University of Plymouth						
PEARL	https://pearl.plymouth.ac.uk					
Faculty of Science and Engineering	School of Biological and Marine Sciences					

Victrices scientiarum of 1904 – who were the first women elected as Fellows of the Linnean Society of London?

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8 9	"I hate to hear you talk about all women as if they were fine ladies instead of rational creatures. None of us want to be in calm waters all our lives."						
10	Anne Elliot, Persuasion 1817 (Jane Austin, 1775-1817)						
11	I have taken the standpoint herein to write more about those Fellows who have not been						
12	formally biographed, and less about those for whom commercial or research biographies are						
13	easily available.						
14	Mary Russell, Duchess of Bedford, FLS FZS (26 September 1865 – ca.22 March 1937)						
15	Should the reader wish to read more, biographies by Buxton (2008), Curtis (1993) and Gore						
16	(1938) are particularly recommended and contain many photographs.						
17	Mary Du Caurroy Tribe was born in Stockbridge, Hampshire, to the Rev Walter H Tribe						
18	(Archdeacon of Lahore) and Sophie Lander. The Rev Tribe valued the education of his						
19	daughters, Mary being educated at Cheltenham Ladies' College, under Dorothea Beale						
20	(founder of St Hilda's College, Oxford), and at 13 spent a year in Zurich, after which she						
21	joined her parents in India. At the Ladies' College, Mary studied chemistry and Latin. She						
22	stated in later life that her "interest in matters medical began at Cheltenham [] lectures on						
23	Anatomy were given and I attended" (Buxton, 2008).						
24	She met and married Lord Herbrand Russell, youngest son of the 9 th Duke of Bedford, at St						
25	Bartholomew's Church, Barrackpore, India (1888). On the death of his brother (George, 10 th						
26	Duke of Bedford, 1852-93), he became 11 th Duke of Bedford and Mary the Duchess of						
27	Bedford. She was an animal lover, keeping an otter and a bat as a child (Buxton, 2008), a						
28	keen photographer and accomplished painter. From photography, she moved into the						
29	emerging fields of radiology and radiography, in which she became an acknowledged expert						
30	and worked professionally as a radiographer after World War I. A Dutch friend, Herr						
31	Blaauw, introduced her to ornithology and zoology, and she became Fellow of the Zoological						

Society of London (1892). She was one of the first Honorary Life Members of the British
Ornithological Union (1910). Her ornithological journals from Fair Isle (1909–14) were
privately published as *A Bird-watcher's Diary* (Duncan, 1938).

35 An accomplished aviatrix having taken up flying in 1926, she broke the records for flights to

36 India (1929) and Cape Town (1930), getting carbon monoxide poisoning on the latter! She

37 died at 77 when her plane crashed into the North Sea near Great Yarmouth. Her body was not

38 recovered. A privately published biography was commissioned by her family, and a

39 scholarship endowed in her name at Cheltenham Ladies' College.

40 Her interests on her nomination form are "zoology", and the form was signed by the His

41 Grace the Duke of Bedford, The Lord Avebury, H Seeley, A Günther and H Elwes.

42 Professor Margaret Jane Benson, FLS (20 June 1859 – 20 June 1936)

43 Shown in Figure 2, Benson was born in St Pancras to William Benson (architect) and

44 Edmunda Bourne (painter). She attended Bedford College (1879-1880) being awarded a B.Sc

45 from University College London (1891). She was Fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge

46 (1892-93), obtaining a D.Sc (1894). She became Head of the Botany Department, Royal

47 Holloway College (1893-1922). She was made Fellow of University College London (1903).

48 She was promoted to Professor of Botany (1912).

49 Benson's research concerned paleobotany, with her work on chalazogamy being significant.

50 She collaborated with D H Scott and F W Oliver, so it was no surprise to see they had

51 recommended her as a Fellow. Species of fossil ferns that she named include *Telangium*

52 scotti M.J.Benson (Benson, 1904) and Cordaites felicis M.J.Benson (Benson, 1912). She also

53 gave a description of *Botryopteris antiqua* Kidston (Benson, 1911). She died on her 77th

54 birthday at Highgate. She never married and had no issue. Her effects were valued at £10,540

13s [2017 economic power, £4.08m]. In 1927, Royal Holloway College dedicated a botany

56 laboratory in her name. Benson's herbarium, fossil slides and portrait are held in the archive57 of Royal Holloway College.

