2010

HEATHERS 7

Yearbook of The Heather Society

ISSN 0440-5757

THE HEATHER SOCIETY

Registered charity No 261407

Affiliated societies
Nederlandse Heidevereniging 'Ericultura'
Gesellschaft der Heidefreunde
North American Heather Society

FRONT COVER:
Study of the individual florets of eight cultivars of winter heath (*Erica carnea*) by Brita Johansson (1989): reproduced by permission. (For a key see p. 73.) This study was published in *Trädgårdsamatören* 1990 within an article by Brita entitled "Alpin ljung – *Erica carnea*". Scale approx × 0.3.

Heathers 7

Yearbook of The Heather Society
2010

third series

Editor
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ISSN 0440-5757

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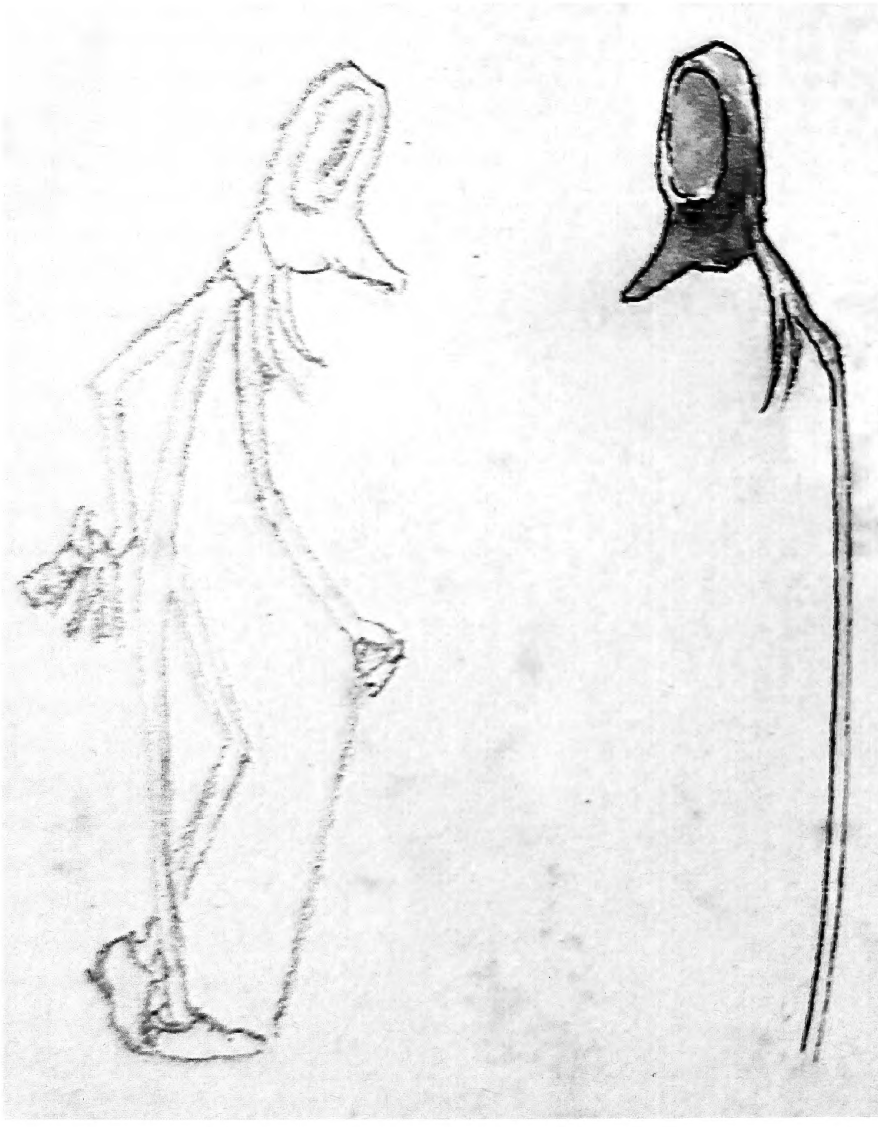

Frontispiece
Thomas Paterson Stokoe's sketch (enlarged) of the stamens of one of his discoveries, *Erica vallis-aranearum*, attached to his herbarium collection (see p. 61).

Heathers 7 (2010): 1-7

A lowland-heath garden

Bryon Roberts
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There is a view currently held in horticulture, particularly by the Royal Horticultural Society, that mixed plantings are preferable to single plantings such as a rose or heather bed. Not only is it considered that plants look better but they grow better and are less susceptible to disease.

The recent publication *Gardening with hardy heathers* (Small and Wulff 2008) has a chapter on plant associations and notes that heathers and conifers naturally complement each other and few would dissent from this view. However Small and Wulff note that conifers tend to grow large and ultimately have to be removed.

It can be argued that the best plant associations are natural ones, for example, the garden meadow or a prairie planting. It appears clear therefore that if there is to be a mixed planting of heathers then one should look to nature. In 2007 and 2008 the Yorkshire Group of The Heather Society visited lowland heath sites at Strensall Common and Skipwith Common near York and an opportunity was sought to record the plant associations on these two sites and if possible reproduce these in the garden.

Strensall Common is situated north of York, some 25 miles from the garden in Leeds. It is the property of the Ministry of Defence but it is open to the public on certain days of the week. It is managed by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Situated on the large, post-glacial plain of York, the underlying soil is sandy but large deposits of peat retain water and there were many pools when we visited. On the "islands" between the pools and on areas of higher ground grow cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix)* in the wettest parts and ling (*Calluna vulgaris*) in the drier parts. Accompanying the heathers were clumps of purple moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and rushes (*Juncus* species). The heathland is managed by sheep-grazing, and much of the *Calluna vulgaris* was grazed rather short as was the purple moor-grass.

The garden is situated in north-east Leeds. Its outlook to the north is of open countryside. To the east, west and south it is inner-city Leeds. The average annual rainfall is approximately 28 inches (700mm) but there has been heavy summer rain for the past two years. The hardiness (climate) zone is equivalent to the USDA zone 7; the pH of the soil is 6.7. The garden is basically a woodland garden situated on an ancient sandstone quarry with

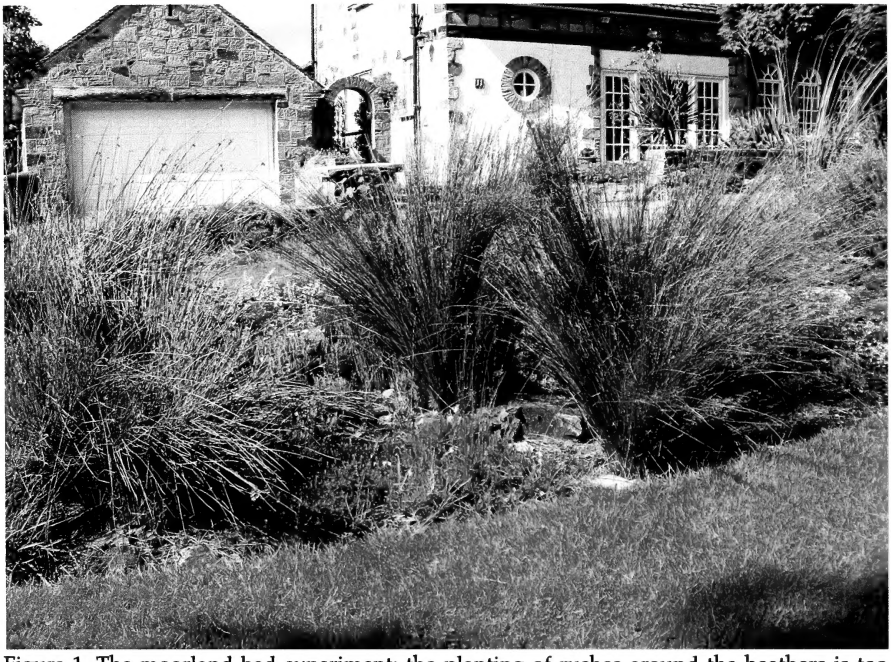


Figure 1. The moorland bed experiment: the planting of rushes around the heathers is too dense: July 2009, two years after planting.

old broad-leaved trees and larches. The garden as a whole was extensively planted with heathers over the past 40 years but in 1976 and 1995 severe droughts occurred. As no irrigation was possible losses were extreme; all *Calluna* and bell heathers (*Erica cinerea*) were lost. The only survivors were *Erica arborea* 'Alpina' and *E.* × *darleyensis*. Both *E. arborea* (tree heath) and *E. cinerea* seed freely in the garden.

