

DR. ERIK ACHARIUS



1757

October 10: [Erik Acharius](#) was born in Gävle, Sweden.

1773

[Erik Acharius](#) studied medicine in Uppsala, Sweden, under Professor [Carolus Linnaeus](#).



1776

 [Erik Acharius](#) graduated, with his dissertation "*Planta aphyteia*" having been completed under the direction of Professor [Carolus Linnaeus](#).



1778

[Erik Acharius](#) was appointed "Auscultor" at the Royal University for Science in Stockholm, Sweden.




1782

[Erik Acharius](#) earned his MD at Lund University.



1785

 [Dr. Erik Acharius](#) began a medical practice in the town of Landskrona, Sweden.



1789

[Dr. Erik Acharius](#) became Provincial Medical Officer for the area around Vadstena in East Gotland, Sweden. Have you seen “Babbette’s Feast”? — At Vadstena there would be ample occasion for Erik to relate to his lichens.



1798

 [Dr. Erik Acharius](#)'s *LICHENOGRAPHIAE SVECICAE PRODROMUS* (BEGINNING OF A LICHENOGRAPHY OF SWEDEN).



1803

→ [Dr. Erik Acharius](#)'s *METHODUS QUA OMNES DETECTOS LICHENES SECUNDUM ORGANA CARPOMORPHA AD GENERA, SPECIES ET VARIETATES REDIGERE ATQUE OBSERVATIONIBUS ILLUSTRATAE* (A METHOD BY WHICH EVERYONE CAN IDENTIFY LICHENS), which would in 1852 be studied by [Henry Thoreau](#).



1810

→ [Dr. Erik Acharius](#)'s *LICHENOGRAPHIA UNIVERSALIS* (A UNIVERSAL LICHENOGRAPHY).



1814

→ Dr. Erik Acharius's *SYNOPSIS METHODICA LICHENUM* (TAXONOMICAL ARRANGEMENT OF LICHENS).



1819

→ August 14, Saturday: Erik Acharius died.

Apparently, according to a report which appeared in the American Journal of Science, between 8PM and 9PM on the previous evening two women of Amherst, Massachusetts had observed “a brilliant white light resembling burnished silver” which they supposed to descend slowly from the sky as a ball onto their front yard. At one point this light was bright enough for them to see it reflect upon or cast a shadow against a nearby wall. The next morning, according to a report from a Professor Rufus Graves, the man of the house, an Erastus Dewey, noted that there was in his yard, some 20 feet from the doorstep, a “circular form, resembling a sauce or salad dish bottom upwards, about eight inches in diameter and one in thickness, of a bright buff color, with a fine nap upon it similar to that on milled cloth.... On removing the villous coat, a buff colored pulpy substance of the consistency of good soft soap, of an offensive, suffocating smell appeared; and on a near approach to it, or when immediately over it, the smell became almost insupportable, producing nausea and dizziness. A few minutes exposure to the atmosphere changed the buff into a livid color resembling venous blood. It was observed to attract moisture very rapidly from the air. A half-pint tumbler was nearly half filled with the substance. It soon began to liquefy and form a mucilaginous substance of the consistence, color, and feeling of starch when prepared for domestic use.” Whatever this material was, within two or three days it would evaporate, leaving only some sort of dark-colored residue upon the sides and bottom of that tumbler. It would be noted that when they then rubbed some of this dried residue between their fingers, it became a fine, odorless ash.

SKY EVENT

Samuel Cabot reported his attention to have suddenly been arrested by an object emerging from the sea about



ERIK ACHARIUS

DR. ERIK ACHARIUS

100 to 150 yards from him, “which gave to my mind at the first glance the idea of a horse’s head.... I perceived at a short distance eight or ten regular bunches or protuberances, and at a short interval three or four more.... The Head ... was serpent shaped it was elevated about two feet from the water ... he could not be less than eighty feet long.”

SEA SERPENT SIGHTINGS

After some passage of time, Friend [Moses Brown](#) wrote again to Sophronia N.J. Forster of Weare, New Hampshire, expressing continued interest in her teaching at Yearly Meeting School.

