

It was during that period that he met J. B. S. Haldane, the famous naturalist, mathematician and philosopher. Impressed with Davis, Haldane later invited him to join the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta, as his research collaborator.

In 1960, Antony joined I.S.I. as associate professor in the Crop Science Division. He later was promoted to the rank of Professor in the Natural Science Division. From 1960 to 1977, Davis created within I.S.I. a school of palm studies and encouraged many young botanists to take up research on palms, a subject which had been neglected in India up to that time. In 1972, he completed a Ph.D. in biometry at I.S.I. with a study of the coconut and other crop plants.

I first met Antony Davis in 1963 when I was curator of the Indian Botanic Garden's palm collection. Davis was a frequent visitor, collecting palm specimens and studying in detail the biology of the garden's large living collection of palms.

In mid 1977, Davis left I.S.I. to join FAO as a coconut specialist and spent the major part of the succeeding years at the Coconut Research Institute, Manado, Indonesia (see Davis et al. 1985). Finally in early 1985 he returned to India and put his heart and boundless energies into developing the Haldane Research Centre at Nagercoil, which he had founded in 1982 in honor of his friend and mentor. In early 1985 I had the opportunity to spend a few days at the HRC and there met Dennis Johnson who was collaborating with Antony on a study of the utilization and development of the palmyra palm in southern India (see Davis and Johnson 1987). I recall the great enthusiasm with which Antony showed me his research plots, coconut orchards and rich collection of reference books and journals.

Near the end of 1988, Antony Davis came to Calcutta and expressed the desire to form a palm society in India which would work in collaboration with the International Palm Society. Davis believed that a

national organization would encourage young palm scientists in their studies of palms as well as serve to promote palm growing in India. The Palm Society of India was registered in June 1989 under the presidency of Mr. Shri Dhar, and in August Dr. Davis travelled to Calcutta to attend the first meeting. Davis designed the logo for the society which depicts the native palmyra palm and suggested the name "Palmyra" for the newsletter. Little did we know that that first meeting of the society would be Davis's last.

Among his numerous publications, the last and most important was a book entitled *The Sugar Date Palm* (Phoenix sylvestris), unpublished at this writing. Davis was a member of the Board of Directors of the International Palm Society (1984–1988), and was a regular contributor to *Principes*.

T. A. Davis is survived by three sons: Bernard, a statistician; Basil, a priest and Jerome, an engineer. His widow Eunice Davis is now the guiding force behind the Haldane Research Centre.

LITERATURE CITED

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Obituary: Ruth Shatz

The International Palm Society has lost another of its Charter Members. Ruth Shatz of Coral Gables, Florida, passed away peacefully in her home on April 21, 1991. She was 86 years old.

Ruth was born in New York City. After her marriage she moved to Carmel, New

York, where she and her husband raised three children and operated a model dairy, poultry and fruit farm. In 1956 they moved to Coral Gables where she continued to live after her husband's death in 1966. She was an ardent gardener and became interested in the many tropical plants in her new home, particularly the palms. She had a small but charming garden containing a surprisingly large collection of palms.

She was elected to the Board of The Palm Society (before the name was changed) in 1978 and served as Treasurer from that time until 1984. During her term in office she instituted new fiscal procedures and was an invaluable member of the Board. Her clear thinking and strict adherence to the rules governing various aspects of the Society were in the tradition of excellence as exemplified by our Editors, whose policies were established by the late Dr. H. E. Moore. We are indeed an example of a well-run, successful horticultural society and Ruth Shatz was a strong contributor toward making us so. She will be missed.

She attended all Biennial Meetings until the last few, and the Post-Biennial Trips, including the one around the world in 1968. She often traveled with Lucita Wait and they contacted members in any location in which they found themselves, thus cementing friendships and contacts in many places.

Her family has asked those wishing to make a donation in her memory to send it to the Endowment Fund of the IPS, a fund she helped set up and was created to ensure the continued publication of *Principes* and to perpetuate the IPS.

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PALM CONSERVATION

A new palm conservation project has been initiated to produce a Global Action

Plan for Palms. The IUCN/Species Survival Commission, Peter Scott Action Plan Fund, has awarded a grant to complete the research. Work began in July 1991 and is expected to take at least one year. The study will be published by IUCN in their Action Plan Series.

The action plan will be an activity of the Palm Specialist Group, one of 90 such groups constituting the Species Survival Commission. The Group was formed in 1985; currently it is made up of 14 members: Michael J. Balick, Chairman (USA), Dennis V. Johnson, Deputy-Chairman (USA), S. K. Basu (India), Rodrigo G. Bernal (Colombia), John Dransfield (UK), Tony Irvine (Australia), Salar Khan (Bangladesh), Ruth Kiew (Malaysia), Jean Yves Lesouef (France), Domingo A. Madulid (Philippines), Johans P. Mogege (Indonesia), Monica Morais R. (Bolivia), Voara Randrianasolo (Madagascar) and Robert W. Read (USA).

Since its establishment, the Palm Group has undertaken two major projects aimed at generating essential palm conservation and utilization data. The first, WWF3322, began in 1986 with support from WWF-US, and examined palm conservation and utilization in Latin America and the Caribbean. Follow-up work continues. The second, WWF3325, with support from WWF-International, ran from 1987 to 1989 and investigated palm utilization and conservation in four Asian countries: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. The final project report will be published as a book entitled *Palms for Human Needs in Asia* (1991).

An action plan for the palm family is urgently needed. Forest clearing and degradation pose serious threats to the maintenance of palm biodiversity, especially in tropical rainforests where so many species occur. The conservation status of many palm species in the wild still is unclear because of inadequate field studies; taxonomic revision of a number of genera is also required. In both instances, on a world