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About the Institute

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.



Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, KY 41076

Dept. John Thieret, Biological Sciences

return requested

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Botany
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

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The Society for



ECONOMIC BOTANY, INC.

DEVOTED TO THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE USES OF PLANTS BY MAN

Botany Department
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003

October 9, 1984

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Botany Department
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Dear Dr. Lowy:

The answer to your question---has Economic Botany excluded reviews of books on the morphology, taxonomy, etc. of fungi as a matter of policy?--- is no. We have, however, had suggestions from members and readers that we should endeavor to publish more reviews on books that are clearly in the area of economic botany (ethnobotany). They argue that we are not now covering the field. Accordingly, the new book review editor, Dr. Walter H. Lewis, is going to try a new procedure---some books will be reviewed as before, while others will be listed together with a few critical comments, a sort of annotated bibliography. I am sure that Dr. Lewis will be glad to have reader reaction to this new procedure after readers have had the opportunity to examine it in the next one or two issues.

I am taking the liberty of forwarding your postcard to Dr. Lewis, together with a copy of this note. Please feel free to transmit any ideas or comments to him. We both would value counsel from one who has served as a reviewer for so many years and with such effectiveness, I may add.

With all good wishes,

Cordially yours,

Oswald Tippo
Editor, Economic Botany

OT/kn

cc: Dr. Walter H. Lewis



Scientific Publications Office

The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458 USA

(212) 220-8721

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Mycology Herbarium
Botany Department
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Dear Dr. Lowy:

18 July 1983

The Society for Economic Botany recently held a symposium entitled "Ethnobotany in the Neotropics." This symposium was organized and chaired by Dr. Ghilleen T. Prance, Senior Vice-President for Science at The New York Botanical Garden.

The New York Botanical Garden has assumed the responsibility for publishing these proceedings, and for this reason we would like to ask you if you would be willing to review the following manuscript for us:

cap
The Amazonian Indian use of edible fungi, by G. T. Prance

I would like to thank you for considering this request, and look forward to a favorable reply from you.

The manuscripts will be mailed to the respective reviewers during the first week in August 1983. We are aiming for a June 1984 publication date.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Cordially,

Maria L. Lebron-Luteyn, Ph.D.
Curator of Publications



Department of Botany
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803-1705
504/388-8485

26-VII-1983

Dr. María L. Lebron-Luteyn
The New York Botanical Garden
Scientific Publications Office
Bronx, New York 10458

Dear Dr. Lebron-Luteyn:

I regret that I am unable to review Dr. Prance's paper entitled "The Amazonian Indian use of edible fungi" since I expect to be hospitalized within a few days for treatment of a back injury. The duration of my hospital stay and subsequent recuperation is uncertain, and I prefer not to delay the processing of Dr. Prance's paper.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Lowy
Professor Emeritus



15-IV-1983

Dear John,

Am I still among your reviewers of
books for *Economic Botany*?

Twenty four years after our first meeting,
I saw R. G. Wasson again at the dedicatory
ceremonies for the Ethnobotanical Collection
(Library) that he donated to Harvard. I was
one of 3 speakers at that occasion on Feb. 12.
RCW is 84, and still going strong.

Saludos,

Bernard



Department of Botany
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803-1705

504/388-8485

2-V-1983

Ms Gladys A. Hayes
Avi Publishing Company
250 Post Road East
P.O. Box 831
Westport, Conn., 06881

Dear Ms Hayes:

A copy of your letter of April 25, 1983 which you sent to Dr. John W. Thieret, Book Review Editor for ECONOMIC BOTANY, has just come to my attention. I have always assumed, quite incorrectly, that copies of my reviews would be sent to you by the Editor.

I regret the inconvenience this may have caused you, and enclose xerox copies of the 2 reviews (of 16 that you list) I wrote. This is the best that I can do, since I have never received reprints of my reviews.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Lowy
Professor Emeritus

AVI PUBLISHING COMPANY 250 POST ROAD EAST

PO BOX 831
WESTPORT, CONN.
06881 USA
TEL 203-226-0738

April 25, 1983

Mr. John W. Thieret, Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY
The Society for Economic Botany
Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, Kentucky 41076

Dear Mr. Thieret:

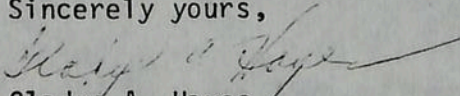
In reviewing our gratis review files, I have discovered a number of letters of transmittal for gratis review copies of titles sent to Dr. Julia Morton, at the University of Miami. My understanding is that she is the official reviewer for ECONOMIC BOTANY. Our records indicate that none of the books has been reviewed, as the letters have remained in the pending file, some since 1977.

I am sure some of them must have been reviewed. Perhaps the reviewer is not aware that we require clippings of the reviews. Would you be kind enough to investigate this for us and let us know the status of the books we have sent:

Potatoes: Production, Storing, Processing, 2nd Ed., by Smith, 8/10/77
Citrus Science and Technology, Volumes 1 and 2, Nagy and Shaw, 8/10/77
Food and Beverage Mycology, Beuchat, July, 1977
Tree Nuts, 2nd Ed., Woodroof, 1979
→ Food and Beverage Mycology to Dr. Bernard Lowy, Louisiana State, November 1977
Encyclopedia of Food Science, Peterson and Johnson, December 1977
Flavor Technology, Heath, 1979
Coconuts, 2nd Ed., Woodroof, 1979
Horticultural Reviews, Volume 1, Janick, 1979
The Technology of Wine Making, 4th Edition, Amerine et al., 1979
Coffee Technology, Sivetz and Desrosier, 1979
↓ Rice: Production and Utilization, Luh, 1979
Microbiology of Food Fermentations, Pederson, 1979
Tropical and Subtropical Fruit, December 1980
Handling, Transportation and Storage of Fruits and Vegetables, Vol.2, 2nd Ed.--Ryall
Food Oils and Their Uses, 2nd Ed., Weiss, both in March, 1983

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The above books all were sent at your request, and I do think they have been reviewed. May we please have clippings of the reviews, or advise. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,


Gladys A. Hayes
Advertising Assistant

cc: Drs. Julia Morton; Bernard Lowy ✓

Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, Kentucky 41076
May 5, 1983

Ms. Gladys A. Hayes
Advertising Assistant
AVI Publishing Company
P. O. Box 831
Westport, CO 06881

Dear Ms. Hayes:

Your letter of 25 April 1983 was quite a surprise to me. It has been my understanding for years that clippings of ECONOMIC BOTANY book reviews are sent out from the New York Botanical Garden, where our journal's managing editor is. Indeed, I remember that once I asked a former managing editor if he was absolutely certain that clippings were sent out. "Yes, absolutely," was the reply. Perhaps this fine--and necessary--tradition has not been followed by his successors.

Be that as it may, I have gone through ECONOMIC BOTANY and have xeroxed all reviews of AVI books since and including 1977 (the list contains reviews of one or two of your books not mentioned in your letter).

The last two books in your list are right now being reviewed by Dr. Julia F. Morton, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida.

It seems, then, that we have yet to account for only two books on your list (note that Food and Beverage Mycology is listed twice):

Encyclopedia of Food Science
The Technology of Wine Making

I have no record of receipt of Encyclopedia of Food Science. The book is not among the unreviewed books on my shelf.

The Technology of Wine Making was sent to a reviewer some time ago. It was, just a week ago, returned to me with apologies by the person who has had it all this time. He has decided not to review it! (I can think of a punishment suitable for such an unprofessional action, but I'd rather not, being basically a kind person.) The volume is really too old now to review and so will be returned to you (along with a virgin copy of Tree Nuts that I found among my review books).

Thus, your letter is answered. I truly regret that it was ever necessary for you to write it. Copies of my reply will be sent to our journal's editor and to our managing editor along with a note suggesting we work out a plan to get clippings to the publishers of the books we review--and to whom we are so grateful.

Best wishes.

Cordially,

John W. Thieret
Review Editor

JWT/jcg

cc: Dr. Mariá Lebrón-Luteyn
Dr. Bernard Lowy
Dr. Julia F. Morton
Dr. Oswald Tippo

REVIEWER'S APPRAISAL FORM FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY

Naturally the author would appreciate an early decision and therefore we hope you will be able to review this paper and return it by April 15. Thank you.

Will each reviewer kindly answer the following questions whenever they are pertinent?

TITLE OF PAPER: The Ethnobotany of Psilocybin Mushrooms, Especially
Psilocybe cubensis

AUTHOR: E. R. Badham

REVIEWED BY: Bernard Lowy

DATE: 9-III-1983

Address:

1. Is this a new and original contribution? * NO
2. Is the paper of interest to a broad cross section of economic botanists and related scientists? YES
3. Are the conclusions and interpretations valid? NOT ALWAYS
4. Is the paper presented clearly - _____ and in an organized manner See below?
5. Are the illustrations legible _____ and pertinent _____?
6. Can the text _____ or illustrations _____ be condensed?
7. Are the references adequate? _____
8. Is there consistency in citation of references? _____
9. Would you rate this paper as:
Outstanding _____ Very Good _____ Good _____ Fair to Poor ✓
10. If you recommend publication, what improvements do you suggest? _____

Additional remarks: Please see attached sheet.

**Economic Botany* accepts and is set up to publish summary type articles. Consequently, a negative answer to this question does not constitute cause for rejection of a manuscript.

Economic Botany

Membership in the Society for Economic Botany is open to all individuals who are interested in the past, present, and future uses of plants by people. Three types of membership are available, Annual dues for each are: Regular membership, \$20.00; Student membership, \$15.00; Family membership, \$25.00; payable at par in United States currency. Each membership includes an annual subscription to *ECONOMIC BOTANY*.

Application for Membership, accompanied by dues for one year, should be sent to Edward S. Mika, College of Pharmacy, University of Illinois, 833 S. Wood St., Chicago, IL 60612.

Manuscript Requirements: As the official journal of the Society for Economic Botany, *ECONOMIC BOTANY* specializes in scientific articles dealing with past, present, and future uses of plants by people—with the impact of plants on humans and civilization and vice versa. Emphasis is on "uses" rather than growing of plant materials; purely agronomic or horticultural papers should be sent to other journals more appropriate for specialized plant production science and technology.

Papers to be considered for publication should be sent to the Editor, Professor Oswald Tippo, Botany Department, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. Manuscripts should be submitted in *triplicate* (include originals of illustrations plus 2 copies of each) in order to facilitate the reviewing process which involves at least 2 readers. The ms should be typed on one side of the paper and *double spaced* throughout—tables, figure captions, literature cited, footnotes, summary—*everything*—on paper of good stock (20 lb, 25% rag bond), 8½" × 11", with wide margins (at least 1½") at the sides as well as at the top and bottom of page. Figure captions should be typed on a separate sheet of paper unattached to the figures. A brief summary of the paper should be placed at the beginning of the paper. Publications should be cited in the text by author(s) and date (Ex. Jones, 1970), not by number. In Literature Cited, periodicals (serials) should be abbreviated in accordance with the standards set by *Botanico - Periodicum - Huntianum* (1968). Style and format of Literature Cited, as well as the ms in general, should conform to the best practices illustrated by current issues of the journal. In Literature Cited, do not underline anything except Latin binomials. *Double check* the spelling of names and titles and verify the dates, volume numbers, and inclusive pagination. When there are 2 or more illustrations (photos, graphs, maps, etc.), mount in groups with no space between the individual items, bearing in mind that the journal page is 5" × 8". Cover illustrations with a protective cover of paper.

Research based on plants other than the most widely recognized species should be documented by reference to herbarium vouchers, following standard practice with collector's name(s), collection number, and the code designation of the herbarium where specimens are deposited (Ex. *Smith 15467, TEX*) (For latter see *Index Herbariorum, 1974*). 1987

In general, manuscripts should not exceed 20 typed pages (approximately 5,000 words). Extensive tables must be in a format (page proportion, clarity, sharpness, etc.) suitable for direct duplication. Footnotes in the text must be kept to an absolute minimum. The amount of tabular and/or bibliographic material must be in proper proportion to the length of the text.

Authors working for institutions or under research grants providing funds for payment of page charges will be asked to do so. Such payment, however, will not be a condition of acceptance of papers for publication.

Books for review should be sent to Dr. John W. Thieret, Book Review Editor, Box 277, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY 41076.

Subscription Price: \$30.00 U.S.; \$34.00 elsewhere, current volume. Entered on a calendar basis only. Remittances should be made to *ECONOMIC BOTANY* and mailed to **Publications Office, The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY 10458**.

Claims for missing issues must be made to the Publications Office within one year of date of issue.

Back issues and volumes are available from the Publications Office.

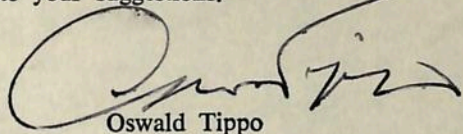
Department of Botany
Univ. of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
March 11, 1983

Dear Dr. Lowy:

Thank you for your review of the Badham ms entitled The Ethnobotany of Psilocybin Mushrooms, Especially Psilocybe cubensis.

I am sure the author(s) will appreciate your suggestions.

It is always a
pleasure to receive
your professional
evaluation on our
books.



