

The DePauw University Herbarium

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The date of the establishment of the DePauw Herbarium is not definitely known, but the estimated origin is approximately 70 years ago. Probably the founder was Dr. Lucien M. Underwood who was the professor of Botany on the DePauw staff from 1891-1895. There is a small number of earlier local collections with dates in the late 1870's and early 1880's. These may have been in the department when Dr. Underwood came to DePauw or he may have secured them in an exchange of specimens. Although the bulk of Underwood's plant collections are in the New York Botanical Garden, a number of his specimens have remained in the DePauw Herbarium.

When Prof. Truman G. Yuncker became a member of the DePauw staff, in September, 1919, he found a small, much neglected herbarium. The specimens were filed in pasteboard herbarium boxes with drop-ends. These, in turn, were stored in wooden cabinets which were neither insect-nor dust-proof. Unfortunately, it was necessary to discard a number of the specimens because of damage due to these factors. An estimated 900-1,000 sheets were redeemed.

The first large addition to the herbarium was the gift of the Earl Grimes collection, 1,000 or more specimens, from Putnam, Montgomery, and Tippecanoe counties. He was a most promising young local botanist who died in 1921, during surgery. Mrs. Grimes gave his collection to DePauw in 1922. The author, a senior in the university that fall, mounted these specimens, checked the determinations of all ferns in the herbarium, and assisted Prof. Yuncker in the reorganization of the DePauw Herbarium. In June, 1923, the Botany Department regarded its collection of plants in three small steel cases as satisfactorily protected against insects, fire, and dust, and properly arranged.

The vascular flora of Jasper County, Indiana, was the basis of the writer's thesis for the A.M. degree, under Prof. William Trelease at the University of Illinois. Dr. Charles C. Deam, then collecting plants in the preparation of his Flora of Indiana, left the flora of Jasper County for the author but checked each determination. The 710 species of vascular plants which were represented in this Master's thesis were presented to the DePauw Herbarium.

Upon the death of Miss Madge McKee of Goodland, Indiana, in 1950, her large collection of Newton County plants was presented by her brother to DePauw. Other sizable personal collections or duplicates have been given to the university by Charles C. Deam, Charles M. Ek, Ralph M. Kriebel, Ray C. Friesner, John E. Potzger, and, more recently, by Scott McCoy. In the late 1920's, Dr. Joseph P. Naylor, Professor of Physics at DePauw, presented his moderately large collection of mosses to the herbarium.

Since 1931, members of the Botany staff have made large collections in Hawaii, Alaska, Central America, Cuba, Jamaica, and various islands of the Pacific, as well as throughout Canada and the mainland of the United States. Duplicates of these collections have been exchanged with other herbaria throughout the world in order to increase the representation of families, genera, and species in the DePauw Herbarium.

As a result of special research interests of staff members and major students in the department, special groups of plants occur in the herbarium in large numbers. Dr. William D. Gray became a keen student of Myxomycetes while at DePauw and has presented the department a very large collection of slime molds. The collections of fungi by Dr. Emery G. Simmons for his Master's thesis at DePauw, A Monographic Study in the Stromatic Sphaeriales of Indiana, were presented to the herbarium. Mr. John O. Cottingham, a DePauw student from the class of 1896, has given through the years his specimens of fungi collected in Marion County, Indiana. Charles R. Hall has contributed a collection of algae, approximately 200 species and varieties, resulting from his research for his Master's thesis on the Algae of Putnam County, Indiana. The approximate 2,000 Indiana hepatic collections of the writer were included by Dr. Kenneth A. Wagner, along with his personal collections, in his Master's thesis on the Liverworts of Indiana, and were deposited in the DePauw Herbarium. Because of a promise made to Dr. Bruce Fink, a few months before his death, the author has continued collecting lichens in the state. These have been determined or checked by recognized lichenologists and filed in the herbarium. In the Mosses of Indiana, the collections from the 92 counties were determined and placed in the herbarium. The writer's herbarium of lichens, mosses, and liverworts consists of more than 32,500 collections. This number includes a very large accumulation of species in Fontinalaceae, Wardiaceae, Hydropogonaceae, and Hookeriaceae, due to the monographic studies in these families. Among the exsiccata of cryptogams which occur in the DePauw Herbarium are de Thümen, Mycotheca universalis, Fink, Lichens of Northeastern Minnesota, Tuckerman, Reliquiae Tuckermanianae, and Grout, North American Musci Perfecti, and North American Musci Pleurocarpi.

Dr. Yuncker having started his monographic treatise of the genus *Cuscuta* for his doctorate thesis has acquired approximately 8,000 numbers in this genus as represented throughout the world. More recently he has become interested in the Piperaceae and presently this family is represented by several thousand collections, chiefly of the West Indies and the Americas. In both *Cuscuta* and the Piperaceae, a considerable number of types and isotypes are included. It is believed that the accumulation of species represented in these special groups is among the largest in any herbarium in the world.

Because of the divergent areas: tropical, temperate, and arctic, from which collections have been made, and through widespread exchanges, practically every family of flowering plants is represented.

The filing of the specimens follows the usual herbarium practice. Those from Indiana are segregated in regular manila folders, while those from out of the state are in pink folders. This method materially reduces handling and consequent damage when examining the plants. Both species and genera are alphabetically arranged while the families follow the arrangement of Dalle Torre & Harms. A very large amount of the mounting of specimens through recent years, the repair of herbarium sheets, and the filing in the herbarium cases has been done by Mrs. Yuncker.

In 1955, the Lilly Endowment Foundation made a grant of \$15,000 for use in improving and enlarging the herbarium and for the purchase of

such works as the *Index Kewensis*, Engler & Prantl's *Pflanzenfamilien*, the *Pflanzenreich*, and various floras and other important reference works.

The herbarium, presently known as the Truman G. Yunker Herbarium of DePauw University, at the beginning of the university's 125th year, has a total of approximately 125,000 specimens and is completely housed in steel, insect- and dust-proof cases, in the Department of Botany & Bacteriology, in Harrison Hall.