

## Harold E. Moore, Jr.

*July 7, 1917 — October 17, 1980*

Harold E. Moore, Jr., Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of Botany in the L. H. Bailey Hortorium, was a man of character and integrity, who exemplified the scholarly tradition of the academic profession.

Hal, as he was known to his colleagues and many friends, was born in Winthrop, Massachusetts, but spent most of his boyhood in the town of Sharon. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Massachusetts State College in 1939 and his Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in 1940 and 1942 from Harvard University, where his major interest was systematic botany. From 1942 through 1946, Hal served in the United States Army, being stationed in Texas as a medical officer. Following his discharge, he received his first Guggenheim Fellowship, the tenure of which was spent in Mexico studying the genus *Geranium* and the flora of the State of Hidalgo. These studies were continued as a postdoctoral student and technical assistant at the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University. In 1948, at the request of Liberty Hyde Bailey, he joined the staff of the hortorium as assistant professor of botany. He was appointed associate professor in 1951, and professor and director of the hortorium in 1960. He relinquished his administrative duties in 1969. In 1978 he was appointed Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of Botany.

When Hal joined the hortorium, it was housed in the carnage house and adjoining buildings that had been part of the Bailey homestead on Sage Place. In that unique and close environment, working with Dr. Bailey, Miss Ethel Zoe Bailey, and Dr. George H. M. Lawrence, Hal initiated a truly remarkable research career that encompassed two principal interests. The first dealt with the systematics of the palm family, the second with that of cultivated plants.

Hal's most obvious contributions have been to the knowledge of the palms. He was without question the world's authority on this economically and biologically important group of plants. He circled the tropical regions of the globe in search of little-known and elusive species. He spent some five years of his professional life in the field and acquired an intimate and unsurpassed knowledge of these fascinating plants. Hal's interests in palms, however, encompassed far more than traditional taxonomic study. He saw the necessity of integrating all possible approaches in attempting to understand them as plants and to understand evolution within the family. This realization led to the initiation of a broad program of study involving research associates, collaborators, graduate students, and technicians. Studies of floral anatomy, carried on in collaboration with Dr. Natalie W. Uhl, were important in delineating subfamilies of palms and produced new insights into the structure of the palm flower. They have

proven relevant to understanding the evolution not only of palms, but also of the monocotyledons as a whole. Other incisive and collaborative research dealt with ultrastructure, pollination biology, cytology, chemistry, and statistical analyses of morphological data. The importance of this work has been recognized widely, and Hal's research enjoyed strong financial support from a variety of sources, particularly the National Science Foundation.

The cultivated flora of the world is not bounded geographically, and to deal with it effectively requires knowledge of great breadth. Of Hal's nearly three hundred published papers, over one-third were concerned with the systematics and nomenclature of many horticulturally important families, including members of the geranium, amaryllis, squash, and spiderwort families. For years he held a strong interest in the conifers, and before he was completely overtaken by his studies of the palms, he was the recognized authority on the New World members of the African violet family, authoring the widely sought book, *African Violets, Gloxinias, and Their Relatives*.

He was a principal contributor to *Hortus Third*, the hortorium's dictionary of plants cultivated in the United States and Canada. Not only did he produce a significant portion of the manuscript but he also edited a large percentage of the text, bringing it to his own high standards for publication. In fact, one of Hal's greatest talents and joys was in editorial work. As editor of *Principes*, the journal of the Palm Society, for over twenty years, and later of *Gentes Herbarum*, one of the scientific journals of the hortorium, he consistently was able to bring clarity to ideas and produce publications of outstanding scientific reputation. Only collaborators or authors whose papers had been edited by Hal could know how extensive, objective, and meticulous was his editing and writing.

Hal's appointment initially involved no formal teaching, yet he became an outstanding teacher, not because of spellbinding lectures but because he possessed an enormous botanical knowledge that he willingly shared quietly and fully. Most of Hal's teaching involved students at the graduate level. He dealt with all students majoring in systematic botany with equal concern, whether or not they were his direct responsibility. His interests in botany were catholic, and he served as a rallying point for students in organismic botany by opening his home to them for discussion of fundamental botanical problems as well as for social events. He particularly enjoyed his tropical plant-families course, which provided him with an opportunity to discuss the many facets of his knowledge of tropical biotas. His enthusiasm was contagious, and it influenced careers of many graduate students, both at Cornell and elsewhere. The daily accumulation of letters from the far reaches of the globe stands in testimony to the extent of his influence.

Through the years, Hal's interest in tropical botany gave Cornell a resource unavailable in most institutions, even when the needs for such expertise had become widely recognized. He was an active participant and member of

the Board of Directors of the Organization of Tropical Studies, located in Costa Rica. His intimate knowledge of the flora of that country and of other unique floras, for example, that of New Caledonia, permitted him to be of assistance both to North American scholars and to those residing in the countries that he visited. He never failed to extend a kind and helping hand to those who assisted him in the field; thus he was always at home in his world travels.

At Cornell Hal took an active interest in library development, serving on both the University Library Board and the Mann Library Committee. He was influential in the affairs of the Cornell Plantations, having been a member of the Cornell Plantations Committee for some sixteen years. He served on the Committee to Visit the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, was chairman of the Research Committee of the Pacific Tropical Botanical Garden, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Fairchild Tropical Garden and the Palm Society. He was a member of the Standing Committee on the Stabilization of Specific Names for a succession of botanical congresses. In addition to a second Guggenheim Fellowship, he was also the recipient of the Founders Medal of the Fairchild Tropical Garden.

Hal was deeply moved by, and appreciative of, the action of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in recognizing his contributions to both science and the University by naming him Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of Botany. It was a fitting honor. His total commitment to the ideals of the University, his honesty and compassion, and the encouragement, help, and trust that he so generously extended to those who knew him followed in the tradition of Dr. Bailey. Hal was aware of the dual needs of science and humanity, and he served both of these constituencies equally well.

*Natalie W. Uhl, Harlan P. Banks, David M. Bates*