Oswald Tippo
Editor, *Economic Botany*

Comments on "The Ethnobotany of Psilocybin Mushrooms....."
by E.R. Badham

P. 1. - In the abstract the author states; "However, today these fungi are used primarily as a form of recreation." No doubt it is the author's intent to refer to the recreational use of certain mushrooms by those alien to indigenous cultures. However, entheogenic mushrooms are still used by Mexican tribal people, as is noted elsewhere, but this important distinction between legitimate use and flagrant abuse should be made explicit in the abstract as well as in the text.

P. 3,
par.2 - Wasson's popular article in "Life" (1957) is cited, but not his principal 2-volume work of that year, "Mushrooms, Russia and History," which is the virtual starting point for ethnomycological research in modern times. This is a serious oversight.

P. 3,
last 2
lines - "Mushroom stones, which are icones of part men and part mushroom....."
This is only partly correct. Although the author's statement is a paraphrase of what some others have said, many mushroom stones have no effigies whatever. A variety of figures (humanoid or animal) are found on mushroom stones, including the toad, coati and jaguar. In a summary paper of this genre it would be appropriate to emphasize their putative significance to the civilization that produced them.

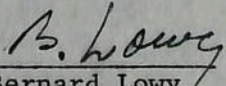
P. 6,
par.3 - "Although psilocybin mushrooms are remarkably non-toxic (an individual might have to eat their weight in fresh mushrooms to risk death)...."
In spite of the "remarkably non-toxic" nature of these mushrooms, this conjecture would be difficult to justify, since the minimum

lethal dose of psilocybin and psilocin for man is unknown. Also, the author notes: "Brown (1968) suggests a maximum safe dose of 150 mg psilocybin (approximately 10 g dried mushroom)....." But Schultes and Hofmann (1980) state: (p. 76, par. 3) "The median oral dose of psilocybin for man is 4 to 8 mg." The author's statement leaves the reader with a false impression.

P. 7,
par.2 - "The reports by Singer and Smith (1958) of Psilocybe sp. causing deaths of adults are apparently incorrect (Pollack, 1975)." Singer and Smith (*Mycologia* 50: 272. 1950) cite not their opinion, but Imai's account (1932) of the toxicity of Stropharia caerulea Imai (considered by Singer and Smith as synonymous with Psilocybe subaeruginascens Höhnelt) as having caused human deaths. It is erroneous and careless to attribute this report to Singer and Smith.

General comment and conclusion

The author has made a superficial, fragmentary, and at times erroneous summary of the subject. Because of this, as well as for the reasons outlined above, I cannot recommend the publication of this paper in its present form.


Bernard Lowy

Department of Botany
Univ. of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003

18 Feb 1983

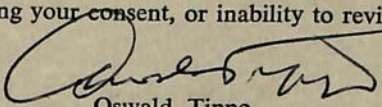
Dear Dr. Lowy:

Would you be willing to review a paper of 12 pages submitted by
E. R. Badham

entitled Ethnobotany of Psilocybin mushrooms,
especially Psilocybe cubensis.

Copies of reviewers' reports are sent authors but names of reviewers
are not revealed.

Please return the attached card noting your consent, or inability to review.
With thanks for your help,


Oswald Tippo
Editor, *Economic Botany*

OK sent 24-II-'83

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FUNGI. Elizabeth Moore-Landecker. 2nd ed. 578 pp. illus.
Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1982. \$

One of the troublesome problems that confronts an author of a textbook for tyros is the need to decide upon the large blocks of information to be included, as well as on the minutiae to be excluded. The author of this work made these decisions a decade ago with the publication of her first edition, and the plan of her ample, attractive, and well organized book remains unaltered. Three large sections, morphology and taxonomy, physiology and reproduction, and ecology and utilization make up the framework of the book's 14 chapters, with considerable additional emphasis, updating and detail devoted principally to the first of these sections which now constitutes about 50% of the text as opposed to about 35% in the first edition. The remaining two sections are almost equally divided, and although there have been significant ^{ad}ditions and amplifications, much of the material presented is repeated verbatim from the 1972 edition.

The taxonomic scheme adopted is a modification of the useful one offered by Ainsworth in 1973. In that outline the cellular slime molds (Acrosiomyces) and the saprobic plasmodial slime molds (Myxomyces) were included within the Myxomycota, but these taxa have been excluded by the author because they "are not clearly related to the vast majority of the fungi." There can, perhaps, be little taxonomic dispute in justifying this interpretation, but students who have traditionally been introduced to the study of slime molds by mycologists shall have to forego that opportunity with this opus in hand since the unique and phylogenetically enigmatic organisms belonging to the Myxomycota have been declared taxa non grata. A new welcome addition, however, is the inclusion of the Trichomyces, a small group of fungi that flourish as parasites or symbionts in many arthropods.

Among the innovations in the new edition is a more liberal use of illustrations, including some striking and pertinent transmission and scanning electronmicrographs, and redrawn life cycle patterns that students will undoubtedly find more to their liking than were those of the first edition. In a chapter on "Fungi and Humans," some ethnomycological data are introduced in recognition of the significance of research in this field during the past several decades. Exception must be taken however, to an ambiguous statement attributed to Lowy, to the effect that mushroom stones "may be relics of a culture in which mushrooms were consumed during religious ceremonies, during which some may have been used as seats." (my emphasis). I mentioned the latter possibility in a 1971 paper within a different context, and also stated that "I am not aware of any evidence that would lend credence to this interpretation," and none has been adduced to support it. The abundant collateral evidence now available still indicates that in all probability mushroom stones were solely objects of magico-religious significance associated with the ritual use of hallucinogenic mushrooms.

Despite these animadversions, the clarity of exposition, the well balanced treatment of subject matter, and the general excellence of its illustrations should make this edition one of the leading contenders for use among textbooks designed for an introductory course in mycology.

B. Lowy, Botany Department, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

The Society for



ECONOMIC BOTANY, INC.

DEVOTED TO THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE USES OF PLANTS BY MAN

February 22, 1982

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Mycol. Herb. Botany Dept.
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

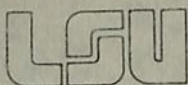
Dear Dr. Lowy:

This society does indeed have an arrangement for retired persons. We charge \$7.50 per year which is the cost of the journal. Therefore, I have credited \$12.50 of your remittance towards dues for 1983 and 1984.

Sincerely yours,

Elisabeth Sheldon

Elisabeth Shepard Sheldon
Treasurer



Department of Botany
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803
504/388-8485

Prof. Bot.

22-I-1982

Dr. Elisabeth A. Sheldon
Treasurer, Society for Economic Botany
Dept. of Sociology
Auburn University
Montgomery, AL 36193

Dear Dr. Sheldon:

Does not the Society have an arrangement, as some other botanical societies do, whereby emeritus professors who are subscribers may be offered the journal at reduced rates? I do not know whether I have already been removed from the subscribers list because of this late remittance, but I only recently returned to the university after an absence of some three weeks.

May I hear from you concerning this?

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Lowy
Professor Emeritus of Botany

17-III-1982

Dr. Elisabeth S. Sheldon
Department of Sociology
Auburn University
Montgomery, AL 36193

Dear Dr. Sheldon:

Thank you for your note of 22 February indicating that my remittance has been credited toward my 1983-84 dues.

I have not yet received the latest ^{nu} member of Economic Botany (36(1)), and would appreciate your kindness in checking whether or not I have been retained on the membership roles. I have been contributing book reviews to the journal for about the past twenty years, and it would be embarrassing to find that I have been dropped from the roles for non-payment of dues.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Lowy

36(1) received! 20-IV-'82

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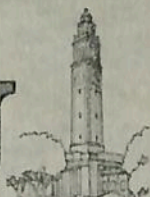
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LSU



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70803

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Botany

13-~~12~~-1979

- 1) My shallow draught of yon Pierian spring
Did rightful scorn my hapless memory bring.
Tho' Knowledge small and Learning less are mine,
3) Recall! To err is human, to forgive, divine.

BL

(my response to Pierpoint's quatrain)

ROTHAMSTED EXPERIMENTAL STATION

Harpenden, Herts. AL5 2JQ

Telephone: 058 27 63133

Head of Biochemistry Department:
B. J. Mifflin, Ph.D.

4) Good reasons, put with force and grace, the hard dorn tell
Your inadvertent errors quite efface:
But my carp, so ill-addressed! what may be said,
But Fools rush in where Angels fear to tread ?

[Lines 1, 3, 4 are in part (1) or in whole from Pope's "An Essay on Criticism"]
Received: 2-X-1979. (Pierpoint's response to my quatrain) WSP.

W. S. Pierpoint.

ROTHAMSTED EXPERIMENTAL STATION

Harpenden, Herts. AL5 2JQ

Telephone: 058 27 63133

Head of Biochemistry Department:

B. J. Mifflin, Ph.D.

Tho' little Knowledge 's oft with little Learning got,
And may suffice for Economic Bot^e.;
Dead Pope's dead Muse constrains me now to sing
That lttle Learning is the truly dang'rous thing.

For wit and judgment often are at strife,
 Tho' meant each other's aid, like man and wife.
 'Tis more to guide, than spur the Muse's steed ;
 Restrain his fury, than provoke his speed ;
 The winged courser, like a gen'rous horse,
 Shows most true mettle when you check his course.

Those Rules of old discover'd, not devis'd,
 Are Nature still, but Nature methodiz'd ;
 Nature, like Liberty, is but restrain'd
 By the same Laws which first herself ordain'd.

[From *The Essay on Criticism*]

The Critic's Task

A little learning is a dang'rous thing ;
 Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring :
 There shallow draughts-intoxicate the brain,
 And drinking largely sobers us again.
 Fir'd at first sight with what the Muse imparts,
 In fearless youth we tempt the heights of Arts,
 While from the bounded level of our mind,
 Short views we take, nor see the lengths behind ;
 But more advanc'd, behold with strange surprise
 New distant scenes of endless science rise !

So pleas'd at first the tow'ring Alps we try,
 Mount o'er the vales, and seem to tread the sky,
 Th' eternal snows appear already past,
 And the first clouds and mountains seem the last :
 But, those attain'd, we tremble to survey
 The growing labours of the lengthen'd way,
 Th' increasing prospect tires our wand'ring eyes.
 Hills peep o'er hills, and Alps on Alps arise !

A perfect Judge will read each work of Wit
 With the same spirit that its author writ :
 Survey the Whole, nor seek slight faults to find
 Where nature moves, and rapture warms the mind ;
 Nor lose, for that malignant dull delight,
 The gen'rous pleasure to be charm'd with wit.
 But in such lays as neither ebb, nor flow,
 Correctly cold, and regularly low,
 That shunning faults, one quiet tenour keep ;
 We cannot blame indeed—but we may sleep.
 In Wit, as Nature, what affects our hearts

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Department of Biological Sciences

August 13, 1976

Mr. Joseph Sutton
New York Botanical Garden
Bronx, NY 10458

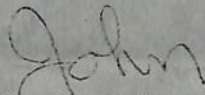
Dear Joe:

In a batch of reviews sent to you on 30 November 1973 was Narcotic Plants reviewed by B. Lowy. You indicated that the review was being held for the "1974: #1 issue." However, so far as I can tell, the review simply never was published. While it is too late now to publish it, I still would like to know where it went. And so would Dr. Lowy.

If possible, I'll get more reviews to you soon. My records tell me you have 119, 121, 123, 143-153, and 154-162 still to publish. These, I presume, will take care of 30(3) and 30(4).

Best wishes.

Cordially yours,



John W. Thieret, Chairman
Department of Biological Sciences

JWT/dlc

The Society for



ECONOMIC BOTANY

DEVOTED TO THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE USES OF PLANTS BY MAN

Box 277
Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, KY 41076
August 17, 1976

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Department of Botany
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Dear Bernard:

I have no idea what happened to the review of Narcotic Plants, which I sent to New York on 30 November 1973. It was supposed to appear in the 1974, #1 issue. As you know, it did not.

Although it is indeed too late to publish the review, I have written to New York to try to find out what happened.

This letter will also acknowledge the receipt of your review of Hallucinogens and Culture.

Thanks a million.

Cordially yours,

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

JWT/dlc

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX • NEW YORK 10458  212/933-9400

24 August 1976

Dear Dr. Lowy:

On August 13, which was Friday the Thirteenth, Dr. Thieret wrote me the letter here attached, asking the whereabouts of a review of yours. I reply to Dr. Thieret's letter by writing this to you, with a copy to him.

It is my sad duty to say that the review did not get published, that the manuscript is gone (how or where I cannot determine), and that a good bit of your professional time went to no good purpose. I am sure you cannot turn these reviews out as you do without devoting much time, thought, and labor to the task. Through my failure, therefore, you have suffered a setback.

I do not know how to reimburse you for this, or how to apologize. Please know that I am deeply sorry and that I am aware of what it means to a man to have his work lost.

This is the first time in 31 years spent in this kind of work that I have had to admit to a man that we had lost something. There have been many times when it appeared that we had -- only to develop that someone had not really sent us the things he claimed he had sent us -- or that someone else had buried the "lost" item under a stack of paper -- or the time a printer in Baltimore stacked thousands of dollars worth of art work on the wrong desk in Baltimore and claimed we had never sent it to him! But in this instance I must bring the curtain down and admit that the fault is ours, or mine.

