

IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT CUNNINGHAM MILLER,
1899–1984

ROBERT T. ORR

California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118 USA

Dr. Robert Cunningham Miller, a Member of the A.O.U. since 1935 and an Elective and Life Member since 1942, died 11 June 1984 in Berkeley, California. Robert Miller was born in Blairsville, Pennsylvania on 3 July 1899 and was graduated from Greenville College in 1920. He went to the University of California in Berkeley, where he obtained his Master's degree on the behavior of bush-tits under the direction of the late Professor Joseph Grinnell. He changed from ornithology to marine biology for his doctoral studies and obtained his Ph.D. at Berkeley in 1923. From 1924 until 1938 he served as professor of zoology and oceanography at the University of Washington, taking a two-year leave from 1929 to 1931 to serve as biology professor at Lingnan University in Canton, China.

On 15 September 1937 Robert Miller married Lea Van Paymbroeck in Ghent, Belgium. Lea was also a professor on the staff of the University of Washington. The rules of that institution prohibited a husband and wife from both working on the faculty, however, so he accept-

ed the directorship of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco in 1938 and remained there until his retirement in 1963.

During his 25 years as director, the Academy made great advances. These included the building of the Alexander F. Morrison Planetarium, the Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature, the Alice Eastwood Hall of Botany, a new wing to the Simson African Hall, the May Treat Morrison Auditorium, the John Ward Mailiard, Jr., Library, the renovation of Steinhart Aquarium, and the expansion of the various research departments.

Through the energy of Robert Miller, the Academy became the headquarters for the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Pacific Division, a role it still holds today. Despite these and many other administrative duties, he continued to maintain a strong interest in both marine biology and avian research. He was especially interested in flight and the effect of photoperiodism on robins. In 1969 he received the Academy's highest award, the fellows' medal, an honor he well deserved.