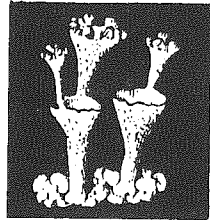


Newsletter of the



FRIENDS OF THE FARLOW

Volume 2 Number 1, October 1983

LICHENS: THE LAMB INSIDE THE LION

The Farlow Lichen Herbarium

How is it that a collection grows and increases to become a major research instrument? Although this might occur in several ways, I thought it would be interesting to look at one of the Farlow Herbarium collections and write about it in terms of its growth. I have chosen to discuss the Lichen Herbarium because it exemplifies, more than any other part of the Farlow Herbarium, the processes which help to form the character of such a unit.

The lichen collection, like the others here, was begun by William G. Farlow early in his career. Even as a student of Anton de Bary in Strasbourg, Farlow intended to collect and work on lichens; in fact, Asa Gray had encouraged him in the study of all cryptogams as early as 1873 when he wrote him:

"We are going to have the Cryptogamic Flora of U.S. done up, *pari passu*, with the Phanerog. Sullivant is *engaged* to do the Mosses, in a volume-- to which I hope to have Austin do the Hepaticae. I want you to come home prepared to do--

- 1) The Algae--one vol.
- 2) The Fungi
- 3) --Since they are only *Algae & Fungi!* either dwelling together-- or the lamb inside the lion--you will probably have to do the Lichenes! Unless we can get them out of Tuckerman in an intelligible form--which is doubtful."

To which Farlow responded:

"Your statement of what I am to learn hardly comes within the bounds of your usual modesty. I think I could stand the algae and, in course of time, the fungi, but, when you come to add the lichens, I begin to

Herbarium of G. K. Merrill <i>Raff</i> 243			
Hypoth. <i>hyaline</i>	Spores		Number ∞
Paraph. <i>distinct, slender</i>	Size <i>12-45 x 12-15</i>		Tips <i>branched</i>
Hymen. <i>hyaline</i>	Asci <i>ventricose</i>		Hymen with I
Thallus re.			
<i>Chelotrema leprocarpum (Nyl.) Tuck.</i>			
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>			
<i>Sanford Fla.</i>			
<i>leg. S. Raff. 12-23-15</i>			

FARLOW HERBARIUM
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despair."

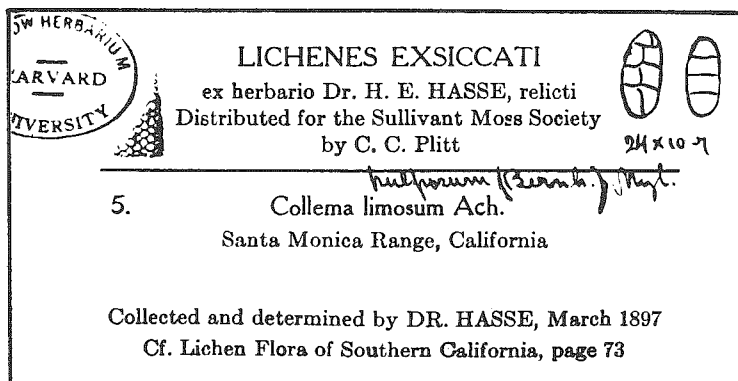
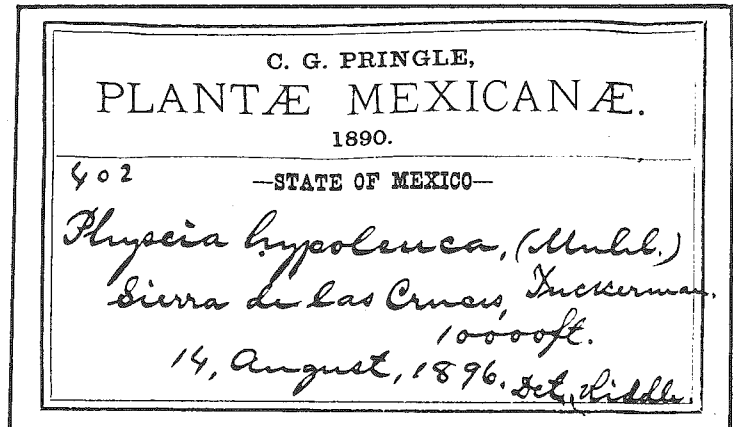
After he returned to take up a position at Harvard, Farlow had more willingness than time and energy. The general collection of lichens of the Cryptogamic Laboratory, which became Farlow's responsibility, grew slowly for, although Farlow collected, he did not center his research on the group. His first acquisition of note was the private herbarium of Edward Tuckerman (1817-1886) which numbers over 25,000 specimens. This herbarium, acquired after Tuckerman's death, was at that time probably the most extensive in North America. (For a comment on Tuckerman, see vol. 1 no. 1 of this Newsletter.) Tuckerman was an early explorer of the White Mountains and the first real authority on North American lichens. Moreover, he had exchanged specimens with many European lichenologists and bought collections whenever possible. With the Tuckerman collection at hand, Farlow had a major tool for the identification of lichens, and his letters and specimens show that he used it as such. It has continued to be one of the most frequently consulted Farlow Herbarium collections.