I must say also -- and perhaps this is the worst of it -- that I apparently knew something had happened. I find a pencilled note to myself, written undoubtedly in the middle of the night somewhere as I reconnoitred through all of this mass of paper I customarily live in -- a scribbled note saying "Where is it? Apparently never got published." But even this note passed out of my consciousness next day, and I never saw it again.

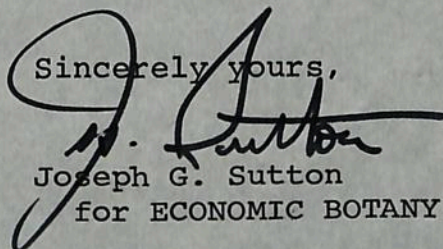
The book reviews have always been extremely difficult to keep track of, and we have made various attempts to devise ways of keeping them nailed down. Since losing yours, we have begun a numbering system that keeps us a bit more reliably on the track.

Dr. Lowy - 2 -

I look around myself here and wonder what we could send you as a token acknowledgment of our indebtedness to you. The reference books tell me you are a mycologist; so I know you undoubtedly have MYCOLOGIA already. Under separate cover I am sending you the 1976 GARDEN JOURNAL (which may be the last of the GARDEN JOURNAL, because the Botanical Garden is starting a new national magazine early in 1977). And if ever there is anything my department and I can do for you, would you kindly let us know? Perhaps there will be something here you could use. There is BRITTONIA, MYCOLOGIA, THE BOTANICAL REVIEW, ECONOMIC BOTANY, the N.Y.B.G. MEMOIRS (do you have the Lowe memorial volume), NORTH AMERICAN FLORA, FLORA NEOTROPICA, and a passle of odds and ends. We are currently planning a new publications list. If you would like any of these, it would be extremely good of you to let me know.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



Joseph G. Sutton
for ECONOMIC BOTANY

Dr. Bernard Lowy
The Department of Botany
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

JGS:jgs

cc. Dr. Thieret
cc. Dr. Tallent
cc. Dr. Beaman

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE . LOUISIANA . 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

28-VIII-1976

Dear Dr. Sutton:

Your kind letter tells me that you are one who looks on his professional duties with a sense of the highest responsibility and I regret that the loss of my little review has caused you such anguish.

I do not intend this as a close analogy in any sense, for it would be patently absurd, but thinking of papers that have been lost, I can not help but wonder about the feelings of Thomas Carlyle when he found that the manuscript of his book on the French Revolution had been burned by accident, by the maid of John Stuart Mill, as I recall. That indeed was a loss, but the friendship of the men, I think, continued unimpaired.

I appreciate your generous offers and your thoughtful gesture in sending me several numbers of the Garden Journal. Your words would have been quite enough.

With best wishes,


Sincerely yours,

B. Lowy
Bernard Lowy

Dr. Joseph G. Sutton
The New York Botanical Garden
Bronx, New York 10458

BL:bl

cc. Dr. Thieret

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX • NEW YORK 10458  212/933-9400

3 March 1978

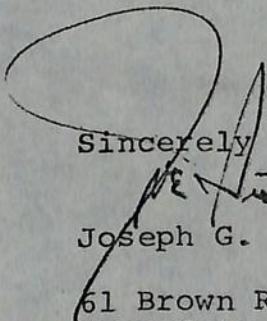
Dear Reviewer:

The informal-appearing "galleys" here enclosed are panels as they come from the typesetter's machine. It is the best possible guarantee of accuracy in the final book to ask you to proofread these panels as they are, because it is directly from them that the pages will be made. I hope therefore that you will not be dismayed if they do not look like the conventional galley proofs we have all known ^{and} handled in the past.
^

It would greatly expedite matters and insure your inclusion in the issue of ECONOMIC BOTANY that is about to go to press if you would return your corrections and reprint orders to me at the address below.

And thank you.

Sincerely yours,

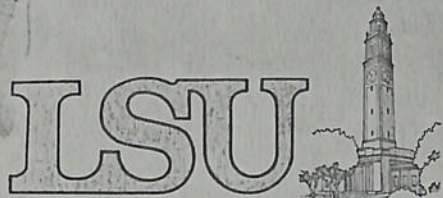

Joseph G. Sutton

61 Brown Road
Scarsdale, New York 10583

tel: 914 - 723 - 1523

JGS:jgs

Sutton



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70803

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Botany

10-15-1978

Dear Dr. Sutton,

I am embarrassed and chagrined to report that through my carelessness the page proof you sent me was lost - or destroyed! Yesterday evening I left my desk in untidy condition. The proof pages probably fell to the floor or into the trash basket and were no doubt removed by the janitor. This is the first time such a disaster has befallen me. I am thinking not of my loss, but of the problem this will cause you. The only survivor was the manuscript, which I had placed on another part of the desk. If deleting my review will solve your editorial problem, please do so. — All I can do is utter my apology!

Yours,

B. Gray

27 March 1978
61 Brown Road
Scarsdale, New York 10583

Dear Dr. Lowy:

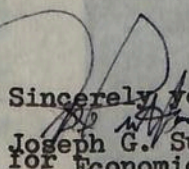
Thank you for your letter of the 10th and the manuscript enclosed. Be assured, you have cause no difficulty here whatsoever!

But even if you had done so --- It was not so very long ago that it was I who had to apologize to you for the loss of an original manuscript. The only item I have ever lost in more than thirty years of working with authors. And in return, you wrote me one of the most gracious letters I have ever read in my life. Certainly the most gracious letter ever received by me.

Losing something in an editorial office is surely a nightmare. I once participated in a detective operation to recover a manuscript that had been heaved out by an over-zealous janitor. After all, it looked like rubbish to him, so out it went. By plotting and tracing the course taken by rubbish from that part of town and estimating its speed along the way, we finally located it intact in a repository several miles south of the lower-Fifth Avenue office whence it had started.

And on another occasion, I conscientiously retyped and proof-read to the finish a book-length manuscript rejected for publication and presumably lost by me -- but one that still might be published if the author had a proper original to submit elsewhere. So I typed it out from a flimsy carbon copy. I am sure the author achieved publication; my own achievement was ultimately to find the original underneath the bottom drawer of my filing cabinet, where it had slipped to the floor from the back of the drawer and lay for months concealed in that unexpectedly large and very effective hiding place. I have found the office full of snares and pitfalls. But let us take courage!

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Joseph G. Sutton
for Economic Botany

JGS:jgs

Dr. B. Lowy
Department of Botany

Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

Digitized by the Institute for Botanical Documentation

John Thierst told me (3-VII-1979) that
Mr. Sutton died.

6-IV-1978

Dear Dr. Sutton,

Your generous response to my missive of distress was most welcome and reassuring.

I also read with wonder, how far an honest man will go to redress a presumed wrong!

With many thanks,

Cordially yours,

B. Lowry

A MONOGRAPH OF CERATOCYSTIS AND CERATOCYSTIOPSIS. H.P.Upadhyah. xii +
176 pp. illus. University of Georgia Press, Athens. 1981. \$27.50

Many ubiquitous saprobic microfungi are virtually cosmopolitan in distribution but escape the attention of all except the specialists who study them. This is not so of their effects. In the genus Ceratocystis and its sections (of which the author recognizes four) a few species have gained notoriety because of their importance as wood destroyers, including C. ulmi the causative agent of Dutch elm disease, and C. fagacearum, the oak wilt fungus. Some species cause a blue stain of timber, and a number of others are of considerable economic importance causing diseases of such widely grown crop plants as sugar cane, sweet potatoes, coffee, bananas, pineapple, and mango.

This account, although it touches peripherally on vector relationships and spore dispersal, distribution and substrate, cell wall analysis, and a few other related topics, is a taxonomic treatment of 92 species of the genus Ceratocystis and its sections Ceratocystis, Endoconidiophora, Ips, and Ophiostoma, and of the genus Ceratocystiopsis. Keys to the sections and species are followed by detailed descriptions of conidial and ascigerous stages. Synonym^yies are also listed. There are 92 plates of photomicrographs with 513 figures of good to excellent quality, a bibliography of over 750 titles, and a fungus index. Some taxonomic mycologists will need this authoritative work for ready reference.

B. LOWY, BOTANY DEPARTMENT, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, BATON ROUGE, LA 70803

#69.

copy for Green book

10-10-181

Narcotic Plants of the Old World. An Anthology of Texts from Ancient Times to the Present. Selected, translated and edited by Hedwig Schleiffer. 193 pp. illus. Lubrecht & Cramer, Monticello, New York, 1979. \$7.95 (paper).

"When shall we three meet again, in thunder, lightning or in rain?" Macbeth's witches are often greeted by contemporary audiences with a complacency presumably inspired by the conviction that belief in such hoary superstitious ceremonies belongs irrevocably to the past, is safely buried never to be disinterred, and may henceforth be viewed merely as a source of mirth, albeit of a lugubrious, Addams-esque variety. But is not this posture the expression of an ill concealed inquietude? Credence in witches, diabolism, and necromancy is widespread, and is firmly rooted even in "advanced" societies as the recently publicized practice of exorcism astonishingly testified.

The first pages of Dr. Schleiffer's anthology are devoted to Witches' "Flying Ointments," and offer sundry accounts from the 16th to the 20th century of methods for the preparation and use of brews having miraculous powers. Easily accessible plants and animals, (now and then with a dab of human baby's fat) were generally required to concoct the magic ointments, but I leave it to the reader to discover the unexpectedly forthright (until now arcane) procedures whereby witches were ^{de} may to fly and approach heaven or hell, with or without benefit of broomstick. This alone should be worth the modest price of the book, but much more

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This is a memorable collection of writings from "many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore."

B. Lowy, Botany Department, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

The Botany and Chemistry of Hallucinogens. 2nd ed. Richard Evans Schultes and Albert Hofmann. Foreword by H. Kluver. 437 pp. illus. Charles C. Thomas Publisher. Springfield, Illinois. 1980. \$29.75

One of the prodigious mysteries discovered by early man in his search for plants that would eventually insure his survival was, that after eating some of them he became miraculously transported to worlds beyond his ken. Based upon an abundance of contemporary data we may hazard a guess concerning the emotional states that such an unique experience evoked. Surely astonishment, fear, awe, and endless wonder about its cause must have been prominent among them. How was this "mysterium tremendum et fascinatum" to be explained? An hypothesis invented by man the rational animal, to satisfy his imperative need for an answer to this pervasive question was the magico-religious concept of a resident diety in a plant or animal, possibly adumbrated under the influence of naturally occurring entheogenic agents. The sophisticated world of science is rediscovering much of what was learned empirically by our forebears, and is refining that knowledge through chemical research. This is the compelling theme that underlies the book, and although anthropological overtones are everywhere apparent, the major thrust is placed where the book's title indicates that it should be.

It may safely be assumed that virtually all readers of this journal are already familiar with the first edition (1973) of this work which has justly become established as the standard reference in its field. The authors have the highest qualifications for the

task they have undertaken, and the new edition will meet all of its readers expectations. The same successful format has been maintained, but each chapter has been revised and expanded to reflect new additions or interpretations to botanical, ethnobotanical, or chemical knowledge. As before, the bulk of the text is devoted to an exposition of "Plants of Hallucinogenic Use," which in the 1st edition occupied 178 pages, but now runs to 285 pages. There likewise has been added 81 new figures, all of them pertinent, and some quite striking and original. They range from icones taken from a 13th century Chinese herbal to fine line drawings by E. W. Smith, J. B. Clark, L. T. Bates, and others. The historical treatment of advances made in chemical and botanical studies of psychoactive compounds has been strengthened, and is supported by illustrations of outstanding contributors to chemical and ethnobotanical knowledge, past and present. It is gratifying to find a sketch of Richard Spruce, the pioneer English explorer-naturalist who first reported (1849-1863) and identified some hallucinogenic plants used by indigenous tribes of the Brazilian Amazon. Numerous field photographs by R. E. Schultes, taken during his long residence in Amazonian Colombia and Brazil also illuminate the text, and A. Hofmann has refurbished some pages with additional data on the organic chemistry of several psychotomimetics.

Some nomenclatural changes have been made, deferring to the taxonomists, those harmless drudges whose low but necessary business it is to constantly reexamine the status of plant names. Like it or not, henceforth, unless one chooses to remain a Philistine, the

combination Rivea corymbosa is to be expunged, and Turbina corymbosa adopted. The ancient Aztecs might have reacted with the equivalent of "a plague on both your houses, Ololihqui it remains." The bibliography has been much enlarged (now over 800 entries) and students will find there all the significant references and some of lesser degree that they are likely to need, or want.

B. LOWY, BOTANY DEPARTMENT, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, BATON
ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70803

Narcotic Plants of the Old World. An Anthology of Texts from Ancient Times to the Present. Selected, translated and edited by Hedwig Schleiffer. 193 pp. illus. Lubrecht & Cramer, Monticello, New York, 1979. \$7.95 (paper).

