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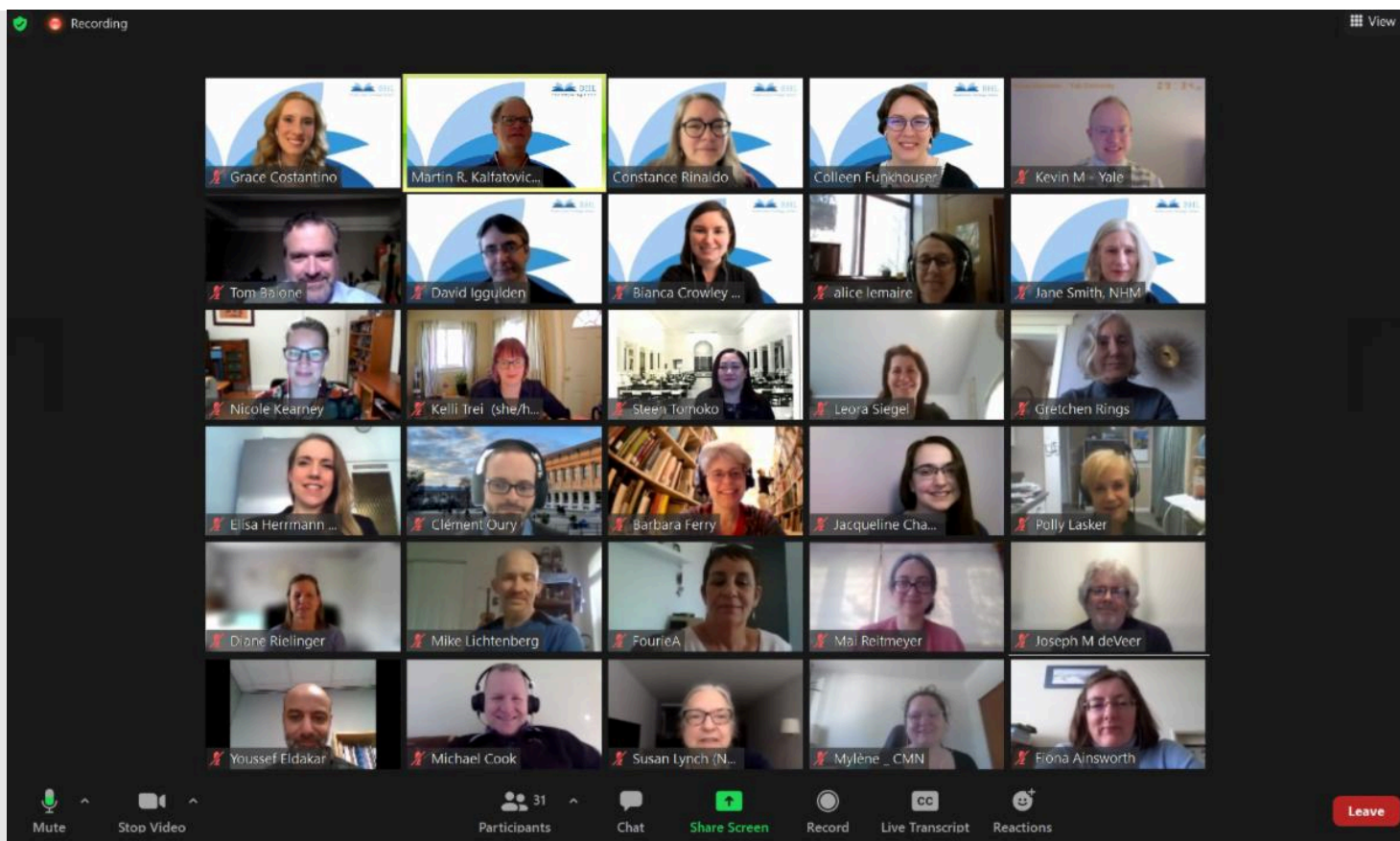


QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | MAY 2021



The [Biodiversity Heritage Library \(BHL\)](#) improves research methodology by collaboratively making biodiversity literature openly available to the world as part of a global biodiversity community.

