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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: British Vascular Plant Collection of the Ulster Museum

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Source: Hackney, P.(1981). British Vascular Plant Collection of the Ulster Museum.
Biology Curators Group Newsletter, Vol 2 No 9, 415 - 419.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/1816>

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British Vascular Plant Collection of the Ulster Museum by Paul Hackney.

A brief history of the vascular plant herbaria now housed in the Ulster Museum has been published already (Hackney 1972). Briefly the present herbarium (BEL) consists of collections from four institutions/organisations - Belfast Natural History & Philosophical Society (founded 1821); Belfast Museum & Art Gallery (formed 1905 - it acquired the two society herbaria c.1910); Queen's University, Dept. of Botany (founded as Queen's College, Belfast in 1845). The Belfast Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG) became the Ulster Museum in 1963 and it acquired the Queen's University herbarium (BFT) in 1968. The present herbarium now consists of an estimated 60,000 specimens.

Hackney's (1972) account concentrates on the collections of Irish provenance which naturally receive greater attention and use. However recent reorganisation of the herbarium has directed the attention of the curating staff towards those specimens whose provenance is other than Irish. Of these non-Irish specimens about half are from Great Britain, largely collected by British (as distinct from Irish) botanists. This British herbarium (as distinct from the Irish and Foreign sections) includes an estimated 8,000 specimens of pteridophytes and angiosperms.

The botanists resident in the north of Ireland whose collective efforts have built up the herbarium have done little or no collecting outside Ireland (and this confined mainly to Ulster), with some exceptions. This means that there is relatively little material in the herbarium of British provenance which is "original" material as opposed to material acquired through exchange from collectors in Gt. Britain. The more important exceptions to the rule are T. H. Corry, C. H. Waddell, S. A. Bennett, C. D. Chase, F. H. W. Kerr, and, more recently, M. P. H. Kertland. For convenience a brief account of these collectors follows.

Thomas Hughes Corry 1859-1883

b. Belfast, educated Royal Belfast Academical Institute and Queen's College, Belfast. Subsequently entered Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. Became Assistant Curator of Cambridge University Herbarium. His British specimens are principally dated 1881-1883 and are mostly from the counties of Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Norfolk, with a few other counties (e.g. Cornwall) represented. Died 1883, drowned in Lough Gill, Sligo. Included in his collection in BEL are plants collected by Richard Francis Towndrow of Malvern Link (1845-1937).

Rev. Coslett Herbert Waddell 1858-1919

b. Magheralin [= Maralin] Co. Down; educated Trinity College, Dublin; rector at Saintfield and Greyabbey (both Co. Down). Secretary of the Moss Exchange Club 1896-1903. He was resident at or near Kendal, Westmorland in the 1890s, the provenance of some of his British specimens. Other counties represented are Yorkshire, Sussex, Worcestershire, Nottinghamshire, all dated in the 1900s. Herbarium donated to Queen's University by his widow in 1919.

Stephen Allen Bennett 1868-1934

b. Burslem, Staffs. Cousin of Arnold Bennett, the "Five Towns" novelist. Science teacher at Campbell College Belfast 1898-1926, a friend and colleague of C. D. Chase (q.v.). His herbarium of about 4,000 sheets

contains specimens from Staffordshire, N. Wales, Derbyshire etc., as well as the north of Ireland. Died at Burslem, buried at Lawton, Cheshire. Herbarium acquired by Ulster Museum from Campbell College in 1972.

Corrie Denew Chase 1878-1965

b. Keswick, Cumberland. Language teacher at Campbell College, Belfast 1905-59. Travelled extensively and frequently on the continent - his herbarium of about 4,000 sheets is mainly continental. His herbarium was handed over to Mr. P. Paice of Methodist College who donated it to the Ulster Museum in 1970.

Rev. Frederick Hugh Woodhams Kerr 1885-1958

b. Cerne Abbas, Dorset, d. Hazaribegh, India. His British plants in BEL are dated c1934, mostly from Devon, but the bulk of his herbarium is from Co. Tyrone and India. The following biographical note has been kindly supplied by Dr. G. Gillespie of Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone, who collaborated with Kerr in preparing a Flora of Tyrone (unpublished).