"When shall we three meet again, in thunder, lightning or in rain?" Macbeth's witches are often greeted by contemporary audiences with a complacency presumably inspired by the conviction that belief in such hoary superstitious ceremonies belongs irrevocably to the past, is safely buried never to be disinterred, and may henceforth be viewed merely as a source of mirth, albeit of a lugubrious, Addams-esque variety. But is not this posture the expression of an ill concealed inquietude? Credence in witches, diabolism, and necromancy is widespread, and is firmly rooted even in "advanced" societies as the recently publicized practice of exorcism astonishingly testified.

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This is a memorable collection of writings from "many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore."

B. Lowy, Botany Department, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge,
LA 70803.

Ukranian Fungus Flora. Agariceae. S.P. Wasser. (In Russian) 328 pp.

illus. Naukova Dumka, Kiev. 1980. 3 rubles, 80 kopeks.

If we consider the flora of the world, despite over two centuries of plant collecting in both hemispheres, there still remain many gaps in our knowledge concerning such fundamental matters as the identification and geographical distribution of large numbers of taxa. Traditionally the fungi have received less attention than most higher plants because of the relatively smaller number of available specialists to study them, consequently it is a cause for celebration among botanists when a meticulous worker publishes a local fungus flora encompassing a region heretofore virtually unknown to the vast majority of biologists either of the Old World or the New.

Dr. S. P. Wasser, distinguished mycologist of the N. G. Cholodni Institute of the Ukrainian SSR in Kiev, is known throughout the Soviet Union and elsewhere for his massive contributions to the mycology of the Ukraine. This work, the result of many years of research, is a monograph of the Ukrainian species included within 4 tribes of Agaricaceae, or gilled fungi. These are the Agariceae with the genera Melanophyllum, Agaricus, and Gyrophragmium; Cystodermatae with Phaeolepiota, Cystoderma, and Sqamanita; Lepioteae with Pseudobaeospora, Lepiota, and Chamaemyces; and Leucocoprineae with Leucocoprinus, Leucoagaricus, and Macrolepiota. Within these 12 genera are included 128 species, 9 of which are new, and all described by the author, 22 species new to the USSR, and 21 species new to the Ukrainian SSR. The largest genus is Agaricus with 54 species, followed by Lepiota with 37 species, and Cystoderma with 10 species.

An introductory section of 78 pages covers many important aspects of agaricology including macro and microanatomy, an extensive presentation

of the geographical distribution of species on all the continents and Australia with data summarized in tabular form, the use of chemical agents and their reactions in each of the species, notes on the cultivation of the mushroom of commerce, Agaricus bisporus, and a detailed geometrical analysis of the basidium. The bulk of the text is devoted to the systematic treatment in which careful descriptions of macroscopic and microscopic characteristics are given, together with complete synonymies. Important icones are also registered, there are keys to all taxa, comments on the edible, non-edible or poisonous species, and there is an all-inclusive index. Bibliographies are in Russian and English, or in other non-Russian languages. Each species is illustrated by excellent line drawings of basidiocarps and spores, often supplemented by photographs and scanning electron micrographs in 165 black and white figures, and in addition there are 29 plates of very good water colors representing 8 of the 12 genera treated.

This is a major publication that should be in the library of every working agaricologist, and merits translation into several languages for the convenient reference of professional mycologists everywhere.

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B. Lowy, Botany Department, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Atlas des Plantes Hallucinogènes du Monde. Richard Evans Schultes.

Translated from the English by Jocelyne Joyce. 112 pp. illus.

L'Aurore Inc. Montreal, Quebec. No price.

The heart of this handsome little book is, as its title indicates, a color atlas of the principle hallucinogenic plants of the Old World and the New. Also illustrated are some of the methods of their preparation and the paraphernalia commonly associated with their use. The 44 plates are equally divided between representative species of the Old and the New World, and there are also 25 figures in black and white of photographs and drawings.

Although the text is largely an exposition of essential information that can be easily appreciated by the interested layman to whom it is directed, some observations on the history, pharmacology and ethnobotany of the plants is given as well, together with their vernacular and scientific names.

This work first appeared in a slightly different format (with a few illustrations) in 1976 as a "Golden Guide" booklet at the pleasantly surprising price of \$1.95. The text has been translated with fidelity, but since the short ^bibliography of the original edition referred ^Apredominantly to English works, it has been deleted from the French version.

This publication is admirably suited as an introduction to ethnobotany, and students and laymen alike in many parts of the world would surely find it rewarding to have a translation available in the languages of their competence. Elmer W. Smith's talent as a botanical illustrator merits a citation of "summa cum laude."

B. Lowy, Botany Department, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge,

LA 70803

Ethnopharmacologic Search for Psychoactive Drugs. Daniel H. Efron, Bo Holmstedt, Nathan S. Kline, editors. 468 pp. illus. Raven Press, New York. \$24.00

In January, 1967, 31 participants in San Francisco held a symposium on psychoactive drugs, the first of its kind in the annals of medicine. The presentations were subsequently published in book form, but because of its limited distribution many potentially interested professionals and laymen were unable to obtain a copy for their personal use. The text has now been reprinted as a paperback, and it should enjoy a much wider circulation among specialists in several disciplines including ethnopharmacology, ethnobotany, chemistry, anthropology, psychiatry, and medicine.

The introductory section of about 100 pages presents an overview of ethnopharmacology with articles that focus on historical aspects of the field, past and present. This is followed by papers that examine in depth four psychotomimetic plants that have had deep significance in the Old World and the New. These are Piper methysticum (kava), Myristicia fragrans (nutmeg), Banisteriopsis caapi (ayauasca/yage), and Amanita muscaria (the fly agaric). But the most extensive part of the text (140 pp.) is devoted to an anthropological, ethnobotanical, and chemical survey of South American snuffs.

Many of the principle contemporary authorities in their respective fields contributed papers, and although all are worthy of note, in the interest of brevity only a few will be mentioned together with the titles of their articles which give an indication of the diversity of subject matter considered. C. H. Eugster, Dep't of Organic Chemistry, University of Zurich: "Isolation structure and syntheses of central-active compounds from Amanita muscaria;" Bo Holmstedt, Swedish Medical

Research Council: "Historical survey;" Lowell D. Holmes, Dep't of Anthropology, Wichita State University, Kansas: "The function of kava in modern Samoan culture;" E. Carlos del Pozo, Instituto de Estudios Medicos y Biológicos, UNAM, Mexico: "Empiricism and magic in Aztec pharmacology;" R. E. Schultes, Botanical Museum, Harvard University: "The botanical origins of South American snuffs;" D. Taylor, Dep't of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles: "The making of the hallucinogenic drink from Banisteriopsis caapi in Northern Peru;" R. G. Wasson, Botanical Museum, Harvard University: "Fly agaric and man;" A. T. Weil, Harvard Medical School: "Nutmeg as a psychoactive drug."

The book has numerous illustrations, useful bibliographies, and an index. This much desired, frequently cited volume will be a most welcome addition to the libraries of many students and scholars who did not have the opportunity of acquiring it in 1967.

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LSU

Department of Botany

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

504/388-8485

3-v-1981

Dear John,

Dr. Parnato sent me his com-
pendium which I think merits this
note - my shortest.

Bernard

To JWT: 3-V-'81

EESTI SEENTE KOONDNIMESTIK. (LIST OF ESTONIAN FUNGI), by L. Järva & E. Parmasto. Institute of Zoology and Botany, Academy of Sciences of the Estonian S.S.R. Tartu. 1980. 331 pp. Price, 2 rubles 10 kopeks (paperbound).

For 15 years Drs. Järva and Parmasto and numerous of their colleagues collaborated in producing the first complete list of fungi (3277 species) known to occur in Estonia. The ~~re~~^lcord covers a 200 year period from 1777 to the present, and the data appear in 2 parts. 1) A taxonomic section alphabetically records the genus and species of fungus, followed by references in the literature to its occurrence and to other pertinent data concerning it. 2) A host index with appropriate literature citations. Introductory remarks are in Estonian, Russian, and English. The bibliography has 1192 entries. This compendium should serve as an important guide for the phytopathologist who has a need for these significant data from the Estonian S.S.R.

B. Lowy, Botany Department, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Fungi Of The USSR. (in Russian). M.V.Gorlenko, M.A.Bondartzeva, L.V. Garibova, I.I.Sidorova, T.P.Sizova. 303 pp. illus. Publishing House "Misl," Moscow, 1980. 2 rubles 70 kopeks.

Most Russians have traditionally been mycophiles, so it comes as no surprise that a manual for the identification of higher fungi (Ascomycetes and Basidiomycetes) should be offered by some of their experts for use by teachers, students, and mushroom fanciers in general. The format is a familiar one, with brief introductory discussions of the major fungus groups (and Myxomycetes) and their role in nature as parasites, saprobes and mycorrhizae. There are dichotomous keys to families and genera but not to species, short but adequate descriptions are given of gross morphological characteristics, and distributional data are included for species found in the USSR. Eighty plates in color (good paintings satisfactorily reproduced) illustrate about 500 of some 800 species described. Common Russian names are given together with the conventional technical ones, and all species are listed in an index by their Latin binomials. The book is a hardback of convenient carrying size (20.5 X 14.5 cm) and is printed on paper of good quality.

Edible, nonedible or toxic properties of the Agaricales, which constitute the bulk of the text, are noted without the dire admonitions often found in English treatments concerning the few well known poisonous mushrooms. No lurid deathheads accompany the description of species of evil repute. These bear the simple legend "poisonous," or "deadly poisonous" (even eschewing boldface type) which is considered sufficient warning for judicious mushroom gatherers. Therein lies the difference between mycophilia and mycophobia.

Russian and non-Russian readers alike will find the modest price for

this useful and attractive volume a temptation hard to resist.

B. Lowy, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

The Wondrous Mushroom. Mycolatry in Mesoamerica

B. LOWY

Reprinted from MYCOLOGIA, Vol. LXXIII, No. 4, July-August 1981
Printed in U. S. A.

Book Reviews

The Wondrous Mushroom. Mycolatry in Mesoamerica. R. Gordon Wasson. 209 pp. illus. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1980. \$525.00 (deluxe ed.), \$12.95 (paperback ed.).

In 1957 there began a series of ethnomycological studies as notable for their novel and arresting contents and the assiduous intradisciplinary research that made them possible as for the bookmaker's lavish care, which created of each deluxe volume a work of art. The first of these studies, in two volumes, *Mushrooms, Russia and History*, focusing on the magico-religious use of hallucinogenic mushrooms (mostly of the genus *Psilocybe*) that were known to some indigenous Mexican cultures since pre-Columbian times, gained worldwide recognition and pioneered a field of investigation still being vigorously pursued.

R. Gordon Wasson, the author of these works and now an octogenarian, was by his own account as mycophobic some 5 decades ago as most of his fellow Americans, but he had the early good fortune to be inspired and instructed by his Russian-born wife, who "adored mushrooms" and who later collaborated with him in writing *Mushrooms, Russia and History*, a study that provided the initial impetus for modern ethnomycological research. Skillfully using the knowledge, pertinacity, enthusiasm, and insatiable curiosity that characterize his work, Wasson has made the numerous contributions that have placed him in the first rank as the world's leading ethnomycologist.

The current volume (monograph 7) concentrates on "mycolatry" in Mesoamerica, where the rediscovery and elucidation of ancient, mushroom-oriented rituals practiced in Oaxaca has enriched our understanding of a way of life cherished by an entire people. Much of the ethnomycological information, now extant concerning the Americas and other parts of the world was gathered by Wasson in the course of his indefatigable inquiries and peripatetic travels.

A more expressive term could not have been found for the subtitle of this book than the neologism "mycolatry," which conveys the sense of awe and reverence that must have been experienced by the progenitors of sacred mushroom ceremonies. It takes its place beside Wasson's "ethnomycology," "mycophilia," and "mycophobia," words of common parlance now. Wasson has introduced still another linguistic innovation. In recent years the terms "hallucinogen," "psychedelic," "psychotomimetic," and others of similar connotation have, in his opinion, been "vulgarized by hippy abuse." He therefore favors the adoption of "entheogen" (Gr. God within us) as a more fitting and respectful designation reflecting the "deep cultural resonances evoked" by these substances. One cannot help but admire the author's keen sense of propriety in dealing with the ineffable.

The text is divided into two unequal parts, "The Past" and "The Present," introduced by a 12-page "Prelude," which is a succinct expression of the author's inalterable commitment to learn and transmit to others all he can about the "entheogenic mushrooms" and "their rôle in Early Man's religious life." The corpus of his original works is ample testimony to the degree of success he has attained toward fulfilling this aim. This is not to say that all of his concepts or even all of his findings have met with universal approval. Few in any field could make such a boast. There was, for example, sharp criticism in some quarters of his interpretation of "Soma," but Wasson boldly, and I believe convincingly, defended his thesis.

Of the two chapters that constitute "The Present," "A Velada in Huautla" is a review of the salient features of the 1955-1956 agapés presided over by Maria Sabina, the Mazatec shamaness, at Wasson's behest. The 1956 session was recorded by Wasson and photographed by Richardson, and in 1957 it was the source of a *Life* magazine article, which included watercolors by Roger Heim of several species of *Psilocybe* from the Huautla de Jimenez region. This resulted in the awakening of the outside world to events it considered

so remarkable that the tide of the curious and the quick-fix generation of the Western World soon had to be stemmed by local authorities—and is controlled to the present day. A previously unknown village in Mazatec country became the site of a cultural disaster. Huautla paid a heavy price for its "fame."

