The study of trematode life-cycles has been looked upon by many as too risky an undertaking for a graduate student research problem. Wendell Krull conducted his doctoral research under the direction of George LaRue (a student of Henry Baldwin Ward, "Father of American Parasitology") at the University of Michigan, where he solved not 1 but 2 life-cycles! This undertaking apparently set a pattern for Krull, because he subsequently tackled and unraveled an almost bewildering variety of complex digenean life-cycles. Miriam Rothschild, who was interested in trematode life-histories in her youth before abandoning them for her monumental work on fleas, said that she was once asked by a contemporary of Krull why she supposed "... things seemed to come so easily to this man — things which were so difficult and also so tiresome". Rothschild’s response:

I thought for a moment. Insight geared to industry? Original ideas and dogged application? The combination of lots of little "A-ha’s" into a coherent whole? The Master of Corpus Christi’s "grasping and linking of ideas" combined with a delight in his material? Well, I said, It’s simple, Krull’s a ruddy genius — that’s all. ...

To those who never attempted to solve digenean life-cycles, Rothschild’s praise may seem overstated. Although she never met Krull in person, she knew his work intimately; and she certainly had first-hand experience with digeneans on which to base her judgment (e.g., Rothschild, 1935, 1940, 1941a, b, c, 1942). She related this anecdote to me more than 20 years after Krull’s death, and she has included it in a

* Quoted from Professor Rothschild’s “A Tribute to Wendell Krull” which is slated for publication as part of a Krull biography that is in preparation. Publication is planned, in connection with an anniversary celebration by Oklahoma State University for the founding of its College of Veterinary Medicine in 1948. [The tribute, entitled “Homage to Wendell Krull,” can be found on pages 27 to 34 of this book.]