

Remembering Eigenmann

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VI.

In July 1921, Eigenmann saw the third installment of "The American *Characidae*" published; in January 1923, "The Fresh-water Fishes of Northwestern South America" was issued by the Carnegie Museum. In the same year, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

In 1922, Eigenmann presented a triumphant symposium at Cambridge, detailing the general conclusions of his life's work. The instruction was called, "The Fishes of the Pacific Slope of South America and the Bearing of their Distribution on the History of the Development of the Topography of Peru, Ecuador and Western Columbia."

Various papers were published from then on, as he continued his examination of South American *Doradidae*.

With a brilliant mind and an inexhaustible craving for adventure, Eigenmann, in total, published 228 of the most detailed, critical and influential biological research studies in history. He extensively traversed three of Earth's continents. He counted himself a friend and colleague to many of the most advanced thinkers of his time; and he held the attention of one of the most distinctive governmental institutions in history — the United States Congress. He instituted rules of study,

founded laboratories and advanced the renown of scientific establishments. The list of his fellowships, merits, memberships and posthumous recognitions is practically unprecedented for any scientific personality, let alone those boasting of a connection with Spencer County.

Dr. G.S. Myers was tapped to assist, when it became obvious to Eigenmann that the final two installments of *Characidae* would take years to complete. In the summer of 1925, parts four and five of the manuscript were finished, but Eigenmann would not live to see them published. He and Mrs. Eigenmann departed Bloomington on May 26, 1926; the couple was headed for Southern California, anticipating the health benefits of its mild, coastal climate.

After his death at a private California hospital on April 24, 1927, Carl H. Eigenmann was laid to rest in San Diego.

Carl H. Eigenmann Hall was erected in 1970 on the Indiana University Bloomington campus, and today the building is still housing university students. The Indiana University Archives maintains an extensive collection of Eigenmann papers, including personal notes and correspondence. The collection is open for research; advance notice is required.



Well-schooled — By the time Eigenmann arrived, Rockport already enjoyed a fine history of educational excellence, having been the spot (rare throughout the country) of an institute of higher learning. First called Rockport Academy and later renamed Rockport Collegiate Institute, this three-story, multi-chimneyed building would become Rockport High School in 1873. It is believed that this photograph, in which students and staff line the southern lawn of Rockport Collegiate Institute, was taken prior to 1878. Note the students posing in second story windows.

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