58 Her interests on her nomination form are "botany" and it was signed by D H Scott, P Groom,

59 B D Jackson, Sir J B Farmer, F W Oliver and R W Phillips.

60 Dame Catherine Crisp (August 1846 – 2 January 1931)

61 Shown in Figure 1, we know little about Dame Crisp, but we know a lot about her husband,

62 Sir Frank Crisp, subject of "The Ballad of Sir Frankie Crisp (Let it Roll)" by George

63 Harrison, recorded on his album "All Things Must Pass" (1970, Apple). Catherine Howes

64 was born in 1846 at Great Redisham, Suffolk, daughter of George Howes, a carpenter, and

65 Maria Gymer, a blacksmith's daughter, who were unmarried. George died at 31 (1850) and

66 acknowledged Catherine was his daughter in his will, leaving her £4,000. Catherine went to a

67 Norwich boarding school and married Frank Crisp (lawyer, heavily involved in the Royal

68 Microscopical Society) in 1867, before moving to Adelaide Road, Hampstead (where the

69 Chalcots Estate now stands). They lived in West London and had a number of children,

70 moving to Friar Park in Henley-on-Thames (now the residence of George Harrison's widow,

71 Olivia) in 1889. Frank was Vice President of our Society and died in 1919, after which Friar

72 Park was sold, and Catherine resigned her Fellowship.

73 Her nomination form lists her interests as 'botany' and was signed by S H Vines, W C

74 Carruthers and A K L G Günther – notably not Frank Crisp, in contrast with Mrs Stebbing,

75 whose husband *did* sign her form!

76 Miss Alice 'Alick' Laura Embleton (8 April 1877 – 14 March 1960)

77 Images of Embleton can be found on the *Special Collections and Archives* blog for the

78 University of Cardiff (https://scolarcardiff.wordpress.com/2018/03/05/scientist-and-

79 suffragist/) and in the Women's Library Archives of the London School of Economics specifically a 1914 portrait catalogued as GB 106 7VJH/5/10/07, part of Jack Holme's 80 81 papers. In a sense, Embleton was not a victrix scientiae per se, but perhaps a victor scientiae, 82 or even a "victus scientiae" (there is no neuter form of victor/victrix, I have made a third 83 declension approximation!). They appear on our records as "Miss Alice Embleton", but were known for many years as "Mr Alick Embleton". It is tempting to view Alick through the 84 85 modern lens as a trans man or gender non-binary person, but those concepts did not exist. It is worth noting that many gay or bisexual women of that time used male names and pronouns 86 87 and some wore 'male' clothing, effectively living 'as men', including Jack Holme (1881-88 1969), chauffeur to the Pankhurst family and friend of Embleton. Out of respect for Alick, who used both masculine and feminine pronouns, I use the gender-neutral "they" herein. 89 90 Embleton was born in Ewell, Surrey (1877) to John Embleton and Elizabeth Martin. They 91 studied at Sutton High School, leaving at age 15 for financial reasons. They attended the now University of Cardiff on a scholarship, one of the first women to study for a science degree, 92 93 graduating with a B.Sc First Class (1899). In 1900 they won the 1851 Exhibition Science 94 Research Scholarship of £150 for 2 years initially, extended to a further year (£150 in 1900 95 has an economic power of about $\pounds 14.6k$ today – not dissimilar to Ph.D stipends). This was used to undertake research at Newnham College, Cambridge and the Sorbonne, Paris. They 96 97 also won the Mackinnon Scholarship (Royal Society, 1904). This was for insecticide research 98 to improve crop production. They worked at what is now the Natural History Museum (NHM) and were Sub Editor of the Zoological Record. 99

Embleton was regularly involved with our Society and was the first women to give a lecture
in our meeting room (1911), on the developmental biology of the genus *Parthenolecanium*Šulc of the Hemiptera. In the 1911 census they are listed as 'cancer researcher' and they were
staying in Barnsley, Yorkshire, a guest of Charles and Cecelia (Celia) Wray, a pig dealer and

