

# SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
200 Second Ave N, Seattle, Washington 98109

JANUARY 1974  
Number 98



This sun-dappled Exhibit in France was described in a rather old and unidentifiable magazine. The New Yorker? At any rate, it provides a certain touch of foreign sophistication.



THE annual mushroom show for mycologists—and for plain Sunday mushroom-hunters in the local woods—put on in the Cryptogamic Laboratory of the Jardin des Plantes, has just finished. It seemed even more morbidly exciting than usual. In the main hall was a big sign that announced,

THESE AFFIRMATIONS ARE RIGOROUSLY FALSE!

THAT SILVER WILL BECOME BLACK NEXT TO VENOMOUS MUSHROOMS.

THAT THEY WILL TURN MILK.

THAT THE KIND SNAILS WON'T EAT ARE GOOD.

THAT THEY HAVE A DELIGHTFUL ODOR.

THAT POISONOUS MUSHROOMS CHANGE COLOR WHEN CUT;

THAT THEY DON'T CHANGE COLOR WHEN CUT.

The exposition then got down to set-piece displays of different sorts of mushrooms under the kind of tree or in the particular dank autumnal setting they favor, plus hundreds of platefuls of other varieties, many sent in fresh daily by mushroom fiends from all over France. Each kind was labelled in one of five ways: comestible, mortal, dangerous, laxative and bitter, or indifferent. For mycogastronomic Parisians, the displays of the half-dozen edible types now to be found in local forests were like meeting old friends. There was the *chanterelle*, or *griotte*, from under birches and chestnuts, excellent sautéed with rosemary; the cat's-nose, or *lépiote*, which looks like

an umbrella inside out; the dear old international pasture mushroom, *Pratella compestris*; the *Amanita rubescens* of connoisseurs; and, most beautiful of all, the poor man's truffle—*la trompette des morts*, like a fragile black autumn crocus of pleated tulle, a dish for a queen when served in sour cream. The local manna is the *cèpe*, or boletus—ugly, big, brown, and thick-capped, delicious though slimy, and best when broiled with a dash of olive oil, garlic, and basil. If you can find the lucky oak tree that inspires them, you can now gather them by the bushel, for the Indian-summer sun and odd showers in the Ile-de-France lately have given mycologists first-rate hunting.

## SURVIVORS' BANQUET

BANQUET CHAIRPERSON ROTH KINNEY'S LATEST REPORT  
WHICH JUST ARRIVED BY PONY EXPRESS

Roth says plans to make the 1974 Survivors' Banquet one of the best are really rollin' along. The Chuck Wagon style dinner will feature Saddle of Beef and Country-fried Chicken served up with Buttermild Biscuits and Deep Dish Apple Pie. There will be other country-style goodies including Wild Country Mushrooms. Country/Western entertainment will follow dinner.

Remember the accent will be on informality so here's a chance for the gentlemen to wear their handsomest Levi's and Western shirts and the ladies their prettiest percale petticoats and gingham gowns.

Date: March 30, Seattle Center Arena. Beverages at 6 pm, Dinner at 7. Tickets at \$9.50 each will be available at January and February membership meetings. Mail orders to Gail Kinney, 9288 Points Drive, Bellevue WA 98004. Phone orders and questions will be handled by Belle Swaffield at CH 4-2559

—Belle Swaffield

(But Belle, isn't it being sexist to insist that the ladies wear the gowns and the men the pants? What about women's, and men's, lib?)



# Membership Meeting

Monday, January 14, 8:00 pm, Eames Theatre, Pacific Science Center.

Dr. Howard G. Whistler, Professor of Botany at the University of Washington will discuss spore and fungi bearing insects. This more esoteric and searching examination of the mushroom will probably include slides and/or movies. Fascinating.



## LOST AND FOUND

In case you missed the announcement at the meeting before last! A nice warm coat, a small luncheon cloth, cloth, and a red beret were left at the Lake Arrowhead Foray. Call Jennie Schmitt, at 255-5286.

## ATTENTION ONE AND ALL!

If you are interested in learning to know a few mushrooms, and how to recognize them on sight, call Jennie Schmitt, 255-5286. If we have enough interest we will have a short course after the first of the year. It will be held in Renton again. Details in next Spore Prints.



