

Newsletter of the



# FRIENDS OF THE FARLOW

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Geraldine C. Kaye, Editor

## THE ART OF THE TITLE PAGE

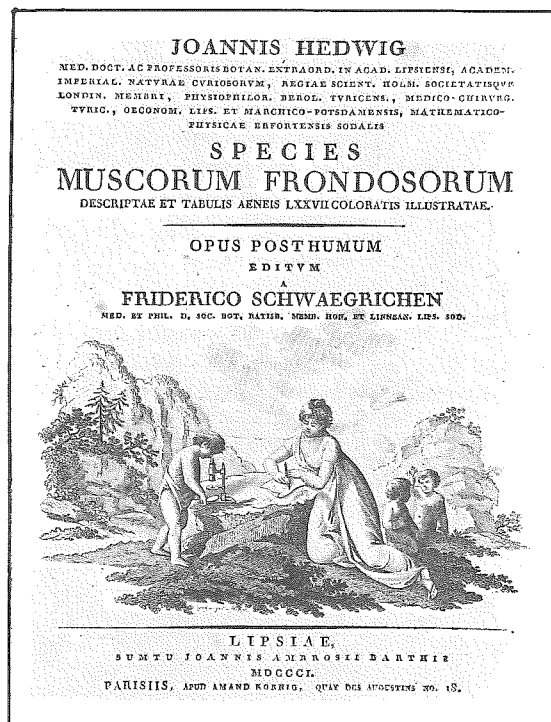
Donald H. Pfister

I have always been intrigued by the illustrated title pages of botanical books, particularly those from the Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Centuries. These title pages are on one level decorative; on another they may be allegorical. Fancy, whim, devotion, and dedication characterize the best of the elaborate title pages of this period.

From the Farlow collection, here are a few examples of title pages which reflect common themes. These themes stem largely from Renaissance interpretations of classical mythology. All the title pages share the use of cherubs or "putti" both winged and unwinged. These figures, common in Renaissance and Baroque art, play one of two roles. "Putti feature both as angels in religious painting--a role that reached its zenith in the art of the Counter-Reformation--and as the attendants of Cupid, the ubiquitous messengers of profane love in secular themes." (James Hall, *Dictionary of Subjects and Symbols in Art*, 1979.) In the examples shown, the representation is of active and industrious angelic spirits.

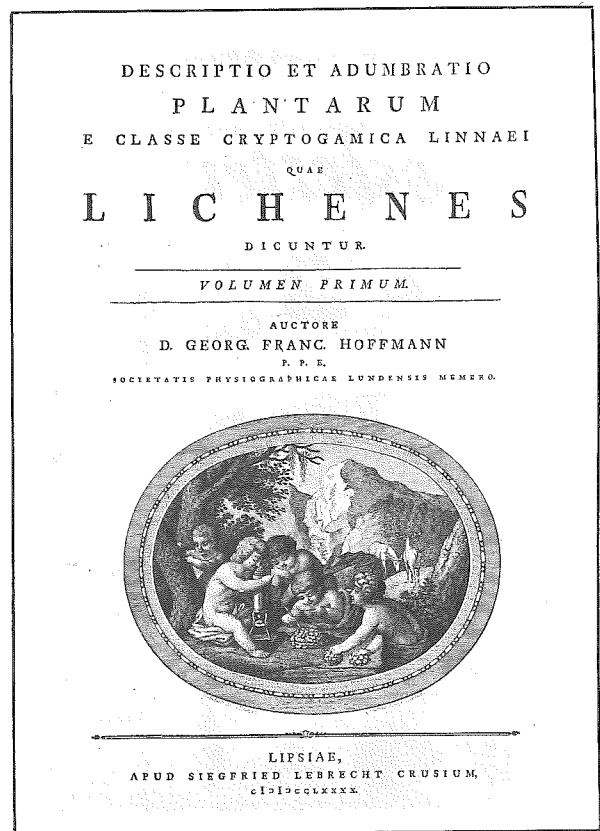
J. Hedwig (C.F. Schwaegrichen, ed.) *Species muscorum frondosorum*. Leipzig, 1801.

Here a Muse is surrounded by wingless putti one of whom is using a microscope. The Muse may well be Clio, the Muse of History, since she is shown with a tablet and stylus, Clio's traditional accessories.



D.G.F. Hoffmann. *Descriptio et adumbratio plantarum, vol. 1. Leipzig, 1790.*

A similar grouping of putti are shown, again with one using a microscope and the others collecting, examining or dissecting samples presumably of lichens. The reindeer in the background (which look particularly mooselike) may be nibbling on *Cladonia rangiferina*--the reindeer "moss."



