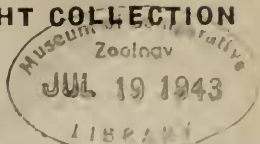


NOTES ON THE FIVE SALES OF THE P. M. BRIGHT COLLECTION OF BRITISH LEPIDOPTERA.

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This famous and unrivalled collection of British Butterflies formed during the last 40 years by the late Percy M. Bright, J.P., F.R.E.S., was disposed of by public auction at five sales during 1941 and 1942. The collection consisted of all the British species, including immigrant and reputed specimens, with the exception of three species of the *Lycænidæ*, viz., *Lysandra coridon*, *Lysandra bellargus*, and *Polyommatus icarus*. These were left under the will to the South London Entomological and Natural History Society, and are at present housed at the Hope Museum, Oxford, under the care of Prof. Hale Carpenter.

The sales comprised very large numbers of aberrations, and it may be of interest to give in many instances the values attached to particular insects by the fortunate purchasers. Only what may be termed "major" aberrations are included in this list, and the large number of "minor" forms are not dealt with.

Many of the specimens were of unique form, or very remarkable in their differences from the type, and some were of historical interest: in one particular case dating back nearly 100 years, such, for instance, as the entirely white *Satyrus galathea* caught in 1843. This specimen was first sold at a sale in 1843 for £20; it next appeared at Sir Vauncey Harpur Crewe's sale in 1925, when it realized £35. On this occasion in 1943 it appreciated still further to £49. An entirely black form of the same species was first sold at a sale at Stevens' Auction Rooms for £42; it then appeared at the sale of A. B. Farn's collection, when in 1922 it was bought for £32. At the Harpur Crewe Sale in 1925 it depreciated to £28, but on this recent occasion it advanced to £41.

A remarkable melanic specimen of *Nymphalis io*, Linn., with heavily clouded forewings and hindwings of ab. *belisaria* form, realized the high price of £30 and is probably the most extreme form of aberration of this species extant.

An albino male *Argynnis paphia*, Linn., of light fulvous ground colour, the normal spotting being practically absent, realized £23. Another very remarkable example of this species exhibiting both gynandrous and dimorphous characteristics sold for the moderate price of £15.

An albino male *Argynnis aglaia*, Linn., somewhat similar to the *paphia* albino mentioned above, also fetched £23.

A tawny albinistic specimen of *Argynnis euphrosyne*, Linn., with dull metallic spots, figured in Mosley, cost the buyer £23.

A most remarkable and beautiful specimen of *Argynnis selene*, Schiff., of entirely deep black ground colour, realized £26, and was decidedly one of the prizes of the collection.

An underside of *Argynnis cydippe*, Linn., heavily suffused with black on the forewings and of ab. *charlotta* form on the hindwings, sold for £16 10/-. Taking the species seriatim the following prices were realized, and in nearly all instances the condition was fine and perfect.

Papilio machaon, Linn. Various melanic forms, some being entirely black, fetched £7, £12, £13 10/-, and £14 10/-, all these specimens having been bred by L. W. Newman. The first example of this form was taken wild by J. P. Lloyd in Norfolk in 1921, and was sold to the late Lord