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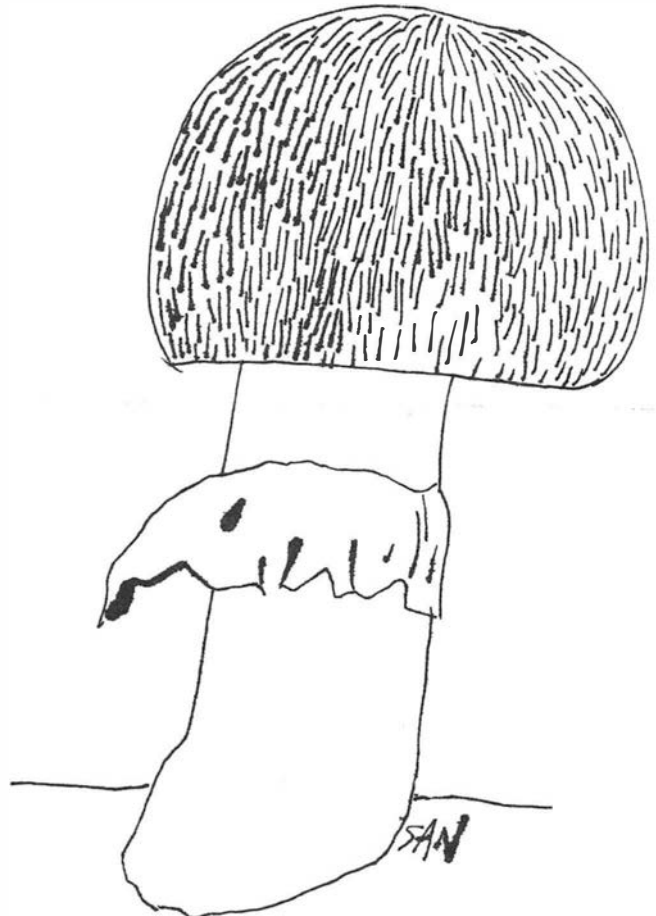
SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz

## CALENDAR

Jan 14 Monday 8:00 pm Membership meeting  
Jan 21 Monday 8:00 pm Board meeting  
Jan 25 Deadline for February Spore Prints  
Mail news and feature items to PSMS,  
4029 E Madison, Seattle, WA 98112  
Jan 31 Deadline for Membership dues  
Feb 11 Membership meeting Monday 8:00 pm  
Mar 30 Saturday 6:00 pm Survivors' Banquet

## SPECIMENS SOUGHT

Dried specimens of *Galerina autumnalis*, *Amanita virosa*, and *Amanita verna* are being sought by a gentleman in California. They will be used by a doctor in San Francisco who is studying poisons. If you have any specimens of these species you are not using, or that are left over from Christmas, dry them, include information about where the specimens were obtained, and hustle them off to Paul Bergeer, 5706 Carlos Ave., Richmond CA 94804. He would like as much as he can get.



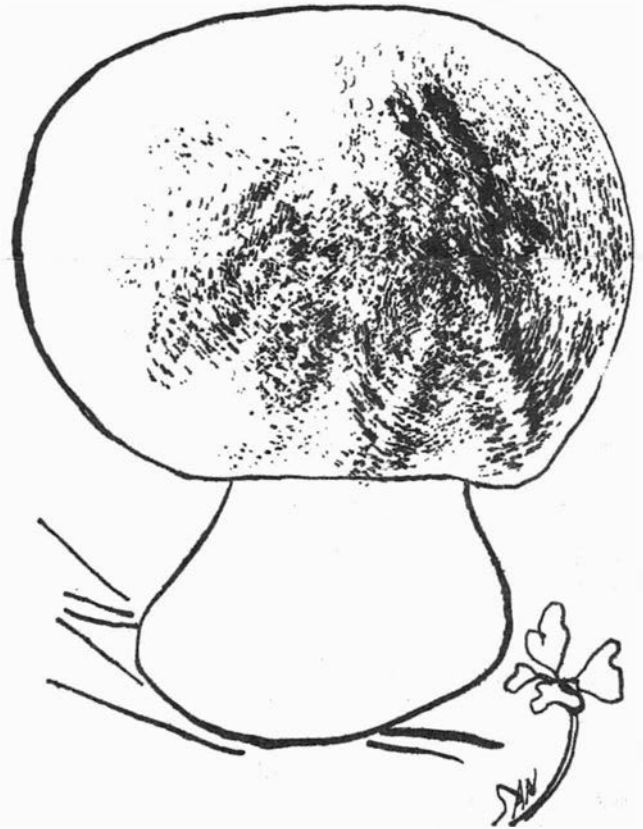
FROM THE DISTANT PAST

Below are further Latin translations from A. Pilat, last heard of in the June, 1972 issue. As with all similar lists, discrepancies occur.

