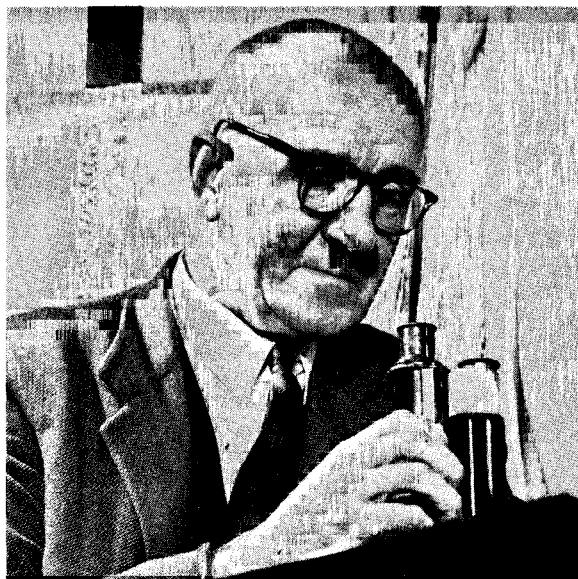


Mr D. W. Mackie — A birthday tribute at the age of 80

Because it was through David Mackie's initiative and enthusiasm that the foundations of our Society were laid, it is appropriate that we should celebrate his 80th birthday on 22nd August 1982 with an appraisal of his career and arachnological activities.

David Watson Mackie was born at Irvine in Ayrshire and educated at Irvine Royal Academy. He started work with an electrical engineering apprenticeship to the Ayrshire Dockyard Company at Irvine and advanced to other companies, including John Brown and Co. (Ship-builders) of Clydebank, and, as a sea-going Electrician, with Canadian Pacific Steamships sailing out of Glasgow and Liverpool to Montreal and on cruise ships to the Mediterranean, North and West Africa and the Canary Islands. A happy marriage was decisive in terminating a sea-going career and he joined Harland and Wolff Ltd. as an Electrical Draughtsman. He was Assistant Electrical Manager when he retired from that Company to live in Cheshire and work for the General Accident Assurance Co. as an Engineer Surveyor until his final retirement.

His interest in natural history stems from his school days when he worked the sand dunes of the Ayrshire coast for Coleoptera and Arachnida. Much later he attended courses promoted by the Field Studies Council and it was during one of these on spiders at Flatford Mill Field Centre in 1959 that David suggested the eleven participants should keep in touch and exchange information about their common interest. As a result he founded the Flatford Mill Spider Group. As Secretary and Treasurer he edited a quarterly news Bulletin which he produced on a hand-operated duplicator. As the group flourished its horizons widened. With a membership of nearly 50 in 1964 the name was changed to the British Spider Study Group. When it reached 120 in 1969, a revised administration, a formal constitution and a division of the work load became necessary; David resigned office to allow others to become administrative officers for an



elected Council and the Group became the British Arachnological Society. At the Second Annual General Meeting at Leicester in 1971 he was unanimously elected an Honorary Member of the Society in recognition of his 10 years of service. The 40 Bulletins he produced between 1959-1969 were reprinted in facsimile as a bound publication.

The publication of his records in various journals has made a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the distribution of spiders and harvestmen in the British Isles. He was a prominent member of some of the arachnological survey teams on National Nature Reserves in E. Anglia, S. Wales and Scotland. Recently he has been involved in the making of a computerised catalogue of his own collection and that of H. W. Freston, both of which are now housed in the Manchester University Museum. He shares a knowledgeable interest in botany with his wife, Gertrude, and both are enthusiastic gardeners; David also interests himself in the craft of book-binding. They have a son and a daughter, both married, and four grand-children. We wish David and his wife good health in the continuance of a long and happy life.

J. R. P.