

Obituary

THE LATE MR. A. H. C. ZIETZ, R.A.O.U.

Time has claimed another original member and one of the founders of the R.A.O.U. in the person of Mr. Amandus Heinrich Christian Zietz, who died recently at Kingswood, South Australia.

The late Mr. Zietz was born in Slesvig-Holstein, Denmark, 82 years ago. He started his career as a teacher, but this did not agree with him; and being passionately fond of natural history, he obtained a position in the world-famed Godefroi Museum, where the authorities selected him to collect specimens. Mr. Zietz returned from the trip with an excellent collection, which he afterwards arranged for the museum. His services were next sought after by the Kiel Museum, where he was employed for several years. At the Fishery Exhibition held in Berlin he gained the highest medal for the best work done, and shortly afterwards was appointed Curator of the Kiel Museum.

On the recommendation of Dr. Haacke, then Director of the Museum, Adelaide, Mr. Zietz received an appointment and came to Australia in 1884. His services at the Museum were much appreciated, and he did valuable work helping the cause of science. Among the most important tasks accomplished by Mr. Zietz was the arranging of the specimens in the new museum. Mr. Zietz was Assistant Director when he retired under the Septuagenarians Act, July, 1910. In 1893 he and the late Director, Professor Sir Edward Stirling, explored fossil remains at Lake Callabonna. As the result of this investigation, Professor Stirling and Mr. Zietz published a memoir under the auspices of the Royal Society, dealing with the extinct *Diprotodon australis*, and a large Emu-like bird, the *Genyornis*. The *Diprotodon* was established at the Museum, and after an immense amount of patient labour, one skeleton was completely assembled, and casts of it have been made and sent to other museums. In 1906 Mr. Zietz and his son enriched the Museum with specimens collected during a tour in the "big scrub" of the Clarence and Richmond Rivers, N.S.W. Mr. Zietz wrote several valuable papers for the Royal Society of this State, and gave particular attention to research, especially in connection with birds and fish. One of the papers contributed by him concerned the fishes of the Lower Murray.

Mr. Zietz has left a widow, and one son, Mr. F. R. Zietz, to whom all members of the R.A.O.U. will join in expressing to them their sincere sympathy, while science has lost an earnest worker. Mr. F. R. Zietz, R.A.O.U., is ornithologist at the South Australian Museum.