

for reference brought out the following rather surprising situation:

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|---|------|
| Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia .....     | 1867 |
| American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston ...     | 1867 |
| Boston Society of Natural History .....               | 1867 |
| U. S. Army Medical Library, Washington, D. C. ....    | 1871 |
| Harvard University Library .....                      | 1878 |
| Yale University Library .....                         | 1882 |
| Library of Congress and Smithsonian Institution ..... | 1883 |
| U. S. Department of Agriculture, Library .....        | 1896 |
| New York Public Library .....                         | 1897 |
| Columbia University Library .....                     | 1898 |

This list may not be complete and does not, of course, include possible personal copies which may have been sent at that time direct to individual American scientists.

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#### CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAM OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

IN 1943, the writer published "An Index to the Opinions of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature."<sup>1</sup> Publication of the index was preceded by an extended correspondence (1934 to 1943) with the late Dr. Charles Wardell Stiles, formerly secretary of the commission, and officials of the Smithsonian Institution, which published Opinions 1 to 133. Typescript of the index was placed in the hands of the publishers early in March, 1943, and the material was in type when SCIENCE for July 2, 1943, carried the first note which had come to the writer's attention regarding continuation of the Opinions by the International Commission through its publication office in London.

In a letter from Mr. Francis Hemming, secretary of the commission, under date of January 4, 1944, the writer's attention was directed to certain statements in the introduction to the index which were held to contain "inaccurate and damaging statements regarding the position of the International Commission." The statements thus referred to included an honest, if possibly unsound, expression of doubt as to the

possibility of future continuation of the programs of the congress and the commission because of factional difficulties which seemed to threaten effective operation of either the congress or its commission on nomenclature. Evidence to the contrary was not available at the time the manuscript was prepared.

It is now obvious that the obstacles to further co-operative effort were not insurmountable. The commission began an independent program of publication of additional opinions in 1939, and thanks to the industry and vision of the members of the commission, and especially its secretary, Mr. Hemming, "The Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature" was established in 1943 as a clearing house on problems of zoological nomenclature.

The university library placed a standing order for both the *Bulletin* and the *Opinions* immediately upon receipt of information regarding their availability in July, 1943, but because of obvious transportation difficulties the first issues of the *Bulletin* were received in November and the first shipment of the *Opinions* came through in January.

Through the *Bulletin* it is a matter of record that beginning in 1939 an active program of publication of *Opinions* beyond the 133 incorporated in the index was well under way and that by October, 1943, *Opinions* 134 to 147 had been issued and eleven additional opinions rendered by the commissioners had not yet been given publication. However, knowledge of the existence of the *Bulletin* and of the start of the new volume of *Opinions* was not generally available to American zoologists until the July 2, 1943, issue of SCIENCE carried the memorandum by Dr. James E. Peters.

It is with the deepest appreciation that American zoologists view the continuation of the international cooperation in nomenclature. Any misleading statements which the writer may have made regarding cessation of such activity were unintentional reflections of personal opinion, inadvertently inaccurate because facts to the contrary were not available at the time the Index was prepared.

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## SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

### GARDEN ISLANDS

*Garden Islands of the Great East. Collecting Seeds from the Philippines and Netherlands India in the Junk "Cheng Ho."* By DAVID FAIRCHILD. 239 pp. Many illustrations. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1943.

THE reviewer of David Fairchild's new book is

<sup>1</sup> *Amer. Midland Nat.*, 30(1): 223-240.

somewhat in the position of one required to describe, in prose, the merits of a poem. It is impossible, in a brief account, to do justice to the excellence of the narrative and the interest of the topic. The Malay Archipelago of Wallace, in spite of all the changes due to man, still includes many islands, and parts of islands, in their original condition, full of new or little-known plants and animals. The Malay flora is extraordinarily rich in species of woody plants, and

as regards its genera and larger groups is of great antiquity. The fossil fruits of the London Clay in England, dating back many millions of years, show that formerly many of the plants growing on the islands of the East were represented in Europe by unmistakable relatives. Climatic changes have driven this flora to a more limited region, while the multitude of islands has favored the development of many local species.