J.C. Schaeffer. *Fungorum qui in Bavaria ...nascuntur icones. vol. 1. Regensburg, 1762.*

This is one of the more complex title pages I found. Athena, in the lower right, assisted by putti and accompanied by globe, book, palette, brushes, tablet, and stylus, seems to gaze off into the title which is itself capped by the patrons' shields. Surmounting the entire assemblage is the all-seeing eye, symbol of God.

Athena, daughter of Zeus, can be identified by her spear and by the head of Medusa which she wears on her breast. During the Renaissance and later Athena was above all the Goddess of Wisdom. Thus she is accompanied by the various paraphernalia of scholarship.

The cherub at the top right seems to be carrying both an olive branch and a palm leaf.

On the lower left is a multi-breasted figure which illustrates Mother Earth with mushrooms scattered around her. This figure seems to be derived from the Goddess of Fertility, Diana of Ephesus. In Renaissance painting, especially when surrounded by flowers, vegetables and other evidence of the earth's fruitfulness, she stands for Mother Nature.

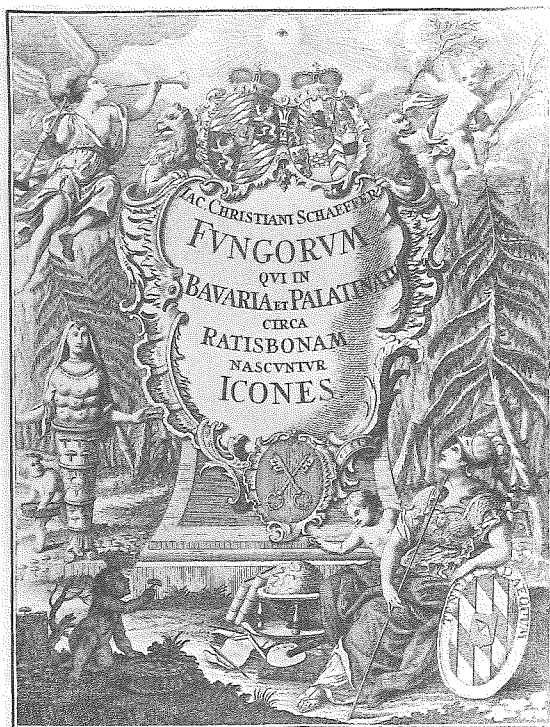
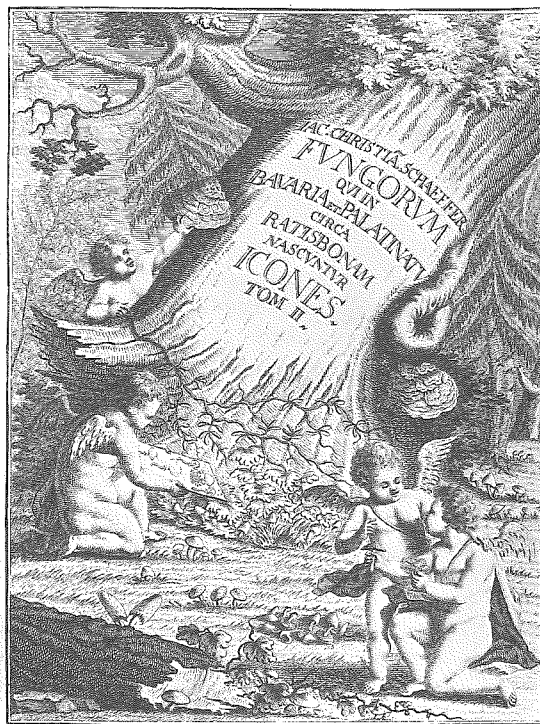


Fig. 1. Schaeffer 1762

Fig. 2. Schaeffer 1762

J.C. Schaeffer. *Fungorum qui in Bavaria ...nascuntur icones*, vol. 2. Regensburg, 1763.

Again the theme is of winged putti collecting and studying. Note particularly the kneeling putto on the left with a page of illustrations of fungi. It seems to me that this is an altogether exuberant display of enthusiasm for the study of fungi.



There are details I have not mentioned in each of these illustrations. It may be that, like those puzzles of childhood, the more one looks the more one sees until the

very trees begin to yield faces and forms hidden except to the diligent observer. ...Happy hunting!

## MYCOLOGY IN MALAYSIA

Farlow staff member Jean Boise went on a busman's holiday--or mycologist's vacation--to Malaysia last November. Jean spent her tropical vacation lecturing in a short course in mycology at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Plant Quarantine Institute and Training Centre at Serdang, Selangor, near Kuala Lumpur. She reports:

The twenty-one course participants came from Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand and the Philippines and were all plant quarantine professionals. Their jobs ranged from checking luggage at international airports to assaying grain shipments for seed-borne diseases.

