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The Queen's University Herbarium includes most of the collectors mentioned so far, together with bryophyte collections by R.D. & J.W. Fitzgerald including vouchers for their Bryophyte Flora of Co. Tyrone, 1960 (Trans. Brit. Bryol. Soc. 3:653-687).

Paul Hackney

ALGAE

The algal herbarium has recently been subject to complete reorganisation, the many separate collections being amalgamated together so that the specimens, filed under the name of the species may be readily accessible. Each collection is preserved as a separate entity by means of a collection number allocated to it. The size of the herbarium has recently grown considerably for not only have newly collected specimens been added to it but others have been received in exchange, donation and purchase.

As far as is known the oldest algal specimen is one dated "April 1798" and, with others of the 18th and early 19th centuries it was collected by John Templeton of Belfast (1766-1825). The Templeton specimens along with those of a few others such as James Lawson Drummond (1783-1853) are together referred to as Collection 1.

During the 19th century the number of phycologists increased and more and more collections were made. Many collectors worked on the shores of Ireland and it seems that they freely exchanged specimens. Indeed, we have some specimens which have been cut in two, the two parts ending up in separate collections. Among these collectors two of the more important are George Crawford Hyndman (1796-1867) and William Thompson (1805-1852), both Belfast men. The latter is represented by five large albums of algae, one of which is of foreign specimens, as well as many individual as yet unaccessioned specimens. Other collectors include William Strong Hore (1807-1882) an Englishman whose specimens have been found in at least three separate collections; William McCalla (c.1814-1849); S.A. Stewart (1826-1910) and S.A. Brennan (1837-1908), all Irishmen, although Stewart was born in Philadelphia he came to Belfast when he was 10 years old.

However more important than these collections are those of William Henry Harvey (1811-1866) who was born in Limerick. He travelled the World making collections, describing new species and encouraging others to collect. It was he who brought all the information together and wrote reference books still of use today. He collected not only in Ireland but also in South Africa (1835-1842), Eastern America (1849-1850), Ceylon, W. Australia, Tasmania and the Friendly Islands (1853-1856). One of the five William Thompson albums, mentioned above, has many Harvey specimens from the Cape of Good Hope and sets of exsiccatae totalling about 700 specimens, from Ceylon, Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand and the Friendly Islands are also in the herbarium. It was on collections such as these that Harvey based his books. For the British Isles he wrote: A Manual of the British Algae (1841) followed by: Phycologia Britannica (1846-1851). For America he wrote: Nereis Boreali-Americana (1852-1858); for the Southern Seas: Nereis Australia (1847) and Phycologia Australica (1858-1863) for Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania.

Some other collections are a great assemblage of miscellaneous species from many parts of the World. One such has been mounted as three collections numbered 11, 14 and 15 consisting of 231 specimens gathered by 26 different collectors, including W.H. Harvey, from a long list of locations including: Ireland, England, Channel Islands, France, Ceylon, Friendly Islands, Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, South Africa and North America.

Specimens collected in the latter part of the 19th century in the British Isles are also in the herbarium. There is, for example, Collection 12 mostly collected by Sylvanus Wear (1858-1920) in counties Londonderry, Antrim and Down. Others are as yet unaccessioned, for example Collection 6 compiled by E.M. Holmes (1843-1930) and Collection 3 gathered by William Sawers (fl.1850's). Other specimens of Sawers have been found in Collection 17.

Modern specimens collected during the last ten years, whether by Ulster Museum collectors or by others from whom they have been received in donation or exchange, are in some respects of greater value for they carry a more detailed record of exact location and habitat.

Many collectors have had to be omitted by lack of room from these short notes, indeed the handwriting of some is as yet unidentified. Herbarium work will continue in an effort to accession all the specimens and file them according to a standard checklist for ease of access. Since 1968 when the Queen's University, Belfast, herbarium was donated to the Ulster Museum the need for this has become even more evident. Many specimens have been remounted, their collector identified, the nomenclature updated and the species given an accession number peculiar to it. Only where this is done is the specimen ready for use and available for loan.

Osborne Morton