

## BOOK REVIEW

**Biographical Dictionary of Rocky Mountain Naturalists:** A guide to the writings and collections of botanists, zoologists, geologists, artists and photographers 1682–1932. — Joseph and Nesta Dunn Ewan. Bohn, Scheltema and Holkema, Utrecht/Antwerpen, The Netherlands. 1981. xvi + 253 p. \$48. Distributed in North America by Kluwer Boston, Inc., 190 Old Derby Street, Hingham, MA 02043. U.S.A.

The history of any science is primarily derived from the contributions and achievements of those investigators who make known the unknown. Much of the entry into this information is recorded and preserved in the form of descriptive biographical sketches. The need for biographical and associated data on contributors to botanical science, particularly to taxonomy, is fundamental where specimens are collected to document descriptions of new taxa, illustrate morphological variation, and represent geographical distribution. To augment or clarify these situations it often becomes necessary to trace itineraries of plant collecting expeditions, determine source localities of specimens, and revisit type localities. In the Rocky Mountain region in western United States, knowledge of the investigations of field botanists and other field scientists is one of the best documented in the country because of Joseph Ewan's first edition of *Rocky Mountain Naturalists* (1950). That book consisted principally of narrative biographies of 9 leading naturalists of the region supplemented by shorter biographical sketches of 798 individuals who contributed to the knowledge of the region's natural history.

Expanded by 33% in numbers of individuals treated and with the omission of the longer 9 biographical narratives, this new, rewritten biographical dictionary of *Rocky Mountain Naturalists* covers those who explored or worked in the region between 1682 and 1932. To the extent of the

information available or appropriate, most of the sketches provide birth and death years, names of professions or principal interests, major contribution(s) to the region, and references to places of collections and archives, biographical data, scientific publications, type localities, taxa described, and portraits. The book is based on Professor Ewan's meticulous bio-historical research efforts over many years of gathering notes on scientific exploration and compiling biographical facts of individuals. Joined in this production by his devoted wife, Nesta, they have brought together thousands of facts in a concise manner that will be useful to those seeking various types of information. Among those that may be mentioned are scientists, geographers, historians, genealogists, and residents of the region. The book is volume 107 of the *Regnum Vegetabile*, a series of publications for the use of plant taxonomists published under the auspices of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy, edited by Frans A. Stafleu of the Netherlands.

A sampling of biographical sketches, particularly with reference to those who lived in Ohio and visited in the Rocky Mountains, suggests some corrections and additions. It is speculated from a publication by A. E. Waller, but claimed not to have been seen by the Ewans, that John Milton Bigelow may have been a pupil under Dr. John L. Riddell in the Medical College of Ohio in Cincinnati. Waller's speculation is in error on 2 accounts: (1) Bigelow did attend the Medical College of Ohio in late 1831 and the winter of 1832, but then Riddell was living in Marietta; and (2) when Riddell was in Cincinnati, he taught in the Medical Department of Cincinnati College in 1835 and 1836, and not in the Medical College of Ohio. Bigelow was apparently strongly influenced by Dr. Daniel Drake from whom he may have had formal instruction, but of one whom he certainly attempted to emulate in some of his later writings. John Henry Schaffner was associated with the Ohio State University until his death in

1939, not 1928 as stated. Complete birth and death years are now known for the following individuals: (Miss) Hannah J[ane] Biddlecome (1843–1934), Annette Frances Braun (1884–1978), Kirtley Fletcher Mather (1888–1978), (Mrs.) E[liza] Jane Spence (1832–1917).

The serious reader with a strong interest

in biohistory will peruse the book at length looking for pertinent items about favorite naturalists. It is a reference book that has lasting value.

RONALD L. STUCKEY

Department of Botany  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH 43210

## CALL FOR PAPERS

92nd ANNUAL MEETING  
THE OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE  
22-24 APRIL 1983  
Bowling Green State University

Abstract Deadline: 1 December 1982

For Abstract Forms write:

The Ohio Academy of Science  
445 King Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43201  
Phone: (614) 424-6045