The heather bed described here is on a bank of sandstone rubble covered with 1–2 inches (2.5–5cm) of soil. It is extremely well drained. The heather bed measures 6m × 2m (18ft × 6ft) and gets full sun from 11.00am onwards. It was originally planted with *Daboecia* and *Erica cinerea* but inadequate watering led to significant losses so the opportunity was taken to replant and create a lowland heath garden though a good deal more irrigation would be needed. The senescent *E. cinerea* were stripped from the garden though the

Figure 2. The experimental bed of moorland plants, one year after planting.

Figure 3. Grasses, rushes and heathers one year after planting.

Daboecia was left as it was undamaged. According to modern horticultural practice, the soil was not dug which would have destroyed soil structure but a good deal of composted bark, which promotes heather growth (Geoffrey Smith pers. comm.) was incorporated into the top 2–3 inches (5–8cm) of soil. A wet area was dug more deeply and extra bark added. The bed was left several months and emerging weeds killed by herbicide. The bed, however, contained many sandstone rocks.

The planting pattern attempted to reproduce that seen in the heathland. In the wet area was planted *Erica tetralix* 'Alba Mollis' with hybrids *E.* × *stuartii* 'Irish Lemon', *E.* × *watsonii* 'Dawn' and *E.* × *williamsii* 'Jean Julian'. Around this was a ring of *Calluna vulgaris. Erica cinerea,* although not seen in the heathland, was planted in the outer marginal area. The wet area was surrounded by rushes planted in groups of three. Purple moor-grass was planted in groups of three through the next ring of *Calluna* and the outer ring of *E. cinerea.* To simulate the pattern of *Calluna* that had been grazed by sheep several cushion forms were planted. I had seen several varieties of *Molinia* at the RHS Garden at Harlow Carr but did not know if any garden

Figure 4. Rushes, grasses and heathers in full flower July 2009.

varieties of rush existed. Knoll Gardens are well-known growers of grasses and the catalogue was consulted. Several cultivars of purple moor-grass and rush were selected on the basis of catalogue descriptions. Most of these had never been seen growing in a garden by the author.

This assessment is written two years after planting. During the first year there was excessive rainfall and an outbreak of a fungal disease affected the site. About fifteen plants were lost, mainly *Erica cinerea*. Good growth was obtained in 2009 and the heathers showed youthful vigour and gave a superb display of flowers. The moor-grass and rushes grew well and displayed their full potential. The overall appearance to the author's eye was pleasing; there was a variation in shades of green, and in the height and shape among the grasses and rushes, and these contrasted well with the heathers. The big mistake was to plant the rushes in groups of three; the clumps ended up too large and, more significantly, the individual shapes of the rush plants were obscured.

Individually the performance of grasses and rushes was as follows:

Molinia caerulea subsp. *caerulea*: the naturally occurring subspecies (found extensively in Britain and Ireland) from which the following cultivars are derived:

'Edith Dudszus': 80cm. Delicate greenish blue foliage with rich purple flowers turning brown in winter. Deciduous. Very good background for the heathers. Recommended.

'Moorflamme': 90cm. Mounds of green foliage with delicate arching stems and attractive flowers. Develops good autumn colours. Deciduous. Very good contrast with heathers. Recommended.

'Moorhexe': 1m. Clumps of green leaves with vertical flower spikes and architectural flowers. Makes an excellent contrast with heathers. Strongly recommended.

Molinia caerulea subsp. *arundinacea*: the second naturally occurring subspecies (less common in Britain and Ireland) from which the following cultivar is derived:

'Zuneigung': 2m. A very elegant and beautiful grass with tall slender stems and arching panicles of flowers. This is a spectacular plant moving elegantly with the slightest breeze. Provides an excellent vertical accent for the heather bed, and spreads slowly. Strongly recommended.

Figure 5. Cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*) with dense background of purple moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) in the wild on Strensall Common (photograph by courtesy of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust).

Juncus patens (common rush) is native in western North America; its cultivars include:

'Carman's Gray': 80cm. Has vertical needle-like blue foliage with brown flowers. Provides an excellent contrast with heathers. Evergreen. Recommended.

'Elk Blue': 70cm. Again has needle-like blue leaves but appears floppy and loses its shape. Not recommended.

Juncus effusus (soft-rush) is native in Britain and Ireland.

'Carman's Japanese': 1.1m. Has beautiful dark green arching leaves with light green flowers. Recommended.

Juncus ensifolius (swordleaf rush), another species from North America and eastern Asia: 40cm. This is a low growing plant with green leaves

and a brown flower at the top of the leaf. It is attractive to look at but does not blend with heathers. Not recommended.

Juncus sp. (with permission of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust): 1m. Two seedlings were obtained from Strensall Common two years ago and in garden conditions they have grown vigorously to form large clumps. They have however a good architectural shuttlecock form. They look well in the heather garden. They should be planted singly and will need dividing every two to three years. Qualified recommendation

In conclusion, various rushes and purple moor-grass have been planted on an experimental basis, with heathers, to reproduce the association seen in a lowland heath. All the grasses can be recommended; they are delicate, non-invasive and provide variation of colour throughout the seasons until late winter when the vegetation finally collapses. The rushes provide strong architectural contrasts with the heather and grasses. Not all are recommended. They should be planted singly and need dividing every few years. They do seed freely but this can add to the wild character of the garden.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for conducting the Yorkshire Group of The Heather Society around Strensall Common and the excellent photograph. Rushes and grasses were supplied by Knoll Gardens. Composted bark was supplied by J.Arthur Bowers; it is free from recycled materials.

Reference

SMALL, D. & WULFF, E. M. T., 2008. *Gardening with hardy heathers.* Portland (Oregon) & London.

"Back to Front" from the west side.

St Dabeoc's heaths with bell heather and *Agapanthus*.

Heathers 7 (2010): 8-12

Hampton Court 2009

Susie Kay
Lettergesh, Renvyle, County Galway, Ireland.

Two years ago the British Heather Growers Association felt it would be good for promoting heathers to take either a stand or a "small garden" space at the RHS Hampton Court Show. As we all know heathers have fallen away from the public eye and need to be brought back into prominence in the garden. A "small garden" was decided on as the best way forward. For the design of the space, two ladies who have a company called "Down to Earth Design" were approached. They quickly produced a plan which would showcase heathers amongst more fashionable plants, to give ideas which could be used in the smaller gardens that people have in the twenty first century.

