly, it should be noted that between 1980 and 1994 his works were quoted 64 times, this ranking him as one of the great ichthyologists of the second part of the 20th century.

During his long career Jerry Maul pioneered deep-sea studies in Portugal and participated in several marine research expeditions. These included the famous French bathyscaph “Archimède” in a dive to a depth of 2200 meters in 1966. He organised in 1963

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the first multidisciplinary expedition to the Salvage Islands. From this several papers emerged, but, more importantly, these served as the scientific basis for the establishment of the Salvage Islands Nature Reserve in 1971.

His attention to detail never faltered and he was always very much aware of the important role the Museum must play to keep scientists and the general public informed. For instance, in 1959 he launched a second scientific journal, *Bocagiana*, to address the more immediate day-to-day scientific issues and opened to the public the MMF Aquarium. Sadly he did not live to see the completion of the Marine Biological Station of Funchal and the new aquarium; both projects were very dear to him and his advice and support during the initial planning much valued.

In recognition for his work, as a scientist and as a civil servant, he was awarded the gold medal of the City of Funchal in 1982. One year later the German government awarded him with the Cross of Merit of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. In 1995 he was decorated with the degree of Great Officer of the Order of Merit of the Portuguese Republic and, the University of Madeira gave him a PhD *Honoris causa*.

Jerry Maul was a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London and member of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, The Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom and European Ichthyological Union. The Portuguese Association of Biologists made him an Honorary Member in 1993.

Jerry had a charming personality, modesty being one of his outstanding human qualities. He was always available, either to help a young student, a visiting scientist or an anonymous museum visitor. When someone wanted to know something about the natural phenomena of Madeira, the more common answer was: ask Jerry. In a time when environmental issues were not yet in fashion, Jerry was a source of inspiration to all of us and responsible for our careers. Also, most of us are indebted to him for our knowledge of the English or German languages.

The world has lost a fine scientist and we at the Museum, a great friend, but his work and his memory will prevail forever.

GÜNTHER EDMUND MAUL died peacefully on the 28th September in the city of Funchal, where he has lived since 1930. He is survived by his wife Irene, sons Edward and Timothy, four grand children and a great-grand-daughter.

Scientific papers published by G. E. MAUL

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- 1946 Um Novo Género e Espécie dos Macropinídeos. *Op. cit.*, **2**(3): 62-65, fig. 1.
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- 1954 Additions to Previously Revised Families. *Op. cit.*, **7**(18): 41-63, figs. 14-21.

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- 1955 Five species of rare Sharks new for Madeira including two new to science. *Not. Nat.* **279**: 1-13, figs. 1-20.
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