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The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.



THE MORTON ARBORETUM

*Joy Morton, founder*

LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532 Phone: WOODLAND 8-0074

January 14, 1971

Professor A. Carlyle Beyer,  
Chairman, Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Dear Professor Beyer,

I am sending you in the enclosure the formal proposal of Dr. Iltis and me of which I spoke to you by telephone last week.

Two of the several letters which were written supporting our belief that Professor Ewan is worthy of the degree proposed are absent, for the originals were sent to you. These were written by Dr. G. H. M. Lawrence, and Dr. John C. Greene.

It has been a pleasure to read the letters written to your Committee, for nearly every one exhibits so much esteem and affection for Professor Ewan. Whatever the decision of your Committee may be, I believe it cannot fail to be pleased at the opportunity of receiving these expressions of scholarly judgment and of friendship from such a varied group of scholars.

Sincerely,

George B. Van Schaack  
Bibliographer

GBVS:HHC

A proposal to the Honorary Degrees Committee  
of the College of William and Mary:

That Professor Joseph A. Ewan, Tulane University,  
be considered for an honorary doctor's degree  
to be granted by the College of William and Mary.

Submitted by Professor Hugh H. Iltis, University of Wisconsin,  
and Mr. George B. Van Schaack, Bibliographer, Morton Arboretum.

January 14, 1971

Department of Botany  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

and

Morton Arboretum  
Lisle, Illinois 60532

December 28, 1970

Professor A. Carlyle Beyer  
Chairman, Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Dear Professor Beyer,

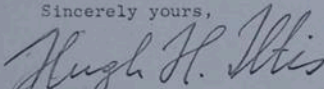
We address you to propose the name of Professor Joseph Ewan of Tulane University for an honorary doctor's degree from the College of William and Mary.

During the past quarter century Professor Ewan has become a most productive and distinguished historian of North American botany, while at the same time building a well-recognized position as a teacher of taxonomy, floristics, and botanical history at Tulane University. Our enclosures, we believe, support this opinion.

We feel our proposal to be appropriately addressed to the College of William and Mary at this time in virtue of Professor Ewan's most recent work, done jointly with Mrs. Ewan, and published last fall by the University of Illinois Press. We refer to John Banister and his natural history of Virginia, 1678-1692. As you are aware John Banister was one of the founding trustees of the College of William and Mary, and, in the Ewans' book, the College now has a thorough and definitive account of his contributions to the early history of Virginia.

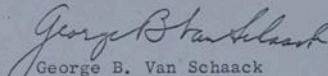
We beg to state that we have prepared the papers for this proposal following Dr. J. T. Baldwin's encouraging answer to our letter to him. We hope the proposal may meet with the approval of your Committee.

Sincerely yours,

  
Hugh H. Iltis  
Professor of Botany

and

Sincerely yours,

  
George B. Van Schaack  
Bibliographer

Biographical sketch of  
JOSEPH ANDORFER EWAN\*

Professor Joseph Andorfer Ewan was born in Philadelphia, Pa., October 24, 1909. His degree of B.A. was awarded by the University of California (Berkeley) in 1934. From 1933-37 he was research assistant to Willis Linn Jepson in the writing of the latter's Flora of California, and from 1937-44 he was instructor in biology at the University of Colorado. The years 1944-47 he spent in various government services: quinine exploration in South America, followed by curatorial and other botanical work at the Smithsonian Institution and the Bureau of Plant Industry at Beltsville. He was appointed assistant professor of botany at Tulane University in 1947 (associate professor, 1952-57; professor, 1957- ).

Professor Ewan has become one of the most distinguished and most productive scholars in the history of North American botany. His early papers in this field were biographical sketches of botanical explorers of Colorado (B29, 40, 48, 50, 52, 61, 75); these form the basis of his Rocky Mountain Naturalists of 1950 (B86), in which are included paragraph sketches of scores of other naturalists in general. This intensive interest in the whole of descriptive biology, already evidenced in his early papers of 1928-34, here comes to fruition. Ever since then, although of necessity restricted in the main to botanical work, his interests have been very wide, and his courses at Tulane University in the history of biology have had indeed the nature of a liberal education in the history of naturalists from Aristotle onward. This full coverage of interest is especially well shown in his two most substantial works: William Bartram. Botanical and Zoological Drawings, 1756-1788 (B198), and (with Mrs. Ewan) John Banister and his Natural History of Virginia (B209).

These two titles exhibit also his encyclopedic knowledge of botanical, and more generally biological, literature of the past, as well as his intimate acquaintance with the relevant manuscript material in a large number of the important libraries of the western world. Such bibliographic interests have also produced Bibliography of the Botany of Arizona (B17), botanical footnotes in En-deavour journal of Joseph Banks (B155), and Bibliography of Louisiana Botany (B192), not to mention several lesser pieces.