After a lightning-fast survey of the major groups of fungal pathogens and laboratory studies on representative fungal specimens, the class moved on to specific diseases of local crops. On a

field trip to the cool air of a nearby hill station, Frazer's Hill, the participants visited a flower nursery, and a combination mushroom and hydroponic melon grower. One greenhouse of melons had just been wiped out by *Pythium*, a water mold. (Any survivors, as well as their five varieties of *Pleurotus*, the oyster mushroom, sell out faster than they can be produced.)

The three-week course ended with great ceremony. For the closing program we were directed to wear formal attire. The Indonesian batiks were especially splendid and the Thai silks were *tres chic*. We were on our best behavior, for our guest of honor was the Deputy General of Agriculture, the Honorable Yang Berbahagia Dato' Abu Bakar Mahmud. With a "Terima Kaseh" (Thank You) the course came to a close.

Annual Meeting 1986

The fifth Annual Meeting was held November 8, 1986, in the midst of a traditional New England nor'easter storm. About thirty brave souls weathered (literally) the downpour to attend. The business meeting reported all well with FoF, and outlined the planned direction for the next year--FoF's great help in making the Farlow more accessible to the outside world via fellowships, newsletter, and booksale.

After the brief meeting, and as if on cue, marine biologist Sylvia Earle of the California Academy of Sciences arrived from Washington after a considerable airline delay. (Some felt the weather set the scene appropriately for the talk that followed.) Dr. Earle treated the Friends to a visual smorgasbord of biology and diving technology in the sea at depths bordering the limits of human personal exploration.

Following Dr. Earle's talk the Farlow Library provided a comfortable setting for socializing among members on a (meteorologically) nasty evening.

New Members

We welcome new members Gerald Benny of Gainesville, Fla., Barbara Eldering of Chelmsford, Mass., Kenneth Lewis of Newburg, Ore., Emily Mason of New York, and John Walker of Rydalmere, Australia.

First Friends of Farlow Fellow

Elizabeth John, graduate student in lichen ecology at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, visited the Farlow for three weeks in December as the first FoF Graduate Fellow. She wrote after her return,

I would like to thank the Friends of the Farlow for my recent opportunity to visit the Farlow Herbarium. I felt that my visit was very worthwhile. My understanding of lichen taxonomy improved tremendously with the use of your excellent herbarium and library facilities. It was wonderful to have the opportunity of studying specimens previously worked on by the experts in their field...I hope to be able to keep in touch with the Farlow in the future.

We hope so, too--we all enjoyed Elizabeth's visit, and wish her well in her botanical career.

Margaret Lewis

We are sad to report that Charter Member Margaret (Hunter) Lewis died March 4, 1987. Mrs. Lewis was a nationally known teacher and writer on mushroom identification and cookery. Her association with the Farlow dated from the 1940's when then Director David Linder arranged to house the Boston Mycological Club and its collections in the building. Mrs. Lewis was president of the BMC, and as she said, "wore out many pairs of white gloves" in diplomatic missions to the Harvard hierarchy. (She was delighted with our latest notecard picturing the Farlow as it was when she first knew it.)

She was an enthusiastic supporter of FoF. She spoke at the 1984 Annual Meeting on "The Intricacies of Tricholoma," and was presented with a certificate of recognition of her many years of devoted work on the fungi. We shall all miss the tiny, feisty lady who was 81 years young. We extend our condolences to her husband and son.

It has been a sad year for mycology generally. This winter we have also lost R. Gordon Wasson, Alexander H. Smith, John Couch, Kenneth Raper, and C.L. Fergus.

## AROUND THE FARLOW

Comings and Goings

Director Donald Pfister is back from his sabbatical term (see Title Pages) and relearning the joys of attending meetings and serving on committees... Jean Boise is back from Malaysia (see Mycology in Malaysia)--and off on a collecting trip to Brazil...Gerry Kaye is back from the Ontario and Quebec Mycologists' Workshop in Guelph, Ontario, and will be flying south to Chapel Hill, N.C. in April to preside over the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries annual meeting (see also CBHL Berlin).

Au revoir to Curatorial Assistant Kelly Preyer who has left us for New York State; welcome to Jenny Stricker who inherits the processing of the Dodge lichen collection.

Geneva Sayre continues to work on her biographical and bibliographical projects.

## Visitors

Out-of-state visitors to the Farlow this winter have included: Gouri Rani Ghosh of India; Charis C. Bratt of Santa Barbara, Cal.; Stephen Walker of Tasmania, Australia; Mark DiGirolamo of Rockport, Me.; John Kingsbury of Ithaca, N.Y.; David Hawksworth of Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew; W.W. Judd of London, Ontario, Canada; Claire Schmitt of Albany, N.Y.; Robert S. Machol of Evanston Ill. and Washington, D.C.; Marcia Bonta of Tyrone, Pa.; Keith N. Egger of Quebec, Canada; Shirley Richards of Darwin, Australia; David Garbary of Antigonish, N.S., Canada; Susan H. Brawley of Nashville, Tenn.; Oldrich Lhotsky of Trebon, Czechoslovakia; and Marco A. Jardim Guerra of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

## C.W. Dodge Collections

We have reported previously on the receipt of the large Carroll W. Dodge collection of manuscripts, specimens, and literature. We are still in the midst of processing the various materials. Herbarium specimens are being curated; however, it will be some time before the collections will be available for loan or consultation.