An interesting sideline is that Tuckerman never believed lichens were fungi and algae living together--the lion and the lamb of Gray's letter. In fact, some of his most pointed papers had to do with reporting the then controversial hypothesis presented by Simon Schwendener in 1868 of the dual nature of lichens--an idea earlier suggested by de Bary,

When the cryptogams of the Gray Herbarium were transferred to the Cryptogamic Laboratory in the 1890's, several important lichen collections were added, notably the lichen herbarium of the Irish botanist Thomas Taylor. Gray had acquired this for the Boston Society of Natural History; it had remained housed at Harvard for research purposes.

Farlow, and later his student and successor Roland Thaxter, exchanged lichen specimens with many of the prominent lichenologists of the time and also continued to collect extensively. Thaxter, for instance, collected many lichens on his expeditions to South America and the Caribbean. All of these exchanges and identifications made the collection more comprehensive. When important lichen collections became available, Farlow and Thaxter were always prepared to try to purchase them. The first staff member to have lichens as a main research interest was Lincoln W. Riddle (1880-1921) whose collection came to Harvard after his untimely death. (He had filled the position of Curator for only three years.)

After Farlow's death, the Lichen Herbarium and the other cryptogamic collections were brought together with Farlow's personal library to found the Farlow Reference Library and Herbarium of Cryptogamic Botany. Additions to the herbarium continued. The single largest acquisition was the George K. Merrill collection, purchased in 1927. Merrill was a professional photographer in Rockland, Maine. To him lichenology was a

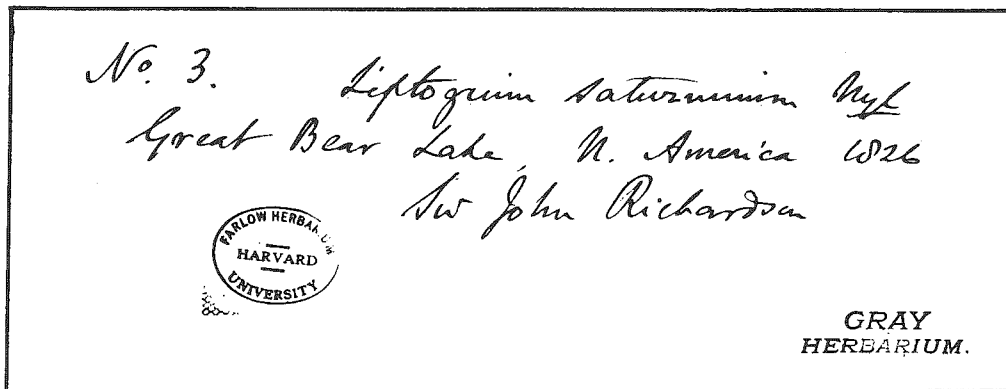


hobby, as were, according to one biographer, chess and baseball. He also did not believe lichens were fungi. Carroll W. Dodge, who was Curator of the Farlow at that time, referred to the process of incorporating the large collection as "filing the Farlow lichens into the Merrill herbarium."

Other collections came along over the years and, although none was as large as the Merrill, they all contributed importantly to the herbarium's ultimate value. Collections of H. E. Hasse, R. H. Howe, C. J. Sprague, C. Sbarbaro, and others all found their way to Harvard by one means or another. I. Mackenzie Lamb, the Director of the Farlow Library and Herbarium from 1953-1972, was a lichenologist and made many significant additions.

Today the Lichen Herbarium is made up of about 135,000 specimens. It is currently being remounted and rearranged by Curatorial Assistant Marcy Abbott--not a small task. In the process much is being learned about the people who made the collections, and about the history of botanical exploration in North America and around the world.

Donald H. Pfister



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Book Sale: Our book sale last spring was a great success, by all accounts. We had collected several shelves full of books on natural history, including some good stuff. We sold most of the books. A number of them received several bids; a few bidders did not get any of the books they requested. Better luck next time! We do intend to repeat this event next year, and have already started collecting. Should you have any books you wish to donate to the Second Annual Sale, don't wait--it would be helpful for the Farlow Library to receive them as early as possible. Remember, this is a tax-deductible contribution, as are all donations to FoF.

Library Openings: This fall the Library will again be open on the first Saturday of each month from 10 am to 2 pm, thanks to FoF. Last year we did not have an overwhelming number of visitors, but a few dedicated souls showed up. The staff put free time to good use catching up on library work. This is a good opportunity to visit the Farlow at times other than the usual working hours.

