

near Drunken Bay, and also on the east side of the island, deny all knowledge of its origin. It is probable it has arisen from the carelessness of picnickers. There was no possibility of arresting its progress, and Sergeant Clarke says it must just be left to exhaust itself from lack of further material. As it is, the stunted scrub is being burned down to the scoria rocks, but there is no danger to property through the extension of the fire. Last night a large fire was in progress in the scrub westward of Kauri Point." (N.Z. Herald January 15, 1887 p.5)

"The fire on Rangitoto did not yesterday send up so large a volume of smoke as on Friday and Saturday. On those days the wind blew from the south, sending the fire up the face of the mountain, but on yesterday what wind there was was northerly and drove the fire down again on the burned portions. The smoke yesterday was rising from a large number of detached parts, and the mountain looked like some of the slopes

of Tarawera after the eruption. A fire was burning yesterday on Motu Ihi." (N.Z. Herald January 17, 1887 p.5)

"There was a great cloud of smoke on Rangitoto yesterday, showing that the fire which has been burning there for over a week is still making progress. Towards evening the ruddy glow of flames could be seen on the ridges of the north-eastern slopes of the mountain, but after the setting in of the rain it was not observable." (N.Z. Herald January 19, 1887 p.5)

"In reporting that large numbers of visitors had visited Rangitoto Island during the holidays, one of the Devonport Borough Council's officers stated last night that several fires had occurred. It was further mentioned that, owing to the recent hot weather, difficulty had been experienced in extinguishing the outbreaks." (Auckland Star January 8, 1913.)



Edward Benedict Bangerter FLS, 1911-2001

Ewen K. Cameron

Ted Bangerter, or "Bang" as he was known at the Auckland Museum (and British Museum), "Eddie" by his family, passed away on 21 August 2001 at the age of 90 years. Born 22 May 1911, Bang grew up in London, going straight from school to the British Museum (Natural History) where he worked as a botanist, ending up as Senior Scientific Officer. John Cannon (pers. comm.) recalls one of their enjoyable studies together when Bang seized the chance to be involved in the five-year British Museum study of all plant groups on the Island of Mull in Scotland (published 1978). John and Bang together collated all the field, herbarium and literature records for the flowering plants and ferns, wrote them up, together with chapters on the history of botanising in the area and the plant distribution patterns.

Bang was an active member of the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI) which he joined in 1949. He was their Honorary General Secretary 1969-67, Member of their Council 1952- 68- (71?), and was elected an Honorary Member c.1968.

Completing the cryptic crossword on the tube while commuting to work was a daily ritual. On retiring he and his wife, Queenie, visited their two sons, Ben and Bob, who had immigrated to New Zealand. Bang and Queenie liked New Zealand so much they stayed on and settled down on the North Shore near one of their sons. They only returned to London some two years later on holiday and to pack the last of their possessions that hadn't been forwarded to New Zealand.

Tony Orchard, Curator of Botany at the Auckland Museum, recorded that Bang soon after arriving in Auckland was a welcome and regular visitor to the

herbarium since November 1972, with a particular interest in the naturalised plants of Auckland, and that he quite quickly made several additions to the herbarium holdings. Over the next six years he completed the reorganisation of the naturalised and foreign herbarium specimens into new folders and updated their nomenclature. At the same time he was busy collecting naturalised species in duplicate (sometimes up to sets of 12) to supplement the herbarium's exchange programme. From 1975 to 1987 he published his 12 "New and interesting records of adventive plants" papers in the *Records of the Auckland Institute and Museum* and became an Honorary Research Associate of the Botany Department. When Phyllis Hynes retired in August 1978 it is recorded that Mrs Bangerter assisted with mounting herbarium specimens, and apparently did so for a couple of years.

During the 1980s Bang continued his regular one-day per week attendances to curate the adventive section of the herbarium and bring in his new adventive collections. These collections in the Museum herbarium (AK) number over 400 specimens, collected from 1972 to 1991, and are predominantly naturalised plants from the Mairangi Bay area on the North Shore where he lived. Duplicates from those collections now exist in over 22 herbaria around the world. From 1986 to 1990 he also worked on cataloguing the Botany Department's sizeable reprint collection, but his ailing wife meant it was more difficult for him to come into the Museum. Wendy Patterson pointed out to me that Bang frequently used the rather unusual term "ruderal" on his specimen labels: "other ruderal weeds" or "ruderal community". Which means plants growing in waste places or among rubbish.

Considering his active involvement with the BSBI in Britain it is rather surprising that he never joined the Auckland Botanical Society.

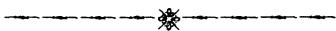
Bang was a real gentlemen, who was always able to tell a good story or a joke about the British Museum or war years. Rhys Gardner remembers him "bringing a flavour of the London scene and a long established institution" to the Museum. Initially during WWII he was a gunner in the Royal Artillery, but his son Ben informs me that he was not mechanically minded and ended up in the Intelligence Corp deciphering codes in India. Apart from army trucks, he never drove and relied on family members for commuting to the

Museum from the North Shore. Although he had a fascination with wild plants he was not a gardener.

His botanical colleagues will warmly remember Bang, and his specimens and publications will be a permanent reminder of his work on the adventive flora of the Auckland region while he was a volunteer at the Auckland Museum for 18 years. Bang also donated many of his botanical books and journals to the Museum. Museum departments rely and thrive on the volunteer input of people such as Bang. He is survived by four children (two in New Zealand, two in London), seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Acknowledgements

I thank Ben and Sheila Bangerter (of Whangarei), John F.M. Cannon (retired Keeper of British Museum), Rhys Gardner and Wendy Patterson for information for this obituary.



Spanish Moss on the move

Alan E. Esler



AK 254267

AUCKLAND MUSEUM HERBARIUM
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

BROMELIACEAE
Tillandsia usneoides L.

09.0

Loc. New Zealand, North Island, Auckland Ecological Region, Tamaki Ecological District, Mount Albert, 7 Stilwell Road
Map R11 634779 **Alt.** c.60 m
Lat. 36° 53' S **Long.** 174° 43' E
Coll. A E Esler **Date** 4 Aug 2001
Det. A E Esler **Date** 4 Aug 2001
Notes Habitat - blackbird's nest in citrus tree