As well as his herbarium there are also five notebooks containing his plant records from vice counties 5, 6, 9, 17, 32, 33, 34, 38, 40, 55, several Irish counties and India. The British records are dated c.1925.

"Frederick Hugh Woodhams Kerr was son of Dr. E. Kerr of Dorchester, who had himself come from the Irish mid-lands. In 1907 he took his degree at Trinity (Dublin) obtaining a Senior Moderatorship in Ethic and Logic. He was ordained in 1907 and became Curate in Southwark and later in Rugby. He left this to go to the Dublin University Mission at Hazaribegh in Bihar, India. During the first World War he became an Army Chaplain and saw service in Italy. After the war he returned to Hazaribegh where in 1928 he married a fellow worker - daughter of the Rev. Joseph Chamney of Dormiskin. In 1928 they returned to Ireland and he became Curate-in-charge of Arboe, Co. Tyrone. Mrs. Kerr died about 1948 and in 1951 he returned to Hazaribegh. His heart was giving trouble and in 1951 he returned to Ireland and took up a curacy in Galway, but his heart was in India and again he returned to Hazaribegh in February 1953, and there he died May 19, 1958 during a very trying drought. A very keen botanist, he was meticulous in his work going over and over a specimen and then if it was something rare sending it on to some of his extensive range of friends at Kew or the British Museum where I believe they have a collection of his Indian Plants. Personally he was a delightful man, shy, humourous, with an old world preciseness that was enhanced by his always wearing the little white bow tie that one sees in Victorian Clerical photographs. His energy was amazing. On his last voyage back to India - at an advanced age and with a bad heart, he wrote me with delight that owing to Suez the ship had had to go via the Cape and he had got to the top of Table Mountain and found Proteaceae new to him. In a letter just before his death - he had joined up with a Jain pilgrame in order to get to some Sacred Mountain where he had never botanised.

An Elder brother - a medical man - went to Siam where he became a distinguished botanist."

Miss M. P. H. Kertland 1902 -

Educated Queen's University, Belfast. Junior Lecturer Q.U.B. in Botany 1938-48. Appointed Curator Q.U.B. herbarium (herb. BFT) in c.1948. Editor

of Irish Naturalists' Journal 1947-1976. British herbarium material mostly from Scotland, 1950s-1960s. Also much foreign material - E. African, N. America, Europe.

The Queen's University herbarium also acquired, in 1918, a large number of specimens from Charles Bailey (1838-1924). The principal collection of Bailey plants is at herb MANCH and it is presumed that those in BFT are duplicates. Most of the material is foreign (Europe and Middle-East) and collected by others, but there is a not inconsiderable number of sheets of British specimens collected by Bailey himself. Much of the Bailey collection has only recently been mounted.

The remaining collectors are principally represented as exchange material. The oldest British specimens are represented in the Queen's University collection, dating from the 1840s and 1850s and were probably acquired about that time. The majority of specimens, however, fall into the period 1880-1920 and seem to have been acquired by various local botanists notably S. A. Stewart, the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club, the Belfast Natural History & Philosophical Society and C. H. Waddell. They were acquired either by personal arrangement or through one of the exchange clubs.

The list that follows is a compilation of the collectors' names that appear on the herbarium labels most frequently, i.e., collectors represented by only a few sheets do not appear.

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Hackney, P. Notes on the Vascular Plant Herbarium of the Ulster Museum Ir. Nat. J., 17(7); 230-233.

