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hours, and suffered from more uncertain health. Sometime during the 1960s, when Fulling's health had deteriorated further, I agreed to take over the editorial work of *Botanical Review* on a temporary basis, whether at his invitation or at my own suggestion I no longer recall; in any event, my handling of the editorial work on a temporary basis was never reflected on the masthead. When Fulling saw that *Botanical Review* was accepted as an important and ongoing activity of the Garden, he most generously turned over the ownership to the Garden, as he had already done for *Economic Botany* in 1957.

In summary, I completely agree with Gleason in his assessment of Fulling's contribution to science, in the founding and management of two botanical journals, at his own expense when necessary, was a remarkable achievement for one man. His death, in 1975, was a sad event for all his many friends.

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Reminiscences of Seventeen Years of a Rewarding Experience

RICHARD EVANS SCHULTES¹

When I agreed to accept the editorship of *Economic Botany*—a journal already enjoying worldwide respect gained under the stewardship of earlier editors—the founder, Dr. Edmund H. Fuller, and later Dr. David J. Rogers and Dr. Bernice G. Schubert—I was rather apprehensive that enough worthwhile material would continue to come in to maintain publication of a quarterly. How wrong I was!

Until the establishment in 1947 of *Economic Botany*, the broad and interdisciplinary field of plants and human affairs had been rather neglected, insofar as publication was concerned: although excellent papers had appeared in many agricultural, anthropological, botanical, and chemical journals, they were scattered and frequently difficult to procure. And it was not uncommon for authors of articles in economic botany and ethnobotany to have editors of these specialized journals reject their manuscripts, often with the curt remark that “the material is not scientific.”

In 1962, I received the invitation to become the editor of our journal. At first, I was reluctant to accept, partly because of a heavy teaching load, intermittent field work in South America and the editorship of the *Botanical Museum Leaflets of Harvard University*. Looking back now, I suppose that my reasons for accepting the invitation were several and varied. First: I was associated with the Botanical

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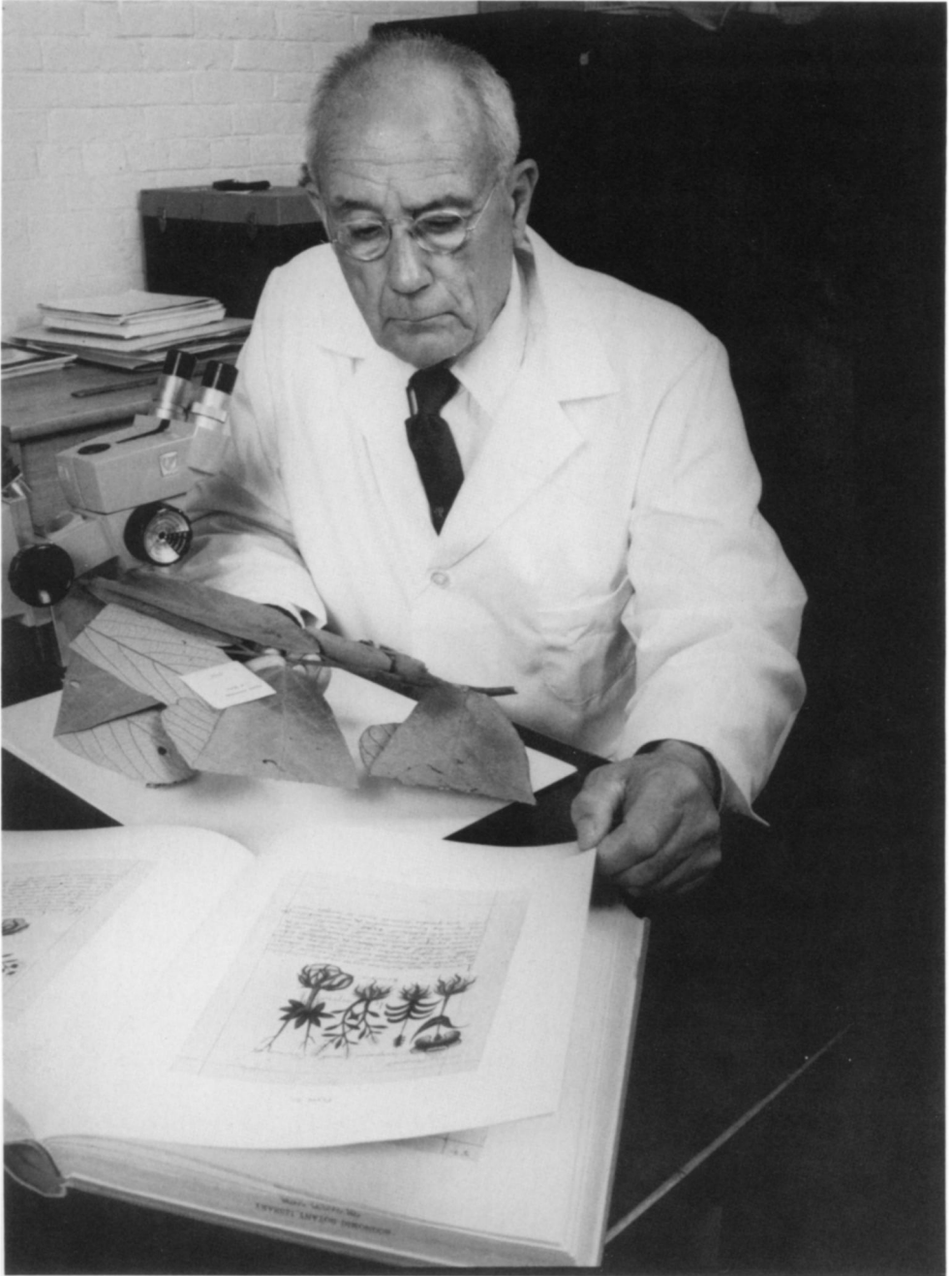


Fig. 1. Richard Evans Schultes, editor, *Economic Botany*, 1962–1979.

