

Lichenology in the American Bryological and Lichenological Society— 1899–1999¹

IRWIN M. BRODQ

Research Division, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6P4, Canada

The motive for learning history is not always to avoid repeating it. Learning about one's own history is more akin to "discovering roots," which is always fascinating. Understanding one's place in time is an important aspect of personal orientation, and it is as relevant for an organization as it is for an individual. The history of a society can be presented as a kind of genealogy with professors and mentors filling the role of ancestors and parents. Although I will do a bit of this (because I have found it so interesting myself), I think my role as a lichenologist is to explain more about how the study of lichens has fared in a society dedicated to the study of mosses (something spelled right out on the title page of the first "Report of the Sullivant Moss Chapter"). One has to wonder why lichenology was included at all.

BEGINNINGS

It is clear that, from the first, lichens were an afterthought (as were hepatics), but an afterthought that was always encouraged. Look at the first paper on lichens in *THE BRYOLOGIST*. It appeared in the January 1901 issue, unsigned, but written by Carolyn Harris (Fig. 1), a knowledgeable and enthusiastic amateur who learned her lichens at her summer home in Essex County, northern New York. The title? "Lichens—The *Usneas*" (Harris 1901). The first line reveals why *Usnea* was chosen: "In commencing our study of lichens, it has been thought best to begin with *Usnea* and some of the varieties, as they are so generally called mosses." Harris continues by pointing out that "Florida Moss" (*Tillandsia usneoides*), which is a flowering plant, is named after an *Usnea*. So, why have a society bringing together bryologists and lichenologists? Mrs. Harris explains it this way. "Like the mosses, the different species of lichens are so closely allied that it is often difficult to decide to which species a given specimen belongs." Perhaps this is the key: the reason bryologists and lichenologists associate is that they share a mutual frus-

tration. She concludes, however, that "... every new species determined is a joy to one really interested in these curious, much neglected, but beautiful plants." And who could disagree?

In the 1901 report of the Moss Chapter, Annie Morrill Smith, the Secretary, says, "We all know that the lichens belong to an entirely distinct family, and from a systematic standpoint do not come within our field, but there seems to be such an urgent demand for some one [sic] to give a helping hand, that Mrs. Harris was prevailed upon to take up the work" (Smith 1901). And take it up she did. Beginning with that article on *Usnea*, Harris wrote a series of papers introducing various genera of macrolichens with descriptions and excellent illustrations. Where the "urgent demand" originated is hard to judge. Only Harris, Clara Cummings, Alexander Evans (though still a hepaticologist then), and Charles Plitt stand out as lichenologists in the list of the 92 members in 1901, although G. K. Merrill and Bruce Fink joined soon after. Henry Willey (Fig. 2) was still alive although 74 years old, perhaps too infirm to become active in the new society; he apparently was a bit of a loner in any case. Willey was a student of Tuckerman, but made his career as the editor of a newspaper in New Bedford, Massachusetts. But let's get back to Mrs. Harris. She said in a letter to Fink some years later (Fink 1910a), that the impetus for forming a Lichen Department in the Moss Society was the number of *LICHENS* that were being sent in to the *MOSS* curators for identification, by members who apparently couldn't tell the difference. It was Harris who talked the editor of *THE BRYOLOGIST* into including lichen articles to help educate these confused bryologists.

Clearly, if you were interested in lichens in 1901, the Sullivant Moss Chapter of the Agassiz Association was the scholarly society for you. Besides offering a journal containing articles of interest to lichen aficionados (which is what first caught Bruce Fink's attention and convinced him to become a member), the Moss Chapter began a collection that, almost from the first, functioned as an exchange, much like the one we still have. Members would send in collections for distribution, and these would be advertised in the pages of *THE BRYOLOGIST*. The

¹ The text of a speech given at a gala banquet on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the A.B.L.S., International Botanical Congress, St. Louis, Missouri, August 6, 1999.



FIGURES 1-4. 1. Carolyn W. Harris (Fink 1910a). — 2. Henry Willey (Jennings 1914). — 3. George K. Merrill (Plitt 1928). — 4. Charles C. Plitt (Anonymous 1934).

society also put members in touch with "the experts," people willing to name their collections. From what one can read in *THE BRYOLOGIST*, especially between the lines, it would seem that these experts were truly committed to helping out novices

and students. Articles by Harris and Fink (mentioned above) and a series for beginners started in 1905 by Fredrick Leroy Sargent (Sargent 1905) must have had a tremendous impact in building interest and expertise in lichenology.