104 his daughter – Celia was a suffragist (a passionate one, based on the graffiti on the census card!). Alick went on to have a close, probably romantic, relationship with Celia, and they are 105 recorded living together in the England and Wales Register (1939), at Saxmundham, Suffolk. 106 107 From 1909, Alick became more involved in the suffragist movement and less in science, 108 resigning Fellowship in 1917. They were photographed with Celia Wray and others, petitioning at the Barnsley Chronicle (1910) for women's suffrage. Letters between Wray, 109 110 Embleton and Jack Holme during World War I are held in the Women's Library Archives, in 111 which masculine names and pronouns are used for Alick and Jack. A typical example of their 112 correspondence, Holme begins "My dear Alick" and ends "my best love to Celia, and 113 consider yourself properly kissed dear" (Holme, 1915a), yet in another "the censor reads 114 letters and one does not like to discuss one's private business" (Holme, 1915b). Alick Embleton died in 1960 at Bradfield, Essex. Their estate valued at £10,850 7s 8d (2017 115 116 economic power, £4m). She was pre-deceased (1954) by her [probable] life partner Celia 117 Wray. 118 Mrs Grace Coleridge Toynbee Frankland FLS FRMS (3 October 1858 – 5 October 1946) 119

The Society invested some years ago in Toynbee House, Wimbledon – named for Sir Joseph
Toynbee FRS (1815-66), otologist and prosector (Hawkins, 2004), and Mrs Frankland's
father. Shown in Figure 3, Grace was born in Wimbledon to Sir Joseph and his wife Harriet
Holmes. She married Dr Percy Faraday Frankland (1882), son of the chemist Sir Edward
Frankland. Percy held Chairs at the University of Dundee and University of Birmingham,
both now have a 'Frankland Building', in his honour. In 2019, the latter commenced an
annual *Grace Frankland Memorial Lecture* series to honour Grace's contribution to science

and the University. The author has in preparation a more detailed biography of Professor andMrs Frankland, to be submitted in 2020.

Mrs Frankland was self-educated in bacteriology and whilst credited as Prof Frankland's 129 130 "loyal secretary", she was undertaking research. Highlights include discovering Bacillus cereus (Frankland and Frankland, 1887), isolated from the air of a cow shed. B. cereus is an 131 132 important human pathogen, causing gastrointestinal illness following consumption of 133 improperly stored, cooked rice. It is key in defence microbiology as the safer mimic organism for *Bacillus anthacis*, causative agent of anthrax. She discovered *Flavobacterium aquatile* 134 135 ("Bacillus aquatilis", Frankland and Frankland, 1889), type species of the genus 136 Flavobacterium. Her most significant work was probably Frankland (1903), her popular 137 science book, Bacteria in Daily Life. She also co-authored several books with her husband 138 including Frankland and Frankland (1894) and Frankland and Frankland (1898). An interesting comment on her scientific ability appears in a Swedish women's newspaper in 139 140 which she was subject to a front-page story (Eivor, 1905): "och dessutom genom själf 141 ständigt studium gjort sig väl bekant med de modärna bakteriologiska ska metoderna, såsom de utöfvas af Kochs skola" ("and by continual self-study, [she] made herself familiar with the 142 143 modern bacteriological methods, as practiced in [Robert] Koch's school"). It notes that a 144 male UK scientist commented, "there are only a few men in the country that are Mrs 145 Frankland's equals and probably no women in the world". The Author back-translated this 146 from Swedish into English but cannot find any record of the original English quote in a newspaper archive. 147

The Franklands had a son, Dr Edward Frankland, a chemist who took up farming and writing
fiction following renal issues. He had three children: Dr Anthony Noble 'Bunny' Frankland
CBE CB (1922-2019, Director General of the Imperial War Museum), Mr Raven Frankland

(d. 1997, farmer, husband of Dr Juliet Frankland, mycologist), and Dr Helga Frankland MBE
(1921-2015, former academic at the University of Keele). Mrs Frankland's great grandniece
is Polly Toynbee (b. 1946), journalist.

Her papers are in the *John Rylands Library* at the University of Manchester, along with those
of Sir Edward and Prof Percy Frankland. Mrs Frankland's nomination form was signed by
The Marquis of Ripon, The Lord Avebury, Sir M Foster, H J Elwes, J R Green and W C
McIntosh.