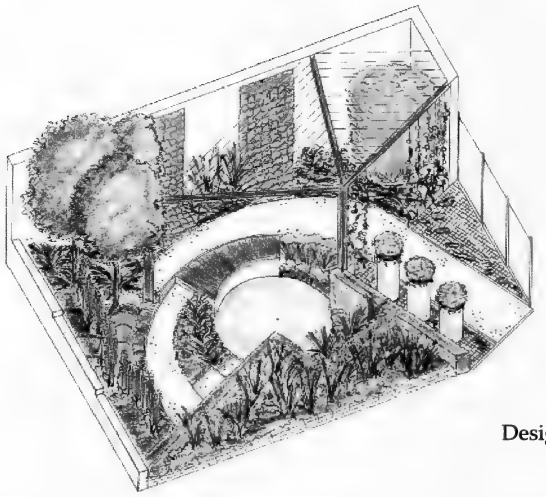
The area that is provided for the "small gardens" measures 7.5 × 5.5m. To fit all their conceptual thoughts, the plants required a lot of juggling around, but six months before the show, a design had been approved and the final plans put in place. A lot of team work has to take place at this stage. The hard landscaping had to be sourced even before the plants are thought about.

The ladies who run "Down to Earth Design" are Claire Bryant and Jackie Edwards. They decided the best way to approach the construction of the garden was to live on site. They moved a caravan to Hampton Court so that they were available for every stage of the building process. Families were left behind and the garden took over their lives. The time allocated for construction is two weeks and for this period, the sun shone and the rain stayed away. I'm sure there were some frantic moments, but I was not there and so I am not party to them, but I know plants were delivered, just in their prime, and were planted in accordance with the grand plan.

The Heather Society had agreed to print the necessary leaflets to explain the garden and we were also to use a leaflet on heathers recently issued by the RHS. At these shows the public are always avid for printed matter, which must be concise and exact.

Judging took place on Monday 6 July. On the evening, there was a grand reception with fireworks, which could even be heard in Surbiton where I was staying.

The first day of the Hampton Court Show is only for RHS members and their guests. I had been sent an exhibitor's badge and whilst waiting for the train to Hampton Court, I looked around and was surprised to see other people proudly displaying their badges.



Design impression of "Back to Front".

The Daily Telegraph had kindly printed a map the previous Saturday so I was easily able to find my way to the BHGA garden.

I had seen pictures of the design, but was totally unprepared for how "Back to Front" actually looked. STUNNING. David Edge, our Chairman and the supplier of some of the plants, met me and introduced Claire and Jackie. Their smiles were huge and the excitement almost uncontainable. "Back to Front" had been awarded a Silver Gilt Medal. This was the first time they had exhibited and the first time a garden featuring heathers had won a medal.

I now had a chance to examine closely the design and use of the plants; thank goodness I had a list and was able to do some homework.

Many features had been woven together to create a beautiful space which incorporated both summer and winter heathers alongside plants the members of The Heather Society may have never considered before. *Agapanthus* and *Heuchera*, and *Clematis* 'Black Prince' climbing up a pergola.

The idea behind the name was to depict a front garden as well as a back garden, cleverly connected by a spiral walkway to a small central area of grass. There was an area for sitting to enjoy a cup of tea after the hard labours of gardening. The garden could be viewed from three sides, which really gave different aspects.

We were a team of three, David Edge, Phil Joyner and I, along with the lady designers. At 10 o'clock, the gates were opened and it was all hands on deck. We were situated just close to the Stud Gate Car Park Entrance, which

is on the north side of the Longwater. This was an excellent position as all the punters had to pass our garden. So they came, they saw, they jostled, they exclaimed, they photographed, they asked questions. We were soon surrounded by people doing all of these things. Not really knowing what was expected of me, I went on a very steep learning curve. I had to dredge up all sorts of ericaceous knowledge, which must have been embedded in my psyche after years of reading books and hands-on experience. I soon had the companion plants off pat with both Latin and cultivar names.

The interest in this garden was enormous and sometimes the crowd was three or four deep all the way around. I now know how royalty and celebs feel as cameras flashed; it wasn't me they were photographing, but the garden and individual plants. All day long the adjectives and exclamations poured out. There were "Oohs" and "Aahs", "beautiful", "stunning", "fabulous" and every other word that this garden merited. There were also comments that the garden should have won a gold medal. I agreed!

Twenty three heather cultivars were displayed, but the one that stood out, in my opinion, was *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Amelie', a red one bred by Kurt Kramer. I was rather surprised that not one person knew St Dabeoc's heath, which emphasizes that heathers are not in the mainstream of most gardeners' remits. In the herbaceous department, *Verbena bonariensis* was most commented on, but that might be because it was in my corner.

We are always promoting heathers as a haven for wildlife and almost as if it had been ordered, bees and butterflies landed on the precious heathers.

And what about the weather? It had not been a good forecast and about once every hour the sky would darken, a clap of thunder and the heavens opened. As the first few drops fell, there would be a rush for the nearest cover, but there was not much cover where we were, so up would go the umbrellas and the pathways became as colourful as the gardens. All sorts of rain-gear was donned and we helpers would get a break from handing out leaflets. The storm would pass and slowly the crowd at the garden would gather again. By now the paths are a sea of mud and any lady with pale coloured trousers had brown spots up the legs. I also studied the footwear of the visitors and the majority had opted for comfort rather than style. How sensible! The day wore on, more and more leaflets were handed out, more questions asked and answered with greater confidence as time passed. There were many enquiries about what was growing in the vertical planting that formed the back wall. I had read quite a bit about vertical planting in various articles and this was a brilliant example. Sometimes, for fun, I would ask the visitors to guess what the plant was and they nearly always said "Conifer",

but it was *Erica carnea* 'Foxhollow', so in winter there would be a wall of pale purple, which would add tone to the *E. erigena* and *E.* × *darleyensis.*

Around 6 o'clock the crowds started to thin and at 6:45pm came the welcome announcement that the gates would be closing at 7 o'clock. Our team had been working since 10 o'clock and we were more than ready for a rest and a glass of beer or wine.

David and I were back for the second day feeling like "pros" now. Thankfully, overnight workers had laid huge snaking paths of bark mulch over the mud, which would certainly make the walking easier. For this day, Julian Fitz-Earle joined the "Old Hands" and we soon initiated him into the practices we found had worked the day before. Ten o'clock again, and in surged the crowds. A whole new mass of people who wanted to know about this wonderful garden. The answers are rolling off pat now and I can even explain various features of the hard landscaping. We didn't need to do any watering as God had provided rain.

There were some wonderful comments about how the small patch of grass could be cut and it was mainly agreed that scissors would work.

Not much rain on this second day and always lots of good humour and repartee to help the hours pass. Seven o'clock came and it was all over and we were congratulating ourselves again on the interest shown in the heathers. I was to go home the next day, but how I wished I could have helped every day of the show. It was such fun meeting the public and explaining why they needed to plant heathers in their garden, whatever type of soil they had.

We had hoped that hundreds of visitors would sign up for membership of The Heather Society, but this was a dream. Ali and Julian Fitz-Earle have received enquiries about plants, which could be a start towards increasing membership.

But "Back to Front" did re-introduce heathers to the public and hopefully showed the possibility of having colour all year round in the garden. Also, The Heather Society fulfilled one of the criteria of being a charity by educating the public. Congratulations must go to Claire and Jackie for their design and the hard, practical work that went in to making the ideas into reality. The British Heather Growers Association should be commended for deciding to promote heathers at such an important venue in the gardening world.

Was it all worth it? Of course it was! Seeing heather plants in tip-top condition, being admired by so many people, and the interest shown in "Back to Front" cannot be dismissed as worthless.