It was not until 1974 that a complete *velada* (from 1958) was published by Wasson under the title *María Sabina and her Mazatec Mushroom Velada* with text and cassettes. Working with Wasson's tapes, George and Florence Cowan, specialists in the Mazatec language, translated María Sabina's words, the Mazatec appearing on one page, the Spanish and English in columns on the facing page. María's rhythmic chanting, humming, moaning, hand clapping, and thigh slapping, together with her percussive utterances, were transcribed in musical terms as faithfully as possible by ethnomusicologist Willard Rhodes. The chapter on "Traits of the Mesoamerican Velada . . ." is a more detailed description and analysis of the velada and its participants, concentrating principally on the characteristics and rôle of the shaman in Mazatec society.

Woven throughout the remaining nine chapters of the text ("The Past") are themes that Wasson and others have treated before, but here most of them are amplified: there is a reinterpretation of a life-sized sculpture in stone of Xochipilli, the "Prince of Flower" (now residing at the fabulous Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City), imprinted with representations of hallucinogenic plants and *Psilocybe*; much new is offered in a chapter on "The Flowers in Pre-Conquest Nahuatl Poetry"; "The Inebriating Drinks of the Nahuatl" is introduced with these words from a Nahuatl poem: "I have drunk the wine of mushrooms and my heart weeps"; old and new observations are to be found in an illuminating chapter on "Codices, Lienzos, Mapas"; "Piltzintli Child God of the Nahuatl, and his Christian Progeny" is a beautifully illustrated historical interpretation of the "god of the miraculousentheogens"; there is an engrossing discussion of "Teotihuacan and the Wondrous Mushroom" as seen in Mesoamerican murals, ceramics, and stonework, and of a Greco-Mexican link binding the Old World with the New in entheogenic worship; "The Mushroom Stones of the Maya Highlands" fortifies the argument for the ecstatic symbolism expressed in these Maya sculptures; in a consideration of "The Historical Record" one finds references in Fray Diego Durán and Bernardino de Sahagún, to the use of inebriating mushrooms in pre-Columbian America, with overtones of the origin of mycophobia there; and in the final chapter there are a statement revealing certain shamanistic arenas and a concluding reference to the recent discovery among the Quiché Maya of their ancient belief expressed in the "Popol Vuh" of the sacred link between the lightning bolt and *Amanita muscaria*.

But these chapters cannot be adequately summarized in such spartan fashion! Each overflows with new ideas, interpretations, translations, and nuances previously missed (as in the chapter on "Flowers in Pre-Conquest Nahuatl Poetry"). All the arguments presented tend to confirm the major thesis of this book: that Mesoamericans in pre-Columbian times were steeped in an ageless traditional knowledge of the all-encompassing, soul-revealing, still secret, numinous entheogens that dominated their religious lives. There is sure to be controversy. It cannot be avoided in the consideration of so complex a system of beliefs, but the insightful treatment offered here will stand as a monument to Wasson's deep conviction that the tantalizing palimpsest of pre-Columbian Mesoamerican thought has been at least partly deciphered and made whole.

Wasson's sagacious choice of highly qualified collaborators and informants—whether mycologists (this volume is dedicated to the memory of the late Roger Heim), linguists, archeologists, anthropologists, or musicologists—has contributed immensely to the success of his labors, and the author expresses his "boundless gratitude" to all the specialists who have made his work possible.

No detail has been overlooked in the tasteful design and meticulous execution of the limited deluxe edition of 501 copies, of which only 475 are commercially available. All the

that is /!

bookmaker's talents have been marshalled to make this a brilliant achievement. Its cost is correspondingly high, but if gold-dusted special paper, a green leather spine, and a light ash-colored cloth cover made by Veronese craftsmen in a 12¼" × 8¾" format are not considered to be *de rigueur*, then the sturdy paperback will be found equally serviceable, if not quite so aesthetically pleasing. This is a remarkable book, a substantial and memorable contribution to ethnomycology.

B. LOWY, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, BATON ROUGE, LA 70803

The Wondrous Mushroom. Mycolatry in Mesoamerica, by R. Gordon Wasson. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York. 1980. Deluxe ed. xxvi + 209 p. illus. Price, \$525.00 Paperback ed. \$10.95

In 1957 there appeared the first in a series of ethnomycological studies as notable for their novel and arresting contents and the assiduous intradisciplinary research that made them possible, as for the bookmaker's lavish care that created of each deluxe volume a work of art. The first of these studies, in two volumes, Mushrooms, Russia and History, which focused on the magico-religious use of hallucinogenic mushrooms (mostly of the genus Psilocybe) that were known to some indigenous Mexican cultures since Pre-Columbian times, gained worldwide recognition and pioneered a field of investigation that is still being vigorously pursued.

R. Gordon Wasson, the author of these works was by his own account, as mycophobic some five decades ago as most of his fellow Americans, but he had the early good fortune of being inspired and instructed by his Russian-born wife, who "adored mushrooms," and who later collaborated with him in the writing of Mushrooms, Russia and History (1957), a study that provided the initial impetus for ethnomycological research in modern times. Now an octogenarian, Wasson has skillfully utilized the knowledge, pertinacity, enthusiasm

and insatiable curiosity that characterize his work, to make the numerous contributions that have placed him in the first rank as the world's leading ethnomycologist.

The current volume (monograph 7) concentrates on "mycolatry" in Mesoamerica where the rediscovery and elucidation of ancient, mushroom-oriented rituals practised in Oaxaca has enriched our understanding of a way of life cherished by an entire people. Much of the ethnomycological information now extant concerning the Americas and other parts of the world was gathered by Wasson in the course of his indefatigable inquiries and peripatetic travels.

A more expressive term could not have been found for the subtitle of this book than the neologism "mycolatry" which conveys the sense of awe and reverence that must have been experienced by the progenitors of sacred mushroom ceremonies. It takes its place beside the author's "ethnomycology", "mycophilia," and "mycophobia" which have now become words of common parlance. Wasson has introduced still another linguistic innovation. In recent years the terms "hallucinogen", "psychedelic", "psychotomimetic", and others of similar connotation have, in Wasson's opinion, been "vulgarized by hippy abuse." He therefore favors the adoption of "entheogen" (Gr. God within us) as a more fitting and respectful designation that reflects the "deep cultural resonances evoked" by these substances. One cannot help but admire the author's keen sense of propriety in dealing with the

ineffable.

x
The text is divided into two unequal parts, "The Past" and "The Present," introduced by a 12-page "Prelude" which is a succinct expression of the author's inalterable commitment to learn and transmit to others all that he can about the "entheogenic mushrooms" and their rôle in Early Man's religious life." The corpus of his original works is ample testimony to the degree of success he has attained toward the fulfillment of this aim. This is not to say that all of his concepts nor even all of his findings have met with universal approval. Few in any field could make such a boast. There was, for example, sharp criticism in some quarters of his interpretation of "Soma", but Wasson boldly, and I believe convincingly, defended his thesis.

Of the two chapters that constitute "The Present," "A Velada in Huautla" is a review of the salient features of the 1955-'56 agapés presided over by María Sabina, the Mazatec shamaness, at Wasson's behest. The 1956 session was recorded by Wasson and photographed by Richardson, and in 1957 it was the source of the Life magazine article which included water colors by Roger Heim of several species of Psilocybe from the Huautla de Jiménez region. This resulted in the awakening of the outside world to events they considered so remarkable that the tide of the curious and the quick-fix generation of the Western World, soon had to be stemmed by local authorities, and is controlled

to the present day. A previously unknown village in Mazatec country became the site of a cultural disaster. Huautla paid a heavy price for its "fame."

It was not until 1974 that a complete velada (1958) was published by Wasson under the title María Sabina and her Mazatec Mushroom Velada with text and cassettes.

Working with Wasson's tapes, George and Florence Cowan, specialists in the Mazatec language, translated María Sabina's words, the Mazatec appearing on one page, and the Spanish and English in columns on the facing page. María's rhythmic chanting, humming, moaning, hand clapping and thigh slapping, together with her percussive utterances was transcribed in musical terms as faithfully as possible by the ethnomusicologist Willard Rhodes. The chapter on "Traits of the Mesoamerican Velada..." is a more detailed description and analysis of the velada and its participants, concentrating principally on the characteristics and rôle of the shaman in Mazatec society.

Woven throughout the remaining 9 chapters of the text ("The Past") are themes that Wasson and others have treated before, but here most of them are amplified: there is a reinterpretation of a life-sized sculpture in stone of Xochipilli, the "Prince of Flower," (now residing at the fabulous Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City) imprinted with representations of hallucinogenic plants and

Psilocybe; much that is new is offered in a chapter on "The Flowers in Pre-Conquest Nahuatl Poetry; "The Inebriating Drinks of the Nahua" is introduced with these words from a Nahuatl poem: "I have drunk the wine of mushrooms and my heart weeps;" old and new observations are to be found in an illuminating chapter on "Codices, Lienzos, Mapas; "Piltzintli Child God of the Nahua, and his Christian Progeny" is a beautifully illustrated historical interpretation of the "god of the miraculous entheogens;" there is an engrossing discussion of "Teotihuacán and the Wondrous Mushroom" as seen in Mesoamerican murals, ceramics, and stonework, and of a Greco-Mexican link binding the Old World with the New in entheogenic worship; " The Mushroom Stones of the Maya Highlands," fortifies the argument for the ecstatic symbolism expressed in these Maya sculptures; in a consideration of "The Historical Record" one finds references in Fray Diego Durán and Bernardino de Sahagún, to the use of inebriating mushrooms in pre-Columbian America, with overtones of the origin of mycophobia there and in the final chapter there is a statement revealing certain shamanistic arcana and concludes with reference to the recent discovery among the Quiche Maya of their ancient belief expressed in the "Popol Vuh" of the sacred link between the lighting bolt and Amanita muscaria.

But these chapters cannot be adequately summarized in

such spartan fashion! Each of them overflows with new ideas, interpretations, translations, and nuances previously missed (as in the chapter on "Flowers in Pre-Conquest Nahuatl Poetry"). All the arguments presented tend to confirm the major thesis of this book, namely that Mesoamericans in pre-Columbian times were steeped in an ageless traditional knowledge of the all-encompassing, soul-revealing, still secret, numinous entheogens that dominated their religious lives. There is sure to be controversy. It cannot be avoided in the consideration of so complex a system of beliefs, but the insightful treatment offered here will stand as a monument to the author's deep conviction that the tantalizing palimpsest of pre-Columbian Mesoamerican thought has been at least partly deciphered and made whole.

Wasson's sagacious choice of highly qualified collaborators and informants, whether mycologists (this volume is dedicated to the memory of the late Roger Heim), linguists, archeologists, anthropologists or musicologists, has contributed immensely to the success of his labours, and the author expresses his "boundless gratitude" to all the specialists who have made his work possible.

No detail has been overlooked in the tasteful design and meticulous execution of the limited deluxe edition of 501 copies, of which only 475 are commercially available. All the bookmaker's talents have been marshalled to make

this a brilliant achievement. Its cost is correspondingly high, but if gold-dusted special paper, a green leather spine, and a light ash-colored cloth cover made by Veronese craftsmen in a 12 1/4" x 8 3/4" format are not considered to be de riguer, then the sturdy paperback will be found equally serviceable, if not quite as aesthetically pleasing. This is a remarkable book, a substantial and memorable contribution to ethnomycology.

B. Lowy



9-11-1981

Dear John,

In looking over the review (part enclosed) submitted to you earlier this year, I find an egregious error of omission in my copy, and am not sure whether this was corrected in the text sent to you. If the review is no longer in your hands, is there still time to send this to The Editor for a final check?

Danke sehr!

Bernard

We have 2 versions of the review!! One is in press (in proof) now. "possibly adumbrated" is in it.

John

New Haven, CT
LARUE County
+
NELSON

RR tracks that crosses

Ky. 31E
Aspar

II. Leuco locally common
dry under soil

III. Mecas a cum.
dry under soil

108 Aspar.
Lyons ~~La Rue~~ Co. W. Crossin
La Rue Co. W. Crossin
Ky 52 dry soil.

The Botany and Chemistry of Hallucinogens. 2nd ed. Richard Evans Schultes and Albert Hofmann. Foreword by H. Klüver. 437 pp. illus. Charles C. Thomas Publisher. Springfield, Illinois. 1980. \$?

One of the prodigious mysteries discovered by early man in his search for plants that would eventually insure his survival was, that after eating some of them he became miraculously transported to worlds beyond his ken. Based upon an abundance of contemporary data we may hazard a guess concerning the emotional states that such an unique experience evoked. Surely astonishment, fear, awe, and endless wonder about its cause must have been prominent among them. How was this "mysterium tremendum et fascinosum" to be explained? An hypothesis invented by man the rational animal, to satisfy his imperative need for an answer to this pervasive question was the magico-religious concept ^{Probably adumbrated} under the influence of naturally occurring entheogenic agents. The sophisticated world of science is rediscovering much of what was learned empirically by our forebears, and is refining that knowledge through chemical research. This is the compelling theme that underlies the book, and although anthropological overtones are everywhere apparent, the major thrust is placed where the book's title indicates that it should be.