158 Dame Dr Maria 'May' Matilda Ogilvie Gordon FLS (13 April 1864 – 24 June 1939)

159 An extensive research biography with photographs can be found in Wachtler and Burek 160 (2007). Gordon was born in Monymusk, Aberdeenshire to the Rev Dr Alexander Ogilvie and 161 Maria M Nicoll. The former was Headmaster of Robert Gordon's College (Aberdeen, 1872-162 1901). May was educated at the Merchant Company Edinburgh Ladies' College. At 18 she 163 studied piano at the Royal Academy of Music, London, but left within a year to read science 164 at what is now Heriot-Watt University, completing her B.Sc at University College London at the age of 26 (1890), having read geology, botany and zoology. In 1891 she moved to Berlin 165 with a Royal Society grant, but could not be admitted to the Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität 166 167 (FWU, now the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), owing to laws concerning women studying 168 in the German Empire. She travelled from the Kingdom of Prussia to the Kingdom of Bavaria 169 (1891), with her friends Ferdinand, Freiherr von Richthofen, Professor at the FWU, and his 170 wife, Irmgard, Freifrau von Richthofen. She was able to study at the Ludwig-Maximilians-171 Universität (LMU, München) and conducted research privately, outwith the LMU under Karl, 172 Ritter von Zittel (palaeontologist, Chief Editor of Palaeontographica) and Richard, Ritter 173 von Hertwig (zoologist and embryologist). In 1891 she began her lifelong focus on the 174 Dolomites in South Tyrol, travelling with the Freiherr and Freifrau von Richthofen. On the

175 evening they arrived, the Freifrau instructed Miss Gordon not to open her bedroom curtains. In the morning, she was taken to be shown the striking view of the Dolomites. Judging by her 176 later recollection, it was love at first sight "I saw the Dolomites before me, a wonderful sight 177 178 such as I had never experienced before [...] it made an impression that stayed with me later 179 in life like a sight from God" (Von Klebelsberg, 1932). For her thesis (Ogilvie, 1893) she was awarded the first D.Sc that the University of London awarded to a woman, and indeed the 180 181 first in the UK (Kölbl-Ebert, 2001). In 1900 she became the equivalent "first" at the LMU: 182 the first woman awarded a Ph.D (for the same work - nowadays this would be self-183 plagiarism!).

184 Dame Gordon was an active member of the Liberal Party, Honorary President of the Associated Women's Friendly Society and National Women's Citizens Association, and 185 186 President of the National Council of Women in Great Britain and Ireland (1916-1920). She 187 was Justice of the Peace and first woman to chair a London borough court. She formed the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, and served on several 188 189 committees of the National Council of Women, including that on Maternity and Child Welfare (1922). It is for all of this work that she was awarded a DBE and an honorary LL.D 190 191 (University of Edinburgh), both in 1935. She stood for the 1923 General Election as the 192 Liberal Party Candidate in Hastings (Craig, 1949). Amongst the many commemorations to her memory is the fossil fern genus Gordonopteris (van Konijnenburg-van Cittert et al., 193 2006), the type species (Gordonopteris lorigae) was discovered in the Dolomites. 194 Her nomination form was signed by Sir M Foster, W C McIntosh, H R Green, The Lord 195 Avebury, Sir W A Herdman and G S Boulger. 196

197 Miss Gulielma Lister FLS (28 October 1860 – 18 May 1949)

198 Haskins (1999) is a particular good biography of Miss Lister that also contains photographs. 199 Gulielma 'Gulie' Lister was born at Leytonstone to Susannah T Lister and Arthur H Lister. 200 From a Quaker family, she was probably named for Gulielma Penn (1644-96). The Listers 201 were a dynasty of biologists. Her paternal great grandfather was Joseph Jackson Lister FRS, 202 microscopist. The genus Listerella Cushman (1933) of the Retaria is named for him. His son 203 – Miss Lister's uncle – was Joseph, the Lord Lister, pioneer of antiseptic surgery, famously 204 using phenol as a surgical disinfectant. It was for the Lord Lister that the genus Listeria 205 (Pirie, 1940, Pirie, 1927) in the Bacteria was named – though there was some controversy 206 over this, cf. Gibbons (1972). He discovered an organism used extensively in the dairy 207 industry, now Lactococcus lactis (Lister, 1873; Schleifer et al., 1986). Miss Lister's father 208 was an expert on the class Myxomycetes – it was for him that the genus Listerella E.Jahn 209 (Jahn, 1906) is named. Miss Lister's brother – Joseph J Lister FRS – was a zoologist and 210 botanist, with four species endemic to Christmas Island named for him. It is easy to see where 211 Miss Lister's early inspiration came from! Miss Lister spent a year at Bedford College at the 212 age of 16, where she studied botanical systematics (Ramsbottom, 1949; Creese, 2004). She 213 assisted her father in his work on the Myxomycetes, taking over his mantle when he died 214 (1908). She became responsible for Lister (1911) and (1926): editions of the Monograph of 215 the Mycetozoa, started by her father. Wakefield (1950) notes that she affectionately dubbed 216 the Myxomycetes "my creepies"!