SUPPORT BHL



2021 BHL Annual Meeting

This year, as it did in 2020, BHL hosted its 2021 Annual Meeting virtually. Forty-three BHL partner representatives attended the meeting, which included staff reports from Secretariat and Executive Committee members, a "Tour of the Room" for partners to share BHL-relevant "lessons learned" during 2020, and partner discussion sessions.

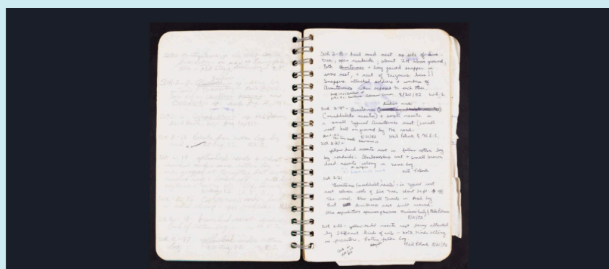
[Learn More >>](#)

Margaret S. Collins: A Legend in Termite Field Biology

Dr. Margaret S. Collins (1922-1996) was a renowned expert on termite ecology and distribution. Over her almost 50 year career, Collins taught as a professor at multiple



Dr. Margaret S. Collins (left) and Dr. Barbara L. Thorne (right) standing next to a termite (*Nasutitermes acajutlae*) nest on Guana Island in the British Virgin Islands while studying a variety of termites in 1986. © Dr. Barbara L. Thorne.



A page from one of Dr. Margaret S. Collins' field books:
Combat Data, Suriname, Notes, 1982.

universities and was a research associate at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History from 1983 to 1996. Her fieldwork is documented in her field books, which are available in BHL thanks to the Smithsonian Institution Archives, part of the Smithsonian Libraries and Archives.

[Learn More >>](#)

BHL Day 2021: Reflections in Crises

Online | 14 April 2021 | #BHLDay2021



BHL Day 2021

As part of its 2021 Annual Meeting, BHL hosted a virtual [BHL Day 2021](#). Themed “Reflections in Crises”, the public event included sessions

reflecting on BHL's roles in addressing the biodiversity crisis, challenges arising from COVID-19, and systemic racism in natural history collections.

The program featured the following sessions:

- **Opening Keynote: *Biodiversity at a Tipping Point*.** Presented by Dr. Ian Owens (Deputy Director, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution).
- **Partner Reflection Panel: *Finding Opportunities During a Global Pandemic*.** Featuring representatives from five BHL partner institutions.
- **Closing Keynote: *Decolonizing Strategies for an Equitable Biodiversity Heritage Library*.** Presented by Lidia Ponce de la Vega (Doctoral Candidate (ABD) and DH Course Lecturer, McGill University).

[**View Recordings of the BHL Day 2021 Sessions >>**](#)



The Garden: A Place to Learn and Experiment

Looking for gardening advice? *Vick's Flower and Vegetable Garden* (1878) is filled with practical suggestions for home gardens, ideas for floral decor, and detailed information about and tips for growing specific plants—plus it's filled with gorgeous chromolithographs.

[**Learn More >>**](#)

Hidden Biodiversity: Exploring Neotropical Fungus Weevils With the Help of BHL

Entomologist Samanta Orellana has been studying insects for more than a decade. Her research focuses on



"BHL was essential to complete my first published work on Anthribidae, a catalogue of the species from Panama...The catalogue ended up with 44 new records for the country, most of them identified thanks to the literature available in BHL."



Samanta Orellana
Entomologist

fungus weevils, for which she recently published a catalogue of species from Panama. BHL is a vital resource for Orellana's research.

[Learn More >>](#)



NOTES FROM NATURE: THE BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE COLLECTIONS

Fri, 16 Apr 2021
7.30 pm – 8.30 pm
Zoom Webinar



National Library
Singapore



Notes from Nature: The Biodiversity Heritage Collections

The 2021 BHL Annual Meeting concluded with a special closing event organized by the National Library Singapore and Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN), France in partnership with BHL. [Notes from Nature: The Biodiversity Heritage Collections](#) shared how Singapore

and France have worked together in advancing biodiversity literature, digitization and public outreach efforts.