Among invited papers are to be noted: L'Activité des premiers explorateurs Français dans le sud-est des Etats Unis [presented in Paris] (B127); Scientist

\*This sketch is written with the background of Professor Ewan's bibliography in mind. A copy of this bibliography is attached; the designation 'B' followed by a number refers to this list. The entry for Professor Ewan in American Men of Science is appended to this sketch.

on the Frontier [presented in St. Louis] (B154); French naturalists in the Mississippi Valley [presented in St. Louis] (B208), which was commissioned for presentation to all members of the 11th International Botanical Congress, 1969, Seattle. Because of his intimate knowledge of Cook's Endeavour voyage (B155) he was invited as lecturer to the University of Hawaii for the summer of 1967, where he presented a history of Cook's voyages.

His bibliography contains some 75 reviews, several of them far from cursory remarks; especially notable is that of The story of the Royal Horticultural Society by Harold Fletcher (B201). This horticultural facet of his interests has been intensively developed in the history of early American horticulturists: Bernard M'Mahon (B142), and (with Mrs. Ewan) John Lyon (B164); and for John Bartram and Humphry Marshall, the introductions to two volumes (B188,189) of the series Classica botanica americana (Hafner), of which Prof. Ewan has been editor since 1966. He is also a contributor to Scribner's Dictionary of scientific biography currently appearing.

Through all of this he has had a lively interest in his original leaning to taxonomy and floristics. To the first of these he has contributed substantial studies in the genus Delphinium (B16, 25, 36, 39, 60, 83, 89, 92), and to the second numerous articles, especially on ferns.

He has been the recipient of several grants from the American Philosophical Society, and of a Guggenheim Fellowship for study in Europe, 1954-55.

His role in teaching at Tulane has been seminal for the students fortunate enough to enroll in his classes, because of the scope of interest he can present to undergraduates of varied backgrounds and goals. He has also engaged in the study of the local flora on a floristic basis, and of the city flora in relation to its importance to the public. One significant connection between the public and Tulane University has been the interest he stimulated in one benefactor who has contributed very substantial funds for the purchase of rare botanical works for the Howard Tilton Library at the University.

Finally, never too busy to answer a postal inquiry, he has correspondents around the world, and across most of the natural sciences.

The following is Professor Ewan's citation in American Men of Science, Tenth Edition.

"EWAN, PROF. JOSEPH (ANDORFER), Tulane University, New Orleans 18, La. BOTANY. Philadelphia, Pa, Oct. 24, 09; m. 35; c. 3. A.B, California, 34, 34-37. Asst. phanerogamic bot, California, 33-37; instr. biol, Colorado, 37-44; botanist, For. Econ. Admin, Colombia, 44-45; asst. curator div. plants, Smithsonian Inst. 45-46; assoc. botanist, bur. plant indust, U.S. Dept. Agr. Md, 46-48; asst. prof. BOT, TULANE, 47-52, assoc. prof, 52-57, PROF, 57-Grantee, Am. Philos. Soc, 49-52, 54; Guggenheim fel, 54; Nat. Sci. Found, 59. Official delegate, Colloques int. du Centre Nat. de la Recherche Sci, Paris, 56. Mem. Wash. Acad. Sci. bot. explor, S.Am. Fern Soc. (v. pres, 41-47; pres, 48-50); Soc. Plant Taxon; Cooper Ornith. Soc; Torrey Bot. Club. London Soc. for Bibliog. Nat. Hist. Taxonomy of Delphinium, Vismia and American Gentianaceae; comparison of vegetation of North America cordilleras with that of Andes; phytogeography and flora of Louisiana."

