

Origins of the International Palm Society

from Dr. John Dransfield

In January 1956 shortly after the establishment of the Palm Society in 1955, our founder, Dent Smith, prepared the first part of a Bulletin that was circulated to all subscribing and prospective members. The Bulletin was mimeographed on 8½ by 11 in. paper, simply stapled in one corner. The first part ran to 12 pages of text, written and edited entirely by Dent Smith himself, and deals partly with Society matters and partly with palm information. From this modest beginning, the Bulletin went on to be published in February, March, April, May and July – six parts in all, the parts increasing in page length and including short articles by members other than Dent Smith himself. In the final Bulletin No 6, the editor mentions the idea of a proper printed quarterly journal. This new quarterly journal, *Principes*, was first published in October 1956. *Principes* Volume 1 ran to five numbers (October 1956, January, April, July and October 1957); thereafter *Principes* (and later *Palms*) has been published four times a year.

Photo top right: First paragraphs of the original Palm Society Bulletin. **Bottom right:** Excerpt from *PRINCIPES*, 1957 Vol 1. No. 4, viewable in the Members section of www.palms.org under “Palms online”

From time to time the IPS Newsletter will feature historical photos and notes from the IPS archives. Contributions are most welcome.

The Palm Society

Bulletin No. 1 January, 1956

Please address communications to the editor:
Dent Smith, 2514 S. Peninsula Drive, Daytona Beach, Florida

The Society

What the Society purports to be and what its objects are have already been stated in a memorandum, but because this first Bulletin will be sent to prospective as well as present members, it is desirable to restate, with more clarity if possible, those propositions here.

Its history is brief. In mid-November about a dozen persons having a keen interest in the Palms agreed that it would be a good thing to form a Society dedicated to all phases of interest in that family of plants. Accordingly it was undertaken at once.

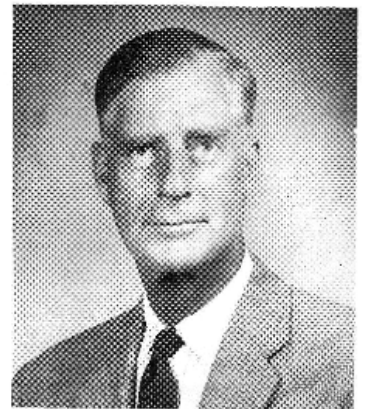
The Society, as it was envisioned, would hold no meetings other than an annual one for the purpose of electing its officers and transacting any other necessary business. It would have no chapters and no affiliation with any other organization. Far from being regional or even national in scope, it would seek out its members from among the ranks of interested botanists, collectors, plantmen, and palm-lovers in general, wherever in the world these might be found.

For the complete Bulletin, log in at www.palms.org and use the Members menu.

Dent Smith, “Palmateer”

In the short 18 month period that The Palm Society has been in existence this voluntary organization has blossomed from a seedling nourished by only a score or more members to a robust plant still growing on the enthusiasm of almost 300 palm lovers. Starting in January, 1956, with informal processed bulletins it now finds itself, a year and a half later, completing the first letter-press volume of its new quarterly journal, *Principes*.

It is doubtful if all the members of our thriving young Society know how much its very existence and sustenance until now have been due to the devotion, enthusiasm, and “drive” of one man, Dent Smith, palmateer (as he would call himself) extraordinary, who until April of this year not only founded the Society but also served as its first president and able editor of its infant publications. If it were not for his generosity *Principes* would not exist or be continuing today.



an innate love of arborescent plants first showed itself. He began personal arborcultums of sorts both in New Jersey

To view a full biography of Dent Smith, visit *Our Community of Palm People* on **PalmTalk** here: [Dent Smith](#)

Innovations in Detection of *Rhynchophorus Ferrugineus*



Rhynchophorus Ferrugineus - Olivier 1790
J.cerdá Martí - Montroy Valencia Mayo 2009

Photo sourced from *Sils de la Selva* website.



Devastation of *Phoenix* palms in Saudi Arabia caused by the Red Palm Weevil, also known as the Asian palm weevil.

Pedro Hernandez, member of both the IPS and Asociación Botánico Española Palmeras y Cycas (ABEPYC) spent three weeks in January in Saudi Arabia with his company LUCAPLANT S.A. His project is an integrated control of the *Rhynchophorus Ferrugineus*, or Red Palm Weevil. With their superior olfactory senses, dogs have the most important role, smelling and checking the big palms affected in an area of 6.0 hectares with more than one million palms.

From its origins in Southeast Asia, this destructive pest has established itself in Australia, across India and Middle Eastern Countries into Southern Europe, and Red Palm Weevil was most recently detected in the Southern California area of the United States in 2010.

Treatment is possible, but often by the time the infestation is apparent, the palms are beyond recovery, the entire crown collapsing. Detection using trained dogs can pinpoint affected palms early enough to allow treatment and improve the odds of survival.



Pedro Hernandez with the two Malinois Belgian Shepherds , Scott and Gira.
Foreground: German Shepherds Virus and Shasha.



Pedro with the Saudi owner, whose workers are being trained in the process.

Thanks to Paco Marti for this fascinating contribution to our Newsletter.



Pedro with Gira checking a *Phoenix* for infestation.

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Affiliate News

collected by Mike Merritt

The IPS is pleased to announce Affiliate News will now appear in the Newsletter (with links to complete stories) instead of the former location in the printed Supplement to PALMS. This allows for more frequent notices in any language, as well as the inclusion of interesting photos or video. Look for this section to expand in the future.

Contributions may be sent to either Mike Merritt: merritt4154@gmail.com, or your Newsletter editor, Kim Cyr: kimberley.b.cyr@gmail.com.

Tropical Garden Society of Sydney

Fred Moody our President for the last decade, has retired, leaving a greatly invigorated Society, with attendances at meetings of 30-50 people, often with outstanding speakers and featuring a plant auction of fifty or more items. This year we have had two extra meetings in the warmer months. Other recent innovations include a digital projector, a loudspeaker system and an expanded library with many recent books.

Our new President is Dr Dale Dixon, who has spent many years in Queensland and the Northern Territory, developing a passion for tropical plants. Recently he was Director of the Northern Territory Herbarium, but for the last three years has been Collection Manager of the National Herbarium of NSW. He will be the speaker at our next meeting. [Read more...](#)



Palm Society of Southern California Meeting March 22, 2014

The PSSC March 22, 2014 meeting will be held in the heart of Orange County at two gardens: (a) the home and garden of Ralph Velez, in Westminster; and (b) Palm Island in Mile Square Park, in nearby Fountain Valley. There will be a potluck lunch and plant auction at Palm Island.

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