LICHENOLOGY AND BRYOLOGY: A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE?

It is not hard to understand why, at least in the early years, lichenologists and bryologists made a logical and workable grouping. To begin with, there were, and are, some practical, and even scientific reasons that are fairly obvious. Lichens and bryophytes are often ecological neighbors, colonizing tree bark, bare rock, and soil; they are about the same size and require similar equipment for examination; they are both sensitive to air pollution (although lichens are the champs in this field); and both show worldwide distribution patterns at the species level in much the same way. For many years, they were both classified as "cryptogams," and taught in the same courses at university, often by the same professor. Many versatile members of our society are almost equally at home in either field: Alexander Evans, Fabius LeBlanc, William Weber, Wilf Schofield, and David Richardson, to name a few; and we know that many of our members, past and present, gave courses or published papers including both lichens and bryophytes.

It was only Bruce Fink, with his strong mycological background, who emphasized the fundamental importance of regarding lichens as basically fungi (e.g., Fink 1914; Fink & Fuson 1919). This emphasis only "caught on" among lichenologists in a serious way after Rolf Santesson's revolutionary work on leaf-dwelling lichens (Santesson 1952).

Nevertheless, lichenologists have never been numerous enough, or perhaps chutzpadik enough, to break away and form an American lichen society. There were some thoughts about it, especially over the years. Bruce Fink said that he thought about starting a lichen society parallel to the Sullivant Moss Society, but he felt so welcomed at the Moss Society meetings that he abandoned the idea (Fink 1905). George Llano (pers. comm.) said he made a start with a group called Tuckermania, but it never got much support. The break-away feeling was perhaps strongest during the 1960s and 70s, when lichenologists were being urged to express themselves more mycologically, perhaps even begin a "lichen chapter" of a mycological society. Many lichenologists do belong to the American Mycological Society and are active there, but the logic of a phylogenetic relationship seems to have lost out to traditional camaraderie, at least on a national (or continental) level. It's interesting that internationally, lichenologists associate more with mycologists. For example, meetings of the International Association for Lichenology are better attended at International Mycological Congresses than at International Botanical Congresses these days.

The question remains, how did a lichenological presence within a moss club become established and how did it grow? It may be useful to think of the 20th century of lichenology on this continent as divided very roughly into three periods: 1895–1930: establishing-field years; 1930–1952: the quiet wait-out-the-war years; 1953–present: the Golden Age of Lichenology (which, by sheer coincidence, largely overlaps my career).

EARLY SOCIETY YEARS: 1902–1928

And so, in 1902, a "Lichen Department" was formed within the Sullivant Moss Society (Best 1902), and, on the title page of Volume 5, "Hepatics and Lichens" were added to the statement, "A ... journal devoted to North American Mosses" ... but in smaller letters. (Hepatics and lichens didn't get equal billing until 1939.) The first Lichen Department was led by Carolyn Harris for a few years, and then by G. K. Merrill from 1905 to 1916. George Merrill (Fig. 3) was a photographer and artist with a studio in Rockland, Maine (Plitt 1928). He had an excellent knowledge of lichens, but is as much known for his exsiccate as he is for his informative series of "Lichen Notes" published in *THE BRYOLOGIST*.

Charles Plitt (Fig. 4) was trained as a pharmacognosist (a botanist dealing with drug plants) but made his living as a school teacher in Baltimore and as an instructor at Baltimore City College (Anonymous 1934). He didn't publish a great deal (mainly in ecology), but Plitt was an avid collector with a private collection of over 10,000 lichen specimens. (The collection was estimated to be the third largest collection in the world at that time.) His love of travel meant that his lichens came from all over, and he knew them well. Plitt took over the duties of curator of the Society lichen exchange and herbarium from Merrill in 1916.