Heathers 7 (2010): 13-15

The long-lost *Erica greyi*

E. G. H. Oliver

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Francis Guthrie and Harry Bolus produced the first local revision of the genus *Erica* in South Africa in 1905; Guthrie a retired professor of mathematics and Bolus a retired stockbroker, both coming from England in the mid 1800s. In this work they recognized 467 species, with the great majority occurring only in the "Cape Floristic Region". This massive work was very difficult to produce due to the repository of early specimens being in various European herbaria with all the early literature in their libraries. Many visits had to be made to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the British Museum (Natural History) in London with loans requested from other herbaria.

In sorting out the material that they had themselves collected in the Cape or acquired from other local and visiting collectors, and by comparing these with what they saw in London and in the old literature, they produced a work that was an astonishingly good basis for future research on this mega genus. Today there are at least 750 species recorded for South Africa, a fact which would have surprised them.

Figure 1. Close-up of flowers of *Erica greyi*.

Figure 2. Low compact plants of *Erica greyi* with the tell-tale, white sugar-like sand.

From their studies they described two *Erica* species based on single collections – *E. greyi*, collected somewhere in the Cold Bokkeveld north of Ceres on 6 June – the year is not stated* – by Admiral Sir Frederick William Grey, and *E. auriculata* collected at Kleinvlei in the Cold Bokkeveld by the German collector Rudolph Schlechter in January 1896. During the pictorial recording of the characters of all the South African species my late wife, Inge Oliver (*Heathers* **1**: 55, 2004), noted the unusual , "eared" anthers, hence its name *auriculata*, of the latter species which was, alas, mostly in late bud stage. Then she remembered having seen the same anthers in *E. greyi* and we realised that they were one and the same species. But those were the only collections with none having been made in the twentieth century. Thus began a long and careful hunt for the species by several persons, Willem Hanekom of Citrusdal (see *Yearbook of The Heather Society* 1999: 42), Ross Turner, and by my wife and myself. Ross scoured the mountains around Kleinvlei and camped at altitude there for several days. All this was without any success. We had borrowed the Grey collection from Kew and the Schlechter specimen from the Bolus Herbarium, University of Cape Town. An examination under the microscope revealed fine sand grains attached to the slightly sticky hairs. This gave us a clue to the possible habitat – small patches of open, level ground with white, sugar-like, quartzitic sand.

Early in 2009 I was going through specimens of *Erica* that were sent to me for identification in the Compton Herbarium, Kirstenbosch. One batch came from the team of young women employed by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to collect seeds for the Millennium Seed Bank project (the MSB ladies/girls). To my great surprise one of the collections from the end of 2008 turned out to be *Erica greyi* with a few flowers. Soon I got the precise GPS co-ordinates for the plants from the MSB girls and planned a trip to the area. Fortunately my Heather Society friends, Susie and Alan Kay, were visiting the Cape at the time and we had planned to go to the Cold Bokkeveld for some hikes to look for *Erica*. So the Kays, Ross and I went off in search of the prize in February 2009 based on the data of Schlechter's collection.

The plants were easily found in full bloom alongside a jeep track beyond some extensive fruit orchards about 18km north-west of Kleinvlei. The plants were growing very localised on a level, small plateau in white sand between restiad clumps! What a celebration there was seeing this species in the flesh at long last. Those strange anthers with their ear-like appendages were easily recognised. Good photos were taken, full herbarium specimens made and material for the DNA project safely packed in a bag. The manager of the large fruit farm was thrilled with the discovery and said he would keep an eye on the plants.

Figure 3. The Kays and Ross Turner in the locality with the plants hidden between the restiad clumps.

Three weeks later I was flying to a meeting in Pretoria and when passing over the Cold Bokkeveld could see the smoke from a fire set off by a lightning strike in the mountains between Kleinvlei and the farm. On my return, I was told that the population had been burnt out, but that the manager had found some survivors in a small unburnt area nearby. Knowing Cape *Erica*, I was satisfied that the species would be alright seeing that the plants were relatively old and had undoubtedly set quite a bit of seed that would be in the top layers of the sandy soil and would germinate nicely following the all-important action of the smoke and then the first rains and cold snap of autumn a month or so later.

Note

* The specimen was received at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, from Admiral Grey in September 1860 (according to a label attached to the sheet). Therefore 1860 is not necessarily the year of collection despite statements to this effect in various sources.

Reference

GUTHRIE, F. & BOLUS, H., 1905. *Erica*, pp 4–315 in THISTLETON-DYER, W. T. (editor), *Flora capensis* **4.**

Figure 1. 'African Showgirl', photographed in Japan by Takayuki Kobayashi. This bears no resemblance to the heath raised by John Williams and named after John Willmore.

Heathers 7 (2010): 17- 20

'African Showgirl': a new name for a misnamed Cape heath

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"Cape heath" is an informal moniker used for any species of *Erica* (heather) that is native to South Africa, most especially those which occur wild in the "biodiversity hotspot" designated as the "Cape Floristic Region". This region contains at least 700 species of *Erica* (95% of the genus) (Oliver 2000), a large number of which were first described and named during the late eighteenth century and first half of the nineteenth century when Cape heaths became exceedingly popular in the gardens of wealthy individuals in western Europe. The fashion for cultivating the finicky Cape heaths led to a proliferation of artificial hybrids, some of which were passed off as "new species just raised from seed imported from the Cape of Good Hope" by the less scrupulous nurserymen. Consequently, there was also a proliferation of names, many of which were quickly redundant because the plants to which they had been given died out soon after they were raised. The African section of *International register of heather names* database, which includes the names of Cape heaths, contains more than 6,200 entries of which almost two-thirds represent taxa at the rank of species (including primary hybrids); in contrast the European (hardy) section of the database comprises around 2,500 names of which less than a tenth are for species and inter-specific hybrids (see Nelson & Small 2000, 2004).

Among the now redundant names given to Cape heath hybrids raised in gardens is *Erica* × *willmorei* Knowles & Westcott which was a tribute to John Willmore of Oldford, Birmingham (Knowles & Westcott 1838), who assembled a "rich collection" of exotic plants; he is also commemorated in a tropical orchid, *Cyrtopodium willmorei* (syn. *C. punctatum*). Willmore's gardener, John Williams, had raised the hybrid Cape heath, the parents of which are unknown, during the early 1830s. We can be certain that the name *E.* × *willmorei* cannot be applied to any extant Cape heath because, fortunately, when it was published a fine hand-coloured illustration was also issued (Figure 2). This shows that the flowers of Willmore's heath were ovoid-tubular, "of a bright but rather pale red" while each of the four corolla lobes was "a beautiful green with a distinct white margin".

While the original hybrid perhaps perished soon after the publication of the name, the name itself persisted and was given to other plants which

Figure 2. John Willmore's heath: the only illustration known showing the original *Erica* × *willmorei*. Note the colour and shape of the flowers. Reduced; by courtesy of Birmingham Botanic Gardens.

do not match the original description (for discussion see Nelson & Oliver 2003). This seems to have started soon after publication judging by extant herbarium material. By the 1800s the name had also been so mutated that the following variants are known: *willmorei* (the correct original), *willmoreana, willmoriana, wilmorea, wilmorei, wilmoreii, wilmoreana, wilmoriana, villmoreana, villmoriniana, vilmoreana* and *vilmoriniana* (Nelson & Small 2004).

