ously, but rather reflect years of behind-the-scenes work. Proposals regarding these chelonians had previously been prepared by the IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group and its Turtle Recovery Program, the IUCN/SSC Trade Specialist Group, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and associated environmental and other NGOs.

The *Terrapene* proposal, first recommended by the NGOs in 1992, was not initially supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who cited both a lack of trade data and strong opposition from the wildlife trade lobby. However, in 1994, the proposal to list *Terrapene* was reactivated. Trade data now demonstrated that since 1992, tens of thousands of box turtles had been exported from the USA. Eventual acceptance of the proposal by the U.S. government followed strong and effective lobbying and further quantitative data supplied by the Turtle Recovery Program, the IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the New York Turtle and Tortoise Society, and the Humane Society of the United States.

The Egyptian tortoise proposal was accepted in large part because of quantitative — and extremely disturbing — status data generated by a field survey funded by the Turtle Recovery Program, that demonstrated that the situation of this diminutive tortoise was far more precarious than previously acknowledged. This documentation led Egypt to propose the species for Appendix I.

Additionally, the Parties made adjustments to the status of the Indian flapshell turtle, *Lissemys punctata*, partially reflecting the fact that the form originally listed on Appendix I as *Lissemys punctata punctata* is now known as *Lissemys punctata andersoni*. Moreover, since it is now generally recognized that this is actually one of the most abundant turtles in the Indian subcontinent, the species as a whole was transferred to Appendix II. The status of *Lissemys scutata* was not unequivocally clarified – if this taxon is considered a subspecies of *L. punctata*, then it is included in the Appendix II designation – but if considered a separate species, then it is not listed in the Appendices. However, in its position paper on the proposals, IUCN Species Survival Commission and TRAFFIC Network (1994) listed the taxon *L. (p.) scutata* as a provisional subspecies of *L. punctata*, thus apparently including it in the Appendix II listing.

A matter of great importance to all Specialist groups, and probably the most important issue of the Conference, pertained to the development of new and "objective" rules for the listing of new taxa in the Appendices. These were strongly opposed by many conservation NGOs, on the grounds that few species are likely ever to be sufficiently well known as to generate the numerical data required for listing, and also that excessive attention to specific numbers, with comparable numerical criteria for all species from brain corals to elephants, was biologically nonsensical. Nevertheless, the draft criteria had consumed a tremendous amount of time and money, especially by IUCN, and there was a prevailing consensus among the Party Nations that some sort of revision of the old "Berne Criteria" was necessary. The final agreement that emerged from the Conference was a masterful finding of communality among many groups with profoundly different philosophies. While not backing away entirely from the numerical criteria, the final document incorporated wording to the effect that the numbers given were for purposes of example only, it being impossible to give numerical values that were applicable to all taxa, and that there were many cases in which the numerical guidelines would not apply.

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IN MEMORIAM

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Leo Brongersma — An Appreciation

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Leo Daniël Brongersma, the dean of European marine turtle biologists, was born in Bloemendaal, the Netherlands, on 17 May 1907. He died on 24 July 1994 in Leiden, his home during both his professional life and his retirement, just a few miles from his birthplace. A quintessential Dutchman, he liked to consider himself a citizen of Friesland, a linguistically distinct province in the far north of the Netherlands.

Brongersma's retirement years were long, and his name may not be as well known to younger marine turtle students as it should be. He served as Director of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie for many years, until he reached the mandatory retirement age of 65 in 1972. He then served for four years (1972–1976) as acting director of the Rijksmuseum van Geologie en Mineralogie, and had many honorific titles and decorations, including *Ridder* in de Orde van de Nederlandse Leeuw, *Officier* in de Orde van Oranje-Nassau, and *Professor Extraordinarius* in systematic zoology at the Rijksuniversiteit te Leiden. He was also an Honorary Foreign Member of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. No marine turtles are named after him (only Agassiz and Kemp have that distinction), but his patronyms include a Sumatran race of the blood python (*Python curtus brongersmai*), a toad (*Bufo brongersmai*), and at least 15 other vertebrate and invertebrate taxa.