Bruce Fink's life almost precisely coincided with that of Merrill (1864–1927), but Fink (Fig. 5) was always an academic, first teaching in colleges in Iowa, then in Ohio (Pammel 1928; Wylie 1928). He was very active in the Sullivant Moss Society, taking care of the Lichen Department for many years and serving as an officer, as well as publishing many papers on a variety of lichenological topics. From the memorial essays he wrote about many of his colleagues, you can tell Fink was a sensitive, friendly, and caring person, besides being a highly regarded lichenologist. In many ways, Fink was a true leader in the field of lichenology in his generation, at least on this continent. He was the first to tackle the crustose lichens in a systematic way based on mycological characters such as ascocatal structure and spores, recognizing many genera not



FIGURES 5-8. 5. Bruce Fink (Zander 1978). — 6. Clara E. Cummings (Fink 1907). — 7. Lincoln Ware Riddle (Fink 1921). — 8. Herman Hasse (Zander 1979).

previously accepted. His "Lichens of Minnesota" (Fink 1910b) was hailed by Riddle (1910) as, "the most notable publication in North American lichenology since . . . Tuckerman's Synopsis." The book contained descriptions and keys to a large percent-

age of the American lichen flora and formed the basis for the "Lichen Flora of the United States" (Fink 1935). The excellent photographs in the book were taken in the field by a professional photographer, C. J. Hibbard, working with Fink, who col-

lected vouchers for every photograph (Wetmore 1978). The color photographs taken by Sylvia and Steve Sharnoff for the upcoming "Lichens of North America" were vouchered in the same way (Brodo et al., in prep.).

Many of the earliest papers in *THE BRYOLOGIST* were by Clara Cummings (Fig. 6), a teacher at Wellesley College and one of the most widely respected lichenologists of her time (Fink 1907), although we know her now mainly because of her exsiccatae and her excellent work on the lichens of the Harriman Expedition to Alaska. She was only 51 when she died in 1906.

Reginald Heber Howe was a biology teacher in Massachusetts, and then the curator of the Thoreau Museum in Concord (Plitt 1932). He published his first article in *THE BRYOLOGIST* in 1906, but followed soon after with a series on *Usnea*, *Ramalina*, and other fruticose and foliose genera. These papers are extraordinarily modern in their scholarship, complete with the careful study of types and attention to nomenclature. Most remarkable for his time were his North American distribution maps. Hardly anyone in America or Europe was publishing maps this early, and it was several decades before the practice became popular, much less standard. Howe's articles certainly raised the level of scientific content in *THE BRYOLOGIST* several notches, at least in lichenology.

Lincoln Ware Riddle (Fig. 7) succeeded Clara Cummings at Wellesley College, but tragically had a very short life, dying at the age of 41 (Fink 1921, 1925). He was educated at Harvard and was everyone's greatest hope for pushing North American lichenology to new heights. He was one of the editors of *THE BRYOLOGIST* and was also a Vice-President of the Society. Riddle had the energy, intellect, and ambition to take on large projects. He was becoming quite an expert on tropical lichens and, at the same time, started a manual of northeastern lichens just before his death.

Other active players at that time included Herman Hasse (Fig. 8), a surgeon who served in the Union army, and then went to California to practice medicine. The last 20 years of his life were devoted to the study of the lichens of southern California (Plitt 1916).

Albert W. C. T. Herre (Fig. 9) was born in 1868 and lived until he was 94, his career stretching across more than two of our lichenological periods. He got his doctorate in 1910 (while widowed and caring for five children!) with a study of the lichens of the Santa Cruz Peninsula, but Herre had an equally strong passion for fish biology. He soon won a position as Director of Fisheries in the Philippines, and his lichenological activities, including

his participation in the Society, were put on ice for almost two decades (Herre 1997; Wiggins 1962).

THE QUIET YEARS: 1928–1952

During the establishment years of the Society, publications in *THE BRYOLOGIST* were mostly on taxonomy, floristics, and methods of study. A few excellent papers by Charles Plitt and Bruce Fink, however, dealt with lichen ecology (e.g., Fink 1902; Plitt, 1924; Plitt & Pessin 1924). The situation didn't change very much during the middle period of 1930 to 1952 when lichenological activity (like other activities unrelated to the Second World War) was sporadic at best. However, during this time, *THE BRYOLOGIST* published almost exclusively original research with almost no review papers such as were so common in the first three decades of the century. Perhaps the novice members were not regarded to be as important (or, perhaps, as inexperienced) as before.