Historic Preservation: The Farlow archives contain a set of 31 large glass negatives, 1880's vintage, of the historic Newton Center, Mass. estate of John S. Farlow, father of William G. The house was taken down years ago. The negatives are beginning to deteriorate. FoF Treasurer Harvey Pofcher recently made arrangements to have the negatives microfilmed as part of a Historic Newton Inc. city preservation

FROM THE LIBRARY

FoF Discount on Farlow Publications - Remember, FoF members get 10% off on publications of the Farlow Herbarium. Current bestsellers include:

Occasional Paper no. 18. Leif Ryvarden, 1983. Type studies in the Polyporaceae 14. Species described by N. Patouillard, either alone or with other mycologists. 39 p., 5 figs. List \$4; FoF \$3.60.

Occasional Paper no. 17. Donald H. Pfister, 1982. A nomenclatural revision of F. J. Seaver's North American Cup-Fungi (Operculates). 32 p. List \$3; FoF \$2.70.

Occasional Paper no. 16. A Volume in Honor of Geneva Sayre on the Occasion of her 70th Birthday. 17 articles, 151 p. List \$15; FoF, \$13.50.

I. M. Lamb, M. H. Zimmermann, and E. E. Weber, 1977. Artificial Key to the Common Marine Algae of New England North of Cape Cod. 53 p., 54 figs. List \$2; FoF \$1.80. quantity discounts available.

Mailing costs \$.50 per item.

We have many other publications available free or at cost of publication; write me for a "Publications and Reprints Available" list.

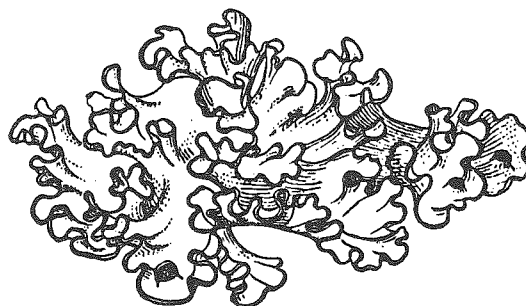
Empty Nest Syndrome, Anyone? - We need a good general encyclopedia (Britannica, World Book, etc.) published within the last 10-15 years for our Reference Section. If anyone has such an item cluttering up the shelves since the kids left for college, we'd be grateful if you'd donate it to the Farlow. Please contact me before shipping.

Gerry Kaye

DUES ARE DUE!

We're finally getting serious about asking for 1983-84 dues. Members will receive renewal notices during October, along with registration forms for the Annual Meeting and Dinner (see next page). We hope you will renew at or above your previous level of membership. Some of the privileges of membership are a 10% discount on Farlow publications; this semiannual Newsletter; and participation in FoF activities such as the Book Sale, Annual Meeting, etc. Full members in addition may use the popular photocopy service. Details of the membership categories will appear on the dues notice. As a new option this year, dues may be designated for the Geneva Sayre fund, mentioned on page 3.

A word about membership period: our fiscal year runs from 1 July to 30 June, to coincide with that of Harvard University. Anyone who joins from 1 January to 30 June will be considered to have covered the next year's membership also; i.e. if you joined on 1 March 1983, your membership runs through to 30 June 1984.



Please make checks payable to Farlow Herbarium and return by 28 October to: FOF,
20 Divinity Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138.

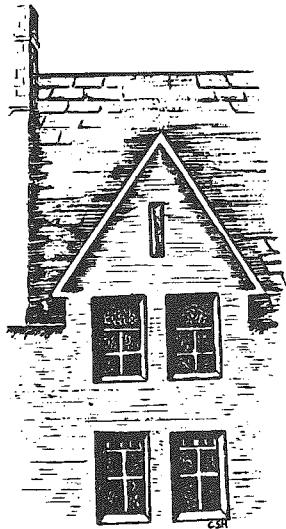
Name _____ No. reservations at \$21 _____
Address _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

The library and Herbarium will be open for visitors from 10 am to 4 pm. The Business Meeting will begin at 4, in the HUH Seminar Room. At 4.15 pm Richard P. Korf will present a talk on "Sleuthing in the Stacks." A Members' Reception will be held in the Library at 5 pm followed at 6.30 by a buffet dinner at Gund Hall, the Harvard School of Design building near the Farlow on Quincy Street. We hope to see you all at this Day at the Farlow. If you wish to attend the dinner, please fill in the form below and return with remittance by 28 October. (If you need directions or have other questions, write us or call (617) 495-2368.)

The Second Annual Meeting and Dinner of FRIENDS of the FARLOW will be held Saturday, 5 November 1983.

***** ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER *****



**FRIENDS
of the FARLOW**

20 DIVINITY AVENUE

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