Leo Daniël Brongersma [1907–1994]
May, 1964

The somber-edged mourning stationery that announced Leo's passing evidenced a formality fully in keeping with the man himself. A man of dignity and stature, he was a maintainer of standards, who reminded us of the good things of the past, in an increasingly informal and, some would say, slipshod world. He loved to study the history of things, to celebrate distinguished forebears in science and administration, and to unearth fragments of archival information that captured the spirit of past times. He was conscious of position and rank but believed fervently that even relatively humble tasks could and should be done well, and he sometimes wondered if he would ever be able to recruit a bottle-washer or a spirit-changer for the museum who did not ultimately want to be director himself.

Leo was a leading marine turtle scholar who was constrained by his administrative position and by less-than-generous travel budgets to pursue his interests, most of the time, rather close to home. He did this in two ways: by mining archival data from his own institutional files, libraries, and specimens, and those of other ancient European museums; and by constituting essentially a one-man stranding network for marine turtles along the entire Atlantic coasts of Europe and the British Isles. His summary and discussion of several centuries' accumulation of such data are offered in his monograph "European Atlantic Turtles" (Brongersma, 1972). His scholarship and bibliographic skills were legendary. No publication in the field, in any language, seemed to escape his keen eye. A Brongersma discourse on a stranded turtle would begin, likely as not, with citations from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and proceed to run the gamut from Maltese newspapers to Mexican government bulletins. I once unwarily characterized Leo, in a short-lived home-published California-based hobbyist journal, as a distinguished zoologist but not a conservationist. Naturally it came to his attention, and he teased me about this when the time came.

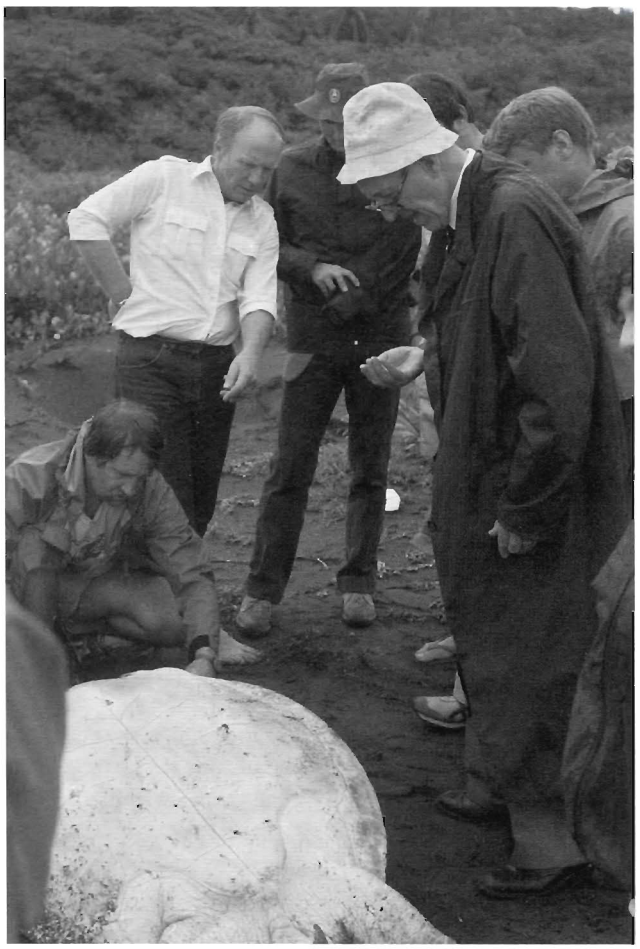
Brongersma's scientific output generally took the form of scholarly, carefully reasoned discourses about individual turtles or turtle records – at the first meeting of the IUCN Marine Turtle Group in 1969, he described himself as a retailer of turtles, surrounded by wholesalers. This, to some, placed his work in a peripheral category – occurrences of turtles outside their normal range; discussions of nomenclatorial questions or type specimens; reviews of topics such as open-ocean records of turtles; and even commentaries upon sightings of sea serpents. But Leo's infusion of genuine scholarship into a field dominated, in many ways, by "turtle handlers" with little concept of the academic underpinnings of their pursuit was both welcome and important. And, from time to time, he did undertake major expeditions, including trips to New Guinea in 1952 and 1954–55, followed by over five months in the Star Mountains of New Guinea in 1959, two weeks in Surinam in September 1963, and three weeks in the Canary Islands in August 1966, followed by a trip to Madeira in October 1967.