In [Newport, Rhode Island](#), Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) had a conversation with a local [Jew](#) and was reassured about the superiority of [Quakerism](#):

7th day 14th of 8 M / Rec'd two letters from Wm Rickman in N York one of them mentioned that Wm Foster of England had obtained a Certificate from Friends there to pay a religious visit to friends in this Country & expected to embark next spring – This Afternoon my mind was struck in conversation with Moses Lopez a Jew, by a remark of his he was speaking of religion & giving some of his views on the subject & observed that was he to change his religion he should turn [Quaker](#) & remarked that there were some of our manners & customs that he approved beyond others & even some of his own – he Said he was once in [New Bedford](#) & was invited to dine at the house of Our friend Sam Rodman, who provided a good Salt Fish dinner for him & when they set down to the table he observed a profound silence which seemed very strange to him & was at an entire loss what to think or how to account for it but after a few moments, Socobility was resumed & things went on in their usual order, at tea he remarked the same pause, when, (to use his own expressions) he considered it must be some of our ceremonies, & he could but approve of it, being much more solemn in its effects than a prayer rabbled over with apparant feeling or sensibility, he remarked that it was their practice to say a short prayer after dinner, but he says I like Your mode best being more Solemn. now I have no doubt but this poor son of Israel was Struck with real religious feelings on the occasion, which from the dark state of his mind he would not fully comprehend. – This circumstance may tend to confirm Friends of the necessity of such pratices. – we know not the effects of them, if attended too with reverance they may reach the hearts of some, when we are not aware of it ourselves,



DR. ERIK ACHARIUS

ERIK ACHARIUS

& perhaps most effectively when nothing may be uttered



RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1852

March 16, Tuesday: [Henry Thoreau](#) checked out, from [Harvard Library](#), [Erik Acharius](#)'s *METHODUS QUA OMNES DETECTOS LICHENES SECUNDUM ORGANA CARPOMORPHA AD GENERA, SPECIES ET VARIETATES REDIGERE ATQUE OBSERVATIONIBUS ILUSTRATAE* (Stockholm, 1803).¹



[Thoreau](#) also checked out both volumes of Edward Allen Talbot's *FIVE YEARS' RESIDENCE IN THE CANADAS: INCLUDING A TOUR THROUGH PART OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE YEAR 1823* (London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, Brown and Green, 1824).

"There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away"
— Emily Dickinson





March 16, Tuesday: Before Sunrise

1. Acharius is now known as "the father of Lichenology," in belated recognition of the fact that he did for lichens what Fries did for gilled fungi and what Lamarck did for invertebrates — he provided the first coherent and productive classification system for a large group of organisms that had been utterly underclassified and ignored by Linnaeus.



DR. ERIK ACHARIUS

ERIK ACHARIUS

With what infinite & unwearied expectation and proclamations the cocks usher in every dawn as if there had never been one before. & the dogs bark still-& the thallus of lichens springs- So tenacious of life is nature. Spent the day in Cambridge Library. Walden is not yet melted round the edge. It is perhaps more suddenly warm this Spring than usual. Mr Bull thinks that the Pine gross-beaks [**Pine Grosbeak**  ***Pinicola enucleator***] which have been unusually numerous the past winter have killed many branches of his elms by budding them-& that they will die & the wind bring them down as heretofore. Saw a large flock of geese [**Canada Goose**  ***Branta canadensis***] go over Cambridge. & heard the robins in the college yard.

The library a wilderness of books. Looking over books on Canada written with the last 300 yrs could see how one had been built upon another each author consulting & referring to his predecessors. You could read most of them without changing your leg on the steps. It is necessary to find out exactly what books to read on a given subject- Though there may be a thousand books written upon it, it is only important to read 3 or 4-they will contain all that is essential-& a few pages will show which they are. Books which are books are all that you want-& there are but half a dozen in any thousand. I saw that while we are clearing the forest in our westward progress we are accumulating a forest of books in our rear-as wild & unexplored as any of natures primitive wildernesses. The volumes of the 15th 16th & 17th centuries which lie so near on the shelf are rarely opened are effectually forgotten-& not implied by our literature & newspapers. When I looked into Purchas' Pilgrims-it affected me like looking into an impassable swamp-10 feet deep with sphagnum where the monarchs of the forest covered with mosses & stretched along the ground were making haste to become peat. Those old books suggested a certain fertility-an Ohio soil-as if they were making a humus for new literatures to spring in. I heard the bellowing of bull frogs & the hum of mosquitoes reverberating through the thick embossed covers when I had closed the book. Decayed literature makes the richest of all soils

DOG

1998

Heinrich Dörfelt and Heike Heklau's *DIE GESCHICHTE DER MYKOLOGIE*.

ERIK ACHARIUS



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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"
in William Faulkner's *INTRUDER IN THE DUST*





ERIK ACHARIUS

DR. ERIK ACHARIUS

Prepared: October 9, 2013

ARRGH AUTOMATED RESearch REPORT
GENERATION HOTLINE



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, upon someone's request we have pulled it out of the hat of a pirate that has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (depicted above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of data modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture. This is data mining. To respond to such a request for information, we merely push a button.



ERIK ACHARIUS

DR. ERIK ACHARIUS

Commonly, the first output of the program has obvious deficiencies and so we need to go back into the data modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and do a recompile of the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process which you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place your requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>.
Arrgh.