Today the name *Erica* × *willmorei* persists in horticulture but it is not a correct name for any extant Cape heath nor any of their hybrid progeny. It is most usually associated with a fine, showy plant with bright cerise/crimson ("shocking pink") tubular flowers, tipped with white (Figures 1 and 3), which is unlike any known species from South Africa and is indubitably a horticultural hybrid. Indeed, it is very probable that this plant is the one shown in several illustrations published in the late 1800s, especially in Edward Step's *Favourite flowers of garden and greenhouse* (1897). Step used the names Erica "wilmoreana" and "Wilmore's heath" for this plant which is a very close match for the extant clone.

Given that none of these names can be used, and that no other unambiguous name is available, the cultivar name **'African Showgirl'** was established for this Cape heath by Satoshi Miwa (2010). The plant is propagated and marketed as a pot-plant in Japan, where it is one of the best-selling Cape heaths. The cultivar is described using this Japanese clone which was obtained earlier this decade in New Zealand.

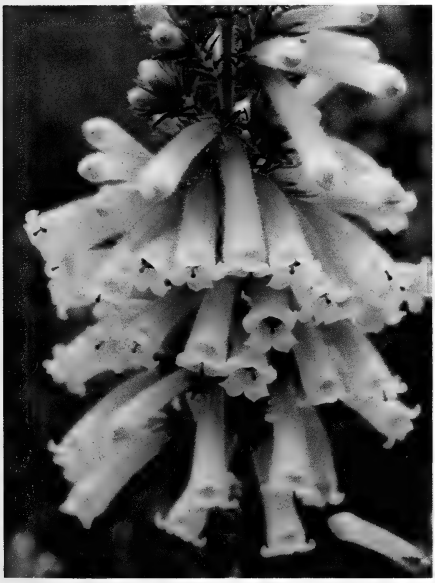

Figure 3. 'African Showgirl' (approximately life-size), photograph by Takayuki Kobayashi.

Using the interactive *Erica key* (Volk *et al.* 2005) suggests that this cultivar may be related to *E. curviflora* and/or to *E. verticillata*. The latter is a conservation flagship species; having been exterminated in the wild in South Africa it has been reintroduced using the few surviving plants that were traced in gardens in South Africa and Europe. However, while there is correspondence in morphology between 'African Showgirl' and both species, it is not known whether they were its parents.

***Erica* 'African Showgirl'**

Registered with The Heather Society acting as International Cultivar Registration Authority for *Erica*: registration no. E.2009:06.

Floriferous, bushy shrub; young shoots with long straight hairs. Leaves grass green, in whorls of 4 (rarely 3), to 7 × 1mm, ± linear, tapering to apex, sparsely hirsute on upper surface near apex, leaf edge transparent with sparse, long straight hairs, sulcus open. Flowers cerise to magenta (H6–H13), shading to white; corolla tubular-campanulate, curved, broadest below apical lobes, c. 20–23mm long, to 6mm diameter at mouth, hirsute outside with long straight hairs, glabrous inside; stamens 8, included; filaments to 20mm long hooked at base but otherwise ±straight, flattened, colourless, translucent, glabrous; anthers dorsifixed, brown, 2mm long, pore oval, to 1mm long; pollen white; ovary green, turbinate, glabrous, 10-locular, style recessed deeply, nectary ring around base, nectar copious; style curved, to 20mm long, not emergent, greenish white at base tinged pale to dark red towards apex; style apex only slightly broader than style, very dark red; calyx of 4 free unequal sepals, green, sparsely hirsute; sepals to 7mm long, distal portion resembling the leaves, with broad expanded base which is pale and translucent; bracts 3, upper pair largest and resembling sepals, appressed to calyx; lower bract much smaller.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Takayuki Kobayashi (Niigata, Japan) for making material available for study from his stock plants and for providing photographs, while for suggesting the name we all thank Anna Baggallay.

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Heathers **7** (2010): 21-23

Early days at Champs Hill, Coldwaltham, Sussex

A. H. Bowerman (1904–1982)

[Reprinted (with minor changes) from *Yearbook of The Heather Society* **2** (1): 4–6 (1972).]

In a moment of weakness I promised the Editor I would write a few lines on how we planned and developed our heather garden at Champs Hill.

For over 30 years we lived near Littlehampton, where we farmed and gardened on rich alluvial soil. When our son married in 1961 we built our new home near Pulborough, Sussex, a site of 27 acres, with beautiful views to the south overlooking Amberley Wild Brooks and the South Downs. The soil was almost pure white sand overlying sandstone to a depth of over 100 feet, covered mainly with Scots pines, silver birch, gorse and heather. Many years ago sand had been extracted leaving disused pits with 50–60ft cliffs in which sand martins nest every year. After the rich alluvial soil of Littlehampton our hearts sank as we contemplated the prospect of making a garden on a soil totally devoid of humus and with hardly a trace of plant food! What could we grow? The presence of the wild heather gave us the clue. Alas, we knew very little about the cultivated varieties and practically nothing about propagation, but like all true countrymen we had learned that one cannot work against nature and prosper; one must work with it.

To create a garden one needs courage and vision. It is much easier for

Champs Hill: house in 1989.

men to spoil nature than to improve it. As we looked over our site we were deeply impressed by the delightful informality of nature: a seedling here, a sapling there, the fruits of seeds blown in the wind or carried by birds. Success surely must be in working together with the Divine Planner. Our minds made up, we planned the layout to harmonize with the surroundings – an attempt to landscape rather than to form a garden. Wherever we could we endeavoured to take advantage of the natural contours and make features of the humps and hollows. We were soon to learn that gorse, very attractive in bloom, was a major fire risk and had to be removed. Only those who have attempted to eradicate this virile plant know how deeply its roots penetrate the rock and how tenaciously it holds on to life!

Alfred Bowerman (by courtesy of Mr & Mrs D. Bowerman)

Champs Hill: pond in 1989.

Our early plantings around the house consisted mainly of the well-known *Erica carneas* and the never-failing *darleyensis*. These were soon followed by *cinereas, vagans* and *Callunas*. As time passed on, more and more names appeared, and today I believe we have over 200 named varieties.

Owing to the sandy soil we have had to buy considerable quantities of peat, without which we should never have been able to establish the young plants, which must not be allowed to dry out in their first spring and summer. This, I believe, is the cause of many losses and disappointments in the foundation of new heather gardens. Once the plants are established they seem to fend for themselves. In order to get a pleasing landscape effect we found that heathers of one variety need to be planted in fairly large drifts. This meant we had to invest in a small mist propagation unit with under-soil electric heating. As a tiller of the soil all my life, I have learnt that farming and gardening consist mainly of a battle with weeds! Our chief enemy on this soil is sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*); until the heather plants are established and cover the ground, it is well to be armed with a pressurised hand-spray and Paraquat; this is a great and worthwhile labour-saving investment.

As the years have gone by we have planted a wide variety of rhododendrons, azaleas, conifers (especially junipers), coloured oaks, maples and the attractive *Liquidambar*, and are now beginning to see the fruits of our labours ... but a gardener's task is never done!

Since we fenced our little estate we have noticed the increase in wild life. Besides being a bird sanctuary we quite often see foxes, grey squirrels and roe deer. We have made a pact with the foxes that they can rear their cubs unmolested as long as they keep down the rabbit population and do not raid our hen roost! So far they have not failed us. It is very thrilling to watch the deer drinking from our lily pond in the early hours of the morning, but not so pleasing to see the damage they do to our young conifers.

As I write in early November we still have *Calluna* 'H. E. Beale' in full flower whilst *Erica* × *darleyensis* 'Ghost Hills' is already bursting into flower. The coloured foliage varieties, *E. cinerea* 'Golden Drop' and *Calluna* 'Sunset', are showing brilliant autumn colour, bringing warmth to the shortening autumn days.

