

Flora of the British Isles

Glossary of the British Flora. H. Gilbert-Carter. Cambridge University Press, New York, ed. 3, 1964. xxiv + 96 pp. \$3.50.

This third edition of the *Glossary of the British Flora* has its origin in the publication, in 1962, of the second edition of the *Flora of the British Isles* by Clapham, Tutin, and Warburg. It presents the meanings and origins of most of the Latin names used in that edition of the *Flora* and differs from the two previous editions of the *Glossary* by an appendix of some 200 entries, most of which are new, the others being corrections or notes applicable to words already included in the main body of the glossary.

Everyone realizes that for international reasons Latin is used for the scientific names of plants and animals, but few people today know the meaning of the names. However, some knowledge in this field renders the names much more comprehensible and easy to remember, so that glossaries and dictionaries such as this one serve a useful function in these days of diminishing education in Latin and Greek. The author combines a scholarly knowledge of these languages with a profes-

sional command of botany and years of experience as an outstanding teacher at Cambridge University.

It is difficult to discern the basis for selection of the additional names in this new edition. Not all the names used in the *Flora of the British Isles* are included, not even all the names new to the second edition. Probably, the author's personal preferences have been operative, but it is to be regretted that every name has not been included. Furthermore, it is a pity that the words added in this new edition are placed in an appendix and not incorporated in their correct sequence in the text. One suspects that too frequently the appendix will be overlooked and a word in question assumed to have been left out.

Although the *Glossary* was designed for use with the British flora, many of the plant names included are common to both Britain and the United States so that this small book with its scholarly interpretations should constitute a useful reference on both sides of the Atlantic.

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Economic and Political Development in Asia

East-West Parallels: Sociological Approaches to Modern Asia. W. F. Wertheim. Quadrangle Books, Chicago, 1965. viii + 284 pp. \$7.50.

The value of the essays in this volume is in "insights," suggestive generalizations and interpretations, rather than in carefully tested and objective social science. Sophisticated readers who know enough about the subject matter to sort out valuable suggestions from certain dogmatic arguments and dubious history (encountered particularly in the last chapter) will benefit from reading *East-West Parallels*.

The author is professor of modern history and sociology of Southeast Asia at the University of Amsterdam. With the exception of the foreword and the last chapter, the book consists of lectures, papers, or articles separately produced during the years 1958 through 1962. These deal mainly with Indonesia, where the author spent 15

years. The following are some of the chapter titles: "Society as a composite of conflicting value systems," "Nationalism and leadership in Asia," "Religious reform movements," "Urban characteristics in Indonesia," and "Social change in Java, 1900-1930."

Probably the essay of most interest to nonsociologists who want whatever light sociology can throw on the problems encountered when working in underdeveloped countries is "Sociological aspects of corruption in Southeast Asia." Wertheim illuminates the topic with a discussion of the historical evolution, first in Western Europe and now in the newly developing countries, of wider loyalties and new values which result in differentiating (as was not done in the traditional systems) between the private or family interests of the powerful and the public interest.

The foreword and the first chapter ("A sociological approach to the prob-

lems of underdevelopment") develop a theme that, to some extent, connects the otherwise rather unrelated chapters. The theme is that economic-social-political developments in Asia today run only partly parallel to those in Western Europe a few centuries ago, and that such parallelism as exists is "much less simple than is generally assumed." Human history is not "unilinear" (as the author accuses economic development theorists like Ros-tow of believing) but "dialectical" (as Marxists believe). History progresses "with leaps and bounds, comparable to the mutations known from the world of living nature." Progress once achieved is likely to act as a brake on further progress, by inducing complacency and vested interests. "Therefore, further progress on the road of human evolution is . . . more likely to occur in a more backward society, where resistances against social change are weaker." This is the advantage of the late-comer, which Wertheim's late colleague Jan Romein expounded as "the law of the retarding lead." It is possible to have "short-cuts from a backward state into a more advanced one"—the doctrinal basis of attempts made by the Chinese communists to achieve a "great leap forward."

In his final chapter, in fact, Wertheim plumps for the Chinese communist view of what has to be done in Southeast Asia, not only against a Western liberal-democratic view but also against what he regards as Soviet backsliding. Gradualism, exemplified in the community development approach to modernization of traditional agriculture, he stigmatizes as "betting on the strong," because the villagers who are most likely to adopt and benefit from improved practices are the wealthier and more privileged. They will not permit social changes to go far enough. In Wertheim's view, something like Stalin's liquidation of the kulaks is necessary. The arguments advanced for this strike me as dogmatic and the bits of historical evidence offered seem badly distorted, but provocative statements based on partial truths may have some value if they induce those of us who would interpret things differently to reexamine unconsciously-optimistic assumptions and face up to the tough realities in this part of the world.

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