
ELIZABETH LETSON BRYAN, SC. D.

Elizabeth Letson Bryan died on February 28th at her home in Honolulu, of an organic heart affection after an illness of nearly eight months.

Mrs. Bryan was born April 9, 1874, at Griffin's Mills, Erie Co., New York, the only child of Augustus F. and Nellie Webb Letson. She was a direct descendant from Governor Bradford, first governor of Massachusetts, and was a member of the Mayflower Society of New York. She early became interested in natural history, especially conchology. In 1892 she entered upon her long service in the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, of which she became Director in 1899, finally retiring, after a connection of seventeen years, upon her marriage to Professor William Alanson Bryan in 1909. This long period was interrupted by several years given to study in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the United States National Museum.

In 1899 the Conchological Society of Buffalo was organized by her, and a new period of local enthusiasm for the study of mollusks began. In 1906 Alfred University conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. She was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and various other scientific bodies.

Dr. Letson's publications relate chiefly to the mollusks of New York, the more extensive being a Check List of the Mollusca of New York, Bull. 341, N. Y. State Education Department, 1905; Post-Pliocene Fossils of the Niagara River Gravels, published in a Bulletin of the State Museum, 1901; a partial list of the shells found in Erie and Niagara counties and the Niagara frontier, Bull. Buffalo Soc. Nat. Sci., IX, 1909. At the time of her marriage to Professor Bryan, of the College of Hawaii, and her removal to Honolulu, she was working on a monograph of the New York Mollusca.

In Honolulu Mrs. Bryan engaged ardently in the collection

of marine shells. Professor Bryan, who had before been chiefly known for his work on birds, added the mollusks to his other interests, and together, on many an island collecting trip, they amassed the largest collection of Hawaiian marine shells yet brought together.

For several years she had served as librarian of the College of Hawaii, a congenial task bringing many young people under her influence.

In 1917-18 Professor and Mrs. Bryan traveled in California and the East, spending several months at the Academy of Natural Sciences in studying Hawaiian shells. For the same purpose the museums of Cambridge and Washington were also visited.

Mrs. Bryan's gracious personality and sunny outlook, no less than the genuine love of nature which determined the course of her life, made her many warm friends who mourn her untimely death.

H. A. P.

Dr. Herbert Huntington Smith, Curator at the Museum of the University of Alabama, was killed by a train on March 22. A notice of his life and work will appear later.

NOTES.

THE INTRODUCTION OF *ACANTHINULA HARPA* (SAY) AND *CIRCI-NARIA VANCOUVERENSIS* (LEA) INTO ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA. —In order that there may be a definite record of the introduction of these two species by man into St. Paul Island, I wish to state that I placed about ten specimens of each of these species behind the laboratories on St. Paul Island, of the Pribiloff Group, in June, 1916. It may also be well to note that I was unable to find any trace of these in 1918. This, of course, does not mean that they may not still be in existence there.—
G. DALLAS HANNA.



Pilsbry, Henry Augustus. 1919. "Elizabeth Letson Bryan, Sc. D." *The Nautilus* 32, 142–143.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/86830>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/95744>

Holding Institution

University of Toronto - Gerstein Science Information Centre

Sponsored by

University of Toronto

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.