Museum of Harvard University, a pioneer institution in economic botany; it was here that Professors George Lincoln Goodale, Oakes Ames, and Paul C. Mangelsdorf had worked successively in various aspects of economic botany. Second: I was teaching the oldest course in economic botany in the United States and the

oldest course in the sciences at Harvard. Third: the Museum had the unique Oakes Ames Library of Economic Botany, an unmatched interdisciplinary collection of some 40,000 titles topically indexed to plant uses; this facility, together with Harvard's several other botanical libraries and those of anthropology, chemistry, and medicine, would undoubtedly be a valuable tool in performing the duties of editing. And Fourth: the reading of the great variety of papers submitted would broaden my own understanding of the field and probably improve my teaching and eventual writing of a textbook in economic botany.

My editorship lasted 17 years, during which period I enjoyed the full and able support of several managing editors in the New York Botanical Garden—Dr. Rogers, Mr. Robert Breach, and the late Joseph G. Sutton—who very materially lightened my load. As the number of manuscripts submitted constantly grew, I felt the need of assistance, and in 1973 my colleague Professor Robert F. Raffauf of Northeastern University in Boston was named associate editor. We had long worked together on projects involving botany, chemistry, and ethnopharmacology. Furthermore, as both of us were Boston-based, we found it easy to meet frequently, thus avoiding the need for slow and time-consuming correspondence. Bob Raffauf's contribution to the growth of our journal was, during his six years as associate editor, critical and highly productive, and I owe him a personal debt for his efficient help in the editorial work of this period.

In 1979, administrative demands at the University, increasing teaching responsibilities, a need to spend more time on writing up my own research and my belief that "new blood" would be advantageous to the journal led me to tender my resignation as editor. When I learned that Professor Oswald Tippo, long and close friend, economic botanist and author of the textbook *Humanistic Botany*, had been chosen, I could not have been happier, for I knew then that the journal would be in expert hands. And it has enjoyed superlative stewardship during the last six years.

Published by the New York Botanical Garden for the Society for Economic Botany, the journal has grown steadily in subscriptions, geographic distribution, and influence since its inception. It now has a circulation world wide of approximately 2,000.

What can I say about my work as editor? There are only a few items that I feel may be of interest.

By far the most important to me was the general sympathetic understanding and patience of authors—even of those whose contributions we could not accept for one reason or another. It made the work of editing much easier and more enjoyable. I can recall only one unpleasant episode when an author vociferously resented my insistence that he use accepted Latin binomials rather than outmoded or synonymous epithets; obviously, he finally succumbed to reason, and his article was published.

Many journals bureaucratically require an author to follow a set style of the journal's choice. Their editors undoubtedly have valid reasons for this procedure, for it certainly makes the editor's task easier. I always have believed, however, that a style was as much an author's prerogative as was the content of his paper. Consequently, as editor, I permitted authors to follow their own preferred system of citation of references and other aspects in their organization of articles, insisting only on consistency within any specific paper. The numerous letters and comments

of appreciation for this attitude bear witness, I believe, to the satisfaction with which this editorial position was accepted.

There are two events that took place during my editorship that may be worthy of mention. The editorial board was enlarged and "internationalized." An attempt was made to include representatives active in the numerous aspects of economic botany, such as phytochemistry, anthropology, genetics, nutrition, etc., and from foreign countries as well as from the United States. We believe that the gradual increase in number of excellent contributed articles from abroad in an ever-widening spectrum of economic botany may be due in part to these two actions. Another noteworthy accomplishment during my period as editor—although I was not directly responsible for it—was the publication of a cumulative index of the first twenty volumes of *Economic Botany*, a much appreciated boon to constant users of the journal. It has been so very beneficial and useful that many who consult the quarterly are now expressing the hope that a similar product will be offered when volume 40 is completed.

During my editorship, all went smoothly in the regularity of publication, thanks to the several managing editors whom I have mentioned—all, that is, with the unfortunate exception of one year, when fourteen months went by without the appearance of an issue. The editor, naturally, was the "whipping boy" who received countless justified letters of complaint from subscribers and authors, some of them rather irate. Repeated efforts on my part and pressure from the council of the Society for Economic Botany failed to hasten publication and fell on deaf ears. I finally discovered that the hiatus was due, not to the managing editor, but to inefficiency and indecision resulting from internal organizational problems in the New York Botanical Garden—problems which, luckily for our journal, were solved. And our journal quickly caught up and has since that time been a model of regularity.

In summary, all that I can say is that my seventeen years of editorship of *Economic Botany* were enjoyable, educating, personally beneficial, and stimulating. I knew, however, that, in deference to my need to put into publishable form my own studies of Amazonian plants of use to man that spanned forty years of field work, I had to give up this and other "extracurricular" responsibilities. Nevertheless, I have missed the challenges that my editorship constantly offered.

I know that *Economic Botany* has a brilliant future. Now that I am not editor, I look forward to publication of some of my papers on Amazonian medicinal and toxic plants in our journal. More and more emphasis on plants and human affairs is in evidence in universities, in botanical gardens and museums, in industry, in commercial and conservationist institutions, and in national and international governmental organizations. Economic botany has finally come into its own, and *Economic Botany* carries the principal banner for this most basic field of sciences.

In summary, I must use the rather archaic but still meaningful termination of letters: "I am, sirs, your humble and most obedient servant." So far as *Economic Botany* is concerned, this statement is for me a deep and heartfelt dedication, and I do not hesitate to use it in the present context.