Ewan Bibliography  
1928-1969

- 1928 California Black Rail in Los Angeles County. Condor 30: 247. [1]  
Trailside notes from the Southern California mountains. Coleopter  
45: 152-153. [2]
- 1929 Trailside notes from the Southern California mountains. Second  
series. Oologist 46: 62-65. [3]
- 1930 Nichols Canyon. American Botanist 36: 21-24. [4]
- 1931 Five thousand feet of plants. American Botanist 37: 58-64. [5]  
Recent Fern Notes from Southern California. Amer. Fern Jour.  
21: 106-109. [6]
- 1932 Pacific Rattlesnake at High Altitude on San Jacinto Peak, California.  
Copeia no. 1. p. 36. [7]
- 1934 More Fern Notes from California. Amer. Fern Jour. 24: 1-9. [8]
- 1934 Anstruther Davidson: An Appreciation. Madrono 2: 124-128. port. [9]
- 1935 Annotations on West American Ferns--I. Amer. Fern Jour. 25: 86-95. [10]  
Status of Pellaea compacta (Davenp.) Maxon, and a probationary  
method in systematic botany. Jour. Wash. Acad. Sci. 25: 363-370. [11]  
Bibliographical Miscellany--I. On Ambiguity in Author Abbreviations.  
Torreya 35: 39-41. [12]
- 1936 Notes on Southwestern Plants. Bull. S. Calif. Acad. Sci. 34: 177-183.  
(with F. Raymond Fosberg) [13]  
Summer Notes from Plumas County, California. Condor 38: 83-85. [14]  
Bibliographical Miscellany--II. Bentham's Specific names based on  
Habit of the Plant. Torreya 36: 25-28. [15]  
Genus Delphinium in North America: Series Pelligeriae of Subsection  
Subscaposa. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 63: 327-342. [16]  
Bibliography of the Botany of Arizona. Amer. Midland Nat. 17: 430-454. [17]
- 1937 Flora of California (vol. 2) by W. L. Jepson (book review) Sierra Club  
Bull. 22: 112-113. (Feb.) [18]  
Cañillas Canyon of Lower California: Its Geography and Botanical  
History. Amer. Midland Nat. 18: 351-362. [19]

3708 Manton Drive  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503  
11 January 1971

Dr. A. Carlyle Beyer, Chairman  
Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Virginia

Dear Dr. Beyer,

It has come to my attention that Joseph Ewan is being suggested to your committee for consideration as a possible recipient of an honorary degree from the College. I am delighted to learn of it, and take great pleasure in seconding the motion.

For the past two years I have served as Chairman of the History Section of the Botanical Society of America, and for the past twelve years I have been engaged in research and writing in the history of American botany. There is no doubt in my mind that both in this country and abroad Joe Ewan is regarded as the outstanding authority in this field. His many contributions will no doubt be listed by those who are proposing him. I should like to add one which will not appear among his many publications. I refer to his continual and untiring encouragement and assistance to other workers. His knowledge of his subject is encyclopaedic and he has always shared it with the utmost generosity.

I enclose an editorial from one of our local papers to suggest to you that even non-botanists are impressed by Ewan's work.

Cordially yours,

*Edmund Berkeley*  
Edmund Berkeley  
Professor of Biology  
Central Virginia  
Community College

# The Daily Advance

Published by The Lynchburg Daily Advance, Inc., Lynchburg, Virginia

Formerly Carter Glass & Sons, Publishers

THOMAS R. GLASS, Executive Editor

PHILIP LIGHTFOOT SCRUGGS, Editorial Director

A. T. GUNN Jr., Editor

JAMES A. HODGES, Managing Editor

6

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1970.

## Dense scholarship

That is an odd head to place above a comment on a book, especially when it is complimentary and not the contrary. But even a real scholar in the area of this book's interest would hardly say otherwise and might indeed find it difficult to present it adequately in brief commentary. The book is "John Banister and His Natural History of Virginia" by Joseph and Nesta Ewan, published by the University of Illinois Press. And Banister's dates in Virginia were 1678-1692 when obtaining the material for his studies of the Colony's natural history were far from propitious. This is indicated by his death when exploring along the Roanoke River, death by accident. In that area at that time death would not be expected to be by accident.

The book is a work of intensive scholarship and presents the work and importance of a man who was an M.A. from Oxford, a minister, a founder of the College of William and Mary and a profoundly dedicated man in the study of the natural history of the new land in which he found himself by his own determined choice.

Not only did he assiduously collect and classify the flora but the fauna as well, even into the fossils he discovered and collected.

Many others included in their works the contributions submitted to them by Banister, men in Virginia and in Britain and other lands, and sometimes with no credit to him.

He had association with John Clayton who has been so well placed in his botanical studies of that

time, in its revised two-volume form, it would require much study to relate Banister's nomenclature to plants he knows. There were errors, naturally, for it was Linnaeus, later, who placed order in this matter of classification and names, the scientific classifications, of course, for common names in plenty quickly came into existence.

In comment not intended for any scientific journal it is enough to recommend it to all who wish to know more of this early scientist in Virginia and what he found that was new. And it must be mentioned that this includes all living things he came upon in the First Colony and how he related many of them to the old in time and location, through study and consultation with his correspondents. There was, in addition, much of the life and customs of the Indians, much of the geographic and geologic and aquatic. A student of natural history hardly knows any limits to investigation of all about him.

There are also beautiful plates redrawn from Banister's originals and altogether far more history in the book than just that natural history data which is the essence of the book as the Ewans, meticulous, dedicated scholars, have written it. No froth here, no deviation to the irrelevant so that undertaking it one might well first view and take heart from the exquisite plates of things you will recognize as, also, in a list with many familiar names.

It is, for the professionals, an invaluable treasure and for others a test of depth of interest in a field. It is not a close reading of the text.