Between 1930 and 1952, the most active lichenologists in the Moss Society (as it was called until 1947) were Joyce Hedrick Jones, Alexander Evans, Albert Herre, Carroll Dodge, William Leroy Dix, and later, John W. Thomson (who, as we will see, helped to inaugurate the modern period). During the 1940s, about the only ones publishing on lichens in *THE BRYOLOGIST* were Dix and Herre.

Joyce Hedrick Jones was a student of Bruce Fink. Although she never earned a doctorate, she worked very hard to complete Fink's monumental "Lichen Flora of the United States" published in 1935, eight years after Fink's death, and she published a number of other papers, mostly in the *Michigan Academy of Science Bulletin*.

In the late 1920s, Alexander Evans (Fig. 10), who had an international reputation as a hepaticologist, took up lichens. For 10 years, he published on both hepatics and lichens, but after 1940 (at the age of 72) entirely abandoned the liverworts. Evans worked exclusively on *Cladonia*, perhaps feeling that at that age, he should concentrate on a single genus. From 1930 through 1955, a stream of important papers on the genus appeared, many of them in *THE BRYOLOGIST*. In these publications, Evans introduced North American lichenologists to the joys and frustrations of lichen chemistry, and he established chemistry as a legitimate and useful tool for lichen taxonomy using the newly-published techniques and results of the Japanese lichenologist-chemist, Yasuhiko Asahina (Hale 1960). I visited Evans in his cluttered Yale University office-lab in 1959 to ask his help with some of my New York collections, and he didn't disappoint me. This friendly, patient, and generous gentleman of 91 did the chemical extractions and identifications on the



FIGURES 9-12. 9. Albert W. C. T. Herre (Wiggins 1962). — 10. Alexander W. Evans (right—with A. J. Grout, left), (Anderson 1960). — 11. Raymond Torrey (Steere 1939). — 12. Guy Nearing (Leach 1961).

spot, then loaded me with reprints and even a photograph of himself collecting in Florida. One of Evans' protégés, by the way, was a young undergraduate from Connecticut named Mason E. Hale.

In 1928, A. W. C. T. Herre, at the age of 60, began an 18-year tenure as Curator of the Stanford Museum. Herre was the same age as Evans, and like him, reached his lichenological prime at an age many people pack up their career. He published 36 papers on lichens between 1928 and 1960, most of them in *THE BRYOLOGIST*. He then took on the North American species of *Usnea*, winning an NSF grant at the age of 90. I met him myself in 1959 and 1960 when he was travelling around the country finishing up the manuscript. He scolded me about my scrappy *Usnea* specimens (vouchers for ecological work), but was always full of energy and happy to share his many stories and opinions. When Herre finished his *Usnea* work in 1961, he applied for a new grant, this time to study Philippine fishes, but it was turned down because of his age. Throughout his life, Herre divided his attention between fish and lichens, and was extremely productive in both fields. An ichthyologist I know was astounded to learn that Herre was interested in lichens just as we are amazed to learn that Herre authored 218 papers on fishes and some of the largest and most authoritative books on Pacific fishes ever published (Pietsch 1997).

In the New York area during the 1930's and 40's, two amateur lichen enthusiasts were interesting many young people in lichens. These were Raymond Torrey (Fig. 11), a journalist, and Guy Nearing (Fig. 12), a *Rhododendron* breeder of considerable note. Neither man published very much in *THE BRYOLOGIST*, but both were extremely knowledgeable and competent and are important for an appreciation of the lichenological scene in North America at that time. Torrey was an energetic naturalist with an infectious enthusiasm for lichens. It was Torrey who invented the name "British Soldiers" for *Cladonia cristatella*. He died in 1938 when he was only 58, but Nearing was still square dancing every week well into his eighties. Nearing's "Lichen Book," self-published in 1947 with his multiple access, data matrix keys, was well ahead of his time. Guy Nearing was an extraordinary person, as you can learn from David Leach's engaging biography written when Nearing was 71 (Leach 1961). He knew the northeastern lichens better than almost anyone of his day, but he had nothing but disdain for lichen chemistry. I learned this first hand when I brought up the subject at a dinner-meeting arranged by Mary Fleming, who worked at the cryptogamic herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden. Nearing and Torrey interested a number of pivotal people to enter lichen-

ology including Henry Imshaug and John Thomson.

William L. Dix was a Pennsylvania school teacher who spent much of his spare time at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. His articles covered lichens from the Ungava in the arctic to the West Indies, but, like Evans and Torrey, he had a special affection for *Cladonia*.