<i>igniarius</i>	belonging to fire	<i>ophioglossoides</i>	resembling a serpent's tongue
<i>illudens</i>	misleading	<i>orades</i>	mountain nymphs (fairies)
<i>imbricata(us)</i>	tile-wise	<i>ostreatus</i>	oyster-shaped
<i>impudicus</i>	impudent	<i>pantherina</i>	marked like a panther
<i>inclinata</i>	curved	<i>parasiticus</i>	parasitising
<i>inflata</i>	inflated	<i>perennis</i>	perennial, living a long time
<i>infundibuliformis</i>	funnel-shaped	<i>perlatum</i>	pearled
<i>inquinans</i>	staining	<i>phalloides</i>	phallic
<i>inversa</i>	reversed	<i>piperatus</i>	pepperish
<i>involutus</i>	inrolled	<i>plicatilis</i>	with folds
<i>laccata</i>	sealing wax	<i>polymorpha</i>	multi-shaped
<i>lacunosa</i>	furrowed	<i>procera</i>	slender, tall
<i>laeve</i>	smooth, without hairs	<i>punicus</i>	purple-red
<i>lutea(us)</i>	yellow	<i>pura</i>	pure, clean
<i>lutescens</i>	yellowish	<i>papurum</i>	purple-red, purple
<i>macropus</i>	with a long foot (stalk)	<i>quercina</i>	pertaining to the oak
<i>maculata</i>	with spots	<i>radiata</i>	radially constructed
<i>mellea</i>	honey-coloured	<i>repandum</i>	scalloped, curved
<i>miniatas</i>	red-lead	<i>rhaoides</i>	as if covered with rags
<i>mucida</i>	slimy	<i>rimosipes</i>	with a split foot (stem)
<i>muscaria</i>	connected with flies	<i>roseus</i>	pinkish red
<i>mutabilis</i>	changeable		
<i>nebularis</i>	connected with fog, fog-coloured		
<i>ochroleuca</i>	yellow-white		
<i>olearia</i>	connected with oil (olive)		

in gills on the underside of the cap, *Rhizina's* spore-producing layer is spread over the entire top surface of the cap. At maturation, the spore-producing capsules will eject literally millions of microscopic seed-spores high enough up to be caught by air currents and thus be spread by the wind. Spores can also be washed down to valleys by percolating water, or be carried on the boots of hikers or loggers.

Unfortunately, *R. undulata* is not good to eat. It's safe enough, but it cooks up into a waxy, unappetizing mess.



A GROWING THREAT TO OUR FORESTS

Capable of causing a 15% to 98% mortality in newly planted Douglas fir seedlings, a fungus called *Rhizina undulata* is spreading throughout the west coast states, Idaho, and British Columbia, possibly as a direct result of slash burning after clear-cut logging operations. When an area is burned over, either by slash burning or in a forest fire, the heat diminishes dramatically 10 to 15 centimeters below the surface of the soil. The heat is just enough to activate, but not to kill, the *Rhizina* spores lying dormant awaiting this stimulation. Starting to grow underground just at the time reforestation begins, the *Rhizina* mycelium will enter the roots of the seedling Douglas firs and draw off nourishment. The young trees will wilt, and turn brown. Then the yellowing needles fall and the seedling dies. Well-fed now, the mycelium of the fungus is ready and waiting for the second transplanting; of the young trees which will fare no better. The mycelium can spread 30 feet underground each year and attack mature trees.

In May or June, the mycelium of *Rhizina undulata* puts forth its cluster of fruiting bodies—a lumpy brownish growth 2-8" in diameter, which looks rather like a melted Babe Ruth bar with whiskers. Although other mushrooms are attached at some central point, *R. undulata* is not. Instead it is connected to the mycelium by dozens of coarse strands called rhizomorphs. (Similar strands can be seen clinging to the roots of dead seedlings.) Unlike the more familiar mushrooms that carry their spores

*Rhizina mycelia* can be killed by conventional fungicides—which would kill the benign mushrooms as well. Too, fungicides would be little help against the spores in the air and soil awaiting the next slash burning, or the other mycelia lying invisible underground ready to produce millions of additional spores. A similar fungus took little more than 20 years to finish off the native American chestnut trees. After the last tree died in the Appalachians in 1938, a portion of infected chestnut bark was taken into a laboratory moist chamber where the fungus kept on producing spores steadily day and night for 8 months before running out of nourishment.

*Rhizina* attacks various conifers indiscriminately. Slightly more resistant, hemlock dies gradually. True firs are killed even more quickly than Douglas firs. Sweden, one of the few other countries in the world that still possess marketable timber, has been fighting *Rhizina* unsuccessfully for the last ten years. University of Washington foresters who have been studying the effects of *Rhizina* near Granite Falls, Greenwater, and other areas, suggest that the administrators of timber lands must choose between two alternatives: Stop burning slash after clear-cut operations, or, on recently burned land, wait 3 years before setting out seedling. Lacking nourishment, the activated spores of *Rhizina* will die back.

