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Mary Dora Rogick Obituary

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Mary Dora Rogick died October 25, 1964 (report prepared by Thomas J. M. Schopf).

Mary Dora Rogick (née Rogić), professor of Zoology at New Rochelle College, specialist in Bryozoa, passed away at the age of 58 in the New Rochelle Hospital, October 25, 1964, after an extended illness.

Dr. Rogick was born in East Sandy, Pennsylvania, on October 7, 1906, the only child in a family of four to live beyond 1 year. Her parents were the late Nicholas and Sara Rogić, of Croatian extract. She attended the public schools of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and took advanced training at the University of Omaha and the University of Nebraska, from which she received

the A.B. degree in 1929 and the A.M. degree in 1930, having been elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi. Her thesis work, completed under Professor Irving Hill Blake, was titled "Studies on the comparative histology of the digestive tract of certain teleost fishes, II, a Minnow (*Campostoma anomalum*)" and was published in the Journal of Morphology and Physiology in 1931. She continued her studies for the Ph.D. degree at The Ohio State University, where she prepared a dissertation on the fresh-water Bryozoa of Lake Erie, under the supervision of the late Dr. Raymond C. Osburn. She attended the Franz Theodore Stone Biology Laboratory at Put-In-Bay, on Lake Erie, in the summers of 1932 and 1933. During her four years at Ohio State, she developed drawing talents that were to give her a great deal of pleasure for the rest of her life, and were to distinguish her many scientific contributions. She prepared illustrations for Dr. Osburn's study of Mt. Desert Island Bryozoa, and the Bryozoa of Puerto Rico, and was called upon by other staff members to do illustrations for their texts and research work. After receiving her degree in the depression year of 1934, she wrote more than 200 letters to institutions searching for a teaching post. This tremendous industry characterized all her life. In January, 1935, she joined the staff at New Rochelle College, New Rochelle, New York, where she was a member of the staff for 28 years, rising to the rank of full Professor and Chairman of the Zoology Department.

During the summers of 1943 thru 1947, she taught in the Invertebrate Zoology course at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts. In the summer of 1952 she taught at the University of New Hampshire, and in the summer of 1964 at the University of Rhode Island.

Despite a teaching load of 18 hours at New Rochelle, which seldom included the same courses from year to year, she was an amazingly productive research scientist. In addition to a General Zoology Laboratory Manual, she published a series of 18 articles on fresh-water Bryozoa, 14 articles on temperate marine Bryozoa, four on Antarctic marine Bryozoa, two other articles on fresh-water Bryozoa, three on marine forms, two on methods of studying Bryozoa, and nine articles on biology teaching methods. She also contributed articles on Bryozoa for the Encyclopaedia Britannica, the McGraw Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, Ward & Whipple's Fresh Water Biology, Brown's Selected Invertebrate Types, and wrote numerous abstracts for Biological Abstracts since 1930, serving as Section Editor for the Lophophorate Phyla from 1957 to 1964. There are 64 separate items in the list of her publications.

It was characteristic of Dr. Rogick that she persevered in this self-appointed research work, using her home as her laboratory, although she was discouraged from using college space and time for research.

Her fine sense of humor, which was evident in her many sketches and cartoons, was a pleasure to her many professional colleagues throughout the world. Many of her letters featured water-color illustrations of her trials and tribulations with the Bryozoa. This ability was given public recognition by her cartoons for Cynthia Westcott's book, "Are You Your Garden's Worst Pest?". In addition, Mary Rogick was an amateur writer, submitting short stories and poems to various magazines, although none of them, to my knowledge, was published.

Mary Dora Rogick was characterized by intense dedication, modesty, careful work, and a fine sense of humor. The standards set in her professional work are a model for all those who will attempt to follow her in the study of Bryozoa.