

The Legacy of Hans G. Kugler: A window into the past and path forward for Trinidad's Geology

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One handwritten note within Kugler's archive unraveled an exciting, around the world adventure about two renowned scientists that became connected on the Caribbean island of Trinidad and Tobago. Father of Trinidad's Geology Hans G. Kugler and Robert Lechmere Guppy, whom which the Guppy fish (*Poecilia reticulata*) is named after, paths crossed very briefly in 1914. Guppy's lifelong scientific collections burnt in a suspicious fire at the Victoria Institute, Trinidad, in 1920 after his death in 1916. Kugler saved five wooden trays of Guppy's foraminiferal slides from the ashes of that fire. These slides are today housed within Kugler's Legacy at the Natural History Museum Basel, Switzerland.

Kugler's Legacy is one of the largest Trinidad geological collections in the world. The *Treatise on the Geology of Trinidad (Parts 1-4)* by Hans G. Kugler is the cornerstone of our geology. That Kugler passed away before *Part 4: Paleocene to Holocene Formations* was completed, important information was unintentionally lost to the geological community. This new research into Kugler's archive has uncovered definitions, primary observations, and criteria that were used for *Part 4*, something that would have been lost forever prior to this research. This information is vital for the progression and updating of Trinidad's stratigraphic chart and has implications on global biostratigraphy. We here share the exciting story of R.L. Guppy and H.G. Kugler and give our plan for updating the *Treatise on Trinidad's Geology*.