It may safely be assumed that virtually all readers of this journal are already familiar with the first edition (1973) of this work which has justly become established as the standard reference in its field. The authors have the highest qualifications for the task they have undertaken, and the new edition will meet all of its readers expectations. The same successful format has been maintained, but each chapter has been revised and expanded to reflect new additions or interpretations to botanical, ethnobotanical, or chemical knowledge. As before, the bulk of the

9-11-1981

Dear John,

In looking over the review (part enclosed) submitted to you earlier this year, I find an egregious error of omission in my copy, and am not sure whether this was corrected in the text sent to you. If the review is no longer in your hands, is there still time to send this to The Editor for a final check?

Danke sehr!

Bernard

This will acknowledge receipt of your review of
A monograph of Ceratocystis and Ceratocystiopsis,
which you prepared for ECONOMIC BOTANY. Many
thanks for your efforts.

Date: 20 Aug 1981

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

The Society for



ECONOMIC BOTANY

DEVOTED TO THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE USES OF PLANTS BY MAN

Department of Biological Sciences
Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, KY 41076
June 15, 1981

Dr. B. Lowy
Department of Botany
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Dear Bernard:

Once again, without asking your leave, I am sending a book for review:

A Monograph of *Ceratocystis* and *Ceratocystiopsis*. H.P. Upadhyay.
176 pp. illus. The University of Georgia Press, Athens,
1981. \$27.50.

Your review will be due on 1 October 1981; it should not exceed about 250 words in length. The review copy is yours to keep.

Best wishes.

Cordially,

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

JWT/lao

This will acknowledge receipt of your review of
Ukranian Fungus Flora,

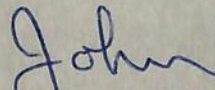
which you prepared for ECONOMIC BOTANY. Many
thanks for your efforts.

Date: 1 May 1981

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

This will acknowledge receipt of your review of
Narcotic Plants of the Old World,

which you prepared for ECONOMIC BOTANY. Many
thanks for your efforts.



John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

Date: 13 April 1981

Another Meisterstück"

It's always a matter of principle
that I never misuse the word
principle.

But as to the use of principal
I'm sometimes less than invincible.

Aligando bonus Humerus dormitat.
(But was he ever known to rhonchitat?)

It
This will acknowledge receipt of your review of
Ethnopharmacologic search for psychoactive drugs,
which you prepared for ECONOMIC BOTANY. Many
thanks for your efforts.

John

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

Date: 24 Apr 1981

"Many of the principle contemporary authorities in their respective fields"
Bernard, how could you?!

received 29-IV-1981

This will acknowledge receipt of your review of
Eesti peente koondnimetila
which you prepared for ECONOMIC BOTANY. Many
thanks for your efforts.

John

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

Date: 10 June 1981

I thought that the Soviets had wiped out
Estonian!



Department of Botany
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

504/388-8485

20-IV-1981

Dear John,

This brings me up to date.

I told Warren that the review of his
"Vinous Mushroom" would appear in 2 journals,
and he is "delighted." It's good to know
that something can still delight a man
at age 83.

Bernard



ECONOMIC BOTANY

DEVOTED TO THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE USES OF PLANTS BY MAN

Department of Biological Sciences
Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, KY 41076
March 25, 1981

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Department of Botany
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Dear Bernard:

I am sending the following books for review for ECONOMIC BOTANY.

- ✓ Ethnopharmacologic Search for Psychoactive Drugs. Edited by Daniel H. Efron, Bo Holmstedt, and Nathan S. Kline. 2nd printing. 468 pp. illus. Raven Press, New York, 1979. \$24.00.
- ✓ Narcotic Plants of the Old World Used in Rituals and Everyday Life. An Anthology of Texts from Ancient Times to the Present. Selected, Translated, and Edited by Hedwig Schleiffer, 193 pp. illus. Lubrecht and Cramer, Monticello, New York, 1979. \$7.95 (paper), \$12.50 (library binding).
- ✓ Atlas de Plantes Hallucinogènes du Monde. Un Précis de Chimie et du Botanique. Richard Evans Schultes; translated by Jocelyne Lepage. 112 pp. illus. Éditions de L'Aurore, Montréal, 1978. Price ?

My copy of the English edition of Schultes turned out to be the French translation. That's life.

Best wishes.

Cordially,

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

JWT/lao

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

16-IV-1981

Dear John,

Thanks for the uplifting comment added to your Spartan format which is no doubt a great time saver.

Knowing of your partiality to the finer things in life, and particularly to literary allusions in some of my writing, I think it may amuse you if I tell you of a recent "fan letter" that I received in response to one of my reviews (Lincoff & Mitchell's "Handbook") which was published in *ECONOMIC BOTANY* 32:218-219. 1979.

In that review I had occasion to use an aphorism by an old friend of mine, Alexander Pope (from his "Essay on Criticism") to the effect that:

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing,
Drink deep or taste not the Pierian spring.

I did not use the second line, but include it here to clarify what follows. Shortly after the review was published, an English biochemist sent me the following four lines, nothing more:

Tho' little Knowledge 's oft with little Learning got,
And may suffice for Economic Bot. ;
Dead Pope's dead Muse constrains me now to sing
That little Learning is the truly dang'rous thing.

Of course I was rather embarrassed and chagrined to realise that I had misquoted Pope, and inadvertently used the word "knowledge" instead of "learning" in his famous line. There was nothing to do but confess my ignorance, and since my critic was evidently of a poetic turn of mind, I wrote the following quatrain (the first and fourth lines of which also refer to Pope's poem) and sent it to England.

My shallow draught of yon Pierian spring
Did rightful scorn my hapless memory bring.
Tho' Knowledge small and Learning less are mine,
Recall! To err is human, to forgive, divine.

Presently, this elicited the following lines from my generous, forgiving colleague:

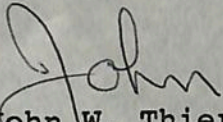
Good reasons, put with force and grace,
Your inadvertent errors quite efface:
But my carp, so ill-addressed! what may be said,
But Fools rush in where Angels fear to tread?

I think the stature of "Economic Bot" was not diminished by this exchange.

at ever, Bernard

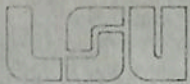
This will acknowledge receipt of your review of
The Wondrous Mushroom

which you prepared for ECONOMIC BOTANY. Many
thanks for your efforts.


John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

Date: 24 Feb 1981

The review will be sent to New York with the batch of reviews intended for the next
issue of Economic Botany.



16-II-1981

Dear John,

I ask your indulgence in accepting this lengthy review of the important ethnomycological work I mentioned in our last conversation. Can you give it some kind of priority, so that it will appear in the next number of Economic Botany?

Mil gracias,

Bernard

This will acknowledge receipt of your review of
The botany and chemistry of hallucinogens, 2nd ed.,
which you prepared for ECONOMIC BOTANY. Many
thanks for your efforts.

J.W.T.
John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

Date: 17 Feb 1981

This will acknowledge receipt of your review of
Fungi Of The USSR. (in Russian)

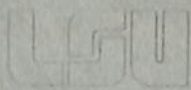
which you prepared for ECONOMIC BOTANY. Many
thanks for your efforts.

John

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

Date: December 17, 1980

Received - 22 - XII - 1980



11 - XII - 1950

Dear John,

The enclosed review marks my return to LSU after 3 memorable months in Brazil. A lot of work awaits me since my collections have been forwarded.

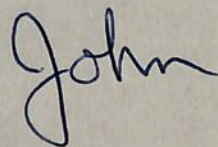
Best regards,

Bernard

This will acknowledge receipt of your review of
Introductory Mycology,
which you prepared for ECONOMIC BOTANY. Many
thanks for your efforts.

Date: June 6, 1980

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY



This will acknowledge receipt of your review of
Biology of the Fungi,
which you prepared for ECONOMIC BOTANY. Many
thanks for your efforts.

Date: June 10, 1980

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

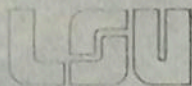
Campus Correspondence

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

From: Dear John,

Date: 6-VI-1920

To: Please remember that I'll be leaving
Baton Rouge for Brazil - probably during
the last week of August (through December).
In my absence, should it be necessary,
would you be good enough to correct
proof of any of the 3 reviews I just
submitted? Mucho obrigado! Bernard



Department of Botany
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

504/388-8485

Econ. Bot.

28-V-1980

Dr. María Lebrón-Luteyn
The New York Botanical Garden
Bronx, New York 10458

Dear Dr. Lebrón-Luteyn:

Would you be good enough to check your records to see whether or not ECONOMIC BOTANY 34(1) was mailed to me? I have just received 34(2) but the first number of the journal has not reached me.

With thanks,

Sincerely yours,

B. Lowy

Bernard Lowy
Professor of Botany

*Copy received from NYBG: 26-VI-1980
Note of thanks to Dr. M.L.L.*



ECONOMIC BOTANY

DEVOTED TO THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE USES OF PLANTS BY MAN

May 19, 1980

Dr. B. Lowy
BOTANY
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Dear Bernard:

I am sending the following books for review in ECONOMIC BOTANY.

- ✓ Ultrastructure of Rust Fungi. Larry J. Littlefield and Michele C. Heath. 277 pp. illus. Academic Press, New York, 1979. \$38.00.
- ✓ Introductory Mycology. 3rd ed. C.J. Alexopoulos and C.W. Mims. 632 pp. illus. John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1979. Price?
- ✓ Biology of the Fungi. Their Development, Regulation, and Associations. Ian K. Ross. 499 pp. illus. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1979. Price?

The review copies are, of course, yours to keep.

Best wishes.

Cordially,

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

JWT/lao



Department of Botany
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

504/388-8485

1-IV-1980

Dr. John W. Thieret
Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, KY 41076

Dear John:

"The old order changeth..." for the better, I think, as far as Economic Botany is concerned. You are now just about caught up on the publication schedule. And the last of my reviews still "in press" will be out. One minor mystery remains: "Introductory Mycology" by Alexopoulos & Mims, 3rd ed. 1979 (Wiley) has not yet reached me! Does this mean that it has been delayed again, or is it a lapsus on the part of the publisher?

I think you know of my plans for the fall: return to Amazonas (Brazil) with the NY Bot. Gard. "Projectá Flora Amazónica" from Sept. through December. But you probably don't know that I am taking "early" retirement from the university (29 yrs. of service, age 64) to become effective 1 July 1980. If you still want me to write reviews for you, I'll be glad to continue from where we left off. I retain my lab and office, only no classes to meet etc. The Amazonas project should produce many additional collections, which I expect to report separately. I enclose for you a copy of my Supplement to "Flora Neotropica" which has just appeared.

Saludos,

B. Lowy



The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220 8700

31 March 1980

Dear Colleagues:

Enclosed is a set of Assignment of Copyright forms. Please complete the forms and return the signed original to me as soon as possible, the copy being for your files.

U.S. Government employees please indicate if the work is in the Public Domain, and return the completed but unsigned original to me.

Thanking you in advance for your prompt reply and cooperation,

Sincerely yours,

Maria L. Lebron-Luteyn

Maria L. Lebron-Luteyn Ph.D.
Curator of Publications



The New York Botanical Garden

FLORA NEOTROPICA

Monograph 6 Supplement

Assignment of Copyright

In accordance with Public Law 94-553, which will ensure fullest protection of the rights of Flora Neotropica and its authors, we ask that you formally transfer copyright ownership to the New York Botanical Garden so that Flora Neotropica may continue to be copyrighted in the publisher's name. We will continue to require that during your lifetime your permission, as well as that of the New York Botanical Garden, be obtained by anyone wishing to reprint figures, tables, or substantial segments of text from Flora Neotropica. We will require that any such figure, etc., from Flora Neotropica must be cited in the new article as being reproduced with permission from Flora Neotropica and _____ ~~B. Lowy~~ . We will also continue to allow you to reprint or reuse your own original material without requesting permission.

COPY

In the light of the foregoing explanation and in consideration of the fact that the New York Botanical Garden undertakes to publish my monograph Tremellales (supplement)

in a forthcoming issue of Flora Neotropica, I hereby assign all literary property rights in the monograph to the New York Botanical Garden.

Signature BL Date 7-11-1980

Name _____

Address _____



The New York Botanical Garden

COPY

 FOR YOUR FILE

ECONOMIC BOTANY

Assignment of Copyright **34(1)**

In accordance with Public Law 94-553, which will ensure fullest protection of the rights of Economic Botany and its authors, we ask that you formally transfer copyright ownership to the New York Botanical Garden so that Economic Botany may continue to be copyrighted in the publisher's name. We will continue to require that during your lifetime your permission, as well as that of the New York Botanical Garden, be obtained by anyone wishing to reprint figures, tables, or substantial segments of text from Economic Botany. We will require that any such figure, etc., from Economic Botany must be cited in the new article as being reproduced with permission from Economic Botany and _____ **B. Lowy** _____. We will also continue to allow you to reprint or reuse your own original material without requesting permission.

In the light of the foregoing explanation and in consideration of the fact that the New York Botanical Garden undertakes to publish my article,

Book review: The biology and cultivation of edible fungi; Microbiology, of food fermentations
 in a forthcoming issue of Economic Botany, I hereby assign all literary property rights in the article to the New York Botanical Garden.

