

Miscellaneous notes

NEW EDITOR FOR *BOTHALIA*

The first volume of *Bothalia*, house journal of the National Botanical Institute (NBI) of South Africa, was published in 1921. It was produced by the Division of Botany and Plant Pathology, Department of Agriculture, Pretoria, one of the precursors of the NBI. Dr I.B. Pole Evans (Figure 1), the initiator of *Bothalia*, named the journal after the late General Louis Botha, 'in view of the great agricultural development which has taken place in South Africa, since Union, and bearing in mind that much of this was due to the policy and influence of the first Union Premier and Minister for Agriculture' (preface to *Bothalia* 1: 1, 1921). Since its inception the journal has published scientific papers mainly in the fields of plant taxonomy/systematics and ecology, focusing primarily on the rich southern African flora.

The editorial policy of *Bothalia* has throughout been one of maintaining and promoting excellence in scientific publishing. This is reflected in, amongst others, the maintenance for many years of a high Impact Factor, as measured by the ISI Citation Index. This factor is calculated from the number of times that an article is cited from *Bothalia* in a given year.

From its first appearance in 1921, until June 1997, *Bothalia* has had five editors. They were: Drs I.B. Pole Evans (1921–1939) (Figure 1); R.A. Dyer (1941–1957)

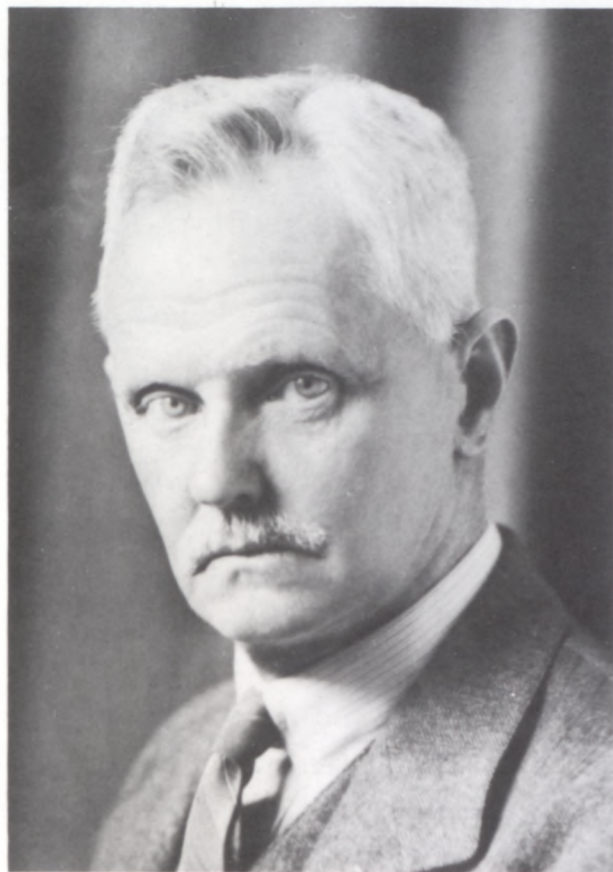


FIGURE 1.—I.B. Pole Evans, editor from 1921–1939.



FIGURE 2.—R.A. Dyer, editor from 1941–1957.

(Figure 2); L.E. Codd (1958–1974) (Figure 3); D.J.B. Killick (May 1975–1985) (Figure 4); and O.A. Leistner (Figure 5), who served as editor from 1986 until his retirement from this post in June 1997. It was recently announced that Mr Gerrit Germishuizen (Figure 6) will fill this position from 1 July 1997. Mr Germishuizen has worked at the NBI for more than 21 years. He started out as Professional Officer in Wing B (Phillips Wing) of the National Herbarium during 1975, where he curated and identified members of the Fabaceae, Polygonaceae, Lorantheae and Viscaceae. In 1994 he was appointed Assistant Curator: Finance for the herbarium. His lengthy association with the artist Anita Fabian has led to the publication of the books *Transvaal wild flowers* in 1982 and *Wild flowers of northern South Africa* in 1997. To date he has more than 70 publications to his credit.

On behalf of the contributors to and readership of *Bothalia*, Gerrit is wished well with his venture into this new field. Together with the rest of the staff of the Scientific Publications Unit of the NBI, Mmes Henriette du Plessis (Head), Emsie du Plessis (Technical Editor), Bev Momberg (Technical Editor), Sarie Brink (Chief Typesetter), and Daleen Maree (Senior Typist) he will be



FIGURE 3.—L.E. Codd, editor from 1958–1974.

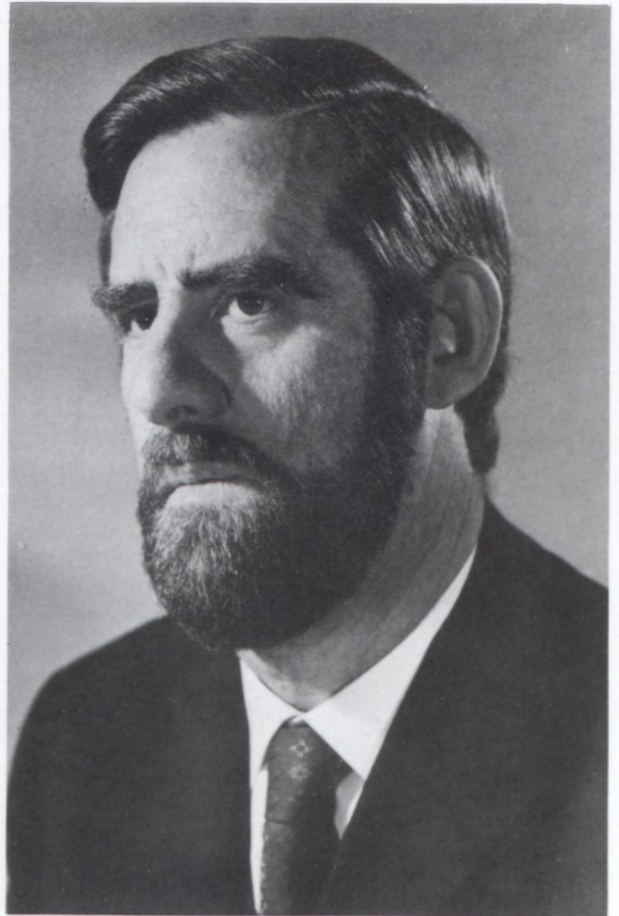


FIGURE 4.—D.J.B. Killick, editor from 1975–1985.



FIGURE 5.—O.A. Leistner, editor from 1986 to June 1997.



FIGURE 6.—G. Germishuizen.

called upon to maintain and improve the scientific value and impact of *Bothalia* and the Institute's other publications.

Dr Leistner has been appointed on a contract to edit *Families and genera of southern African seed plants*. It is

anticipated that this single volume update of R.A. Dyer's *Families and genera of southern African flowering plants* will be published in 1999.

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