SCOTT HASELTON AND HIS ABBEY GARDEN PRESS

Scott Edson Haselton (1895-1991), Pasadena, California, a truly remarkable and ingenious man, was a great visionary for the CSSA. Not only was he the editor of the Cactus and Succulent Journal from 1929 through 1966 (a span of 37 years), but the author of distinguished books and numerous articles, and publisher extraordinaire.

Scott owned Abbey Garden Press (initially Abbey San Encino Press) in Pasadena, which housed his printing operation. Often forgotten is the number of quality books he published. Would you believe that he published 8500 books containing a total of a half million pages, every page personally composed by him? He watched most of the sheets as they came from a hand-fed cylinder. In addition, he also published 37 years of the CSSA journal, printed thousands of cactus nursery catalogs, and numerous reprints. The total number of pages printed exceeds 500,000!

There is no doubt that Scott strived for quality workmanship in the books he published. He used good quality paper and striking, clearly-produced photographs. This was evident from the start when he published the first edition of The Stapelieae by White and Sloane in 1933, with a press run of 1000 copies. It was indeed an impressive book. This was followed in 1934-1935 with the publication of Van Laren's Succulents Other Than Cacti and Cacti, both with a press run of 1500. The art deco design and the lovely tipped in pictures have made these two volumes classics.

California Cactus, by Baxter, with a press run of 1000 also appeared in 1935. This was the first treatment of native cacti by state. During the years 1937-1939, some hallmark titles were published. The second edition of The Stapelieae by White and Sloane (2500 sets of 3 volumes), highly esteemed and much in demand, was issued in 1937 to worldwide acclaim; the 1937 reprint of The Cactaceae by Britton and Rose (1000 sets of 4 volumes) made these important volumes available to collectors (the 4 volume de luxe edition of Britton and Rose with a press run of 500 copies also appeared in 1937); and in 1938, two popular works appeared—Cacti for the Amateur (21,500 copies in six printings, through 1958), and 3000 copies of Glossary of Succulent Plant Terms by Marshall and Woods, which includes the 1945 reprint.

Scott had good relations with William Hertrich, curator of the Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, and publish three of his works. From 1938 to 1961, he printed 15,000 copies of his Guide to the Desert Plant Collection; Palms and Cycads, 1100 copies, 1951; and the two-volume Camellias in the Huntington Garden was printed in 1954-1955 with 1600 copies each.

In 1939 J. R. Brown's Succulents for the Amateur, another very popular book, was issued. Through 1960, 15000 copies had been printed. However, many copies were lost in the Abbey Garden fire in October 1960.

More great books were on the way! Colorado Cacti by Boissevain (one of my prime favorites) was published in 1940 with a press run of 2000. In 1941 the monumental two-volume The Succulent Euporbieae by White, Dyer and Sloane (1750 sets) was issued. This was another exceedingly fine work and even today is still very much in demand. Unfortunately, some copies were lost in the 1960 fire.
Also in 1941, *The Cactaceae* by Marshall and Bock appeared. Only 1000 copies were printed, but reprints have appeared since then.

During the World War II years, Scott did not slow his pace. He issued the very popular *Amateur Bulletin* (2000 copies) in 1942, the same year that the translation of Werdermann's *Brazil and Its Columnar Cacti* (1450 copies) appeared. Scott hit the jackpot in 1943 with his *Cacti and Succulents and How to Grow Them*, a slim volume that saw 127,000 copies printed by 1961. An additional 50,000 copies have been printed since then. I would like to see the CSSA issue a similar book.

Also published during the war years, Woods' *Naturalist Lexicon* (2000 copies, 1944); Hummel's highly successful *Hummel's Picture Book* (3000 copies, 1944); Cutak's booklet *Night Blooming Cereus and its Allies* (2000 copies, 1945); and Robert Craig's outstanding *Mammillaria Handbook*, the first book to cover a single genus of cacti (1200 copies, 1945). Craig's book has been reprinted many times since then.

The first edition of Scott's *The Epiphyllum Handbook* (2100 copies) was issued in 1946. The revised edition (1900 copies) appeared in 1951. The next year Scott published W. Taylor Marshall's *Succulent Plants* (1000 copies). It was a real innovation because the text was accompanied by 20 stereoscopic reels and a View-Master. (In 1947 Sawyer's, Portland, Oregon, issued a reprint.) The text is still available on the secondhand book market, but the reels are impossible to find.

In 1947 the *Supplement for Naturalists Lexicon* by Woods (2000 copies) appeared followed by *Phyllocactus* (500 copies), a translation of Knebel's German work. Then in 1951, *The Cactaceae* by Marshall and Bock was reprinted with a press run of 500 copies.

During the next four years-1954-1957-seven works appeared, including the two camellia books by Hertrich. J. R. Brown's picture book *Unusual Plants* (1650 copies) probably was the most popular. But Cutak's *Growing and Enjoying Succulents* (1200 copies) also found favor.

Scott published his last three books in 1957. First was *Culture of California Plants in Rancho Santa Botanical Garden* by Everett (1000 copies), Franz Buxbaum's excellent *Morphology of Cacti* (500 copies in three parts), and finally *Native Plants for California Gardens* by Lenz (2500 copies).

Over the years, Scott issued reprints of 45 journal articles and published cactus nursery catalogs for, among others, Poindexter, Gates, Knickerbocker, Houghton, Hummel, Ventura Epiphyllum Gardens, Kelly, Beahm, and Cactus Pete. Oh yes, he also published magazines, including *The Orchid Journal, Aliso, Lasca Leaves, Euphorbia Review*, and *Cymbidium News*.

He was named a CSSA Fellow on 16 January 1942 for his many major contributions to the society and the hobby.