Oak Patch, our last field trip of the season, Oct. 27 & 28: We had a great turn-out in spite of hunting season. We made enough noise to deter both deer and hunters alike we thing. Everyone found a lot of mushrooms and many members were awed by the size of the *Boletus aurantiacus* which were quite plentiful.

Thanks to Brian Luther, Howard Melsen and Jack Orth for identifying 83 different specimens. We were entertained by Dick, the Camp attendant (stories). We filled the dining area to the brim at our potluck. We missed our hosts of last year, Andy and Betty Yuhl, who were instrumental in obtaining such a good place for a late mushroom outing. Thanks to all who served as host persons this past season. Happy New Year to all. Spring Field Trips start about the last of March or the middle of April.

TALL TALE FROM IOWA . . .but true

"Ames, Iowas. . .This wet weather is good for something besides mosquitos. For some sharp-eyed woods-walking Iowans it is good for the grocery budget.

Chuck and Dale were minding their own business on a nice warm day, watching the squirrels and clouds on an afternoon walk when, there in decaying leaves at the edge of a wood, they stumbled into a mushroom heaven. They were in a sea of puffballs.

There were six real giganteas plus a bunch of other biggies. On the bathroom scale the six giants weighed in at 25 pounds. The total haul was 35 pounds of good boneless, fatless, wasteless eating.

Chuck and Dale did not take a taste until they presented a sample of their prize to the Iowa State University Botany Department.

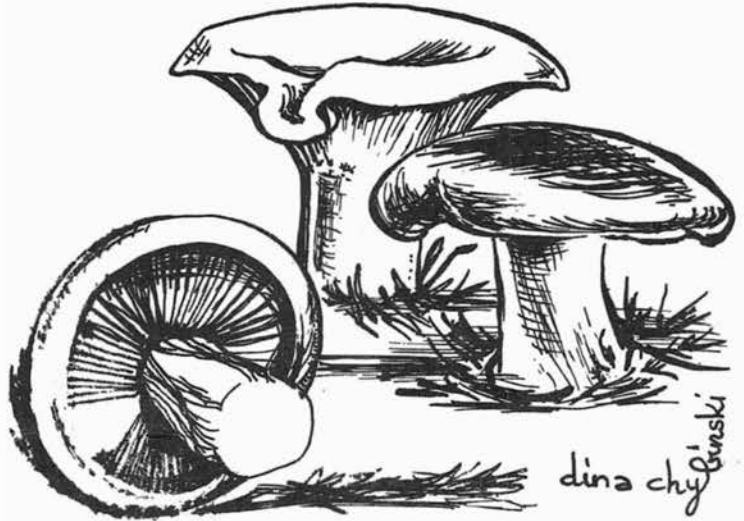
They got the good word. Indeed, this was *Calvatia gigantea*. Furthermore, it was the biggest the professor had seen. It was 14 inches in diameter.

The puffballs were too big to refrigerate, so they ate and ate. They stuffed, they sliced, and they fried."

From Inge M. Wilcox, based on a newspaper clipping from the Iowa Tribune, mailed by her relatives who know that Inge is a member of PSMS.



Mystery Mushroom



Sometimes the color of frosty-cold human flesh (Ugh -Ed.), this late-bloomer is most often a bluish lavender streaked or mottled with cinnamon brown. Because of its color and its chunky fibrous stem (which is often slightly bulbous at the base), this safe and delicious mushroom may often be thrown away. It's easily mistaken for a very common, unpalatable non-entity. The gourmet's delight has broad, crowded pale violet gills which are strongly notched before meeting the stem.

Unlike its inedible twin, it has flesh-pink spores (not rusty brown) and it does not have a cobweb veil (or any veil at all). The best field mark is its strongly incurved cap margin (until late middle age, when the edge curves up). It has a pleasant odor. A near relative smells of violets. Its common name suggests a Pass in the Cascades, which is not necessarily a happy hunting ground for this mixed-forest species: the names are spelled differently.

See McKenny/Stuntz page 112, Bandoni/Szczawinski, p page 79. The unsavoury look-alikes? Lavender-brown Cortinarius species.

Answer: *Lepista nuda* - "Woods Blewit" (The English thought it resembled a blue hat, contrasted to blwit.) Formerly known as *Tricholoma nuda* and *Tricholoma personatum*, *Lepista nuda* (along with *Lepista sordida*, *Gleococcyx*, etc.) was placed in a separate genus characterized by pinkish spores that are rough or prickly, not smooth or angular, when seen under a microscope.

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE! FINAL WARNING!

January 31 is The Absolute Deadline for PSMS membership dues. You will receive no February bulletin if you are not paid up by that date, and, if that doesn't disturb you, your doorstep will be rubbed with *Phallus impudicus*. Dues are \$10.00 family, \$7.00 single, and \$5.00 student. Last warning.