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Many others included in their works the contributions submitted to them by Banister, men in Virginia and in Britain and other lands, and sometimes with no credit to him.

He had association with John Clayton who has been so well placed in his botanical studies of that time by Edmund Berkeley and his wife — Berkeley being presently a member of the faculty at Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg. They are the authors of *John Clayton: Pioneer of American Botany*. And they are probably the only persons wholly competent to write about this book by the Ewan's, valuable as it is and yet so dense with essential minutiae.

All natural life in Virginia was Banister's material. The living and the fossil classically studied and classified to the limit of knowledge and ability in that time and amongst so much that was new, so much previously unknown to scholars, so richly adding to what was catalogued by such men as Linnaeus, in after years. And what a trio they would have been if Bartram had lived earlier enough to have worked with him and John Clayton.

Any nature minded student of that time learns soon that in speaking of many plants and other natural life in Virginia he could not have given name to many of them unless it were some Indian term. They were new to Europeans. Even today, to go through Gray's Ma-

he came upon in the First Colony and how he related many of them to the old in time and location, through study and consultation with his correspondents. There was, in addition, much of the life and customs of the Indians, much of the geographic and geologic and aquatic. A student of natural history hardly knows any limits to investigation of all about him.

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It is, for the professionals, an invaluable treasure and for others a test of depth of interest in material fascinating enough to impel a close reading of the text.

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The American taxpayer is really an unusual animal. As the old saying goes, he's the only animal that can be skinned more than once. When you hear all the talk these days about 'new sources of revenue' and 'tax reform' you can bet your bottom dollar that your tax bill will soon be going up. When a study reveals that we could save a half million dollars by eliminating county welfare boards look out — by eliminating the local board you'll lose what they're saving you by knowing every welfare client personally. Regional boards would lose that much by not knowing each client. When tax dollars are saved it always seems to cost more. — New Rockford, N.D., Transcript

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Despite a vocal minority to the contrary, we suggest America by tradition and by the groundswell of public opinion surfacing lately, that we are a Christian nation, that indeed 'In God We Trust' — if only the people are allowed to say so. — Blairstown, N.J., Press

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY  
held at Philadelphia  
for Promoting Useful Knowledge

104 South Fifth Street  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

December 28, 1970

Professor A. Carlyle Beyer  
Chairman, Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Va.

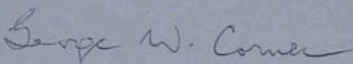
Dear Professor Beyer:

Dr. George B. Van Schaack tells me that he is joining in a proposal to the College of William and Mary that it consider the awarding of an honorary degree to Joseph Ewan of Tulane University. He asks whether I would like to comment on this proposal.

It is a great pleasure to do so, for I believe that Mr. Ewan is the best informed man on the history of botany in the United States. When, a few years ago, we were preparing to publish under the auspices of this Society, an edition of the botanical and zoological drawings of William Bartram, which should be provided with a historical introduction and explanatory notes of the highest quality, I asked advice from Dr. William J. Robbins, then Director of the New York Botanical Garden, and the Head of the Department of Botany of the British Museum (Natural History). Both of these experts independently recommended Dr. Ewan. He performed the task admirably and his contribution to the book has been most favorably reviewed.

Mr. Ewan is a gentleman of the highest character, thoroughly devoted to science and scholarship. It would in my opinion be very appropriate for the College of William and Mary to honor him in the way suggested by Dr. Van Schaack.

Sincerely yours,

  
George W. Corner  
Executive Officer

c/f

TULANE UNIVERSITY

NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70118

December 29, 1970

*Department of Biology*

Professor A. Carlyle Beyer  
Chairman, Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Dear Professor Beyer:

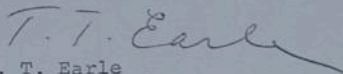
I am pleased to write to your committee in support of a recommendation that Professor Joseph Ewan be considered for an Honorary Doctor's degree from the College of William and Mary. I have been associated with Professor Ewan at Tulane University since 1947. Apart from his contributions in botanical history and systematic botany, which have international recognition, I wish to emphasize Professor Ewan's distinctions as a teacher and a dedicated member of his department and the University.

I consider him to be one of the distinguished teachers of Tulane. His colleagues and mine, I am sure, would agree with this judgment. He excels in the classroom and laboratory with his infectious enthusiasm for botany, whatever the particular subject of the moment. His students seem fully appreciative of his unique skill in presenting the subject to them. His office door is always open to students for extracurricular teaching or for counseling generally. Through the years many of his former students have demonstrated his wholesome influence on them in so many ways.

Professor Ewan also takes seriously his responsibilities outside of the classroom. He participates in faculty meetings and has served on many committees. Presently he is Chairman of the University Senate Committee on Academic Honors.

