

*Newsletter of the*



# FRIENDS OF THE FARLOW

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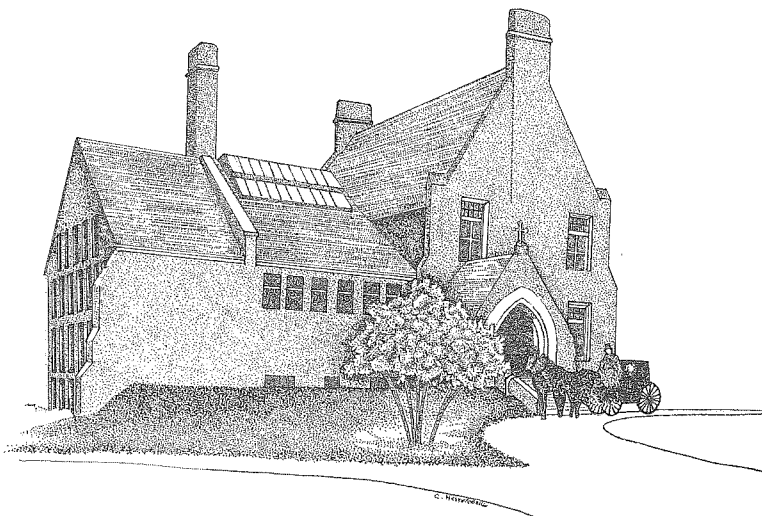
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## A HUNDRED YEARS IN THE LIFE OF A LIBRARY

Jean R. Boise

This year, as our parent organization celebrates 350 years of educational endeavor, our minds naturally turn to thoughts of our own institution's past. It seems especially timely just now to examine the history of the Farlow Library. For one thing, our current Early Mycological Literature Project has us combing the stacks for pre-1821 literature, and reminding us daily of the riches in the Farlow collection. These rare volumes are an invaluable resource to cryptogamic taxonomists who consult the early works in order to establish the priority of scientific names. For another, the building that houses the Farlow Library and Herbarium is one hundred years old this year. Visitors during the past year may have noted one indication of the age of the building, the scaffolding erected by the crew who repointed the brickwork and set straight a listing west chimney.

The great foresight of William Gilson Farlow accounts for both the quality of the library's holdings in eighteenth and nineteenth century literature, and its finding a home at 20 Divinity Avenue. Farlow set out to improve his qualifications for a college position in the United States by supplementing his Harvard education (A.B. 1866, M.D. 1870) with two years of study in the cryptogamic laboratories of Europe. He believed that a good book and herbarium collection would also enhance



*The Divinity School Library  
building in the nineteenth  
century.*

his chances. The collected letters from his term in the Strasbourg laboratory of Anton de Bary (Harris, *Farlowia* 2:9-37, 1945) describe his pursuit of books on cryptogamic botany:

[January 4, 1873] A book which I shall buy for myself and which, certainly, ought to be in the Cambridge library is Tulasne's *Carpologia Selecta Fungorum*...It is expensive coming to, at least, fifty dollars, perhaps more.

[May 12, 1873] At last, I have got hold of a Postels & Ruprecht for 32 thalers in Berlin.

[November 15, 1873] Two indispensable and unfortunately unprocurable books are Corda's *Icones Fungorum* and Sowerby's *British Fungi*. I now have a good many pamphlets which have cost a heap of money. However, most of them are very useful and not to be found in America.

[June 13, 1874. London] I have bought Sowerby's *Fungi* and a Harvey for my own use. I can't make up my mind to give \$200 for Kuetzing's *Tabulae Phycologicae*. I feel more like giving \$80 for Bulliard which is very useful for fungi and not often to be had.

Frequent were his exclamations at the high prices commanded for the scarce and specialized scientific texts--this after he was able to locate the rare titles within a bookseller's catalogue and beat the competition to an order. The modern bibliophile can sympathize with the sentiment even while envying Farlow's bargains!

On Farlow's return to America in 1874 he was appointed to an assistant professorship and stationed at the Bussey Institute in Jamaica Plain. Finally, in 1879 on his appointment as Professor of Cryptogamic Botany, he brought his herbarium and library with him to Harvard College in Cambridge. He continued to add to his library throughout his life with the result that "in his subject he acquired a completeness of literature rivalled only, and in no case much exceeded, by the oldest and largest botanical establishments of Europe." (Morison, *The Development of Harvard University*, p. 369, 1930).

Farlow died June 3, 1919. The second item of his will addressed the future of his library:

...I give and bequeath unto the President and Fellows of Harvard College all my books, papers, manuscripts and printed matter of every kind relating to the subject of botany, the same to be kept together as a whole under the title of the Farlow Reference Library, with the restriction that they shall be consulted only in the building in which they may be kept and shall not be removed therefrom, Harvard University to provide within three years of my death a place for the Library in a suitable fireproof building which shall be so situated that the Cryptogamic Herbarium shall either be in the same building or in proximity to it...