Signature BL Date 31-VII-1950

Name _____

Address _____



The New York Botanical Garden

COPY

FOR YOUR FILE

ECONOMIC BOTANY 33(4)

Assignment of Copyright

In accordance with Public Law 94-553, which will ensure fullest protection of the rights of Economic Botany and its authors, we ask that you formally transfer copyright ownership to the New York Botanical Garden so that Economic Botany may continue to be copyrighted in the publisher's name. We will continue to require that during your lifetime your permission, as well as that of the New York Botanical Garden, be obtained by anyone wishing to reprint figures, tables, or substantial segments of text from Economic Botany. We will require that any such figure, etc., from Economic Botany must be cited in the new article as being reproduced with permission from Economic Botany and _____
B. Lowy. We will also continue to allow you to reprint or reuse your own original material without requesting permission.

BOOK REVIEWS

In the light of the foregoing explanation and in consideration of the fact that the New York Botanical Garden undertakes to publish my article, The Powdery Mildews; Hallucinogens, Shamanism and Modern life; Practical fungal physiology; Marine Mycology - the higher fungi

in a forthcoming issue of Economic Botany, I hereby assign all literary property rights in the article to the New York Botanical Garden.

Signature BL Date 31-III-1950

Name _____

Address _____



The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220 8700

DATE 19 March 1980

Dr. B. Lowy

Myxology Herb; Dept of Botany

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge LA 70803

Dear Dr Lowy :

At present I am in the process of copyrighting our journals. Our records do not include an assignment of copyright form from you for your article entitled

Book Reviews

Food and Beverages myxology; Mushroom poisoning;

Rust fungi on Legumes and Composites in N. America

which was published in Economic Botany 33 (3).

In order to copyright the issue I need to have those forms. Enclosed you will find a new set of assignment of copyright forms. Please fill out the forms and return the signed original to me as soon as possible. The enclosed copy is for your records.

Thanking you in advance for your prompt reply and cooperation,

Sincerely yours,

Maria L. Lebron-Luteyn

Maria L. Lebron-Luteyn Ph.D.
Curator of Publications

Enclosures



The New York Botanical Garden

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In the light of the foregoing explanation and in consideration of the fact that the New York Botanical Garden undertakes to publish my article,

~~BOOK REVIEWS: Food and beverage mycology, Mushroom poisoning, Rust fungi on legumes and composites in N. America~~

in a forthcoming issue of Economic Botany, I hereby assign all literary property rights in the article to the New York Botanical Garden.

Signature _____

Date 29-11-1980

Name _____

Address _____

4 March 1980

Dear Colleague:

Our records show that you published an article/book review in ECONOMIC BOTANY volume 32, number 1, the January-March issue for 1978. This was one of the last issues prepared by Mr Joseph Sutton, the then Managing Editor for the Journal.

Following Mr Sutton's death there was a transfer of records, and somehow, the copyright assignment forms for this issue were misplaced. I have just found the forms among some old records. In order to copyright the issue I need to have these forms completed by you, therefore I am enclosing a set of forms for you to sign. Please return the original form to me, the copy being for your records.

Thank-you very much for your prompt reply and cooperation.

A brief note about the Journal: Vol. 33 (3) was issued on the 26 of February 1980, Vol 33(4) is scheduled to be issued around mid-March 1980, and Vol 34(1) within the next two months. Therefore the Journal will be back on schedule within a short period of time. Thank-you for your patience.

Sincerely yours,

María L. Lebrón-Luteyn

María L. Lebrón-Luteyn Ph.D.
Curator of Publications
New York Botanical Garden
Bronx, New York 10458



The New York Botanical Garden

A. 98

32 (1)

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In the light of the foregoing explanation and in consideration of the fact that the New York Botanical Garden undertakes to publish my article, **Review of HIGHER BASIDIOMYCETES OF THE STEPPE ZONE OF THE UKRAINE. BOLETALES, AGARICALES, RUSSULALES, APHYLLOPHORALES** in a forthcoming issue of Economic Botany, I hereby assign all literary property rights in the article to the New York Botanical Garden.

Signature Bl Date 7-III-1980
Name Dr. Bernard Lowy
Louisiana State University
Address Baton Rouge, Louisiana



The New York Botanical Garden

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33 # 2

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In the light of the foregoing explanation and in consideration of the fact that the New York Botanical Garden undertakes to publish my article,

~~REVIEW: Biotechnology and Fungal Differentiation~~

in a forthcoming issue of Economic Botany, I hereby assign all literary property rights in the article to the New York Botanical Garden.

Signature BL Date 28 - I - 1980

Name _____

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in a forthcoming issue of Economic Botany, I hereby assign all literary property rights in the article to the New York Botanical Garden.

Signature B. Lowy Date 15-X-1979
Name _____
Address _____



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in a forthcoming issue of Economic Botany, I hereby assign all literary property rights in the article to the New York Botanical Garden.

Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____

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Please sign both copies and return only ONE.
Keep the other copy for your records.

Thank you.

ECONOMIC BOTANY V. 32 # 4

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In the light of the foregoing explanation and in consideration of the fact that the New York Botanical Garden undertakes to publish my article, BOOK REVIEW - "Fungi, man and his environment."

in a forthcoming issue of Economic Botany, I hereby assign all literary property rights in the article to the New York Botanical Garden.

Signature BL Date 6-VIII-1975

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Dr. Bernard Lowy. We will also continue to allow you to reprint or reuse your own original material without requesting permission.

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BOOK REVIEW - "The biology of symbiotic fungi."

in a forthcoming issue of Economic Botany, I hereby assign all literary property rights in the article to the New York Botanical Garden.

Signature _____

Date 6-VII-1979

Name _____

Address _____



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In the light of the foregoing explanation and in consideration of the fact that the New York Botanical Garden undertakes to publish my article, REVIEW OF The Road to Eleusis. Unveiling the Secret of the Mysteries.

in a forthcoming issue of Economic Botany, I hereby assign all literary property rights in the article to the New York Botanical Garden.

Signature BL Date 15-1-'79

Name Dr. B. Lowy

Address Department of Botany
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803



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In the light of the foregoing explanation and in consideration of the fact that the New York Botanical Garden undertakes to publish my article, A Review of: THE MUSHROOM STONES OF MESOAMERICA

in a forthcoming issue of Economic Botany, I hereby assign all literary property rights in the article to the New York Botanical Garden.

Signature BL Date 15-I-79

Name Dr. Bernard Lowy

Address Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803



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Vol. 31 # 4

In the light of the foregoing explanation and in consideration of the fact that the New York Botanical Garden undertakes to publish my article, **REVIEW (pages 445, 484)**

in a forthcoming issue of Economic Botany, I hereby assign all literary property rights in the article to the New York Botanical Garden.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name _____

Dr. B. Lowy
Mycol. Herb. Botany Dept.
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, La. 70803

Address _____

The Biology and Cultivation of Edible Mushrooms. Edited by S. T. Chang and W. A. Hayes. 819 pp. illus. Academic Press, New York, 1978. \$74.50.

If we are to believe the statistics ferreted out by the experts, we must conclude that mycophagy is rampant. In 1975 "well over 1 million tons" of fresh edible mushrooms were cultivated worldwide. Western Europe accounted for 54% of the total, North America for 26%, and most of the remainder came from Southeast Asia (mainly Taiwan). Allowing for seasonal fluctuations, approximately this level of production is currently being maintained, and presumably the level of consumption as well. The most revealing though not unexpected datum is that about 75% of the output is *Agaricus bisporus*, virtually the only edible mushroom known to large segments of the western world. Reputedly, the "champignon" was first cultivated around 1650 in Paris where it was "frequently obtained on used compost issued from melon crops." Two trailing competitors, favorites of the Orient, are the Japanese "Shiitake," *Lentinus edodes*, (14%), and the padi straw mushroom, *Volvariella volvacea* (4%). The remaining 7% is distributed among five or six genera, including the oyster mushroom, *Pleurotus ostreatus*; the black jelly fungus, *Auricularia polytricha* and *A. fuscosuccinea*; the white jelly fungus, *Tremella fuciformis*; the Japanese "Matsutake," *Tricholoma matsutake*; "Nameko," *Pholiota nameko*, and "Enokitake," *Flammulina velutipes*. All are Basidiomycetes.

In a class unique both morphologically and gastronomically is the elite of the fungus clan, the truffle, a diffident, secretive, hypogeous Ascomycete whose discovery and retrieval require the exquisite olfactory sensitivities of a trained sow. Agronomically favored areas of France, Spain, and Italy are the truffle's natural home, where the combined efforts of sow and man annually yield some 200 tons of this savory crop, consisting predominantly of *Tuber melanosporum*. Curiously, although a chapter is devoted to truffles, no data are offered on the economic return of the harvest. World production of all edible fungi is valued at \$700 million (1975), for an average of about \$700 per ton. But this does not apply to truffles, which in the current catalog of a specialty shop are offered at \$22.00 per ounce, one hundred times the price of pedestrian species!

The editors state that the book "is intended for anyone interested in edible mushrooms," but it goes considerably beyond the introductory level. Chapters in Part I include summaries of current information on morphology and classification, nuclear behavior utilizing light microscopy, ultrastructural changes during development of *Agaricus bisporus* and *A. silvicola*, sexuality and breeding, conservation of cultures, nutritional value, and medical effects. The remaining three parts of the text consist of 25 chapters devoted to an assemblage of the most important cultivated fungi and constitute a kind of manual with detailed discussions and instructions on technical aspects of producing and marketing specific mushrooms. The presentations generally follow an established pattern beginning with a brief historical introduction followed by taxonomic notes, life cycles (in a few cases), and recommended cultural practices from the preparation of the substrate to spawning, growing, and harvesting. Copious data are offered on such factors as materials and methods, temperature, humidity and pH effects, and control of insects and pathogens.

Thirty-three authors from 11 countries (mostly from the Far East and Europe) have pooled their specialized knowledge to present a comprehensive treatise on virtually every significant aspect of the fungi presently under cultivation.

Successful mushroom growers may not flinch at the price of the book, but in spite of the editors' best intentions to make it available to "anyone interested" in the arcana of mushroom culture, some interested parties may prefer to await a paperback edition.

B. LOWY, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

To J.W.T.: 5-XI-1979
Proof read: 4-II-180

The Biology and Cultivation of Edible Mushrooms. ed. S.T. Chang & W.A. Hayes. xxi + 819 pp. illus. Academic Press, New York. 1978. \$74.50

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B. Lowy

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

5-VI-1979

Dear John,

I'm working here for a change on South American collections — an addendum to my 1971 monograph that I want to finish this summer.

Cummins's opus, like most taxonomic stuff is inevitably a bore — albeit a useful bore.

Here are my something less than inspired remarks to prove it.

Yours,

Bernard

LSU



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70803

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Botany

26-X-1978

Dear John,

You seemed uncertain about which reviews I had already submitted to you, so the attached list is a reminder. All except "Teonanácatl" should be in your hands. Have any reached Dr. Sutton, who eagerly awaits them? My report on the magic mushroom will join the others shortly. My impression is that I'll have a few gentle animadversions on the part contributed by the editors Ott and Bigwood.

as ever,

Bernard

+

This will acknowledge receipt of your review of
Microbiology of Food Fermentations.
which you prepared for ECONOMIC BOTANY. Many
thanks for your efforts.

Date: 11/13/79

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

J.W.T.

The Mushroom Stones of Mesoamerica. Karl Herbert Mayer. 46 pp. illus. Arcoma Books, Ramona, California, 1977. \$4.95.

When at the turn of the century the ethnologist Sapper first drew attention to the *Pilzförmiger Götzenbilder* or mushroom-shaped stone idols that he saw in Guatemala and El Salvador, there was no thought of associating these Maya artifacts with an hallucinogenic mushroom cult. Until the mid 1950's none was bold enough — or sufficiently knowledgeable — to suggest that such a cult may have existed among the Maya, the idols being the best available evidence for its having flourished in the past, although long since having fallen into desuetude. In 1957 in *Mushrooms, Russia and History*, the Wassons, who had rediscovered a contemporary hallucinogenic mushroom cult among some of the indigenous people of Oaxaca, suggested that "there had been at one time a cult of the mushroom in the Highlands of Guatemala and . . . the possibility should be considered of a kinship between such a cult and the surviving divinatory rite of the inebriating mushrooms in Mexico."

The recent finding of the hallucinogenic mushrooms *Psilocybe mexicana* and *P. caerulescens* in Guatemala makes the search for evidence of an existing cult there still more tantalizing.

Mr. Mayer's paper — an English translation of an article that originally appeared in volume 29 of *Archiv für Völkerkunde* in 1975 — is a detailed historical review of the most pertinent data relating to mushroom stones, including their classification, approximate numbers extant, distribution, and interpretation. The author agrees that "of the many divergent hypotheses about the function of mushroom stones, the one that speaks of mushroom stones as representing or symbolizing hallucinogenic mushrooms is the most convincing," but he cautiously concludes that further research will be needed before a complete explanation can be forthcoming of the role these sculptures played in the lives of the ancient Maya.

Over 50 authors are referred to in the bibliography, and there are 15 excellent photographs of mushroom stones.