Grace Howard was a teacher at Wellesley College and then, in the 1950's, moved back to the University of Washington (where she had earned her Ph.D. degree). She published almost exclusively on the lichens of Washington. To my knowledge, Dr. Howard had no graduate students who remained in lichenology. I knew her only in her later years when she was retired and working on *Ochrolechia*.

Carroll W. Dodge (Fig. 13), on the other hand, had many students (Gladys Baker, Hugh Mozingo, Edward Berry, Emanuel Rudolph, and George Llano). Dodge was principally known for his work in medical mycology and authored a major textbook on the subject. He served several years as the curator of the Society's lichen collection. He was a quiet New Englander, who spent most of his career at Washington University in St. Louis. Although he travelled widely, supposedly for collecting lichens, he was not an enthusiastic or effective field man. His monumental book on the lichens of the Antarctic (Dodge 1973) was based on only one very short field trip to the region, and this may be one of the reasons for problems in the taxonomy of the taxa he treated. It is sad that almost none of his students continued in lichenology. Even Rudolph, who was very active in the Society (serving as a President), maintained an interest in lichens, and produced some good lichen students of his own, did most of his own publishing on the history of science. George Llano became a research and funding director with NSF and was active in supporting lichen research in the polar regions, though most of his own work (other than his marvellous monograph of the Umbilicariaceae) was on the uses of lichens. He is now 88, retired and living in Florida when he isn't leading Arctic and Antarctic expeditions.

Josiah Lowe came from a mycological background (at the University of Michigan) and published such a fine work on *Lecidea* (in the Zahlbrucknerian sense) in the Adirondacks that it is still extremely useful today. In 1938, however, he took a job as a mycologist at the New York State College of Forestry in Syracuse and made a successful career studying polypore fungi. Lowe had little to do with the ABS.

Fortunately for American lichenology, John W. Thomson (Fig. 14) came to the United States from Scotland with his family in the 1920's and went to



FIGURES 13-16. 13. Carroll W. Dodge, Missouri Botanical Garden. — 14. John W. Thomson, Ottawa, 1985. — 15. Henry A. Inshaug, International Botanical Congress field trip, Sydney, 1981. — 16. William L. Culberson and Chieita Culberson, International Botanical Congress field trip, Wales, 1964. Photos 14-16 by the author.

Columbia University in the 1930's when Raymond Torrey was active in the New York area; it was Torrey who inspired John's interest in lichens. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, John

began teaching there. It was from his lab that our most productive lichenologists emerged including Bill Culberson and Mason Hale. Thomson has been a prolific contributor to *THE BRYOLOGIST* for 60

years. His many monographs of North American lichens and monumental works on the lichens of the American Arctic have had a profound impact on North American lichenology. Still productive, John recently finished a manuscript on the lichen flora of Wisconsin.

It is curious that in this entire 25 year middle period, only Thomson and Dodge, and perhaps Torrey and Nearing, had students or disciples to carry on the field. It is amazing to me that there was a subsequent period at all.

In 1949, the Sullivant Moss Society changed its name to the American Bryological Society (Patterson 1949), apparently still content to overlook the lichenological component of its membership. Perhaps this was another manifestation of the low profile of the lichenology of that time. The Society, however, was regaining its activity after an understandably quiet period during the war. With growing membership and renewed vigor, annual meetings were resumed with AAAS in December, as they had been since before World War I. Universities were booming, and the next lichenological period was being launched.

THE MODERN YEARS: 1952 TO THE PRESENT

How things changed in the fifties. In that decade, a number of excellent lichenologists appeared, most of whom became active in the ABLs in one way or another. Henry Imshaug (Fig. 15), who attended lichen walks with Nearing and the Torrey Club as a young man, took up lichenology under the mycologist E. B. Mains at the University of Michigan and published a number of important lichen papers both on the northwest and on the tropics. Arriving at Michigan State University in 1956, he established a fine lichen herbarium and lab and began a new generation of lichenologists, among them Cliff Wetmore, myself, Karl Ohlsson, Richard Harris, and Ralph Common, as well as some fine bryologists (for example, John Engel).

