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Reviews

GUNN, MARY and ENID DU PLESSIS. *The Flora Capensis of Jakob and Johann Philipp Breyne*. Johannesburg: The Brenthurst Press (Pty) Ltd, 1978. 218 pp., 90 pl. (most in color). ISBN 0-909079-07-2 (standard ed.), 0-909079-08-0 (deluxe ed.).

The *Flora Capensis* is a heretofore unpublished florilegium manuscript compiled in 1724 by Jakob Breyne (1637-1697) and his son Johann Philipp Breyne (1680-1764) of Danzig. Gunn and du Plessis have included a portrait of the father in their chapter on the life and works of the Breynes, the father a merchant and the son a physician, both interested in natural history, especially botany. Another chapter describes the manuscript itself, now in the Brenthurst Library, a private collection in Johannesburg.

Limited to 1000 copies (25 bound in full leather, 125 bound in half leather, 850 bound in cloth), the book (fourth of a series from the Brenthurst Press) contains reproductions of watercolors of just over 100 species of flowers from the Cape of Good Hope, each accompanied by its scientific name and a short botanical and historical description. The drawings, though carefully made, indicate the involvement of more than one artist; the authors propose four possibilities: Heinrich Claudius (ca.1655-ca.1697), Heinrich Bernard Oldenland (1663-1697), Jan Hartog (ca.1663-1722) and Willem ten Rhyne (1647-1700). Fourteen of the paintings were used by Johann Philipp to illustrate his *Prodromi*, a work on rare plants published in 1739.

This very attractive book is a valuable reference for students of botanical history in general, a must for those interested in the botany of the Cape Peninsula.

James J. White
Hunt Institute

BOIVIN, BERNARD. *Survey of Canadian herbaria*. Quebec: Université Laval, 1980. (*Provancheria* No. 10.) 187 pp. \$10.00 Canadian (paper). ISSN 0556-2015.

Have you ever wondered what became of the Manyberries herbarium or where W. L. Gordon's mycological collection is housed? Among other things, this book provides rather complete, albeit brief, descriptions of some 410 Canadian herbaria/collections past and present.

Beginning with a definition of what constitutes a herbarium, and a discussion of previous surveys of Canadian herbaria, the author proceeds to lay out in detail his objectives for this survey. The bulk of the book is an alphabetical listing of herbaria/collections. Each entry contains pertinent information about the history of the herbarium, number of sheets, important collections/collectors, etc. There is also an exhaustive index which includes indications of the current status of biographical information about the collectors mentioned in the text.

At the price, this work is a bargain for North American systematists and botanical historians alike.

T. D. Jacobsen
Hunt Institute

LANDWEHR, JACOB. *Wilde Orchideeën van Europa*, 2 vols. 's-Graveland, Holland: Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland, n.d. 575 pp., 258 color ills. (Text in Dutch.) Dfl. 127.50.

This excellent publication by the Association for the Conservation of Nature Reserves in the Netherlands represents the culmination of many years of travel and sketching throughout Europe and the

Mediterranean world on the part of its author-illustrator, Jacob Landwehr. Mr. Landwehr is a horticulturist, a landscape designer, a botanist specializing in mosses and orchids, and a resourceful illustrator in watercolor and pencil.

The two volumes are a generous quarto size, well laid out, providing with each double page opening the descriptive text on the left, matched to the color plate at the right. The generous page size permits inclusion of black-and-white text figures of habitat, terrain, pollinating agents and morphological variations, as well as small distribution maps at the lower right of many of the descriptive text pages. The introduction includes a useful and well illustrated section on morphology; there are indices of Dutch and scientific names, and a section on taxonomy.

The chief appeal of the book is of course the 258 full-color plates recording in good scale the astonishing panoply of exotic forms and colors offered by the wild members of the orchid family throughout the region covered. The color reproduction is somewhat uneven, with an unfortunate tendency toward the garish apparent in many of the plates. On the whole, however, I judge the plates to be successful, with clear presentations of the plants and with floral parts shown in large detail. For both botanist and amateur this book offers instruction and pleasure. I would like to see it done in English.

John V. Brindle
Hunt Institute

INTERNATIONAL BEE RESEARCH AGENCY. *British bee books, a bibliography 1500-1976*. London: IBRA, 1979. 270 pp., illustr., indices, errata and additions sheet. \$30.00. ISBN: 0-86098-077-4.

It is a happy occurrence in the world of bibliographies when one encounters a scholarly compendium liberal enough to include such diverse views of its chosen subject, in this case British bee books, as those represented in *The grete herball*, Mandeville's *The fable of the bees* and *Winnie the Pooh*. Although the stated intent of *British bee books, a bibliography 1500-1976* was to "list every book with more than 20 pages on bees, published in Great Britain and Ireland from earliest times to

1976," the rule has been eased so that briefer notices in manuscripts and early printed books in the fields of law and general natural history might appear, in order to demonstrate the state of understanding of bees and bee-keeping in the earlier periods.

The 12 manuscripts and 830 printed books noted in this engaging annotated bibliography represent a substantial portion of the available literature. Since about 70 percent of the world's scientific publication on bees is in English, this survey constitutes a summary history of bee-keeping in both theory and practice. Most of the books described have been examined by bibliophilic members of IBRA, though not in all editions. Books published before 1927 have their major annotated entries in the years of their first publication unless their first editions were unknown or contained no bee material.

The arrangement is chronological, with the periods identified by such phrases as "Books written out of experience" (1500-1599), "Scientific observation and practical experience" (1700-1799) and "The change to rational bee-keeping" (1850-1899). The final section, books published from 1927-1976, has entries in alphabetical order by author. Bibliographical and biographical notes are given, as well as library locations. A listing of metaphorical titles from 1662-1974 is included to tempt the curious, and books in special categories, e.g. children's books, adult fiction and bee books written in verse, are identified. Additional indices of short titles, authors, and special subjects further assist the user.

Bernadette G. Callery
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