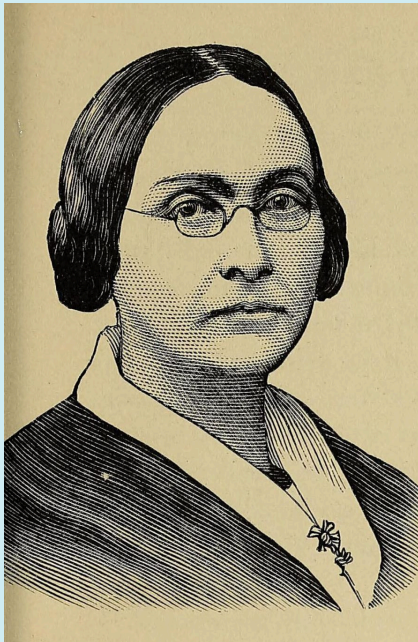
The event included presentations by:

- Ms. Tan Huism (Senior Director, National Library Singapore)
- Dr. Clément Oury (Head of Conservation, Restoration and Digitization Service, MNHN Library)

View presentation recordings:

[Part One: Presented by Ms. Tan Huism >>](#)

[Part Two: Presented by Dr. Clément Oury >>](#)



Graceanna Lewis: A Naturalist and Abolitionist

Graceanna Lewis was one of the first professionally acknowledged women naturalists, an abolitionist and a social reformer who worked for the advancement of science as well as human rights. Lewis' primary scientific focus was in ornithology, on which she published several works. Many of her publications are available in BHL.

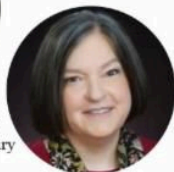
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Established Oct 2020

BHL Persistent Identifier Working Group



Mike Lichtenberg
Biodiversity Heritage Library



Susan Lynch
The New York Botanical Garden



Joel Richard
Smithsonian Libraries



Bess Missell
Smithsonian Libraries



Roderic Page
University of Glasgow



Colleen Funkhouser
Biodiversity Heritage Library



Nicole Kearney
BHL Australia
CHAIR



Diane Rielinger
Harvard Libraries

Introducing BHL's Persistent Identifier Working Group

In October 2020, BHL launched a new working group with a momentous goal: to make the content on BHL persistently discoverable, citable and trackable using DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers). A DOI is a unique permanent identifier that provides a persistent link to a digital object. Assigning DOIs to BHL content helps bring the world's legacy biodiversity literature into the modern linked network of scholarly research.

[Learn More >>](#)

Women in Historical SciArt: BHL Empowers Research on Women in Scientific Illustration

Historical SciArt, created by independent researcher Michelle Marshall, is a research initiative dedicated to women in historic scientific illustration. BHL is a vital resource that helps empower



"Without BHL, I would never have discovered these inspiring women in science and their work."



Michelle Marshall
*Independent Researcher and
Creator of @HistSciArt*

Marshall's research on women in science.

[Learn More >>](#)

BHL



Earth Day
2021

Celebrating Earth Day 2021

Since its inaugural event on 22 April 1970, Earth Day has grown into an international annual celebration of the Earth and a movement to raise awareness about and support for environmental protection. This year, several of BHL's global partners selected titles from the BHL collection to

commemorate Earth Day. These titles highlight the richness of our planet's biodiversity—past and present—and remind us of the importance of protecting the wonderful, wild, and beautiful life on Earth.

[Learn More >>](#)



THE LAST HEATH HEN

***The Collecting Net* and the Last Heath Hen**

The heath hen (*Tympanuchus cupido cupido*) was declared extinct in 1932. "The Last Heath Hen," published within *The Collecting Net*—a weekly summertime newspaper presented by the social MBL Club at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) from 1926-1953—documents the last individual of the species.

[Learn More >>](#)



This Bird Illustration Does Not Exist: The BHL Flickr Meets Artificial Intelligence

Do you recognize these birds? No? That's because they're generated with artificial intelligence. Web developer Emily Oliver shares how she used illustrations from the BHL Flickr to create "new" birds using machine learning with a StyleGAN!

[Learn More >>](#)



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