We are deeply grateful to have been allowed to enjoy this corner of England's green and pleasant land, far from the madding crowd, and extend a warm welcome to all heather lovers to visit us when passing.

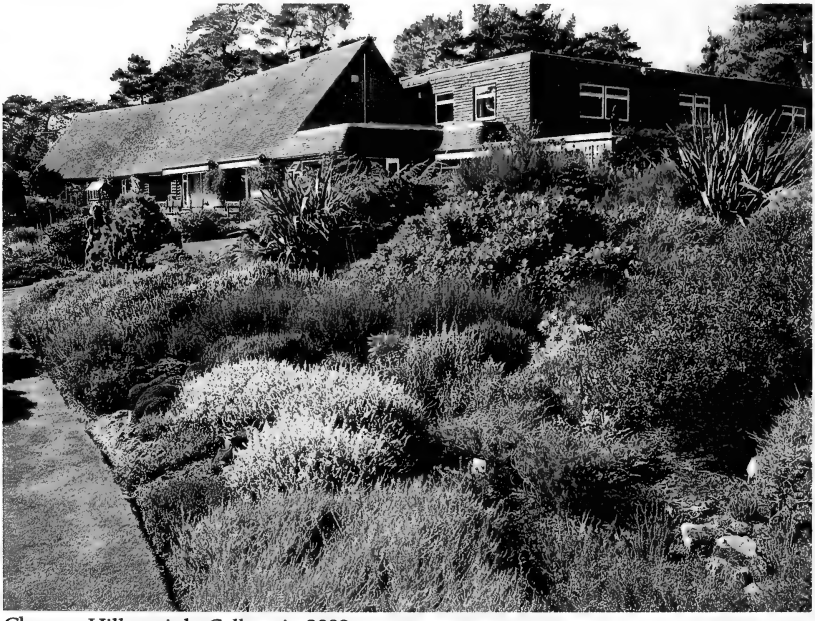
Heathers **7** (2010): 24-26

Champs Hill 2009

Allen Hall
10 Upper Green, Nanpantan, Loughborough, LE11 3SG.

When Alfred Bowerman wrote his article in 1972, The Heather Society, which he helped found, was only nine years old and heather gardening was very fashionable. It is possible that the fine garden that he and his wife, Margaret, created was among the formative influences that stimulated this fashion. Thirty seven years on, horticulture has fallen out of love with heather but Alfred's successors at Champs Hill, David and Mary Bowerman, ably assisted by gardener Sid Brown, continue the tradition. Champs Hill still sets a standard for what can be achieved with heathers and makes a living claim for a place for heather gardens in horticulture.

The well drained, sandy soil at Champs Hill particularly favours *Erica cinerea* and *Calluna vulgaris*. A number of bell heathers have been found and named here. Prominent among these are 'Alfred Bowerman', 'Margaret Bowerman' and 'Champs Hill'. However the collection includes examples of other hardy heathers giving colour all the year round.



Champs Hill: mainly *Calluna* in 2009.

Champs Hill: looking south-east (2009).

Foliage heathers do well, as in sandy soils generally. Some years ago, I recall seeing there a fine bed of *Calluna vulgaris* 'Robert Chapman', its foliage already tinting red in mid-August, and *Calluna* 'Silver Rose' had truly silver foliage whereas similar cultivars could only muster grey-green in my garden at the time.

Mr Bowerman mentioned that other plants such as rhododendrons and azaleas were included in the garden and it would appear that other companion plants have been added over time. These tasteful inclusions add to the interest and beauty of the garden. He says that the garden was harmonized with the heath that went before it and today, regardless of the sophistication of the horticultural planning and the hard work that evidently goes into its maintenance, the garden still manages to look natural. In this, it no doubt helps that the formal garden merges with natural heath which itself drifts into tall conifers while to the south there are wonderful views over the South Downs.

I first visited the garden 25 years ago and of course I have noticed changes over the years. Old flower-beds have been replaced with new ones and some of the latest heather introductions have been added. Some plants have grown tall while the hurricane in 1987 destroyed many trees. I was particularly struck during a visit in March 2002 by the great height of several plants of *Erica* × *veitchii*. One 'Gold Tips' was said to be 25 feet high. Even an *E. erigena* 'W. T. Rackliff' was around 10 feet high. ('Superba' of this size I could have understood.) I judge that this was the same, much smaller, plant I had admired in an earlier visit.

The sun always shines when I visit Champs Hill and it is sunlit heather that sticks in my memory, particularly bright bell heathers (*Erica cinerea*) that do so well here. My visits have always been with Heather Society parties and so people figure in my recollections too. I can visualize now Pat Turpin bending over a bed looking for a plant label; David McClintock commenting on a splendid *E. vagans* 'Viridiflora'; David Small showing us how to select cutting material and our hosts, David and Mary Bowerman, welcoming us on many an occasion.

Alfred Bowerman ended his article with a promise of a warm welcome to all heather-lovers when passing. The Society has often made it its business to pass that way and the welcome has never faltered.

Members of The Heather Society, including Margaret and David Bowerman, at Champs Hill, September 2009 (photograph by Barry Sellers)

Heathers 7 (2010): 27-35

"The mythical *Calluna atlantica*": heather in Newfoundland

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It is now an accepted fact that there are no heathers – members of the genera *Calluna*, *Daboecia* and *Erica* – native to the western hemisphere, the Americas. Plants called "heathers" do inhabit North America but they are classified in other genera – both *Cassiope* and *Phyllodoce* are dubbed "mountain heather" or "mountainheath", for example. However, during the nineteenth century, botanists were not so certain that *Calluna vulgaris*, ling (or Scotch, or Scottish heather), at least, was not indigenous in parts of eastern North America, in Newfoundland and Massachusetts, in particular. During 1861, a colony of *Calluna* reported near Tewksbury, Massachusetts, caused a great kerfuffle in American botanical and horticultural circles, as related by Judy Wiksten (2000).

Several decades earlier, *Calluna vulgaris* had been collected on Newfoundland, and several colonies of ling are extant there (see Barclay-Estrup 1974, 1988, 1991) so the species has a recorded history extending over at least 180 years on that island.

Earliest record

In his monograph on the Ericeae, the tribe of the heather family (Ericaceae) which includes *Calluna*, George Bentham (1839) gave the distribution of the single species, *C. vulgaris*, as "in Europâ occidentali et boreali vulgaris, etiam in Islandiâ et in Terrâ-Novâ Americæ borealis": "in western and northern Europe common, and even in Iceland and in Newfoundland." Bentham wrote that early in 1839, his monograph being published towards the end of that year in the seventh part of Augustin-Pyramus de Candolle's magisterial *Prodromus*. He did not give any authority for the inclusion of Newfoundland ("Terrâ-Novâ Americæ borealis"), but Bentham was a very well-informed and thorough botanist.

The next year, 1840, his friend Sir William Hooker published the second volume of his flora of North America. Inserted in the index, at the end of right-hand column on page 280 of this volume, obviously as a very late afterthought, was this statement linked by an asterisk to "Calluna vulgaris, *Salisb.*": "This should have been inserted at p. 39, as an inhabitant of Newfoundland, on the authority of De la Pylaie."

Auguste Jean Marie Bachelot de La Pylaie (1786–1856) was a French explorer and naturalist, who visited Newfoundland in 1816 and 1819–1820, collecting specimens and recording plants. There is no indication that he ever published the information which Hooker cited – it is not in Bachelot de la Pylaie's *Voyage à l'île de Terre-Neuve, contenant la description des îles voisines et des vues générales sur leur végétation* (1825). Hooker may have obtained the information direct from Bachelot de la Pylaie, but that suggestion presents an enigma, pointed out as long ago as 1863 by Charles J. Sprague.