It is a real pleasure for me to recommend Professor Ewan to your committee.

Very sincerely yours,



T. T. Earle  
Professor of Botany

TTE:lj



National Museum of Natural History · Smithsonian Institution

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560 · TEL. 202-628-1810

December 21, 1970

Professor A. Carlyle Beyer  
Chairman  
Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Virginia

Dear Professor Beyer:

I am informed by Dr. George Van Schaack that there is a proposal to the College of William and Mary to award an honorary doctor's degree to Professor Joseph Ewan in recognition of his contributions to the history of American botany. I cannot adequately express my pleasure at this proposal. I have known Professor Ewan since 1931 and have nothing but admiration for his botanical accomplishments and his enormous erudition in the field of the history of botany and botanical bibliography. I wish to record my unreserved support for this proposal and sincerely hope that your committee will consider it favorably.

There are so few people who have a genuine and deep appreciation for the historical background of our science that when one does appear who has the love for this field that Ewan shows and who has the capability of accomplishment that he has demonstrated that I think we should do everything we can to honor and encourage him. If my endorsement counts for anything in your deliberations I will feel enormously gratified. I would like to be informed of the occasion on which this degree is awarded so that if it is at all possible I will try to be present.

Very sincerely yours,

F. R. Fosberg  
Special Advisor for Tropical Biology

FRF/tsm

THE PAPERS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON A comprehensive edition sponsored  
by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union and the University of Virginia

5 January 1971

Professor A. Carlyle Beyer, Chairman  
Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23181

Dear Professor Beyer:

It is an honor to write in support of the proposal that an honorary degree be awarded to Professor Joseph Ewan.

Because my own historical research has led me into the realm of botanical studies from time to time, I have known Professor Ewan as a willing and tireless mentor. In recent years, my most meaningful association with him (and Mrs. Ewan) has been in connection with his study of John Banister. I happened to be the editor of the University of Illinois Press when I learned of this manuscript, and, although I had moved to Charlottesville before publication occurred, it is pleasing to know that I was instrumental in making publication possible.

Even though John Banister was one of the founding trustees of William and Mary, I do not think consideration of Professor Ewan should be based on his Banister studies alone. The literature of taxonomy and botanical history is crammed with his fine work.

Others who write in his support will be in a better position than I to detail the scope and excellence of Professor Ewan's researches. None of these recommendations, however, will be more sincerely made than mine.

Most sincerely,



Donald Jackson  
Professor of History  
and Editor, The  
Papers of George  
Washington

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HERBARIUM  
NORTH UNIVERSITY BUILDING  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN, U. S. A. 48104

January 14, 1971

Prof. A. Carlyle Beyer  
Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Va. 23185

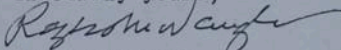
Dear Professor Beyer:

I am informed that a number of persons in the botanical community are enthusiastic about the possibility that an honorary doctorate might be awarded to Professor Joseph Ewan, and I am very glad to support any proposal to this effect. As an amateur historian of botany, I can appreciate the value of Joseph Ewan's long-time work in this same field, and the extent to which he has added to our knowledge of American botanists and their work. No one in this century except Andrew Denny Rodgers has done so much, and in my opinion Ewan's work is far superior in quality to that of Rodgers, because Ewan is a professional botanist as well as a historian, and is therefore well qualified to pick and choose, and present his data in such a way as to make them most useful to his botanical colleagues.

Not only has Professor Ewan contributed through his own books, including such well-known works as his Rocky Mountain Naturalists (1950) and his most recent work (with Mrs. Ewan) on John Banister of Virginia. He has also given freely of his time and knowledge to his less knowledgeable colleagues, by supplying them with isolated dates and bibliographic references, and by contributing short (or sometimes long and detailed) historical notes to botanical papers. His many short biographical notes and reviews are a delight to read, and a model of scientific prose that is at the same time informative and detailed, and interesting!

Professor Ewan has put the best years of his life in becoming a botanical historian, against the advice of his teachers and colleagues who advised him that other fields were more productive, more remunerative, and more valuable scientifically. It is greatly to his credit that in a somewhat unpopular field he has made a lasting contribution, and gained the respect and admiration of his doubting colleagues for his scholarship and for his very valuable aid in the areas of his competence. I very much hope that his efforts may be rewarded by appropriate academic recognition.

Sincerely yours,



Rogers McVaugh  
Curator of Vascular Plants;  
and Professor of Botany

RMcV:cn

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

BOTANICAL GARDENS-HERBARIUM  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

January 5, 1971

Professor A. Carlyle Beyer  
Chairman  
Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Virginia

Dear Professor Beyer:

It is a pleasure to support the proposal that Professor Joseph Ewan, Tulane University, be awarded an honorary doctorate. Professor Ewan's contributions to the history of American Botany are outstanding and represent not only scientifically accurate but scholarly presentations of a subject which is too often neglected. His most recent work on John Banister is only the latest one of a series of significant contributions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mildred E. Mathias".