	<u>Approx. Dates</u>	<u>Vice Counties</u> (C = Channel Islands)
* Charles Cardale Babington	1840's	29,90
Charles Bailey (incl. several other collectors)		
John Hutton Balfour	1840's	21
William Charles Barton	1914/17	11,26,48,13,10
John Gilbert Baker	1860's	62,65
Arthur Bennett	1870's	15,16,17,70
Stephen Allen Bennett	1920's	39,49,57,48,17, Yorks
**T. Butler	1846-1880's	10,40,55
Andrew Brotherston	1870's	80
Spencer Henry Bickham	1890's 1900's	15,36,37,39
Henry Bromwich	1880's	38
**T.B. Bell	1830's	40?
Corrie Denew Chase	1920-1950	C,1,2

**T.P. Curnow	1870's	4
**McTaggart Cowan Jr.	1900's	88
* Thomas Hughes Corry	1880's	27,28,29,31
George Claridge Druce		
* Joseph Dickinson	1840's	58
* Botanical Soc. of Edinburgh including:	1830's - 40's	
Christopher Edmund Broome		7,8
**T. Fraser		105, 106
Joseph B. French		59
Rev. William Hincks		20
George Lawson		Dundee
Robert Maulkin Lingwood		5,6
**L. Rabenhorst		no locations
James Mitchell MD		56
John Thomas Irvine Syme		Lancs, 82
John Fraser MD	1870's	39
Alfred Fryer	1898-1915	29,31. <u>Potamogeton</u> only
* William Gardiner	1840's	90, 92, 93
Henry & James Groves	1870's - 90's	many cos.
** J.E. Griffith (of Bangor)	1880's	?
George Goode (incl. plants by R.H. Goode)	1880's 1890's 1900's	48,29
** Paul Hackney	1967 -	49,59
Frederick Janson Hanbury	1890's	107, 108
William Marsden Hind	1880's	?
** John Heslop-Harrison	1940's	Hebrides etc.
** A. Hosking	1880's - 90's	29,36,58
George Alfred Holt	1880's	
Samuel Holker Haslam	?	Bristol area
Arthur Reginald Horwood	1900's	55
Fredk. Hugh Woodhams Kerr	1920's - 1930's	3,4 (and others?)
** Mary Patricia Happer Kertland	1950's - 60's	Scotland
Rev. Augustin Ley	1870-1910	many cos.
Frederick Arnold Lees	1870's	Yorks

Joseph Edward Little	c1910	20
Rev. Edward Francis Linton	1880-1920	9,27,28
Rev. Wm. Richardson Linton	1880's - 90's	31,57
John Harbord Lewis	1880's	59
** T.P. Lucas	1860's	31
** A. Melvin (of Malvern) (assoc. with S.A. Stewart herbm.)	1860's	Malvern area, 15/16
Rev. Edward Shearburn Marshall	1880-1917	many cos.
Symers Macdonald Macvicar	1890's	97,88
Rev. William Hunt Painter	1870's - 1900's	5,6,40,57,38
Ida Mary Roper	c.1910	6
Rev. Harry Joseph Riddelsdell	1900's	23,41
** J.T. Robinson		
Arthur Wilson Stelfox	1950-1960	Ben Lawers area
Charles Edgar Salmon	1890's	5, Perth. 98
Alexander Somerville	1890's	96
* John Thomas Irvine Syme	1840's	82
William Andrew Shoolbred	1890's	Inverness, 35,90
* Scottish, anonymous collector	c.1840-50	Clova, Arran, Eden etc.
Richard Francis Towndrow	1880's - 90's	36,37
** George Taylor (det. J.E.Dandy)	1940's - 50's	many cos. <u>Potamogeton</u> only BM duplicates
* Sir Charles Wyville Thomson	1850's	
** Miss D.E. de Vesian	1950's - 60's	Galloway
William Booth Waterfall	1870's	3,4
James Alfred Wheldon	1880's	Yorks
Rev. Coslett Herbert Waddell	1890's - 1900's	Yorks, Sussex, 69,37
James Walter White	1880-1916	6,34
Charles Waterfall	1890's	61
** Mary McCallum Webster	1960's	Aliens
* Hewett Cottrell Watson	1840's ?	several cos.
Anthony Hurt Wolley-Dod	c.1900	several cos.
Albert Wilson	1890's ?	60,

** Not in Desmond (1977)

* Acquired by Queen's University , probably before 1860