We offered a list of duplicate reprints to the lichenological community, and numerous requests have been filled. Some items were included in the last FoF book sale; others will be offered in future FoF-Farlow sale lists. (To receive a copy of the reprint list, and any future lists, send us a card with your address marked "Dodge--Publications.")

## The Bartram Connection

Eleanor G. Bartram, the widow of Edwin B. Bartram, died last spring. In her will Mrs. Bartram provided a sum of money to be added to the Bartram Fund which will support work on the bryophyte collection.

Edwin Bunting Bartram (1878-1964), a descendant of the famous Philadelphia botanist John Bartram, was one of the outstanding bryologists of his period and was Honorary Curator of Bryophytes at the Farlow Herbarium from 1937 until his death. He donated to the Farlow his herbarium of some 64,000 mounted specimens and numerous duplicate and unidentified specimens.

The Bartram Herbarium is particularly strong in collections from Central and South America, Malaysia and Hawaii. In 1967 Richard A. Fralick compiled an index to the collection; Geneva Sayre issued an enlarged and revised edition in 1982. The Farlow is the repository also for Bartram's correspondence and manuscripts.

Howard Crum's biography of E.B. Bartram, with sketch and bibliography, appears in *The Bryologist* 69:124-134, 1967.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Reprints Available from the Farlow

We mentioned above the list of available mycological and lichenological reprints of Dr. Carroll W. Dodge. We have had good response from around the world. Many are still available; if you'd like a copy of the list, please send a card to the library marked "Dodge--Publications."

If you'd like a complete list of reprints and other publications available, ask for "Farlow Publications Available--1987."

### Return of Wild and Exotic Mushrooms

Gerry Kaye has published the second edition of *Wild and Exotic Mushroom Cultivation in North America: A Growers' and Gourmets' Guide to the New Edible Species*. The completely new version, dated December 1986, has three times as many listings of mushroom-related businesses and organizations as did the first edition of May 1984. A detailed review in *The Mycophile* (Triangle Area, N.C. Mushroom Club) concludes, generously:

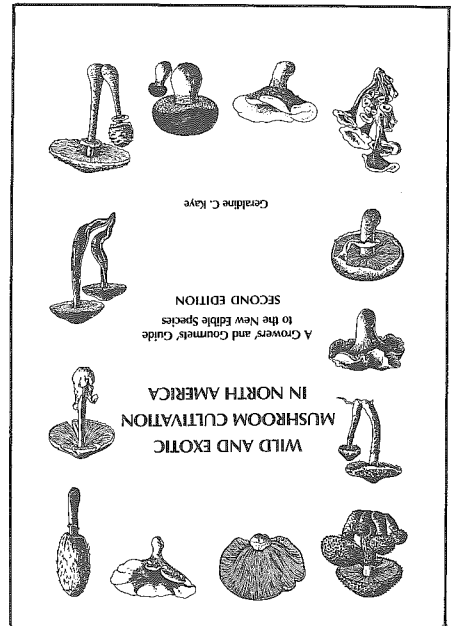
A bonanza of information on mushroom cultivation in North America, this book will more than satisfy one's information needs and is unequivocally recommended.

The directory costs \$6 per copy plus 75c postage (less 10% for FoF members; you pay \$6.15). Quantity price: 6 or more copies, \$4.50 plus 30c postage per copy.

Coming soon: *Occasional Paper of the Farlow Herbarium* no. 19, "Pioneer New England Bryologists: A Prosopography," by A.M. Reid.

## FRIENDS of the FARLOW

FIRST CLASS



### H A P P E N I N G S

**FIFTH ANNUAL BOOK SALE BY MAIL:** Yes, it's that time again! Please send in your surplus books on botanical and other natural history subjects by May 15. You will receive the list of books offered soon thereafter. Proceeds go to support the Graduate Student Fellowship.

**CBHL GOES TO IBC:** The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries is planning a special business meeting during the International Botanical Congress in Berlin in July. CBHL invites all interested in botanical documentation to attend. A major item on the agenda is the possibility of organizing a European chapter.

The date of the CBHL meeting has not yet been set, but we anticipate it will be held on the same day as the Symposium on Electronic Data Processing in Botany. If you expect to attend, or if you'd like to be notified of the meeting details when they are known, please contact Gerry Kaye, President, at the Farlow.

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*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).*