

Philosophia Entomologica appeared, which Kai L. Henriksen in his History of the Danish Entomology estimates »without comparison the most important and significant work within Danish Entomological science«.

In the autumn of 1806 Fabricius returned for the last time from Paris to Kiel, where he died on March 3rd, 1808.

### FABRICIUS' COLLECTION

#### *The Coleoptera Collection*

According to H. A. Hagen, the German entomologist, the Fabrician collection in Kiel, in 1844, consisted of 80 boxes; half of it, Coleoptera, was well-preserved, and the remainder »sehr zerfressen«. After 1844, the whole collection was rearranged into other boxes; the last box, however, containing Staphylinidae, remained untouched and is still kept as it was in Fabricius' lifetime. When the collection arrived in Copenhagen it was a disappointment to discover that the original labels no longer existed, but had been re-written. However, the original label was later found beneath the new label. In this way, labels may have been interchanged, and this in some cases has now been proved. Unfortunately, it was necessary to transfer the collection to new boxes in order to obtain the original labels which had sometimes been incorrectly interpreted. The animals are in a good condition, considering the age of the collection, a large part of it being about 200 years old. There are no locality labels in Fabricius' own collection. Also peculiar are the very small name labels which Fabricius used: usually only a small scrap of paper on which was written the name of the species; never any mention of the genus. Fabricius' handwriting is generally easy to identify. There is, however, a possibility that some of the labels were not written by him. The names on the majority of the labels have been identified; but some of them have been eaten by *Psocus*, so that the writing has almost disappeared; others are completely illegible. Fabricius' collection also includes many non-Fabrician species. Thus there are a great many Linnean species among the Coleoptera, the name labels of which are written in a fine, easily legible handwriting. Maybe Fabricius got them from Linné; but nobody really knows.

*The Hymenoptera collection* consists of 24 boxes. As is the case with the other collections, it is no longer in Fabricius' original boxes; the name label, however, has not been removed from the insects. Fabricius' collection of Hymenoptera is the collection in which the insects have most often been rearranged in the past; and this fact does not make the work easier for future specialists.

*The Hemiptera collection* is kept in 13 boxes, arranged according to *Systema Rhynngotorum*, and with an extra box containing specimens of *Lygaeus*, *Reduvius*, *Capsus*, and *Zelus*. On the top of this box there is a label on which is written »Aus orig. Kästen von Fabricius, wahrscheinlich wertlos«. Most of the