

Albert LeRoy Andrews

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Albert LeRoy Andrews was born at Williamstown, Massachusetts, into a family descended from early New England settlers. He received his education in Williamstown and at Williams College, graduating in 1899. In that year he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and later to Sigma Xi. His childhood interest in plants was partially frustrated by inadequate instruction in botany at Williams, so he majored instead in languages. Following graduation he taught languages briefly in Vermont and Pennsylvania, at the same time studying for the Master of Arts degree, which he received from Williams in 1902. That year and the next he pursued graduate work in German at Harvard University, where he became particularly interested in the comparative and historical philology of the Germanic languages and their relation to the Indo-European languages generally. This interest led, following receipt of the degree of Master of Arts from Harvard and a brief period of instructing in German at West Virginia University and Dartmouth College, to advanced study in Europe at the Universities of Berlin, Kiel, Christiania (now Oslo), and Copenhagen. He received his doctorate from Kiel in 1908.

In 1908, LeRoy Andrews came to Cornell as teaching fellow in German, and an association commenced which was to last for fifty-three years. He became instructor in German and Scandinavian languages in 1909, Assistant Professor of German in 1919, Professor of Germanic Philology in 1931, and Professor Emeritus in 1946, serving also as chairman of the German Department from 1924 to 1928.

LeRoy Andrews achieved distinction in two academic disciplines related only in rigorous methods of analysis and classification. His work was the product of devotion and unusually painstaking effort. He believed sincerely that what was worth doing was worth doing right. A bibliography of his publications has been prepared through the efforts of several persons for a memorial article to appear in a future issue of *The Bryologist*. With more than one hundred and fifty titles of which he was sole author, it demonstrates uninterrupted output about equally divided in number of pages between philology and bryology. It is noteworthy that his work in the two fields progressed side by side, that in a single year he produced some studies in the *Fornaldarsogur Nordrlanda* and remarks on additions to the flora of Iceland, Bermuda, and Alberta.

In philology he contributed major articles on the Old Norse *Hervarvar* and *Hromundar Sagas*, and a series on the relationship of Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* to the writings of Molbech and others. In bryology he prepared the standard

monograph of *Sphagnum*, one of the taxonomically most difficult genera of mosses, for *North American Flora*, and definitive treatments of Bryaceae and Miniaceae for Grout's *Moss Flora of North America, North of Mexico*. He also published an annotated list, augmented by keys and critical comment, of all species of bryophytes known to occur in the upper Cayuga Lake Basin (Cornell Memoir 352) in 1957. That publication summarized his own studies and those of others in this area, and it had significance far beyond its geographical bounds. In both subjects he prepared many penetrating reviews of the publications of others, reviews, which frequently embodied original results and conclusions.

The interests, which in publications were clearly divided between philology and botany were complementary in the man and intimately associated throughout his life. While studying languages at Williams, Andrews published a list of mosses and hepatics of the Mt. Greylock region. His interest in the Old Norse language in literature took him on several trips into Scandinavia and Iceland, during which he familiarized himself also with the botany and especially the bryophytes of those areas. Similarly, while teaching at West Virginia he collected extensively and contributed materially to knowledge of bryophytes of that state. When he came to Cornell, he immediately made contacts in the Department of Botany (then a division in the College of Arts and Sciences) and conducted field trips for students interested in the moss flora of the local area. His volunteered services to the Department of Botany, including identification of specimens of mosses and hepatics and development of the bryophyte collections in the Wiegand Herbarium, continued after the transfer of the department to the College of Agriculture and were not interrupted by his retirement from the German Department. In 1953 he was appointed honorary curator of the Bryological Collection in the Wiegand Herbarium and was provided an office in Mann Library near the collections. He used that office daily until the time of his death. The last field trip he led was in May 1961, at which time he took a group of students from the rim of Coy Glen to the bottom of the gorge and back up again, a scramble which might not be attempted by many persons half his age.

Through his meticulously prepared, thorough, and productive studies of difficult groups of bryophytes, Professor Andrews was recognized at the time of his death as one of the world's foremost bryologists and the American authority on Sphagnaceae. His extensive and invaluable personal collection of bryophytes has been given to Cornell University, where it will be available to future students of the bryophytes.

Despite his retiring and self-effacing nature, LeRoy Andrews was a friendly person and would go to considerable trouble to offer sound advice to those who consulted him. He remained interested in teaching and the problems

of the academic world throughout his life and was a source of insight for younger faculty members and graduate students who came to know him. He brought painstaking accuracy and good sense to vexatious committee tasks, and, as in his publications, no effort seemed too great to have the report just what it ought to be.

To combine so harmoniously and fruitfully two interests as unlike as bryology and Germanic philology does not fall to the lot of many scholars.

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