I am grateful to Dr Piotr Daszkiewicz (Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris) for confirming that Auguste Bachelot de la Pylaie's manuscript notes about Newfoundland contain no record of *Erica* or *Calluna*. In "Plantes recueillies à L'ile St Pierre, à Miclon et à Terre Neuve en 1819 (surtout aout et septembre) [Plants collected ... in Newfoundland in 1819 (especially August and September)]" (MNHM Ms1799), under "Ericinées" (Ericaceae), he listed 18 species but neither *Erica* nor *Calluna*, nor did he use the French vernacular for heather, "bruyère". In a companion manuscript (MNHM Ms1797), Bachelot de la Pylaie was explicit, writing

> ... je ferai remarquer quant à ces deux derniers tribus, que je ne rencontré aucune espèce du genre Erica à Terre neuve. ... L'absence de hautes montagnes dans cette ile détermine ainsi manifestement celle de ces végétaux. [... I should point out that of the last two tribes [including Ericinées, heaths], that I did not encounter any species of *Erica* in Newfoundland. ... The absence of high mountains on that island thus obviously determines the absence of these plants.]

Thus, contrary to what has been repeated often, on the authority of Sir William Hooker, Auguste Jean Marie Bachelot de La Pylaie never observed or collected *Calluna* in Newfoundland. As noted above, this was exactly the conclusion of Charles J. Sprague when, addressing the Boston Natural History Society on 4 March 1863, he posed the question: "Is the heath indigenous to the United States?" (Sprague 1863; see also Lawson 1867).

Suffice it now to observe that Hooker's faulty attribution of the first record of heather in Newfoundland to Bachelot de la Pylaie was not the earliest *published* report anyway.

William Eppes Cormack

Neither Bentham nor Hooker, as we have seen, made reference to other records of *Calluna* on Newfoundland, yet in 1834, before either of their works were published, David Don stated that *Calluna* had been collected on Newfoundland by a "Mr Cormack". This undoubtedly was William

Eppes Cormack (1796–1868), a Newfoundland-born entrepreneur and explorer, who had studied at the universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh and consequently, under the influence of Professor Robert Jameson, developed a keen interest in natural history (Story 2000). David Don (1834: 150), in a most interesting footnote to his "new arrangement of the Ericaceae" published in the *Edinburgh new philosophical journal*, noted that specimens of *Calluna* "were contained in a collection of dried plants from Newfoundland, given me by Mr Cormack, who assured me they had been collected in that country".

Thus it seems that Don's report of Cormack's collection was the first in print, preceding Bentham's by five, and Hooker's by six, years. It is most likely that Bentham's authority was Don rather than Bachelot de la Pylaie, if only because he must have been extremely familiar with Don's paper, given that he was writing a monograph on members of the Ericaceae.

The present whereabout of Cormack's specimen, given to Don, is not known, but there are a few clues that might lead to it, if it has survived.

In April 1864, Hewitt Cottrell Watson, published the following:

> Specimens of *Calluna vulgaris* from Newfoundland have very recently come into my hands, under circumstances which seem to warrant its reception henceforth as a true native of that island. At the late sale of the Linnean Society's Collections in London, in November, 1863, I bought a parcel of specimens, which was endorsed outside, "A collection of dried plants from Newfoundland, collected by — McCormack, Esq., and presented to Mr. David Don.

"McCormack" could easily be a misreading of a poorly written or faded "W. E. Cormack" (see Fernald 1927: 52) or "Mr Cormack", so that is not a problem. Watson went on to state that among the specimens were "two flowerless branches of the true *Calluna vulgaris*, about six inches long, quite identical with the common heath of our British moors." He noted also that they were labelled as having come from

> Head of St. Mary's Bay — Trepassey Bay[1], also very abundant — S. E. of Newfoundland considerable tracts of it.

Watson's herbarium has had a calamitous history (see Kent & Allen 1984) – he himself intended to burn it. However, specimens did survive in a cupboard that once stood "in an honoured place, halfway up the stairs, in the Herbarium at Kew" (see Egerton 2003: 218, n. 39). Whether Cormack's *Calluna* is among the specimens in this cupboard is not known but it is doubtful.[2]

Watson's 1864 contribution about "the common heath in Newfoundland" was not a coincidence – remember that in 1861 and 1862 there was the Massachusetts discovery and a "small kerfuffle". Watson even alluded to this:

> We should recollect that the *Calluna* advances to the extreme western limits (or outliers) of Europe, in Iceland, Ireland, and the Azores. The step thence to Newfoundland and Massachusetts, though wide, is not an incredible one.

Calluna atlantica

There is a further twist to the saga of the Newfoundland heather, for it was to become the prototype of a new species of *Calluna* – the "mythical *C. atlantica*" of F. N. Williams's *Prodromus florae britannicae* (1911).

In the issue of the *Journal of botany* published on 1 October 1866, there is a well-executed and accurate hand-coloured engraving of *Calluna*, drawn and lithographed by one of the most skilful of mid-nineteenth-century botanical artists, Walter Fitch. It accompanies an article by the journal's editor, Dr Berthold Seeman, entitled "On the Newfoundland heather". Seeman (1866) commenced by thanking Dr David Moore, of the Royal Dublin Society's Botanic Gardens (now the National Botanic Gardens), Glasnevin, for "fresh specimens of the Heather which he received some years ago from Newfoundland." Moore, Seeman stated, has been growing this plant "side by side" with the common "European Heather". There follows these observations:

> It did not escape so acute an observer as Dr. Moore that *biologically* the Newfoundland Heather was different from the common British one; that whilst the Newfoundland one always suffered from frost, and turns brown during the mild Irish winter, the common British one, growing by its side, was unaffected by cold, and retained its usual green colour.

These indications suggest that the Newfoundland plant was less hardy than the "ordinary" Irish one; the illustration also suggests it had a rather slender habit. Seeman was unable to find any clear distinction between the Newfoundland plant from Glasnevin and the "common British" form:

> However, I fully believe that the Newfoundland plant is a distinct species, which I would like to name *Calluna Atlantica*, and which I have also seen from Iceland and the higher Alps. Perhaps some Scottish specimens may also be referred to it.

Almost no one followed his opinion and *Calluna atlantica* was hardly ever mentioned again – Wallace (1903) and Williams (1911) were exceptions.

Calluna atlantica. Walter Fitch's hand-coloured engraving showing a shoot from the plant raised at the Glasnevin Botanic Gardens, Dublin. It is indistinguishable from *Calluna vulgaris*.

Calluna vulgaris in full bloom on Signal Hill, St. John's, Newfoundland, 20 August 2007; © Dr. B. Shawyer.

We do not have explicit indication of the origin of the material cultivated at Glasnevin in the early 1860s. However, examination of the Gardens' manuscript accessions book indicates that in January 1865, Moore received a quantity of seeds from Philip Francis Little, of St John's, Newfoundland, whose affiliation is given as the Newfoundland Agricultural Society; Little was a vice-president in 1864. That consignment is not likely to have yielded a mature, flowering plant of ling by October 1866, but Little, a judge of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, had close connections with Ireland and was in Dublin during 1864 – on 4 May he had married Miss Mary Jane Holdright in the Roman Catholic Church, Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) (Hiller 2000). No other likely sources are indicated in the accessions book, but given that not every accession was recorded, previous consignments are quite possible. If Little was the source, it is possible he obtained seeds from Signal Hill at St John's.

