

# Henry Whitmore Eustis

(1877-1951)

Henry Eustis went to Germany about 1902 to study music (there was a strong family tradition of choral music and especially the Apollo Men's Chorus) but, I suppose, was unable to make a living and applied to the US Embassy for a job. Henry Eustis went to Germany about 1902 to study music (I think I told you about the connection to choral music and esp the Apollo Men's Chorus??) but, I suppose, was unable to make a living and applied to the US Embassy for a job. He was hired and worked for a number of years as a courier between, especially, Berlin and London. Later he became a code clerk and worked in that position for many years. Initially he was, I think, content, but especially after the death of his first wife his annual fitness reports became less positive, and he was asking for transfer to posts where the living was cheaper, but not doing as well in those places ... or not liking them ... .

And then he married the German lady Emma Spizler. And not too long after that he was transferred to Constantinople/Istanbul. Well, the German lady was a devotee of Hitler and somehow Henry and his wife were honored guests at the German Embassy. Within a few weeks he was on a boat to the US, and he was NOT happy about it.

Here is some of the material I got under FOIA

*July 22, 1931 American Embassy, Berlin Form 304 - Foreign Service, Report on Family Status Henry W Eustis b Dec 6, 1877 married May 14, 1930 to Elisabeth Sitzler b May 15, 1877 in Munich, Bavaria - nationality German.*

*July 1930-July 1931 paid 229.16 per month in Germany*

*Aug 1931-Dec 1931 paid 229.17 per month in Hungary (signed by Nicholas Roosevelt, who was U.S. minister to Hungary from 1930 to 1933)*

*Jan 1932-Jun 1932 paid 229.17 per month in Geneva*

*July 1932-June 1933 paid \$229.17 per month in Geneva; furloughed May, June, July and pay reduced by \$35/mo*

*July 1933-June 1934 paid \$229.17 per month in Geneva; furloughed all months and pay reduced by about 15%*

*July 1934-35 paid \$229.17 per month in Geneva*

*July 1935-Feb 36 paid \$229.17 per month in Geneva*

*Feb 1936-Jun 1936 paid 229.13 per month in Istanbul*

*Jul 1936-Jun 1938 paid 229.17 per month in Istanbul*

*July 1938-39 paid \$229.17 per month in Istanbul*

*July 1939-40 paid \$229.17 per month in Istanbul - terminated Mar 3, 1940*

*letter from WDA Peaslee<sup>1</sup>, East Wayne St, South Bend, IN dated 12/21/41*

*Dear Parmalee ( W. Dhu Aine Peaslee graduated from Oakland (CA) HS in 1906 - attached letter describes Dhu Peaslee as a consulting engineer with Bendix on war production who was a captain in G-2 with the AEF in France.)*

*You'll remember perhaps a chap I spoke of who had come to Augusta, GA after retiring from the State Dept.*

*It is Henry Eustace, and he retired from the Dept when stationed in Turkey. He has a German wife who in 1939 refused to take out her papers as an American citizen, saying "My Heart and complete loyalty are to*

Hitler and the German nation.” This she said to me. I advised him to soft pedal her in such statements as the Southerners there in Georgia are not tolerant.

I'd forgotten them in the process of getting out war materials until last week a couple of people from Augusta came through here & said that the town was up in arms because she was saying, “There's no use to fight us - we are more able and you are not prepared, “ and “Just wait until Hitler comes - then we have good jobs to rule you and you'll regret you haven't been nicer.” I told them to drop any idea of her being an agent and not start hounding some one - she was probably just a fool woman spouting, etc. They said, “Yes, but he's pretty sore at the US Government because he thinks they treated him badly, etc.”

Well, the result is they forced me to drop any idea of making trouble or writing Gov Talmadge (you know how he'd love something to get some publicity about an ex-State Dept employee, disloyal, etc) and cool off.

The reason I'm dropping you this is that as a retired State Dept employee still \_\_\_ money as retirement pay you folks might want to drop him a hint to muzzle his wife and not cause the Dept embarrassment Anyway I've done all I can to calm them down but those people in the deep South can do some fool things. ...

1952

*The Lepidopterists' News*

77

### HENRY W. EUSTIS

Henry W. Eustis died unexpectedly in Augusta, Georgia, on October 6, 1951. He was born at Minneapolis, Minnesota, on December 6, 1877.

He was interested in collecting butterflies and moths and he being a perfectionist, his collection was beautifully mounted and given a great deal of care. The collection, consisting of representative United States Lepidoptera and some foreign butterflies, was housed in a small building in the side yard of his home in Augusta. The collection is being retained by Mrs. Eustis.

He had a deep love for music and was an excellent pianist. As a young man he sold a fine butterfly collection which he had assembled and used the proceeds to finance a year of music study in Berlin. Until his death he enjoyed playing for his own pleasure and often, upon his wife's urging, he would play selections from Chopin for their visitors.

He spent many years in the diplomatic service and was stationed in various European countries. He met and married Mrs. Eustis when he was stationed in Germany. Upon his retirement from government service they moved to Augusta where they could enjoy the mild winter climate and he could again pursue his hobby of butterfly collecting. During his years in Georgia, 1939-1951, he made several important "finds", including *Amblyscirtes belli* H. A. Freeman, extending the known range of this skipper far to the east.

LUCIEN HARRIS, JR., P. O. Box 167, Avondale Estates, Georgia, U.S.A.

Well, my next (and probably last) step will be to request any FBI reports that might exist, because I have a feeling that the FBI went and had a look at, and perhaps a word with, Henry and wife.