Mildred E. Mathias  
Professor of Botany  
Director  
Botanical Gardens-Herbarium

MEM/av



21. December 1970

Professor A. Carlyle Beyer  
Chairman, Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

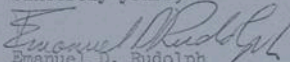
Dear Professor Beyer:

I have the pleasure of writing to recommend to you Professor Joseph Ewan of Tulane University for receipt of an honorary degree from the College of William and Mary. As one who has taught graduate courses in the history of botany and undergraduate courses in the history of biology, I can say without hesitation that Professor Ewan has made many and significant contributions to our understanding of the history of biology, particularly in the United States. His numerous papers and books attest to his competence. However, it is much more than his writings that make him worthy. He is, above all, a true scholar. I, my graduate students, and many others who I know have received his generous and knowledgeable scholarly help--when we sought it, or when he thought we needed it.

My personal acquaintance with Professor Ewan spans many years since my graduate student days at Washington University and the Missouri Botanical Garden in the early 1950's. I have been associated with him as a fellow officer in the Historical Section of the Botanical Society of America, as the director of a National Science Foundation Summer Institute in the History of Biology for College Teachers during two summers when he was a guest lecturer, and as author of a chapter in a book that he edited. In my opinion, and I know it is shared by others in this country and abroad, Professor Ewan is the world's foremost authority on the history of American Natural History.

Because of Professor Ewan's particular interest in the history of Natural History in the pre-Revolutionary War period in the United States and in the naturalists of the Southeastern United States, it seems very fitting that he should be honored by the College of William and Mary. An honorary degree from your College would please Professor Ewan's many friends and admirers, as well as being an appropriate recognition of his outstanding contributions to history and biology in our country.

Sincerely yours,

  
Emanuel D. Rudolph  
Professor of Botany

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

January 20, 1971

Dr. Carlyle Beyer, Chairman  
Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Va.

Dear Dr. Beyer:

I wish to join Drs. Hugh Iltis and George Van Schaack in recommending to you Dr. Joseph Ewan, of Tulane University, as a candidate for an honorary degree from the College of William and Mary.

I have known Dr. Ewan well since he first became a member of my staff in the U. S. National Museum Department of Botany (then the Division of Plants) in the mid-forties. His career otherwise and his bibliography have been set forth in detail by Drs. Iltis and Van Schaack.

I can speak only in the highest terms of Dr. Ewan's competence and achievements in his chosen field of study, that of a professional botanist, in which he has proved to be an eminent systematist, an inspiring teacher, and a productive historian of botany in America. As his greatest achievement, this truly exhaustive account of the life of John Banister places him among the highest ranking American botanists.

He is to be congratulated on his successful completion of "John Banister and His Natural History of Virginia, 1678-1692." Assisted by his wife, Nesta, he has brought John Banister home to Virginia alive! All readers, whether nature lovers or scientists, will have their memories refreshed by the many familiar names of naturalists of yesteryear who contributed in one way or another to what is known to us as the natural history of Virginia.

Particularly worthy of note is the one-page diagrammatic presentation of the "Pre-Linnean Roots in North America and their European Branches." This is the epitome of the growth of our knowledge of the flora and fauna of Virginia from its very beginnings, which foreshadows much of what the book in question is all about. Not to be overlooked is the name of William Bartram near the top of this particular page.

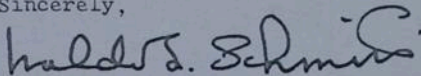
The assembling, editing, and promotion of the publication of the folio, no less, of the "William Bartram, Botanical and Zoological drawings, 1756-1788" is another of Dr. Ewan's outstanding achievements.

In Volume 19 of Taxon for December 1970, pp. 825-830, is apparently Ewan's most recent word on the history of botany, "Opportunities in Botanical History." He is certainly steeped in his subject!

It may be of as much interest to you as it was to Iltis, Van Schaack, and myself to learn from the several references in the Banister volume of the personal libraries of three generations of the William Byrds, and that the first of the three, moreover, was the founder of the College of William and Mary!

Would it not be appropriate for the College of William and Mary to confer an honorary degree on Dr. Ewan? I sincerely hope so, and commend Dr. Ewan, without reservation, to your kind offices.

Sincerely,



Waldo L. Schmitt  
Research Associate



DEPARTMENT OF  
HISTORY  
913-864-3569

January 26, 1971

Professor A. Carlyle Beyer  
Chairman, Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary

Dear Professor Beyer:

It is a great pleasure to write on behalf of Professor Joseph Ewan and to recommend to you that his many outstanding contributions to the history of American botany be recognized by an Honorary Doctor's degree.