She worked at the British Museum (Natural History) with her father (1880s) as he catalogued
Myxomycetes. Her role was principally in drawing and painting specimens. In 1903, the
British Mycological Society was founded, she was a Foundation Member, and highly active.
She was made Honorary Member (1924) for services to the Society. She was equally
involved with the Essex Field Club, regularly attending fungus forays for both groups.
Through her life, Miss Lister published 20+ reports of Myxomycetes (Lister, 1913; Lister,

223	1927; Lister,	1930; Lister,	1932) including	g many novel	species (e.g	., Lister,	1921). It is	of

note to the Society that her first publication was in *J. Linn. Soc. Bot.* (Lister, 1884).

225 She was noted for her kindness and lack of selfishness (Haskins, 1999) and was cultured and

artistic. She was described as "a perfect gentlewoman with an old-world courtesy"

227 (Waterhouse, 1973) who "possessed [...] the qualifications of the true scientist, an unbiased

228 mind to search after truth, and readiness both to learn and to teach" (Wakefield, 1950). She

inspired a number of other women, including Dr Agnes Arber FLS, whom she met when the

230 latter was at school, gifting her a mounted collection of the Myxomycetes.

231 She was President of the British Mycological Society (1912, 1932) and Essex Field Club

232 (1916-19), chaired the School Nature Study Union and was trustee of the Botanical Research

Fund (1917). She was on the Council of our Society (1915-17, 1927-31) and our became

234 Vice President (1929-31). In Waterhouse (1973), Elizabeth Blackwell remembers Miss Lister

attending meetings at the Society "entering the [meeting room] and turning left into the

236 *fourth or fifth row from the front*", sitting with Miss Lorrain Smith. Miss Lister was a trend-

setter when it came to the behaviour of female Fellows at meetings, "remov[ing] her hat indeference to the sexless character of a Fellow. It was an unusual thing for a lady to remove

her hat, but we all took our cue from Miss Lister and did the same".

She was a correspondent of the Emperor Shōwa of Japan (Haskins, 1999). Following her
death, Wakefield (1950) wrote "Mycology has lost yet another of its outstanding workers,
and the [British Mycological] Society an old and much loved friend". Her specimen
collections were given to the NHM, Stratford Museum and Kew Gardens. Seventy four
research notebooks were donated to the former (Creese, 2000 and 2004). She did not marry
and had no issue and left an estate valued at £37,448 13s 5d [2017 economic power, £5.7m].

- 246 Her papers at the NHM include a large number of fine watercolour paintings of specimens.
- 247 They <u>must</u> be requested well in advance at the Library.
- 248 Her nomination form was signed by W C Carruthers, G Murray, D H Scott, J G Baker, A
- 249 Gepp and A C Seward.

250 Miss Ethel Sargant FLS (28 October 1863 – 16 January 1918)

251 Miss Sargant is more completely biographed elsewhere in this publication {REF TO

252 **DIANNE EDWARDS' ARTICLE** and in Arber & Stearn (1968), the latter including

253 photographs. After working for D H Scott at Kew in the early 1890s, she removed herself to

254 her private laboratory where she completed studies of plant development. She worked in her

255 laboratories at Reigate and Girton, studying paleobotany and botany, employing several key

- women in biology, *viz*. Dr Ethel Thomas FLS (1897-1901) and Agnes Arber were her
- 257 Research Assistants (1897-1901; 1897 and 1902-03, respectively). She had a lasting

influence on Arber, based on an offprint of the obituary the latter wrote on Miss Sargant's

259 death, which the Author obtained, with a small handwritten note in which Arber expressed

sadness re: Sargant's passing – she was writing to Prof Seward. This has not been

authenticated but it is unlikely to be fake – the Author has since gifted it to Prof Dianne

262 Edwards PPLS, should any readers be interested in it. Miss Sargant died in her early fifties

from a stroke in Sidmouth, Devon – where she is buried – *not* at Girton per some reports.

Her nomination form was signed by D H Scott, P Groom, B D Jackson, Sir J B Farmer, F WOliver and R W Phillips.

