



49. William Hertrich and Edwin Moore at Huntington Gardens, California.

The California group met recently at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Officers elected to serve for the coming year are: Leslie H. Miller, Costa Mesa, Chairman, and Mrs. Edwin W. Moore, San Diego, Secretary. All California members who wish to be notified of meetings and trips, please send Mrs. Moore, at 1159 Missouri St., San Diego 9, several postcards addressed to yourself. Those who do not send the cards run the risk of missing some good times. Edwin Moore showed his slides of Mexican palms. There was a sale of palms donated by members to raise funds for the expenses of the group. After refreshments, the Arboretum's palm collection was toured.

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The Florida group has toured several palm collections in recent months, including the Jennings estate, the U. S. Plant Introduction Station, the Sub-Tropical Experiment Station and the gardens of Mr. and Mrs. M. S. H. Kneale, Rev. and Mrs. F. E. Harlow and Mr. John E. Turner. Secretary of this group

is Mrs. T. C. Buhler, 1320 S. Venetian Way, Miami 39. She will be glad to receive self-addressed cards from Florida members.

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Mr. William T. Sisson, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, died suddenly, recently, at the age of forty-four. Mrs. Sisson has presented to the Society, as a memorial, his beautifully bound set of PRINCIPES. Our sympathy to her and to her daughters.

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Count F. M. Knuth, of Knuthenborg, Denmark, has sent to the Society a series of color photographs taken by him on a recent visit to the Seychelles Islands, as he returned from the Cook Islands.

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Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Langlois are on their way to Madagascar. They left Nassau, Bahamas still without visas for the Mali Republic, but were hoping to secure them in France. We wish them good fortune on their long-desired visit to the home of the *Neodypsis* and many another gorgeous palm.

LUCITA H. WAIT

BROR ERIC DAHLGREN

March 17, 1877—December 16, 1961

Dr. Bror Eric Dahlgren died suddenly of a heart attack at his home on Saturday, December 16, 1961. He will be remembered for his lifetime work with plants, particularly with palms.

Thus has ended a long and varied career that began with emigration from his native Sweden to the United States when he was in his teens. He did his graduate work at the University of Minnesota and also pursued elective studies at Cornell and Columbia Universities.

At the turn of the century, he became interested in museum work through acquaintances on the staff of the American Museum of Natural History. During this early period he volunteered a

great deal of his time and natural talent to assisting in problems of museum exhibition. In 1904 he accepted the position as Curator, Department of Preparation and Installation, at the American Museum of Natural History.

In 1909 his work had become widely appreciated and the Field Museum in Chicago induced him to accept the position of Head, Division of Modeling, Department of Botany. Thus was initiated a program of botanical exhibition that has resulted in the Stanley Field Collection of Plant Models and botanical exhibits considered to be the finest anywhere. Dr. B. E. Dahlgren progressively became Assistant Curator of Economic Botany in 1911, Associate Curator of Economic Botany in 1921, and Acting Curator of Botany in 1924. He became Curator of Botany in 1935, a title that was changed the following year to Chief Curator of Botany in connection with a reorganization of Museum staff.

In the period between 1912 and 1917 Dr. Dahlgren was also connected with the Wister Institute of Anatomy and Biology of Philadelphia, and also engaged in the preparation of exhibits for the United States Public Health Service and the Pennsylvania State Board of Health for display at the San Diego Exposition in 1916.

Dr. Dahlgren conducted a number of botanical collecting expeditions beginning in 1909 in Jamaica to obtain material for models of tropical and semi-tropical fruits. Collecting trips to British Guiana and Brazil resulted in an extensive collection of palm materials for the express purpose of exhibition.

The need to organize and identify the palm collections made in British Guiana and Brazil led to the publication of an "Index of American Palms" in *Fieldiana: Botany* in 1936. During his work on the Index, he encountered a publication in Spanish by Hipólito Ruiz

López, "Travels of Ruiz, Pavon and Dombey in Peru and Chile (1777-1788)" which he felt merited translation into English. In order to do this, he studied Spanish and his translation of this work was published in 1940.