Marinus Hoogmoed once told me that Brongersma loathed writing "herpetological curatorial letters," and rarely did so. This seems to have been true, but there were noteworthy exceptions. A few years ago, I wrote to Leo asking his opinion on certain nomenclatorial questions regarding potential subspecies of the leatherback turtle, but after a few months of silence, I no longer expected a reply. A little more than eight months after my letter, however, I received a hand-typed, cut-and-pasted, hand-corrected manuscript, nine pages long, on which Leo had clearly labored for the last few months, and which addressed the subject with a level of antiquarian detail that no one else could have emulated. He even enclosed xerox copies of the title pages and relevant sections of the largely unobtainable works to which the composition referred. Sometime this manuscript should be published. He responded in similar meticulous and circumstantial detail to a request by Don Moll for clarification of the origin of a set of preserved stomach contents of an alleged leatherback that turned out to be a loggerhead. I understand too that the archives of the Ministry in charge of museum budgets include comparable lengthy compositions expressing details of the Rijksmuseum's position on budgetary and other relevant matters. Perhaps it was simply trivial correspondence for which he had no patience.

On my rare visits to Leiden in recent years, I would seek Leo out, knowing that a lunch together would be an event of

rare, civilized formality, with stimulating conversation to match. As, I suppose, is the custom with European gentlemen of his generation and class, he wore a suit, white dress shirt, and tie, even when I presented myself, without notice, a decade or two into his retirement. Once or twice I saw him at turtle meetings in the tropics, in the Cayman Islands or Costa Rica, and there the jacket might be doffed if we went outdoors, but the formality was otherwise maintained.

Leo was a tall man, inclined to stoutness, with a high, intellectual forehead, and a halo of snowy hair. But behind that imposing facade, lurking in those pale blue eyes behind their thick spectacle lenses, was a substantial twinkle. When word reached him that certain colleagues referred to him in private as "that bloody Dutchman," his response was "between close colleagues, terms of affection are in order." Leo enjoyed mock-serious explanations of why he never dined upon "lower organisms" (including oysters), and why, on the other hand, alcoholic consumption was conducive to long life (look how well it preserved museum specimens!). He enjoyed describing how, when he was a Major in the Royal Netherlands East Indian Army (Reserve, Special Services) just after World War II, he had briefly incarcerated "Sergeant Shulz" for some minor disciplinary offense. The Sergeant was, of course, Dr. J.P. Schulz, his future fellow marine turtle specialist and colleague, who later got his own back when Leo requested a preserved adult olive ridley from Surinam for the Rijksmuseum. Schulz, in charge of wildlife permits for Surinam, denied the request, explaining that the species was protected, and an exception would be a bad example.



Leo Brongersma (*right, in white hat*), clearly dressed for the weather and on a rare visit to the tropics, inspects an adult green turtle at Tortuguero, Costa Rica, 1983.

I never really discussed politics with Leo, but I suspect he outclassed me considerably in the field of nostalgia for certain vanished colonial regimes. I once asked him if he had ever been to Indonesia, and he replied, "No. But I have been to the Dutch East Indies." On the other hand, in 1938, when Prof. Robert Mertens of the Senckenberg Museum, meaning no harm, commented in print (Mertens, 1938) that recent German territorial advances into Austria and Czechoslovakia had added three species of salamanders and two vipers to the national faunal inventory, Brongersma was profoundly offended.