William (Bill) Culberson (Fig. 16) started a rich lichenological tradition at Duke University in 1955, turning out some of our best lichenologists of today including Theodore Esslinger, Martyn Dibben, Jonathan Dey, Robert Egan, Paula DePriest, Sharon Gowan, and others. He and his wife, Chicita, also from the Wisconsin group, started lichenologists thinking about the evolution of lichen fungi, and took lichen chemistry to its highest levels of usefulness and relevance. Both have been extremely important members of the Society, especially as contributors to *THE BRYOLOGIST*. Bill also served as Editor of *THE BRYOLOGIST* (and changed the format), and Chicita was an effective President Elect/Program Chairperson and President.

Mason Hale (Fig. 17), finally settling in at the Smithsonian in 1957 after some teaching at the University of Wichita (Kansas) and West Virginia University, only had students as interns or postdocs, but influenced and inspired many of our best (James Lawrey, Roger Rosentreter, Bruce McCune and lots of others). He never wanted to take an office in the Society, but he published dozens of excellent papers in our journal.

William A. Weber (Fig. 18) joined forces with Sam Shushan at the University of Colorado in the fifties for more than a decade of fruitful collaboration, and then they continued on their own. Sam regularly attended ABLs meetings and forays, always giving a helping hand to novices (like me). Bill Weber also was active in the Society, serving as President from 1969–1971. Between them, Shushan and Weber educated some of our best western lichenologists including Larry St. Clair and Roger Anderson.

Ivan Mackenzie Lamb (Fig. 19), a British lichenologist, came to the Farlow Herbarium at Harvard University in 1954 by way of Patagonia and Canada. Although best known for his work on *Stereocaulon*, Lamb was a first rate lichenologist in every way with a broad knowledge of the taxonomy and anatomy of lichens. He was a careful and thorough researcher taking meticulous notes on everything. Lamb was never a very active member of the Society, although his exceptional student, Vernon Ahmadjian (Fig. 20), more than made up for this.

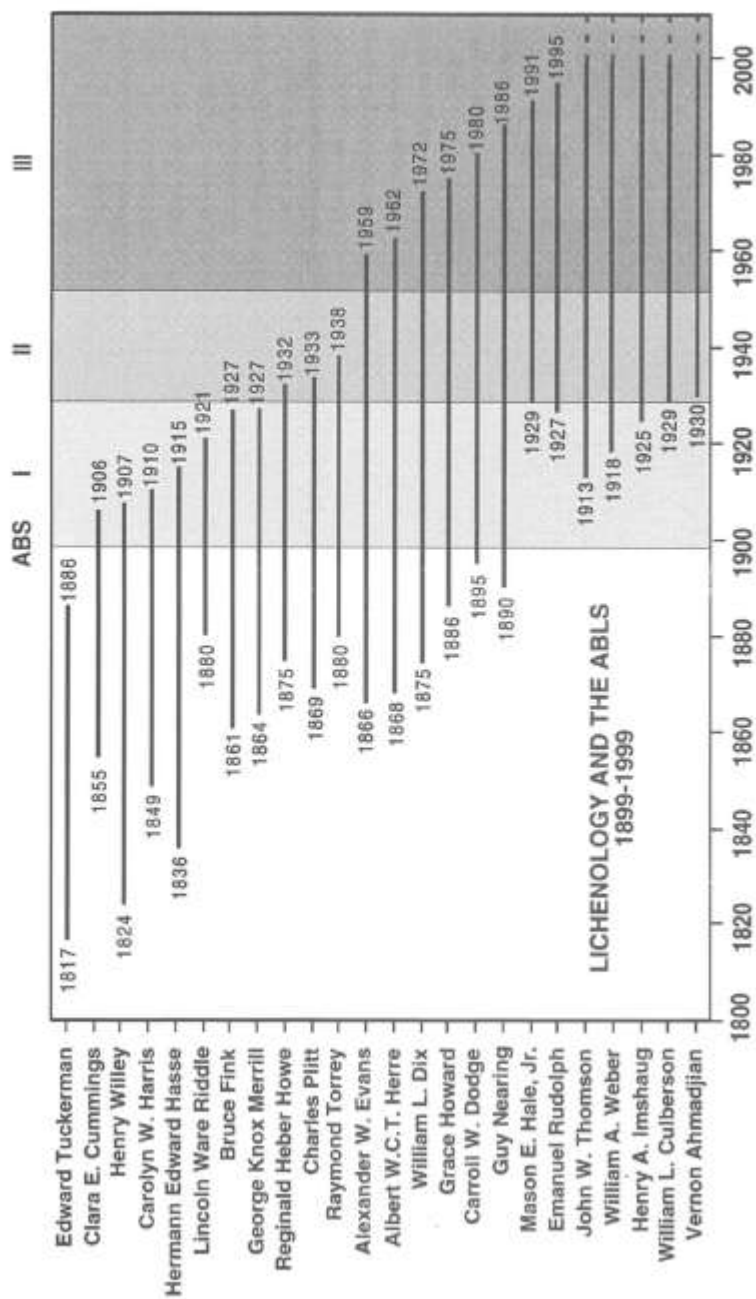
Many of the major lichenological events of the modern period were facilitated by the Society. Bill Culberson began "Recent Literature in Lichens" in 1951, giving North American lichenologists a way of "keeping up;" Hale and Culberson's "Checklist of Lichens" (1956), first updated in *THE BRYOLOGIST* in 1960 (Hale & Culberson 1960), told us what we had (or better, what we thought we had) in North America; Chicita Culberson's "Chemical Guide," updated twice by the Society (Culberson 1970; Culberson et al. 1977), not to mention her standardized TLC methods, facilitated major advances in lichen chemistry. Meanwhile, Mason Hale's "Lichen Handbook," "Biology of Lichens," and "How to Know the Lichens" (Hale 1961, 1967, 1969) educated a whole generation of students and provided an entry for amateurs into the field; and Vernon Ahmadjian's "Lichen Symbiosis" (Ahmadjian 1967, 1993) had a major impact on our understanding of lichen biology.