Among the more spectacular exhibits planned and directed by Dr. Dahlgren is that of the restoration of a Carboniferous forest, on display at the Chicago Natural History Museum. This restoration has been accepted as a valid attempt to visualize the vegetation of a past era, and illustrations of the groups have appeared in most textbooks of geology published since the completion of the exhibit.

During the past 25 years the major efforts of Dr. Dahlgren have been field and taxonomic studies of palms. Particularly special emphasis has been given to the South American palms and intensive studies devoted to the genus *Copernicia*.

This special interest in *Copernicia* began in 1935 when he joined the Car-nauba Expedition made by personnel of the S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc. Observations during this period began an unraveling of a skein of field observations that were to involve palms in Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, Haiti, and Cuba. It is in Cuba that the puzzle became especially challenging since over 20 species were reported. The entire South American continent on the other hand has only three species in genus *Copernicia*, each isolated from the other by large land areas. The widely known commercial wax-producing palm *Copernicia cerifera* Martius is found only in Northeast Brazil. The interesting *Copernicia tectorum* is found in two separate areas in Venezuela and Colombia. The largest stand of *Copernicia* in the world occurs in a sprawling distribution of *Copernicia alba* over most of Paraguay into Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil.

The recent publication in *Gentes Herbarum*, Vol. 9, Fasc. 1, August 1961 of "A Revision of the Genus *Copernicia*, 1. South American Species," provides insight into this work.

Dr. Glassman, his co-worker in recent years, is completing their joint effort, and a second part dealing with West Indian species is forthcoming. These two works will serve as monuments to a man whose modesty and unwillingness to talk about himself also tended to restrain early publication resulting from his scientific research.

Those of us who had the pleasure of working in the field with this gentleman-botanist know that his fine hand and eye required many hours in the hot sun to achieve the perfection of record that would satisfy him. He spoke fluent Spanish, a talent that won him friends among the professionals and rural peoples alike. Cubans were his co-workers for years in gaining access to remote parts of the island to collect leaves, flowers, seeds. This entailed many visits to the same sites to collect different stages and sometimes an entire year was lost when flowers of a particular species were the prize sought and for lack of information the timing of the field trip fell weeks short.

The precision and comprehensive details that he required necessitated many repeat visits and collections and photographs resulting in the largest and most diversified assemblage of *Copernicia* material. These have been most important in the recent publications in his name.

Those of us who were on field trips with him could give lengthy accounts with ample details to delineate his character. However, the quotation below from H. F. Johnson's "Carnauba Expedition" perhaps will suffice. It crystallizes a Dr. Dahlgren of 1936 who was just beginning to embark on an adven-

ture with *Copernicia* that was to last until his death last December. Interestingly it very nearly describes the Dr. Dahlgren of 1961.

"... because of his knowledge of plant life in Brazil, his sympathetic understanding of the natives and his ability to speak Portuguese fluently.

"He was a tall, rangy individual, with clothes hung loosely on his lean body. Hawked nose, small piercing eyes. He was the eldest member of our group now and by far the most energetic. He was always in a hurry."

It was in 1890 that Dr. Dahlgren married Miss Jane Means of Geneva, New York, and it is in Geneva that he is buried at the Means family cemetery plot.

E. D. KITZKE

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

The Editor's Corner is a handy way of filling the odd bit of space that remains when PRINCIPES has been pasted up for the printer. The Editor has several messages for July. Firstly, the supply of articles not used for the handbook "Cultivated Palms" but appearing in PRINCIPES is dwindling rapidly. Members who have articles in mind but unwritten are urged to put them on paper for consideration by the editorial board.

Secondly, members who miss accounts of all new officers (see page 83) may wish to read again the earlier biographical sketches of officers who are serving in new capacities for the next two years: David Barry, Jr., in PRINCIPES 4: 80, 1960; Nat J. De Leon and Lucita H. Wait in PRINCIPES 1: 75-76, 1957.

Some time ago Dent Smith sent a photograph of Mr. William Hertrich, author of *Palms and Cycads*, and Ed Moore thinking that members might enjoy seeing these California members. The photograph appears on page 84.