More than two years passed, and no suitable building had been located for the library. Reportedly, the executors of the will had begun to consider giving the library to the University of California. Then, in 1922, the Harvard College Divinity School and the neighboring Andover Theological Seminary adopted a plan to affiliate. The Divinity School Library was moved to join its counterpart in the new Andover Building and so vacated a building adjacent to the Botanical Museum, which then housed the cryptogamic herbarium. In April, 1922, permission was granted for the Farlow collections to occupy the building and for solicitation of funds to add a fireproof herbarium wing. The terms of Farlow's library bequest were fulfilled just three months within the three-year limit.

In 1923 the new wing was constructed (Carroll W. Dodge recalls drawing up the plans); some "changes essential to safety," not further described, were made in the old building; and the herbarium and library collections were moved into their new home. Roland Thaxter, Farlow's old student, became first Curator Emeritus; Dr. Dodge was in charge of the Library. The first visitor, Mrs. Lilian H. Farlow, signed the guest book on November 28, 1924.



## PUBLICATIONS

Champignons du Tonkin: Illustrations of fungi in the Farlow Reference Library: with the mycological papers of N.T. Patouillard.  
By Donald H. Pfister 1985.

Meckler Publishing Co. has issued a color microfiche edition of a collection of original watercolors by and for Victor Demange (1870-1940). They illustrate fungi of French Indochina, now Vietnam, and were done around 1910. French mycologist Narcisse T. Patouillard described the fungi; his papers are reproduced in microfiche form in this publication also. The volume includes in printed form Donald Pfister's introduction, a bibliography of Southeast Asian mycology, and indexes of the microfiches.

This new type of publication makes available for the first time in color a great deal of original information on Southeast Asian fungi. It may be obtained from Meckler/Chadwick-Healey Publishing, 11 Ferry Lane West, Westport CT 06880, for \$145.

History of North American Mycology: Proceedings of Seventh Northeast Mycology Conference convened at the New York State Museum, Albany, N.Y., April 20, 1985.  
Reprinted from Mycotaxon 26, 1986.

The Farlow is well represented in this volume: FoF Secretary Anna M. Reid wrote on Edward Tuckerman (1817-1886), Gerry Kaye on Job Bicknell Ellis (1829-1905), and Donald Pfister on Nineteenth Century Science. In addition, FoF member Jim Ginns provided entries on Canadians John Macoun and John Dearness. The 79-page reprint is available from Rm. 3132 C.E.C., The New York State Museum, Albany N.Y. 12230, for \$4 postpaid.

Wild & Exotic Mushroom Cultivation in North America, edition 2, by Gerry Kaye will be out later this fall. The author expects the new edition to contain at least twice as many entries as the first, reflecting the explosion of interest in exotic mushrooms. In the course of compiling the new edition Gerry attended the International Symposium on Cultivation of Edible Fungi held at Pennsylvania State University in July.

## LIBRARY



In June Librarian Gerry Kaye went to Claremont CA for the annual meeting of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries. Meeting hosts were the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, and Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. As Acting President,

Gerry chaired the business meetings. (This year she's Real President so gets to conduct next April's meeting, in Chapel Hill, N.C., as well.)

While in the West, she visited the Growers' Group of the Oregon Mycological Society in Portland, who invited her to address them on the Farlow and mycological literature. (In fact the group included three FoF members, Mike Wells, Maggie Rogers, and Gary Menser--probably the highest concentration of Friends outside the Northeast!)

Student assistants Anne Shedden Willis and David Cantrell worked hard at a number of projects, from installing shelving in the stacks to listing the books in the Dodge collection, before departing on the next stage of their careers.

We are the grateful recipients of a fine copy of James Sowerby's Coloured Figures of British Fungi or Mushrooms (1797-1815). A handsome gift indeed!

Our Fourth Book Sale by Mail once again generated lively interest. We had donations from 13 people, and bids by 40 people. About \$900 was raised to help support the student fellowship, which we will be able to offer again next year.

Incidentally, if you happen to be stockpiling books to send in for next year's sale, perhaps you should send them in before the end of 1986. With the changes in the tax laws it's not clear whether these donations will continue to be deductible next year.

Favorite Reference Quest of the Season (particularly timely in view of Harvard's 350th birthday celebration): "The first president of Harvard was buried in 1668. When his coffin was opened in 1846 it is said to be packed with tansy. Can you verify this?"

## FUTURE EVENTS

Fifth Annual Meeting

This year's meeting will be November 8th, in the Herbaria Building at 20 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. (see back panel for details). The featured speaker will be Dr. Sylvia A. Earle, Curator of Phycology at the California Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Earle has worked with the algal specimens at the Farlow, as Research Fellow or Research Associate, since 1967. She is an accomplished aquanaut who in 1970 led the all-woman NASA Tektite mission in a two-week undersea survey which prompted NASA's admission of women to the astronaut program. Her research interest is primarily deep-water marine botany, but her major concern is global conservation. Several years ago she was instrumental in making the Nova television documentary on whales, "Gentle Giants of the Pacific."