BERNARD LOWY
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

BOOK REVIEWS

The Road to Eleusis. Unveiling the Secret of the Mysteries. R. Gordon Wasson, Carl A. P. Ruck, and Albert Hoffman. 126 pp. illus. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York, 1978. \$4.95 (paper), \$12.95 (cloth).

Some 4000 years ago in the Greek city of Eleusis there originated the ineffable rituals held in such deep secrecy that they have come to be known as the Eleusine Mysteries. References to them are found in Homer's "Hymn to Demeter," and there are other clues in the works of writers and poets who followed him, but the esoteric nature of the literary allusions has through the centuries evaded efforts to interpret their meaning successfully.

This slender volume is a bold attempt to read the many-layered pages, obscured by time, of a fragile but precious and tantalizing palimpsest. It is known that in the ceremony of initiation into the sacred rites, the hierophant and his subject partook of an intoxicating drink in a darkened chamber to the accompaniment of ritual chants during which they experienced unique otherworldly visions and revelations that moved them profoundly. What was the nature and purpose of that psychotropic draught? How did the rites at Eleusis affect the lives of the participants in the glorious agapé? Who were the elect to be privy to the secrets of the *sanctum sanctorum*? Many pertinent questions are addressed and investigated by the authors, and to the extent that the evidence allows, some answers are offered, but the road is tortuous and challenges the traveler at every turn.

Twenty-five years ago the Wassons, acting with great perspicacity upon evidence provided by previous workers, rediscovered in Huautla de Jiménez, Mexico, the existence of a singular and ancient religious cult with centuries-old roots, founded upon the use of certain hallucinogenic agarics predominantly of the genus *Psilocybe*. The distinguished Spanish cleric-scholar Sahagún, among other careful observers of post-conquest America, deplored and excoriated the use of these powerful mushrooms by the populace, who attributed miraculous qualities to them. This flaunting profanity exhibited by the untutored Indians toward the new Christian doctrine of salvation in spite of zealous attempts of learned

priests to rectify their contumacious behavior, led to the adoption of severe but routine measures by the conquerors. The grisly paraphernalia of the Inquisition took their toll for 3 centuries. Yet the cult survived.

With rare insight, after making the discoveries in Mexico, Wasson conjectured "that there might be a common denominator between the Mexican Mushroom Mystery and the Mystery of Eleusis." Now, with the collaboration of his colleagues Dr. A. Hofmann, the chemist of LSD fame, and Dr. Ruck, a scholar of classical Greek mythology and ethnobotany, evidence is presented to show that still another fungus, *Claviceps purpurea*, commonly called ergot, an ascomycetous parasite of grains and known in Greece since antiquity, may well be the key to understanding the Eleusine Mysteries.

Were the ancient Greeks sufficiently knowledgeable to extract the hallucinogens from ergot, some of which are chemically similar to LSD? Quite probably, because simply grinding the ergot in water yields the psychotropic filtrate, which may then be added to potent wines for which the Greeks were famed. The resulting inebriating-hallucinatory sacred potion, if administered in appropriate dosage, would easily be sufficient to transport the initiate in such a ritual to realms far beyond his ken and to vindicate his unalterable faith in his omnipotent and omniscient gods.

BERNARD LOWY
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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BERNARD LOWY
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Vida de María Sabina. La Sabia de los Hongos.

Alvaro Estrada, 164 pp. illus. Siglo Veintiuno Editores, Mexico City, 1977. \$2.50 (U.S.).

When R. Gordon Wasson, the ethno-mycologist, rediscovered the sacred mushrooms of the ancient Mexicans still in use among the Mazatec Indians of Oaxaca, he was introduced to a shamaness, María Sabina, whose melodious chants enthralled him. In Alvaro Estrada, engineer and journalist, this last oral poet of Mesoamerica has found an amanuensis worthy of her gifts. A native Mazatec himself, he elicited her oral autobiography from her in a series of interviews and has set it down here in Spanish with great artistry. This little book, eloquent in its simplicity, gives us an unparalleled view, from the inside, of the life of a Mexican Indian woman,

with the added dimension of the spiritual experiences it is about. Her account of how she began to eat the mushrooms as a little girl, from hunger, and felt God all around her reminds one of Blake seeing angels in the trees as a boy. For the first time we are given an idea of how the Mazatec shaman effects a cure by acting as an interpreter of the visions produced by the awakened imagination. One is struck by her down-to-earth realism. After a night in which she sees a comet fall through the wall of her hut and flower into a green plant that recalls the murals of Teotihuacan, she awakes to find that one wall has fallen down. She reasons that she must have hit against it when she was singing and dancing. She attributes to herself no supranormal powers except that most mysterious of all our human powers: language. "I cure with language, nothing else," she says. "My only force is my language." Yet not only is the voice central to her experience, writing is as well. Mazatec is an unwritten language. This lady of words can neither read nor write, but the Book of Wisdom appears before her and she is enabled to read what is written in its pages. Finally the mushrooms that put her into communication with the transcendental bring foreign investigators to her door: Wasson and Heim. Her lack of regret for having revealed the secret of her people's sacred medicine to outsiders is more than justified by what such substances still have to teach us about the deeplying processes of the brain. This is a book by Mazatecs about themselves. It is the most complete testimony we have of the psychedelic experiences of an indigenous shaman.

HENRY MUNN
1271 Green Street
San Francisco, California

Toxic and Hallucinogenic Mushroom Poisoning. A Handbook for Physicians and Mushroom Hunters. Gary Lincoff and D. H. Mitchell; foreword by Alexander H. Smith. 267 pp. illus. Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York, 1977. \$16.95.

Many practicing mycologists have had the experience, on occasion, of receiving a hurried call from a physician inquiring about the identity of some mushroom suspected of having poisoned a patient, who, more than likely, awaits the diagnosis with trepidation. Gastronomes who look with disdain on the supermarket mushroom

(*Agaricus bisporus*) but whose enthusiasm often exceeds their knowledge of the more delectable wild edible species, are the chief victims (Pope's aphorism, "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing," is apropos here). Children succumb for less esoteric reasons. In any event, the physician is often inadequately prepared to advise his patient whether or not to expect a rapid recovery, so this responsibility passes to the consulted mycologist. The physician who is one of the authors of this book is a notable exception. Since virtually all such accidents occur as a result of misidentification, the consequences of poisoning or worse may be greatly reduced by timely study of the excellent illustrated mushroom manuals now current. Nonetheless, mistakes will be made. Of course, the victim consults the physician only after alarming gastrointestinal or other symptoms have developed, so immediate action is imperative. It is to fill the critical diagnostic need of the physician at this juncture as well as to inform prospective wild-mushroom gatherers of the lurking dangers that the authors have written their handbook.

Each of the seven major chapters is devoted to a specific kind of mushroom poisoning under the following headings: cyclopeptide, monomethylhydrazine, coprine, muscarine, ibotenic acid-muscimol, psilocybin-psilocin (hallucinogenic), and gastrointestinal irritants. Of these, cyclopeptide poisoning, caused predominantly by several species of *Amanita*, accounts for over 90% of recorded fatalities. Statistics on mushroom poisoning are not highly reliable, but Heim has estimated that since 1900 the number of annual fatalities worldwide has been about 20. I cite this not to create a false sense of security among mushroom fanciers but to view the matter in appropriate perspective. The causes of mycophobia and mycophilia are not to be sought in statistical tables.

In the chapters on ibotenic acid-muscimol and psilocybin-psilocin poisoning, reviews are given on the historical background of the use of *Amanita muscaria* (fly agaric) and *Psilocybe* species in Europe, Asia, and the Americas, drawing heavily on the published accounts by R. Gordon Wasson. Detailed notes on pharmacology, symptoms, toxicology, and treatment occupy a separate chapter, and pertinent quotations from authoritative sources are liberally used throughout the text. Many case histories of mushroom poisoning are cited. Informative and useful appendices include descriptions in tabular form of macroscopic and microscopic characters of major species in each group.

techniques for paper and thin-layer chromatography, and a directory of poison control centers in each of the 50 states (with telephone numbers) and Canada. There are also ample references to field guides and articles in journals, a short glossary, and an index. The principal species discussed are illustrated with good line drawings, and 26 of the most troublesome mushrooms are for the most part adequately shown in color on eight plates. Were the mushroom hunter to arm himself with this instructive compendium and master the rule to which all admonitory advice may be reduced — *know the mushroom before you eat it* — the world would be made safer for all such deserving mycophagists.

BERNARD LOWY
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



5-XI-1979

Dear John,

With these 2 reports, I now
have a clean slate — ready to be
muddied again at the earliest
opportunity. Alexopoulos's opus has
not yet reached me.

Yours,
Bernard

The Society for

Journal: ECONOMIC BOTANY



ECONOMIC BOTANY

DEVOTED TO THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE USES OF PLANTS BY MAN

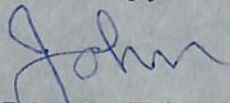
Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, KY 41076
October 8, 1979

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Department of Botany
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Dear Bernard:

Thank you for the review of The Powdery Mildews, which you prepared
for ECONOMIC BOTANY.

Cordially,


John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

JWT/kd

LSU



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70803

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Botany

11 - X - 1979

Dear John,

Apart from submitting my homework,
this is to alert you to the imminent publi-
cation by Wiley of the 3rd ed. (1979) of C. J.
Alexopoulos's "Introductory Mycology," which
should be reviewed in Economic Botany.

Have things improved under the New
Regime?

Saludos,

Bernard

The Society for



ECONOMIC BOTANY

DEVOTED TO THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE USES OF PLANTS BY MAN

Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, KY 41076
October 16, 1979

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Department of Botany
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Dear Bernard:

Thank you for the reviews of Hallucinations, Shamanism and Modern Life,
Marine Mycology. The Higher Fungi, and Practical Fungal Physiology, which
you prepared for ECONOMIC BOTANY.

Cordially,

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

JWT/kd

The Society for

Journal: ECONOMIC BOTANY



ECONOMIC BOTANY

DEVOTED TO THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE USES OF PLANTS BY MAN

Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, KY 41076
October 17, 1979

Dr. B. Lowy
Botany
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Dear Bernard:

The following two books have been sent to you for review for ECONOMIC BOTANY.

The Biology and Cultivation of Edible Mushrooms. Edited by S.T. Chang and W.A. Hayes. 819 pp. illus. Academic Press, New York, 1978. \$74.50.

Microbiology of Food Fermentations. Carl S. Pederson. 2nd ed. 384 pp. illus. AVI Publishing Company, Westport, Connecticut, 1979. Price ?

Your reviews of these will be due on 14 December 1979; they should not exceed about 300 words each. The review copies are yours to keep.

Best wishes.

Cordially,

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

JWT/kd

The Society for



ECONOMIC BOTANY

DEVOTED TO THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE USES OF PLANTS BY MAN

Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, KY 41076
May 25, 1979

Dr. B. Lowy
Department of Botany
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

Dear Bernard:

Again, without asking your leave, I am sending a book for brief review for ECONOMIC BOTANY.

Rust fungi on legumes and composites in North America. George B. Cummins. 424 pp. illus. University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 1978. \$8.95 (paper).

Your review will be due on 1 August 1979; it should not exceed 250 words long.

The review copy is yours to keep.

Best wishes.

Cordially,

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

JWT/cjs

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE
THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX, NEW YORK 10458
(212) 933-9400

DATE 6 January 1979

TO

Dr. B. Lowy
Department of Botany
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

SUBJECT

Galley Proofs

MESSAGE

Dear Doctor Lowy:

It would save me a great deal of time and trouble if you would kindly return corrected proof to me at the address below. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

~~Joseph G. Sutton~~
Joseph G. Sutton
61 Brown Road
Scarsdale, New York 10583

SIGNED

JGS:jgs

REPLY

~~Dear Dr. Sutton,~~
Pardon the lapse. I'll try not to repeat
this error.

SIGNED

DATE

SEND WHITE AND PINK COPIES WITH CARBON INTACT. PINK COPY IS RETURNED WITH REPLY.

The Society for



ECONOMIC BOTANY

DEVOTED TO THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE USES OF PLANTS BY MAN

Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, KY 41076
June 18, 1979

Dr. Bernard Lowy
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Dear Bernard,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your review of Rust Fungi on Legumes
and Composites in North America.

Thank you.

Cordially,

John W. Thieret
Review Editor
ECONOMIC BOTANY

JWT/jm



The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220 8700

May 31, 1979

9-VII-79

Dear ECONOMIC BOTANY Subscriber:

The recent illness and death of our managing editor-typesetter has caused the severe delay in the publication of ECONOMIC BOTANY.

As of today, Volume 32 # 1,2 (1978) have been published and shipped. We have recently transferred Volume 32 # 3 to a new typesetter. He has informed us this issue will be ready for publication by June 30, 1979. We will be forwarding Volume 32 # 4 and Volume 33 to him in the very near future. It is difficult at this time to predict the publication dates of Volume 32 # 4 and on. We ask that you please hold your claims as these issues will be shipped upon publication.

We would like to thank you for your patience and must ask for it a little longer. We will be working very hard to put Economic Botany back on schedule.

Sincerely yours,

Anita Weissman
Manager of Publications

← Mr. Sutton