It is interesting that it was only in his retirement years that Leo assumed a role of advocacy in conservation matters, and this was on the extraordinarily contentious matter of commercial turtle farms (Fosdick and Fosdick, 1994). Passions have now substantially died on this question, but a decade or two ago the subject "to farm or not to farm" divided the sea turtle conservation community in a most painful fashion. Leo's advocacy of turtle farming as a conservation tool, which he described and justified in print (Brongersma, 1978), complicated his relationship with Archie Carr, who preferred to declare his opposition to farming, and the reasons for his position, in print, and then move on to other matters rather than debate the subject endlessly. Leo's position did not reflect any self-interest, it was simply his opinion that both science and turtle survival would be advanced if turtle farms prospered; but his prestige ensured that he was recruited by the Cayman Turtle Farm as an informal lobbyist for their position.

In fulfillment of this role, Leo attempted to reach Archie by telephone, but was unsuccessful. He described how he got through easily enough to the Carr household, and he recalled Margie Carr's astonished "Good Heavens!" when he identified himself. But Archie himself tendered some excuse and could not be persuaded to come to the phone. Leo was generous in his appreciation of Archie's pioneering work on sea turtle biology (Brongersma, 1961). Furthermore, for years Carr and Brongersma had offered contradictory opinions on whether a certain turtle from Malta, preserved in the Valetta Museum until the museum was leveled by bombing during WWII, was a Kemp's ridley (as Carr believed) or a loggerhead. It finally transpired that the specimen had not been destroyed, having been in an underground basement because it was not considered of sufficient interest to be exhibited – and it was indeed a ridley. Brongersma graciously conceded and published a note to this effect with Carr identified as co-author (Brongersma and Carr, 1983).

Nevertheless, for various reasons (probably primarily Carr's reluctance to debate the farming issue), Brongersma was dissatisfied with Archie as Chairman of the IUCN/SSC

Marine Turtle Specialist Group. At the 1983 Group Meeting, on Archie's home turf at Tortuguero, Costa Rica, he proposed a resolution that the Group Chairman (like the Director of the Rijksmuseum) should be obliged to retire upon reaching the age of 65 (a proposal whose implications were lost on no one present). The Archie loyalists won the day, but the dispute cast a leaden cloud over what all had hoped would be an upbeat meeting, and Leo seriously considered resigning from the Group, not in protest, but in defeat.

At the time of the discussions about farmed turtle imports in California, Brongersma was also asked to talk to me, and I recall his visit to my house, with his wife Dr. M. Brongersma-Sanders, with great pleasure. After dutifully discussing the Cayman Turtle Farm's needs and offers, we agreed only that it would be nice if the Farm could provide quarters for a permanent breeding colony of the fast-disappearing Kemp's ridley. Leo promised to follow this up, and it indeed came to pass. He availed himself of the remainder of his time in Oviedo to study the "wholesale numbers" of turtle skeletons and skulls in my own collection, stored in my third-floor attic. He was over 70 years of age, had previously had a heart attack, and it was hot up there. The iron stepladder was steep, and I was concerned that he might lose his footing. "Fatal Fall by Distinguished Dutch Professor in Oviedo Attic" was not a headline I wished to see.

But this did not occur, and, to celebrate his visit, I gave Leo the carapace of an adult Kemp's ridley for the Rijksmuseum collection, knowing that there were no adult specimens in any collection outside North America (and very few in North America – stranding network take note!). I raised the subject of import permits, but he told me not to worry. Later, I asked how he had fared at the Dutch customs. He explained that he had indeed been challenged by a young official, and he had given this hapless individual his "cameline look" (stretched neck, upraised chin, supercilious downward look through half-closed eyes) and explained that the shell was government property, and that he touched it at his peril. It worked...

Leo is gone, but his life was long, distinguished, and productive. And it was happy, thanks in no small part to his remarkable and devoted wife Margaretha Brongersma-Sanders, a fellow biologist who actually won her doctorate just one hour before Leo did, on 19 September 1934. They were married the following month and lived happily ever after, enjoying almost sixty years of married life. We extend condolences to Margaretha, and to their son and daughter and their families. It is a cliché, perhaps, but in Leo's case it is true: they don't make 'em like that any more. He was truly a *Professor Extraordinarius*.

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