266 Miss Sarah Marianna Silver FLS (1879 – 1920, later Mrs Sinclair)

Shown in Figure 1, we know little about Miss Silver, but more about her father, Stephen WSilver, FLS, who owned a mercantile company after which the Silvertown area of London is

269 named. His wife was Sarah Constance, Lady Bodkin. Sarah Marianne Silver was born in Regents Park and in 1905 was living at Letcombe Manor, Vale of White Horse, Berkshire. 270 Mr Silver's considerable private Library was purchased on his death by the Royal 271 272 Geographical Society of Australasia and shipped to Adeleide (1908). It is now the York Gate 273 Library, in the State Library of South Australia (Henderson, 2008). A cabinet stands in the stairwell of Burlington House, gifted to the Society by Miss Silver in 1908 (Anon., 1926) -274 275 this was then sold by the Society to raise funds but was bought by a Fellow and given back to 276 us!

Her nomination form gives her interests as 'botany' and was signed by her father, S W Silver,J Britten and E A Petherick.

279 Mrs Constance Sladen FLS (July 1848 - 17 January 1906)

280 The Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, UK has a fine 1903 oil by Wells of Mrs Sladen 281 (a digital version is available via their website), she is also shown in Figure 1. Mrs Sladen 282 was born Constance Anderson in York, daughter of William Anderson and his wife Sarah. 283 She was one of four siblings - her brothers had the delicious names of Yarborough and Tempest! As a young lady, she was an artist of some note, with works exhibited widely 284 285 (Gardiner, 2003), and was an expert on the archaeology of Yorkshire, contributing to works 286 on Castle Howard, York Minster etc. Her painting York Minster (South East), was exhibited 287 in the 1879 Fine Art & Industrial Exhibition in York (Anon., 1879).

288 She met Walter Percy Sladen in 1870 in her early 20s, though they did not marry until she

was 42 (1890). Percy was a skilled natural historian with an emphasis on the Asteroidea. He

290 was elected as a Fellow of our Society (1876) and the Zoological Society of London (1877).

- By 1880 Percy was an authority on the Echinodermata. In 1881 he identified and published
- starfish found in the voyage of *HMS Challenger* it took 10 years to write was almost a

293 thousand printed pages. In 1898 he inherited Northbrook Park, Devon (demolished in 1954) and retired there. He died in Florence (1900). Constance, meanwhile, we know relatively 294 295 little about - she does not declare specific interests on her nomination form. After Percy's 296 death, she curated and doggèdly promoted his works, taking some interest in natural history 297 herself (Gardiner, 2003). She endowed the Percy Sladen Memorial Trust (administered by our Society) to support field biology. It was her wish that Percy's Library and Collection 298 299 remain intact but the major museums would not accept it. In 1903 the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter accepted it (Rowe, 1974). Sadly she did not live to see it open to the 300 301 public (1910), as she died in 1906 aged 57. She left an estate valued at £329,808 12s 8d (economic power in 2017, £303.7m). She had no issue. 302

Her nomination form was signed by Sir W A Herdman, F D Goodman, W C Carruthers, H G
Seeley and B D Jackson.

305 Miss Annie Lorrain Smith FLS (25 October 1854 – 7 September 1937)

306 Shown in Figures 1 and 4, Miss Lorrain Smith is variably styled as "Lorrain Smith",

307 "Lorraine Smith", "Lorrain-Smith", and "Smith"! The name originates from the surnames of

308 her parents, the Rev Walter Smith and Margaret Lorrain Brown. The latter's mother was

309 Jannet Lorrain, thus "Lorrain Smith" is a double-barrelled surname: some of her siblings

310 hyphenated it, but Miss Lorrain Smith did not.

311 Miss Lorrain Smith was raised in Scotland, educated at Edinburgh, Tübingen and Orléans,

and worked as a governess until she was 34 (1888). She studied botany at the Royal College

313 of Science (now Imperial College London) under D H Scott. He was impressed by her ability

and found her work at what is now the NHM. Women could not be employed here, thus she

- 315 was paid from some outside fund: this continued for 40 years. She worked on cryptogamic
- botany and fungal identification. Amongst her achievements at the Museum were the

317 remounting of the de Bary Collection and setting up the exhibition of the Fungi in the

318 Botanical Gallery. In 1884, the Rev J M Crombie FLS FGS produced the first edition of A

319 *Monograph of the lichens found in Britain, Part I.* She took over the *Monograph* after his

death and wrote *Part II* (1911) and a second edition of *Part I* (1918), followed by a summary

321 version, A Handbook of the British Lichens (1921) and Lichens (1921), a more general text.

