References


A NEW CACTUS GARDEN IN CHINA

He Xue-Lin (see “A Rainbow of friendship” by Betty Ingram, this Journal, Vol. 61, No. 3, pp. 137-138. 1989) writes that he has set up the “Ingram Cactus & Succulent Gardens” in Shanghai thru which he hopes to “promote good will and understanding between China and the U.S.A. on a people to people basis.” He goes on to invite society members to take part in this project, certainly a first in China, with donations of seeds, plants, books or materials which will be “welcomed and be recorded in the gardens.” Direct correspondence to He Xue-Lin, rm. 11, floor 5, no. 383, Xhao Jia Ban Road, Xu Hui District, Shanghái 200032, China. Your editor, by the way, will have visited He Xue-Lin and his new Ingram Cactus & Succulent Gardens by the time you are reading this, and will soon have a pictorial report for the Journal.

CAPTAIN MERIWETHER LEWIS

Meriwether Lewis was an explorer and botanical traveler of the Northwest in the early 19th century. In 1813 Frederick T. Pursh [1774-1820] named Lewisia, a genus of succulent plants of the Portulacaceae in his honor. L. redivia Pursh, the type species, is the famous bitterroot, the state flower of Montana. The following account, slightly abridged from A Biographical History of Botany at St. Louis, Missouri by Dr. Perley Spaulding, was published in The Popular Science Monthly, volume 73, 1908.

“Captain Meriwether Lewis was born near Charlottesville, Virginia, on August 18, 1774. His family was one of the most distinguished of that state; one of his uncles married George Washington’s sister. Early in life, Meriwether’s father died, and an uncle became his guardian. At 13 he attended the Latin school, where he remained until he was 18, then returned home to help run the farm. At 20 he voluntarily joined the militia, from where he entered the regular service as a lieutenant. When only 23, he was promoted to a captain.

“He was personally well known to Thomas Jefferson, and when Jefferson proposed that two persons should be sent up the Missouri River, across the Rockies and down the Columbia to the Pacific Ocean, Meriwether eagerly offered to go. A few years later, Jefferson made him leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which started in 1803 and returned in 1806.

“Congress gave both leaders grants of land, and Lewis was named governor of the territory of Louisiana. As governor, Lewis found many factions and parties, but his even-handed justice to all soon established respect for himself, and eventually removed animosities. While on a trip to Washington he suffered a temporary attack of insanity, and committed suicide on October 11, 1809. He was 35 years old.”

—Contributed by Larry W. Mitich

CHARLES H. BOSSEVAIN, AUTHOR OF COLORADO CACTI

The New York Times for Saturday, October 19, 1946, carried the following obituary (page 21) for Dr. Charles Bossevain, co-author with Carol Davidson of Colorado Cacti, a now rare and highly esteemed state cactus flora published by Abbey Garden Press in 1940. In their book, Bossevain and Davidson erected the monotypic genus Coloradoa and described C. mesae verdae, which has been reclassified as Sclerocactus mesae verdae. The frontispiece of Colorado Cacti shows Dr. Bossevain in his cactus garden.

“Colorado Springs, Colorado, October 18, 1946. Colorado tuberculosis official, known for research, dies at 53. Dr. Charles H. Bossevain, internationally known for his research in tuberculosis, died today, his fifty-third birthday, at his home after a long illness.

“Dr. Bossevain was laboratory director of the Colorado Foundation for Research in Tuberculosis for the last 22 years. Despite ill health, he continued his research on a series of molds, one of which has shown unusual laboratory powers in destroying tuberculosis germs.

“Born in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, October 18, 1893, Dr. Bossevain received his M.D. at the University of that city in 1911. He came to the United States in 1923. He had been research professor at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, since 1924. In World War II, he served as a major in the Army Medical Corps, overseas.”

—Contributed by Larry W. Mitich