

ON THE AUTHOR OF THE BOTANY OF AUCKLAND

E.D. Hatch

In the Proceedings of the Fourth International Palynological Conference; Lucknow, India. 2:1980. p.392-3, S.K. Srivastava (himself a palynologist of great ability) dedicates a section of the Conference to Dr. Lucy M. Cranwell, as one of the oldest extant pollen and spore workers.

The editorial in the New Zealand Herald for Saturday April 10, 1971 mentions 'the distinguished authors' of the 1936 edition of the Botany of Auckland, and quotes extensively from it. The recent publication of a third edition of this delightful little book has caused many younger people to wonder just who the surviving author is and how she became distinguished. The following article, which I have lifted bodily from the above Proceedings will perhaps answer some of their questions.

Dr. Lucy M. Cranwell - M.A., D.Sc., F.L.S.(Lond.), F.R.S.N.Z.

by Satish K. Srivastava

A New Zealander, born in Auckland on August 7, 1907, Lucy M. Cranwell is one of those antipodeans who have long felt Drift in their bones. She seized on palynology very early in order to study genera with Gondwanic memories, describing the pollen types of Nothofagus (1939, 1963, 1974), of indigenous conifers (1940), and of Acmopyle (1961). In 1942 and 1953 respectively, she provided keys to the pollen flora of her homeland and a fuller account of monocot types. For these pioneering efforts, and for ecological work done earlier with Lucy B. Moore and H.H. Allan, she was awarded the Hector Medal by the Royal Society of New Zealand. Later she made the first recoveries of plant microfossil assemblages from the Antarctic Peninsula (1959, 1969), McMurdo Sound jointly with J.H. Harrington and I. Speden (1960, 1964), and Chile with Isabel Cookson (1967). Unpublished work (the bottom of the iceberg) includes the description, with Satish K. Srivastava, of a Lower Cretaceous palynoflora from Chile, and significant Upper Cretaceous and Tertiary Antarctic finds, based on her N.S.F. grant for Southern Hemisphere work in the '60s.

Involvement in palynology began when Lennart von Post, in 1935, invited her to work with him in Stockholm on post-Glacial peat samples collected from South Island, New Zealand, by Carl Caldenius in 1934. As a result, the first Australasian pollen diagrams, with native climate interpretations, were published jointly with von Post in 1936. She began a comparative study of Hawaiian montane bogs in 1938, as a Fellow of the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, and published a brief survey of New Zealand bogs in 1953. In 1961, with C.J. Heusser, she returned to Molokai to collect peat samples for Carbon 14 dating; the oldest secured, at about 26,000 years B.P., proved unexpectedly ancient.

She was educated in a small country school, (Henderson, E.D.H.), attended the Girls Grammar School at Epsom, and graduated M.A. from the University of Auckland in 1929, going at once to the Auckland Institute and Museum as their botanist. Her duties here embraced care of the herbarium, service to the public through identification work, preparation of native flower shows, popular talks, and articles in the press. In 1936 Botany of Auckland was published with Arnold Wall as co-author, (second edition 1943, E.D.H.) and in 1937 she won the Loder Cup for Museum activities

promoting understanding and protection of the native flora. In 1943 she prepared the main part of Food is where you find it, a pocket manual requested by the U.S. Second Marine Air Wing, and soon widely adopted by the allied forces in the Western Pacific. Later in the year she married Major Watson Smith, a south-western archaeologist, and moved to the United States in 1944. A son, Benjamin, was born in 1947.

In 1959 the University of Auckland granted her a D.Sc. degree, and in 1961 she became a Research Associate in palynology at the University of Arizona, in Tucson, where she has lived since 1954. Dr. Cranwell is a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, and the Royal Society of New Zealand; she is a member of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists; the Palaeontological Society of the U.S.A.; the Palaeontological Association of London; the International Association for Plant Taxonomy; the Torrey Botanical Club; Arizona Academy of Science Sigma XI; the Auckland Botanical Society (which she founded in 1937, E.D.H.); the Hawaiian Botanical Society; the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy, U.S.A.

Several living Pacific species have been named in her honour, as also one macro fossil (the pentaxylean India-linked Carnoconites cranwelli T.M. Harris, found by her south of Auckland (Waikato Heads, E.D.H.) in 1931), and four microfossil taxa (Nothofagus cranwellae Cupper; a species of the winteraceous Gephyrapollenites Stover; and two genera, Cranwellia S.K. Srivastava and Cranwellipollis A.R.H. Martin.).

Her Tucson homes, the present Casa Idria and the earlier Casa Gondwana, have welcomed many colleagues to Arizona.

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"THE BOTANY OF AUCKLAND" by Lucy M. Cranwell.

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Reviewed by R.O. Gardner

Many older Bot. Soc. members will know the previous "Wall and Cranwell" editions of this book and will remember with affection the junior author, then Botanist at the Auckland Museum, for her warm personality, love of the outdoors and readiness to share her knowledge. Time - forty years - has not diminished these qualities and Lucy Cranwell has now produced a fully revised book, as informative, attractive to the eye and engaging in style as ever. With characteristic generosity the author has paid much of the printing cost herself and has also given the new copyright to the Museum for the benefit of all Aucklanders. Floreat et floreat!

The text has been enlarged to include published work and notes contributed by the author's friends (no easy matter to write about Auckland from Arizona), broadly though the contents are unchanged. Visitors to Auckland and those beginning to botanize for themselves will be immediately interested by the introductory chapters that describe the historic landscape and some "wild places" still to be found near the city. Only native plants touch the author's heart so weedy adventives get occasional and disapproving mention and cultivated plants do little better (except for the splendid suggestion for a subtropical Botanical Gardens on Kawau Island).