Horace Gardiner Richards  
1906-1984  


Horace was born in Philadelphia, March 21, 1906, and spent much of his life there, with AB (1927), MS (1929) and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, and served as lecturer there 1949 to 1971. His formal activities were mostly curatorial with a special enthusiasm for mollusks, Tertiary and Quaternary. Briefly at the U.S. National Museum of Natural History in Washington (1931-1932), he went (part-time) to the New Jersey State Museum 1934 to 1943. From 1937 to 1980 he was at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, serving as chairman of the Geology Department, 1960 to 1972. He was an honorary associate at Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory and of the Delaware Museum of Natural History. He was a member of expeditions to Mexico, Central America, South America, the Middle East, Africa, and Arctic Canada.

A frail, gentle and warm-hearted person, Horace was never so happy as attending the opera. How does a penniless student get to the opera? Simple, said Horace, you carry a spear, and then you never miss an evening. At the 1956 International Congress in Mexico City, he was overcome by the elevation, but just as he was being pushed into an ambulance he opened one eye and said: "Rhodes, you won’t forget we have tickets for the opera tonight!" And he did not miss that one either.

Rhodes W. Fairbridge  
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