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## HOW THE SULLIVANT MOSS SOCIETY AND THE BRYOLOGIST BEGAN

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To repeat here the details concerning the starting of *THE BRYOLOGIST* and the founding of the Sullivant Moss Society, given so well in pages 1-8 of Volume 20 of *THE BRYOLOGIST*, would not be a profitable use of ink and paper. In this account I aim to give a different slant on some matters and perhaps a little from personal experience.

While working on mosses for my Ph.D., in an attic near the Forty-second Street Railroad station, in 1896-1897, I became acquainted with Willard N. Clute, who was employed as an assistant in the Columbia University Herbarium, mounting acquisitions there. At that time, Mr. Clute was publishing the "Fern Bulletin," an organ of the Fern Chapter of the Agassiz Association which had been formed a few years earlier and of which I just missed being a charter member.

The appeal of the Fern Bulletin to beginners and amateurs in fern study suggested to me that a similar approach might be made to people who might wish to study mosses. Accordingly I suggested to Mr. Clute that we establish a department for moss study in the Fern Bulletin, which we arranged to do.

The first issue was in the January, 1898, issue of the Bulletin. By this time I had received my degree and was teaching in the State Normal School at Plymouth, N. H., whence I carried on the editorial work at first.

The title *THE BRYOLOGIST* appeared first as the heading of the January, 1898, number.

In the July, 1898, number (Volume 1, number 3) was published a note stating that there seemed to be a desire for a Moss Chapter of



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the Agassiz Association, of which Harlan H. Ballard, a nature-study lecturer, was President. Mrs. Smith's account, referred to above, gives a clear picture of the reasons why we parted company with Mr. Ballard and the Agassiz Association.

In this same article Mrs. Smith states that "it is even now too late to be certain as to who first thought of having a moss society," stating also that neither Mrs. Britton nor myself would claim the honor. Personally I do not know who first thought of it, but I think the files of THE BRYOLOGIST make plain who first acted on the idea. Clute's Fern Chapter undoubtedly first suggested the idea to me. After we had made a start Mrs. Britton intimated to me that she had had in mind a similar project. On this matter I quote verbatim from one of her letters dated April 22, 1898:

"P. S. I find in my box of letters yours of the 8th of March, unanswered. I was too much annoyed and too busy to reply just then. THERE IS NOT THE SLIGHTEST FOUNDATION FOR THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT 'and had I had an intimation beforehand that the name was soon to be wanted for a more pretentious journal, I might have been able to find another suitable name out of deference to your wishes, which I always wish to respect.' We have no intention of founding any such journal, nor are you bound so much to respect my wishes as you are to consider your position among American Bryologists."

The capitals are hers, and our memories did not coincide as to the use of the name THE BRYOLOGIST. She then goes on "You know . . . that I am willing and anxious to help along the good work as far as I can, but it does not seem to me that either Mr. Clute or you can afford yet to do things hastily and without consulting those who have had more experience, as shown by his absurd idea of dating and paging the Bryologist differently in order that you might cite it instead of the Fern Bulletin for any new species. I think you had better still print your new species in the Bulletin of the Torrey Club, which has a long scientific record outstanding and use the Bryologist as a popular magazine intended to help others to study the mosses, it makes no difference to my reputation what you do, but it does to yours and Mr. Clute's."

I feel that this quotation without farther comment explains the situation as it then existed. Mrs. Smith's disinterested expenditure of time and money was the factor that finally brought the infant project to a vigorous adolescence. To Mrs. Smith also is due the in-

fluence that induced Mrs. Britton to aid to the considerable extent that she later did.

Today's beginners and amateurs complain that *THE BRYOLOGIST* has become "too scientific" to help them much. This has happened to other botanical periodicals, also. Such persons should purchase the earlier numbers of *THE BRYOLOGIST*. The bryophytes and the lichens are still the same though too often under different names.

For beginners in lichen study I know of nothing superior to Mrs. Harris' articles beginning in *THE BRYOLOGIST* for January, 1901.

In conclusion, the reading of these early numbers, especially the lists of members, gives one a feeling of reminiscent sadness.

NEWFANE, VERMONT, AUGUST 7, 1946

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NOTE—It is our sad duty to report here the death of Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith, who from 1900 until 1910 was Editor of *THE BRYOLOGIST*, and who gave freely of time and funds to the Sullivant Moss Society in its early years. References to her important works have just been made by Dr. Grout, and it is appropriate to quote at length from a notice which appeared in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* for November 27, 1946: "Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith, Brooklyn-born botanist and widow of Dr. Hugh Montgomery Smith, former well-known Brooklyn physician, died here [Bronxville] yesterday at her home, 64 Sagamore Road, at the age of 90. She had been a resident of Bronxville 26 years.

"Mrs. Smith, member of an old American family, was a daughter of Dr. Henry E. and Cynthia Langdon Morrill, prominent residents of the Brooklyn Heights section. She was born Feb. 13, 1856, in a house opposite old Plymouth Church and was a member of the church during the pastorate of Dr. Henry Ward Beecher. After graduating from Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn, she studied abroad, specializing in botany. She was married to Dr. Smith in 1880.

"In 1900, following the death of her husband, she became editor of the *Bryologist*, a bimonthly journal devoted to the study of North American mosses and lichens. She was editor of this publication ten years and at the close of her research work in botany presented the botany department of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences a collection of 20,000 specimens of mosses and lichens."