To few people does the honor fall of being the unanimously acknowledged doyen of his discipline. Yet that is the position which Professor Ewan has occupied for the past decade. He has earned his claim to greatness by a combination of superb scholarship and untiring industry. All students of the history of American botany are in his debt for his editions of the classics of early American botany, for his many scholarly papers and books, and for his continual willingness to share his knowledge with others. The many workers actively engaged in the study of early American botany is, in itself, a testimony to his effectiveness in establishing a discipline widely recognized in American academic circles.

Whether one has worked closely with Professor Ewan, as I have been privileged to do, or knows of him only through the printed word, he cannot fail to be impressed by his achievements. No one, in my opinion as a historian of the biological sciences, has done more than he to establish the historical bases of early American botany. It seems fitting, therefore, that the College of William and Mary, a leader in so many branches of early American science, should recognize and honor the merits of Professor Ewan, likewise a leader in his field.

Sincerely yours,

Jerry Stannard  
Professor of History  
Chairman, Committee of History  
and Philosophy of Science

JS:pm



The Chairman  
Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary in Virginia  
Williamsburg  
Virginia  
U.S.A.

16 Jan. 1971

Dear Sir,

I hope it will not seem impertinent to begin a letter relating to Professor Joseph Ewan and the College of William and Mary with the truism that the conferring of honorary degrees is a mutually honorific act which reflects credit as much upon the bestowing institution for judgment and enterprise in formally recognizing personal merit and exceptional services to learning as upon the deserving recipient, for in this instance it would apply with particularly evident and telling aptness. The proposal, only recently brought to our notice here, that the College of William and Mary should confer an honorary doctorate upon Joseph Ewan seems to us in every way commendable. Joseph Ewan's work, as you will undoubtedly be well aware, in his earlier years was primarily taxonomic and in his later years has been primarily biographical and historical, but one cannot make a sharp distinction between such activities, least of all in an institution such as ours with its vast store of historically and scientifically valuable material, because the scientific importance for modern use of the older material often only becomes manifest in the light of detailed historical and biographical information. This often-overlooked linkage Ewan realised long ago. His union of such interests has given his publications their special worth and has also made him an ever welcome visitor here, for he has always been ready to share his vast range of otherwise not readily available information on such matters. His synopsis of the North American species of Delphinium and his papers on tropical American Gentianaceae, notably Macrocarpaea, have provided a sound and much needed basis for later research; his Rocky Mountain Naturalists remains for us an invaluable source of information when <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ North American collections; his William Bartram, being based upon our material investigated with thoroughness and scholarship and combining biographical, historical, bibliographical, zoological and botanical enquiry, is naturally much admired here. Together with his many other contributions and his personal standing as a creative scholar, they provide more than adequate evidence that in conferring an honorary doctorate upon Joseph Ewan the College of William and Mary would be worthily maintaining its own high traditions. It would, moreover, be widely appreciated, for his reputation extends far outside North America.

Yours sincerely,

*William T. Stearn*

W.T. Stearn, D.Sc., Sc.D., V.M.H., F.I. Biol., F.L.S.  
Senior Principal Scientific Officer  
British Museum (Natural History)  
Honorary Fellow, Sidney Sussex College,  
University of Cambridge.  
Vice-President, British Society for the  
History of Science.



ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS

Kew, RICHMOND, Surrey

Telegrams: Kewgar, Richmond, Surrey

Telephone: RICHMOND 1171

Please address any reply to

THE DIRECTOR

and quote:

Your reference:

Professor A Carlyle Beyer  
Chairman  
Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg  
USA

22 December 1970

Dear Professor Carlyle Beyer

I have heard of a suggestion that my very good friend Professor Joseph Ewan of Tulane University, New Orleans, might be awarded an honorary doctor's degree by the College of William and Mary. I hope you will not feel it presumptuous of me to put in a very strong plea for such worthy recognition of one who has contributed so much to the fascinating history of botany in your country and particularly of the early work of eminent people who migrated from Europe and who laid the basis for an understanding of the Flora of the United States.

No-one has done more in the most scholarly fashion to reveal the great work of these pioneers. Professor Ewan has of course had the solid help of his wife over the years but he is beyond doubt the major contributor and his wife has acted in the role of an amanensis. I feel it would be singularly appropriate for your College with such an illustrious name to honour Professor Ewan and by so doing I am sure will honour the awarding body.

I do apologise as an outsider for my involvement in this matter but I am sure you understand how much Professor Ewan's friends feel that he is deserving of high honour.