Fairchild supposed that his collecting days were over, but his friend, Mrs. Archbold, became interested in a collecting expedition to the Moluccas, and it was arranged for Thomas Kilkenny to build a Chinese junk in Hongkong, in which they would explore the islands, searching for plants and seeds, to be grown in the warm parts of North America, especially Florida. The project was to be kept secret even from their intimate friends, but it leaked out and many letters came warning the Fairchilds against making such a dangerous journey at their age. They felt, however, that precisely because they were older the world could spare them more easily if they never returned. As it turned out, there were no very serious dangers or discomforts, and they managed to get out, sooner than they had intended, before the Japanese invasion. They gathered over five hundred different kinds of plants, including over ninety species of palms. The region, in strong contrast with Africa, is extremely rich in palms, and as so many of these will now be grown from seed in Florida, it will be possible to study their characters very much better than could be done from herbarium material. "Already the Fairchild Tropical Garden boasts a collection of about 250 species of palms . . . a Palm Products Museum . . . and the Liberty Hyde Bailey Palm Glade is in the making."

After a brief visit to Japan, the Fairchilds went to the Philippines. Three chapters are entitled "Thatched Cottage in the Philippines," "With the Foresters of Luzon" and "Highland Sojourn." The junk came to Manila, and at the beginning of 1940 they were off to the islands known collectively as the Netherlands Indies, visiting the southern Philippines on the way.

"The Isle of Singing Children" describes a visit to the islands of Siao, which appears as a tiny dot on the chart, yet has on it volcanoes 5,800 and 3,600 feet high. The Radja gave a song festival in honor of the Fairchilds:

I was not present, but Marian reported that when her turn came she could not think of a single song, and to cover her embarrassment, the Radja's wife started "Mer-rily we roll along," and the whole company carried it on in English. What made it surprising was that the guests were all natives of Siao. There wasn't a Euro-

pean on the island. . . . As the *Cheng Ho* bore us out past the smoking cone of Goenoeng Api, and past Mt. Tamata, the sweep of coconut landscape was so beautiful, the memories of our stay among the charming people were so pleasant, that I think all of us felt we would like to return sometime to the island of the singing children. Are they still singing under Japanese invasion, I wonder? Where they came from, these light-colored, gay-people, nobody knows.

So on to Celebes, to Java, to Bali, to Amboina and other places, always with exciting plant discoveries and charming human contacts. The famous botanical garden at Buitenzorg in Java was of course visited. Here it was that Fairchild, a young man of twenty-five, first worked in the tropics, "and now, in April of 1940, I was walking there alone, forty-six years later and on my seventy-first birthday." While Fairchild collected plants, Mrs. Fairchild and Mrs. Archbold collected shells. The large collection of shells was taken to the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, and will undoubtedly prove of great scientific interest.

As we read about these lovely islands, and their marvelous flora, they seem to belong to another world. Yet with modern means of transportation, they can be reached in less than two weeks from the United States, and no doubt will be once the war is over. There is some danger here, that the wrong people may go. The Fairchilds, in their attitude toward the inhabitants, their pleasure in the scenery, their understanding of the plants, were just the people to get the most out of such a journey; there is perhaps no one living who could equal them. It should be one of the prime aims of education to cultivate understanding and appreciation of foreign lands and a love of the beauties of nature.

The very numerous illustrations in the book, from photographs, help us to understand the text; they are selected from some thousands taken. The book closes with these words, written in the early dawn at Miami:

The birds are twittering in the trees. The scene before me changes every moment. And there is Marian, standing beside me. Dawn has broken, and we sit and think of those other dawns in the other places of the earth where we have been. We are back home again among the living souvenirs of our years of travel, and knowing that we must close this book we have written, Marian suggests that we might close it here where we began it—under the Java Ficus tree where now one of those carved stone images of Bali has found a resting place.

Perhaps the old man only fell asleep and rambled through the "Groote Oost," and, waking, found that what he told about was nothing but a dream.

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