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SEVEN ILLUSTRATIONS FROM MAURICE SAND'S LE MONDE DES PAPILLONS (1867)

The tailpieces and rear cover illustration in this issue are six vignettes and the frontispiece from a popular nineteenth-century French work for beginning amateur lepidopterists, Maurice Sand's *Le monde des papillons* (Paris, 1867). The frontispiece (our rear cover) depicts a *melange* of collecting equipment, including a ring net for aerial collecting, a folding sweeping net, an entomological satchel, various forceps, a pupa-digging spud, a collecting tin for larvae, a lantern, a collecting box into which adult specimens were pinned, and several items which have disappeared from our modern list of paraphernalia.

One is the scissors or scithers net, used frequently in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This net, called "les pinces" by Sand, was used to take insects from plants, and situations where the use of a ring net was unsuitable. The net-covered "blades" of the scissors were closed over the specimen to capture it.

Although Sand advocated more modern ways of killing specimens than the ancient method of impaling with a pin, the traditional pincushion can be found in his frontispiece. He recommended killing Lepidoptera by pinching, or by applying forceps dipped in ether to the insect's head, but the pincushion was still carried in the field to hold the pins used for pinning the dead specimens into the collecting box. The pincushion, recorded as a desirable piece of collecting equipment as early as the seventeenth century, disappeared before the end of the nineteenth.

Sand's frontispiece of "les engins du chasseur" was followed in the text by numerous engraved vignettes, executed by himself. Our tailpieces (the titles are ours) are found on pp. 14, 17, 44, 57, 114 and 143 of the original. All depict the gentleman collector in various situations, arrayed in tall hat and tailed coat. (This collecting attire was not limited to nineteenth-century France, as the cover illustration of *Mich. Entomol.* I, no. 3 shows.) The first two vignettes depict searching for specimens at night with a lantern. The third shows an assistant beating for larvae with an umbrella and stick, while the fourth and fifth picture collectors in mountainous country. The sixth shows the gentleman collector with his bag-net, followed by his assistant carrying the collecting equipment. Aside from their antiquarian charm and moderate artistic merit, these engravings help to illustrate the apparatus and methods of entomologists a hundred years ago.

R.S.W.



Collecting insects at night with the aid of a lantern.
Maurice Sand, *Le monde des papillons* (Paris, 1867), p. 14.