By the late sixties, lichenology in North America was booming and large numbers of lichenologists were attending the annual ABS meetings. In the summer of 1969 at the International Botanical Congress in Seattle, it was proposed at our annual busi-



FIGURES 17-20. 17. Mason E. Hale, Jr., International Mycological Congress field trip, 1977, photo by author. — 18. William A. Weber, photo by K. Abbott, comm. by W. A. Weber, 1995. — 19. I. Mackenzie Lamb, Antarctica, photo by Hans Gruen. — 20. Vernon Ahmadjian, International Botanical Congress, Seattle, 1969, photo by author.

TABLE 1. Life spans of significant figures in North American lichenology. ABS = date of the formation of the Sullivant Moss Chapter, precursor of the American Bryological and Lichenological Society. Periods I, II, and III are referred to in the text.



ness meeting that the name of the society be changed again, this time to "The American Bryological and Lichenological Society" better reflecting the demographics and interests of the members. Even before this was made official by a mailed referendum, the new name appeared on the Fall 1969 issue of *THE BRYOLOGIST* (without comment, by the way).

THE FUTURE OF LICHENOLOGY IN THE ABLs

So here we are, a hundred years later, equal partners in a fine society. We hope there is a great future for lichenology on this continent, but I sometimes worry. Who is now producing lichen students? Universities are again closing lichenological programs after someone retires, and whole-organism science is no longer in vogue or supported (certainly not in Canada). Focus is turning exclusively to molecular work, especially at higher levels of classification. Floras are being done only by government agencies, museums, and amateurs; soon, it seems, revisions will only be done outside universities and these will certainly be published in *THE BRYOLOGIST*. Will *THE BRYOLOGIST* also attract papers in molecular taxonomy, cladistics, physiology, and experimental ecology? I think it will have to, in order to maintain the Society's vitality and relevance.

I believe that another way the Society can live up to its purpose is to do more for the growing number of amateur and part-time lichenologists, most of them active in groups such as the Pacific Northwest Lichen Guild, Eastern Lichen Network, and California Lichen Society. A great deal of talent and enthusiasm is in those organizations, and the ABLs should be the national voice of their members. These people need national gatherings for meeting colleagues, exchanging views, and having colloquia, workshops, and field trips; and they will need a journal to publish their findings just as our members did back in 1901. For the university students who are interested in lichenology but without an active lichenologist nearby, the Society, through its meetings, can help to ensure that students have an opportunity to develop a broader background, and to prepare them to answer all sorts of questions on uses of lichens, broad and specific taxonomic problems, biology of lichens, genetics, and phylogeny. Otherwise we're in for another period of sleepiness. I'm optimistic, but that is our challenge for the next century.

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