



Exploring the Borderlands

Documents of the Committee on Common Problems
of Genetics, Paleontology, and Systematics,
1943-1944

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Foreword by Ernst Mayr

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The Committee on Common Problems provided a crucial foothold for those seeking a synthetic view of evolution in 1940s America. These forgotten documents show the Committee at work: building coalitions, defining priorities, and negotiating a common vision. They also show factions within the Committee competing to lead this emerging community.

Includes:

Report of Meeting, October 1943

Committee Bulletins 1-6, 1944-1946

Appendices, including initial recruiting letter for the Committee, its mailing list, reading lists recommended by the Committee on genetics, paleontology, systematics and paleobotany, and questionnaire from George Gaylord Simpson while organising the 1947 Princeton conference.

These historical documents offer an opportunity to examine firsthand the Committee's activities and to reconsider questions of motivation, interaction, and influence.

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