In a 1979 interview in the Duke Alumni Register, Dr. Earle reflected that "as a botanist, I'm interested in the state of the world. I'm concerned with the transformation of the face of the earth. It's a transformation we all have witnessed, but I, perhaps more than most, have seen it because of the fate and circumstance of my work. I'm not just a tourist." [In 1986 none of us can afford to consider ourselves tourists.--Ed.]

The afternoon will also feature the annual Business Meeting and--most important of all--the annual Library Bash (aka Gala Library Reception). Out-of-town attendees should get in touch with us as soon as possible if you need help finding accommodations.

Sayre Scholar

The Sayre Scholarship is an endowed Farlow Herbarium fellowship which received substantial support from FoF members. It is awarded periodically to help bring a scientist working in cryptogamic botany to the Farlow for research and consultation. The visit last spring of the first Sayre Scholar, Dr. Helene Bischler, was beneficial to us as well as to her, since she annotated many of our collections of Marchantia. Nominations and applications for future awards should be referred to Donald Pfister.

Graduate Student Fellowship

This Fellowship has been initiated by Friends of the Farlow to help make our collections more accessible to

graduate students in cryptogamic studies. The proceeds of Book Sales Three and Four have made possible the award (in the amount of \$500-\$1000). The first Student Fellow will be Elizabeth John from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, a student of lichen ecology who will be here in January 1987. Ms. John works on the spatial distribution of crustose lichens on the Jonas Ridge in Jasper National Park, Alberta.

Applications for next year's fellowship will be due March 15, 1987. We'll send notification to all FoF members individually, as well as publicizing broadly in academic circles.

...AND IN THIS CORNER...

Membership

Please help us! Dues for 1986-87 are now due. So far, we've received about 90 renewals; over 100 current members haven't been heard from. We know this is the busiest time of the year...BUT--you can save us the time and cost of mailing second reminders by sending in your renewal right away.

Notecards

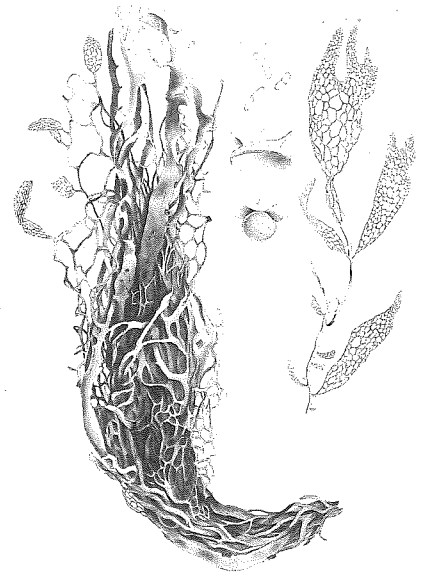
Once again we'll have topical notecards available for members. The design this year will be the nostalgic view of the old Farlow Building which appears on page 1 of this issue. The artist is our own Carolyn Hesterberg. (We're making notecards only this time, not greeting cards.) We still have available a few of the Pleurotus and Ramalina notecards and greeting cards from previous years also. In addition, with the help of FoF member Sophie Ducker, we've negotiated a card exchange arrangement with the Royal Botanic Garden, Melbourne, Australia, and can offer copies of their notecard of Coprinus comatus in full color. Price for all cards, including envelopes, is 6 for \$3.

Results of Reference Quest: According to his biographer, the grave of Henry Dunster (1609-1659) was rediscovered and opened in 1846. The coffin indeed contained "a large quantity of common tansy, in seed, a portion of which had evidently been pulled up by the roots." The tansy had been used for "embalming" or preserving the body. (Chaplin, Life of Henry Dunster, 1872)

FIRST CLASS

THE FARLOW REFERENCE LIBRARY AND HERBARIUM  
OF CRYPTOGAMIC BOTANY, HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
20 Divinity Avenue • Cambridge • Massachusetts 02138 • U.S.A.

## FRIENDS of the FARLOW



### F I F T H   A N N U A L   M E E T I N G NOVEMBER 8, 1986

This year's Annual Meeting will be something of a moveable feast. We'll gather in the seminar room of the Harvard University Herbaria Building, 22 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, Mass., at 3.30 p.m. for the business meeting. We'll proceed to the Biological Laboratories Auditorium at 4 p.m. when Sylvia Earle will describe some of her underwater cryptogamic adventures. At 5 p.m. FoF members and guests will repair to the Farlow building for its Hundredth Birthday Party and Library Reception.



*Friends of the Farlow is an international group of amateur and professional botanists concerned with supporting the programs and resources of the Farlow Reference Library and Herbarium of Cryptogamic Botany of Harvard University. Membership categories are: Associate member, \$5-15; Full member, \$25; Sponsor, \$50-\$1000; Benefactor, over \$1000. Membership year runs from 1 July to 30 June. (To join, please make check payable to Friends of the Farlow and send to address below.) Members receive a discount on Farlow publications, and participate in book sales and other events. This Newsletter is published twice a year. For more information please contact the Editor at the Farlow Reference Library, 20 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge MA, U.S.A. (tel. 617-495-2369).*