



fossil insects including many honey bees, from those Oligocene forests of the Rhineland.

In 1945, at the age of 51, Statz died in Germany while trying to get back to his beloved collection which fortunately had survived the war. It had been housed in the cellars of German scientific institutions while his own home was destroyed by bombs. It is a measure of Georg Statz's love for his life's work that almost his last words to his wife as he lay dying at Ulm on the Danube were, "What about the collection? Is it safe?" And he died knowing it was, indeed, safe.

Today the Statz Collection of Fossil Insects and Plants—7,500 specimens including land and water in-

sects, spiders and tiny plants, all beautifully mounted and fully classified and described, along with many photographs and monographs—is housed permanently at the Los Angeles County Museum. It was acquired after many months of negotiation with the late naturalist's family and the French customs authorities in North Africa where the collection had been sent after the end of the war.

The Statz Collection was built between two wars, for it was in 1918 that young Georg—born in 1894, a teacher's son and an inveterate collector of anything from butterflies, fossils, and flowers to ancient Roman and Greek relics—discovered his first fossilized insect at Rott. A teacher himself, he was drawn as if by a