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## The Digitization of *Eatonia*

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## The Digitization of *Eatonia*

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### History of *Eatonia*

On 1 April 1954, George Edmunds published the first issue of *Eatonia* – named after Rev. A. E. Eaton, whom Edmunds referred to as “the ‘father’ of the modern classification of the order.” The purpose of the newsletter was to provide a means to share research, literature, and methodology among those who study mayflies.

The first issue included a list of addresses of ephemeropterists. That list reads like a who’s-who. Among those listed are (names of countries as of 1954) J. Aubert, Switzerland; R. Brekke, Norway; R. Crass, South Africa; G. Demoulin, Belgium; M. Gillies, Tanganyika; M. Grandi, Italy; Y.-C. Hsu, China; F. Ide, Canada; P. Ikonomov, Yugoslavia; C. Jensen, Denmark; V. Landa, Czechoslovakia; T. Macan, England; J. McDunnough, Canada; G. Pleskot, Austria; E. Riek, Australia; L. Tiensuu, Finland; J. Traver, USA; M. Ueno, Japan; G. Ulmer, Germany; and, M. Verrier, France.

Issues of *Eatonia* included information on recent literature, news about current research, book reviews, discussions on terminology and classification, requests for specimens, locations of type specimens, announcements about retirements, obituaries, and meeting and conference reports.

George Edmunds initially served as the editor at the University of Utah. In 1970, publishing moved to Florida A&M University with Jan Peters as editor.

*Eatonia* was published from 1954 to 1980. Altogether, there were 23 issues (Nos. 13 and 14 were combined into one issue as well as Nos. 21 and 22) and 2 supplements.

### Digitization

The section on Recent Ephemeroptera Literature made up the bulk of most issues of *Eatonia*. At the time those issues were published, many ephemeropterists throughout the world depended on that list of articles to stay current with the literature. Nowadays, though, doing a search in Google Scholar or another search engine would produce the same list of articles much faster.

Mailing addresses, requests for specimens, and meeting announcements are all out of date and no longer useful.

So why digitize *Eatonia*? For the history. For example:

- Issue No. 10 (1970) contains the announcement for the First International Conference on Ephemeroptera, which was to be held at Florida A&M University in 1970. The announcement also explains the reason for holding a conference just about mayflies.
- The obituary for Jay R Traver was written by CP Alexander and published in No. 20 (1975). According to Jan Peters, this is the only obituary for Traver. Alexander also discussed Traver’s unusual middle name and how to properly write it.
- Supplement No. 1 (1975) commemorated the tricentennial of *Ephemerita*, Swammerdam’s study of *Palingenia longicauda*, published in 1675.

There are also some wonderful cultural gems such as the article in No. 17 (1973) on mayflies used as food in New Guinea and as a topic of Hungarian folk songs.

Prior to this year, *Eatonia* only existed in print form. Copies were difficult to locate, but not anymore. Mr. Phillip Fitzsimmons, University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, and Mr. Ben Dressler, Digitization Technician, in the Al Harris Library at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, digitized all issues of *Eatonia*.

They also created a web site (<https://dc.swosu.edu/eatonia/>) where the digitized copies are available. That web site also has a photograph of Rev. Eaton, provided by Peter Barnard, which seems to be the only one known for him. The photo has been digitized and is also available for downloading.

In addition, Jan Peters provided copies of each issue of *Eatonia* and those are being stored in the library’s environmentally controlled archive room.

Our scientific discoveries are preserved in published papers so they can be shared with others. But it is also important that we preserve the history of those who came up with these discoveries and how those discoveries came about. The digitization of *Eatonia* allows us to preserve that history.



Mr. Phillip Fitzsimmons (left), University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, and Mr. Ben Dressler (right), Digitization Technician.