JOHN DONALD
1923–1996

John Donald Donald (his middle and last names were the same) was born January 19, 1923, in Sussex, and died suddenly on January 2, 1996. He was 72 years old. John enrolled at Brighton Technical College and graduated with a degree in chemistry in 1949. He returned to Brighton (which later became the University of Brighton) in 1951 as a lecturer. In 1965 he became Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, a position he held until his retirement in 1983. He married Beryl in 1950 and already had a small cactus collection, which expanded to include South American dwarf cacti.

From its inception, John was active in the National Cactus and Succulent Society, becoming chairman of his local branch in 1949 and an advisory editor in 1966. He was named a Fellow of that society in 1973. His articles established him as the leading authority on South American cacti. In 1985 John was named a CSSA Fellow for his description of new taxa and his research on the genera *Weingartia*, *Sulcorebutia* and *Rebutia*. He joined the I.O.S. soon after it was founded and from 1976–1982 was its president.

In 1973 he became the editor of the new journal *Ashingtonia*, which was noted for its lavish use of color plates; it lasted a little over eight years. And John became a major contributor, with valuable revisions of *Rebutia*, *Sulcorebutia*, *Weingartia*, *Acanthocalycium*, *Oroya*, *Matucana*, *Mila*, and *Lobivia* as well as other genera. His list of botanical publications is extensive.

Upon his retirement, John went to see plants in habitat for the first time. He was a member of the 1984 Huntington Botanical Gardens’ expedition to Bolivia. He represented the conservative school of taxonomy and was opposed to the excessive splitting of Backeberg and Ritter. He was now able to apply his beliefs to whole populations rather than random samples. John had long promised a monograph, but he failed to finish it. However, a partial revision of *Sulcorebutia* appeared in the CSSA Journal in 1989.

On the Bolivian trip, John developed trench foot and consequently a part of his left foot had to be amputated, but he was still mobile and able to drive a car. At the same time, diabetes was diagnosed, and this led to the heart disease that killed him. For more on John Donald and a picture of him, see this Journal 57(6):276, 1985.

Larry W. Mitich

CACTUS JOURNAL—1898–1899

*The Cactus Journal*, published in England during the closing years of the 19th century, was not the first cactus journal in the English language. *The Baltimore Cactus Journal* (July 1894–April 1896) and *The Sharon Cactus Guide* (October 1896–May 1897), both published in the U.S., preceded it. Both of the latter publications are very rare items and only a few sets of each are known to exist. *The Cactus Journal*, however, enjoyed a better fate. The two-volume set can still be found occasionally in second-hand book stores, and many libraries have it.

The idea for *The Cactus Journal* was conceived in 1897 and F. A. Walton, its aspiring editor, mailed a prospectus to a number of amateur and professional growers asking their opinion. The journal was the outcome of this collective advice and information.

Walton’s ideas for a journal closely parallel those that are employed in cactus and succulent journals nearly a century later. Wrote he: “Cacti and succulent plants generally have become such favourites with amateur plant-growers, on account of their beautiful, curious, and interesting forms; and in many cases magnificent flowers, together with the comparative ease with which they may be grown; and also that there is no publication in the English language devoted to them; we have therefore decided to publish a monthly illustrated paper to be called *The Cactus Journal*.

"In it we shall exclusively deal with Cacti, Euphorbias, Stapelias, Agaves, Aloes, Echeverias, Mesembryanthemums, and other succulent plants; and it will be made as instructive, and interesting as possible. It will be printed in book form, on good paper, with a thick tinted cover, the size of this circular. We shall endeavour to give it as international a character as possible, by inserting specially-written articles, letters, etc., by many of the principal authorities on the subject in both Europe and America, and we hope all the principal collectors and dealers will advertise in it."

Walton concluded the prospectus with this plea: “The Editor will esteem it a favour if anyone receiving this circular will send the names and addresses of friends, or succulent growers, who would be likely to be interested in this subject, and a copy of the first number will be sent. All communications and suggestions must be addressed to the Editor. Any suggestions that may be made will be gladly received and carefully considered.”

The number of copies of the first issue (February 1898) is not known. Each of the two volumes contains 191 pages and numerous illustrations, some being high-quality black and white plates. Sadly, the publication of *The Cactus Journal* ended abruptly with vol. 2, no. 24, January 1900, with no hint that it was to be the final issue of an excellent hobby journal.

Larry W. Mitich