322 She lived with her sister in West London much of her life, working until she was 80 when her

health began to fail. She died just before her 83rd birthday (1937). She was very cultured, well

travelled, warm-hearted and generous, much like her friend Miss Lister. She was awarded a

325 Civil List pension (1931) "in recognition of her services to botanical science", and OBE

326 (1934) "for services to mycology and lichenology". She was sister of James Lorrain-Smith

327 (1862-1931), inventor of 'Eusol'. Her niece was Dame Isabel Graham-Bryce (1902-97,

328 nurse) and her grandnephew Dr Alastair Graham-Bryce (1935-2012, engineer and co-founder

329 the Imagineering Foundation). Her papers are in the NHM Library. Of particular note are her

and lecture notes from when she studied under Scott.

331 Miss Lorrain Smith's nomination form was signed by G Murray, J Britten, A Gepp, E G

332 Baker, A B Rendle, V H Blackman and D H Scott.

333 Mrs Mary Anne Stebbing FLS (11 September 1845 - 21 January 1927)

334 Mrs Stebbing was erased from our history! In Burlington House hangs the 1905 painting by

James Sant CVO RA showing the first female Fellows around the dais in the Meeting Room.

Frank Crisp (husband of Catherine) commissioned this at a cost of £300 [economic power in

337 2017, £288,100]. In the right-centre foreground, Mrs Stebbing was shown, facing left (Figure

1). Crisp wrote (1905) to B D Jackson, enraged that Mrs Stebbing took centre stage: "if I pay

339 £300 for a picture, I should prefer that another 'Fellow's wife should not be the selected

figure!" and "we must surely have at the table a lady fellow who has done something [...] not

one without a record". Newspapers were negative about the painting– *The World* found it
"rendered comic by the figure [of Mrs Stebbing]". Crisp withheld it from the Society and it
was not until his death (1919) that Dame Crisp gifted it to us – albeit altered by a hand other
than Sant. Not only was Mrs Stebbing overpainted with an empty chair, her husband
(originally behind her to the right, leaning on the bench, per Figure 1) has also been erased!
Crisp was not a fan of the Stebbings! This seems to stem from feeling neither was worthy of
Fellowship.

348 Mrs Stebbing was born Mary Anne Saunders in Wandsworth, to William W Saunders FRS 349 FLS FZS (Treasurer of the Society, 1861-73) and his second wife Mary Anne Mello. Her 350 family was scientific, thus it is easy to see where her interests came from - her father founded 351 the Holmesdale Natural History Club (1857) and held collections of the Coleoptera, 352 Lepidoptera, Diptera and the Hymenoptera. He edited several works that described his 353 collections, viz. the Insecta Saundersiana and the Refugium Botanicum, each published over 20+ years. Her brothers George S Saunders FRS FLS FES and Edward Saunders FRS were 354 355 also entomologists. Mary Anne married the Rev Thomas R R Stebbing FRS FLS (1835-356 1926) in 1867. The Rev Stebbing was a zoologist with an interest in the Crustacea and 357 worked as a teacher and clergyman (ordained into the Church of England aged 24) – they ran 358 a boarding school near Torquay. Mrs Stebbing was already a keen botanist and a scientific 359 illustrator, but the Rev Stebbing did not take much of an interest until the time that they met. He was influenced by William Pengelly FRS FGS, and became an avid supporter of Darwin 360 361 after reading Darwin (1859), resulting in his publishing several popular essays on 362 'Darwinism' – he was then banned by the Church from preaching! He produced monographs 363 on Amphipoda collected during the HMS Challenger expedition (1872-76) and on the 364 Cumacea. He was elected as a Fellow of our Society (1895) and the Royal Society (1896), winning the Linnean Medal (1908). The Rev Stebbing actively campaigned for admission of 365

- 366 female Fellows and obtained the supplementary Royal Charter that permitted female Fellows
- 367 (1904). The contributions of Mrs Stebbing were not in her own name, since she only
- 368 contributed to her husband's work (Shteir & Lightman, 2006).
- 369 Her nomination form was signed by B D Jackson, D H Scott, W A Herdman, H G Seeley, the
- 370 Rev T R R Stebbing (her husband), and G Saunders.