Sincerely yours

Sir George Taylor  
Director

TULANE UNIVERSITY

NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70118

AC 504 865-7711

Department of Biology

December 22, 1970

Professor A. Carlyle Beyer, Chairman  
Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Virginia

Dear Professor Beyer:

It is a privilege and a distinct pleasure to support the proposal to consider Professor Joseph Ewan for an honorary doctor's degree. His contributions to the history of American botany are fundamental. They are the firm foundations upon which future investigators will gratefully build. However, other colleagues in botany will speak to that issue. Rather, I should like very much to address myself to Professor Ewan's capabilities as a teacher and as a member of our department.

For fifteen years I have been in almost daily contact with Professor Ewan, I have attended many of his lectures, and he has lectured in my courses. His unflagging enthusiasm for the history of botany, his wide erudition in biology and ancillary fields, and his wealth of background in travel and experience has never failed to stimulate student interest. His lectures show them the historical continuity of man's efforts to fathom his world and thereby enlarges and matures their outlook. The interest which he stirs in students and faculty alike does not stop at the classroom door. He cheerfully spends hours in exploring the historical development of ideas, to the delight of his students and to the profit of his colleagues. His knowledge and presence contribute immensely to the success of the department.

I unconditionally commend Professor Ewan to you as a first-rank scholar and teacher. He is one to whom the College of William and Mary could point with pride as a holder of their honorary degree.

Yours truly,

*A. L. Welden*

A. L. Welden  
Professor

ALW/k11



January 7, 1970

Professor A. Carlyle Beyer, Chairman  
Honorary Degrees Committee  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Virginia

Dear Professor Beyer:

I have been led to believe that a letter from me might be useful to you and your Committee in your consideration of Professor Joseph Ewan for an honorary degree. I presume that this degree would be Doctor of Science.

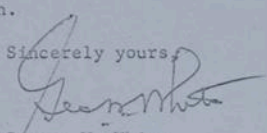
Professor Ewan is the outstanding historian of American botany. You will have a list of his publications and see from the titles how important they are and how they have been published by prestigious organizations.

The most recent book on John Banister is a very real contribution, not only to history of early American science, but to early American history itself. Until the Ewans' investigations, Banister was a more or less shadowy figure, but they have been able to "bring him to life" and to show his very important place in colonial science. Although Banister's major contributions were botanical, his geological work was of considerable importance and this the Ewan's have also indicated.

Professor Ewan's interests are anything but narrow. The botanists think of him as a historian of American botany, but others recognize him as a great historian of American natural science in general. His book, Rocky Mountain Naturalists, is an indispensable source of reference and a meticulous presentation of an enormous amount of data gathered from a wide variety of sources. It is impressive indeed. We are eagerly awaiting the second edition of this important book.

The recognition of Professor Ewan by your College would be widely and favorably acclaimed. As a former member of our University Committee on Honorary Degrees, I can tell you that Professor Ewan's qualifications stand up very well with those I have taken part in considering in past years. I feel sure that if Joseph Ewan had connections with our University, he would be an outstanding candidate for Committee consideration.

Sincerely yours,



George W. White  
Research Professor

GWW/ch

Quotations from two reviews of Professor Ewan's books.

In reviewing Rocky Mountain Naturalists in Rhodora 53(1951) page 115, Dr. Reed C. Rollins of Harvard University wrote:

To one interested in the natural history of Colorado, each of these [thirteen] chapters makes fascinating reading, for [each] not only [treats] of the [man] but includes as well a narrative of the exploration in which [he] participated. Stories of events and numerous facts are skillfully interwoven with biographical data to produce both pleasant and informative reading. ... the richest portion of the book begins with [the Roster of natural history collectors, 1692-1932, in which in] ... over 200 pages are packed facts and interesting items concerning the [nearly 1000] collectors mentioned. Much untapped source material has been utilized by Professor Ewan in assembling this portion of the book and he has made it a veritable storehouse of information not otherwise available.

In reviewing William Bartram. Botanical and zoological drawings in Taxon 18(1969) p. 444-445, Dr. Frans Stafleu of the University of Utrecht wrote:

Ewan's text does ample justice to William Bartram, as well as to his drawings. The great scholarship of the doyen of historians of American botany accounts for an unusually well-documented and detailed account of Bartram's life and for an exhaustive commentary on the plates and accompanying manuscripts. ... The detailed biographical data ... in a chronology entitled The world of William Bartram ... presents a fascinating account of early American botany and of the relations between the botanists in the motherland and those oversea in colonial times.

One further item merits special mention: the very extensive bibliography of nearly 250 items. This bibliography, the chronology, the analyses of the plates, the annotated manuscript, the biographical and iconographical chapters by Ewan ... present what is ... undoubtedly the finest tribute so far paid to that pioneer of American botanical illustration, botanist, explorer and connoisseur of the American landscape, William Bartram.