371 Miss Emma Louisa Turner FLS MBOU (1866 - 13 August 1940)

372 Shown in Figures 1 and 5, Miss Turner was born in Speldhurst, Kent to John Turner (grocer373 and draper) and Emma Overy (a farmer's daughter). There were no scientists in Emma's

family, but she was privately educated and taught some science (Haines, 2001). Her life

before 1900 is somewhat obscure, but she comments (Turner, 1924) that prior to *ca*.1912, she

- needed to be "within easy reach of [her family] home". Her father died in 1913, and mother
- 377 may have died decades before, necessitating Miss Turner's assistance. She was an
- 378 ornithologist and bird photographer. She discovered the latter in 1900, having met Richard
- 379 Kearton (1862-1928), then dedicated her life to photography and study of birds in East
- 380 Anglia. Her book *Broadland Birds* (Turner, 1924) is a delightful autobiography of her life on
- 381 what is now known as Turner's Island and the myriad avine friends she made, each of which
- 382 she describes as though a family member.
- Her nomination form was signed by B D Jackson, W A Herdman, the Rev T R R Stebbing, GS Boulger and G Saunders.

385 Dr Lilian Jane Veley FLS (*nee* Gould, 19th February 1861 - 2nd December 1936)

- 386 Shown in Figure 1, Dr Veley was daughter of Katherine E Gould and the Rev John N Gould.
- 387 Educated Somerville College, Oxford on a scholarship (E B Poulton was her advisor), she
- 388 was awarded a B.A. Natural Sciences (spec. animal morphology) First Class (1894). She

389 married Victor H Veley (1856-1933) in 1895. She was awarded her D.Sc from Trinity 390 College Dublin (1905, a 'steamboat lady'). Her first research papers were on butterfly larvae 391 and amoeba, whilst at Oxford. On marriage she became Director of Braddow Brewery Co., 392 Essex and became a microbiologist of alcoholic beverages with papers in Nature and on 393 organisms living in rum, as well as a book on the latter (1898). She was one of the first to breed Siamese cats in Europe (her brother Edward B Gould (1847-1916) was Consul in Siam 394 395 and brought two cats back in 1884: the first in the UK). She co-founded Siamese Cat Club (1901). Photos of her cats are in the National Archives. 396

397 Miss Ellen Ann Willmott (1858-1934)

For a more detailed account of her life, the biography by Le Lievre (1980) is recommended,
which was re-published in 2008 with an e-book version available. It contains abundant
photographs of Miss Willmott, and details of her life and gardens.

401 Miss Willmott was an avid – some would say obsessive – gardener. She lived at Warley 402 Place, Essex, the daughter of Frederick Willmott and his wife Ellen. Miss Willmott transformed grounds into one of the most famous gardens in UK with over 100,000 species of 403 plant! As she got older, she suffered from a progressive form of dementia and became 404 405 increasingly eccentric, booby trapping her garden and carrying a gun, paranoid about 406 intruders and thieves. She was arrested for shoplifting at one stage. Her fortune was entirely 407 spent on gardening, eventually dying near-penniless, her hobby having become an obsession 408 that consumed her.

409 Her nomination form was signed by The Lord Avebury, H Deuce, Sir J B Farmer, F D

410 Godman, O Stapf and F Crisp.

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- 540 Figure 1. Sant's 1905 First Admission of Women Fellows, original without the erasure of The
- 541Rev and Mrs Stebbing. From the Collection of the Linnean Society of London reproduced
- 542 from Gage and Stern (1988). From left: Miss Turner, Miss Lorrain Smith, B D Jackson
- 543 (General Secretary), Miss Silver, Dr Veley (signing the Book), Mrs Sladen, D H Scott
- 544 (Botanical Secretary), Mrs Crisp (receiving the Hand of Fellowship), W A Herdman
- 545 (President), Mrs Stebbing, F Crisp (Treasurer), the Rev T R R Stebbing (Zoological
- ${\small 546} \qquad {\small Secretary} {\small). \ Copyright } @ \ Linnean \ Society \ of \ London. \\$
- Figure 2. Prof Margaret J. Benson. From a cabinet print by Maul & Fox of Piccadilly, from
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 PP/B/25). The original photographer's reference is 236762. Digitisation by the Author in
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- Figure 3. Mrs Grace Coleridge Toynbee Frankland. From a cabinet print by Maul & Fox of
 Piccadilly, from the Library of the Linnean Society of London. Accessioned 6th March 1906
- 553 (ref. PP/F/10) and dated 1906 by the photographer. Photographer's reference is 227425.
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- Figure 4. Miss Annie Lorrain Smith FLS. From a cabinet print by Maul & Fox of Piccadilly,
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- **Figure 5.** Miss Emma Louise Turner FLS. From a cabinet print by Maul & Fox of Piccadilly,
- 560 from the Library of the Linnean Society of London. Accessioned 17th February 1908 (ref.
- 561 PP/T/20). Photographer's reference is 232544. Digitisation by the Author in 2017. Copyright
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