Ling in Newfoundland today

Calluna vulgaris still grows in a scattering of about half a dozen localities, almost all on the Avalon Peninsula in the extreme south-east of Newfoundland (Barclay-Estrup 1988, 1991: 52–53; Rouleau & Lamoureux 1992: map 313; Day 1995, Meades *et al.* 2000). The noteworthy colonies are at Old Perlican, Signal Hill and South Side Hill at St John's, and in various places about Whitbourne and Calvert. The current opinion is that in all localities it is a naturalized alien plant.

Notes

[1] I am grateful to Professor Alan Macpherson for the following information.

> I have no evidence that Cormack was ever in the Trepassey Bay area. It and St Mary's Bay are indentations at the southern end of the Avalon Peninsula. *Calluna vulgaris* has thoroughly naturalised on Signal Hill. From its relative success in replacing native plants I'd be inclined to accept the hypothesis that it dates back to a period between 1763 when Highland troops retook St John's from the French, and 1822–1827 when William Eppes Cormack was residing in St John's. Its profusion validates, to some extent, Dr Cluny Macpherson's reference (1956) to its growing luxuriantly in two locations: Sir Robert Bond's estate at Whitbourne (c. 1881) and Calvert near Ferriland on the Southern Shore (south of St John's).
>
> Watson's reference to the label "Head of St Mary's Bay – Trepassey Bay, also very abundant – S. E. Newfoundland considerable tracts of it" is very tantalising. *Annotated checklist of the vascular plants of Newfoundland* (Meades *et al.* 2000) identifies Colinet at the head of St Mary's Bay as one modern site where

C. vulgaris has been found. Cormack walked through the Colinet area in 1822 as a preliminary to his famous trek across the island from Trinity Bay to St George's Bay on the west coast later in that year. But unfortunately his unpublished diary for the earlier walk shows no indication that he botanised as he walked from St John's to Placentia.

[2] Dr D. E. Allen (*in litt.* 12 August 2009) commented as follows:

I have always understood that the cupboard at Kew which has always housed H. C. Watson's collection is essentially the vouchers supporting the vice-county records published in the first edition of his *Topographical Botany.* At any rate, it is usually expressly in that connection that people, such as myself, have consulted it over the years. I went through it on quite a wide scale when researching the Botanical Society of London – as a high proportion of his specimens he acquired via the annual distribution of duplicates – but cannot recall seeing any material from outside the British Isles. I suspect any of the latter that he may have donated or bequeathed were incorporated in Kew's General Collection – and are almost impossible to locate these days, unless one is concerned with just a single species ... .

Acknowledgements

My thanks for their generous assistance are due to Mrs Pat Barclay (for copies of her late husband's research papers); Dr Piotr Daszkiewicz for examining the manuscripts in Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris; Dr Alan G. Macpherson (Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, Memorial University of Newfoundland); Dr Howard Clase (Memorial University of Newfoundland; retired); John Maunder (Curator Emeritus of Natural History, Provincial Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador); and Dr David Allen. The photographs of the Signal Hill colony by Dr Bruce Shawyer were transmitted to me by Professor Macpherson.

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Heathers 7 (2010): 36-44

Another amazing *Erica* re-discovery in the Cape

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A few years ago we were all stunned by the discovery by Ross Turner of *Erica recurvata* in the mountains above Napier in the Western Cape, South Africa (Oliver, 2008). That very distinctive species was known to us only from a painting by Henry Charles Andrews (1803) made from plants in cultivation in a London conservatory during the early 1800s and a few pressed branchlets in herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. We suspect that the seed was collected by the Scot, James Niven, who was very active at the Cape.

Andrews published a wonderful set of quarto-sized books with some 288 paintings he made of species, cultivars and hybrids growing in the London area between 1794 and about 1830 (Cleevely & Oliver 2002). Most can easily be recognised but others were mysteries and thought to be artificially produced hybrids which were readily being produced in England about the time (see this issue p. 17; Nelson & Oliver 2004). *Erica recurvata* was initially thought to be such a hybrid since it was not known from the wild.

In late 2008 we were again all stunned by the discovery of another of Andrews's presumed hybrids growing happily in the Cape mountains. Ross and colleague botanist, Nick Helme, were climbing around the mountains above the farms in the Elgin basin 65km south-east of Cape Town and came across a substantial population of a lovely pink-flowered *Erica*. Not sure what it could be Ross waited until he could page through the sketches of all *Erica* species that my wife, Inge Oliver, had done. There he came across the sketch of *E. patens* she had drawn from Andrews's painting. There was no doubt about its identity because of the very open flowers and distinctively shaped, black anthers. A little earlier in the following flowering season he took me to see the plants when I was able to confirm his identification and join with him in his delight at their discovery.

The plants grew on a steep, damp, south-western slope below the cliffs near the summit of the Groenlandberge just north of Houwhoek and south east of Grabouw. They formed a nice population of several hundred shrubs

Figure 1 (top, left). Ross Turner and his discovery.
Figure 2 (top, right). Close-up of flowers of *Erica patens*.
Figure 3 (lower). Population of *Erica patens* on the steep south-western slope of the Groenlandberg.

ranging up to 1.8m tall with a good, stout, single stem and were fully covered with their showy flowers. The leaves are slightly more open due to the plants growing in a cooler, moister habitat for which water restrictions are not that important.

Guthrie and Bolus in *Flora capensis* (1905) noted that this species was known to them only from Andrews's painting and several garden specimens in Kew Herbarium, but stated that it was very distinctive. For most of his paintings, Andrews gave no indication as to the source of the plants, nor any history about their introduction. On the other hand, he was obliged to register the paintings, published in the early volumes of his *Coloured engravings of heaths*, for copyright purposes by engraving the date and his address on each plate. These plates were issued in fascicles of three paintings each, and then buyers were asked to bind them into volumes for which Andrews provided an introduction and title-page dated just after the last issue. Later, unfortunately, this dating of individual plates was dropped when the law was scrapped. Thus we have for *Erica patens* "Sept. 1 1803" faintly printed and not always readable in each bound set.

Several herbarium specimens collected about the same time have survived. Those preserved in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, are very well known, but a collection that has not previously been studied by those studying Cape *Erica* species is of more significance. In the herbarium of The Linnean Society of London, in the collections of Sir James Edward Smith (the Society's founder), among more than 160 sheets, there is one sheet (no. 64) bearing two specimens, one being labelled "Lee's garden – May 4. 1803". In the Kew herbarium there is a collection labelled "Lee No 1, 12 June 1803". Both the specimens clearly came from the famous nursery of Lee & Kennedy in Hammersmith. James Lee (1715–1795), the nursery's co-founder, had been dead for eight years but his son, also James (1754–1824), kept the business going, in partnership with John Kennedy (1759–1842), son of Lewis Kennedy who had been the senior parter when the nursery came into being as Kennedy & Lee, the name it was known by until 1783 when Lewis Kennedy died. Henry Andrews, the botanical artist, married John Kennedy's daughter, Anne. So it seems very likely that Andrews painted *Erica patens* from a plant growing in the Hammersmith nursery in 1803 and that same plant yielded two substantial herbarium specimens, too.

As if to confirm this, *Erica patens* was named in a "General list of heaths cultivated by *Messrs. Lee and Kennedy, Hammersmith, in* 1802". This was issued within the first volume of *Coloured engravings of heaths* and was undoubtedly published as dated. In other words, this new species of Cape

Figure 4. *Erica patens*, Andrews's painting in *Coloured engravings of heaths*, plate 115 (September 1803).

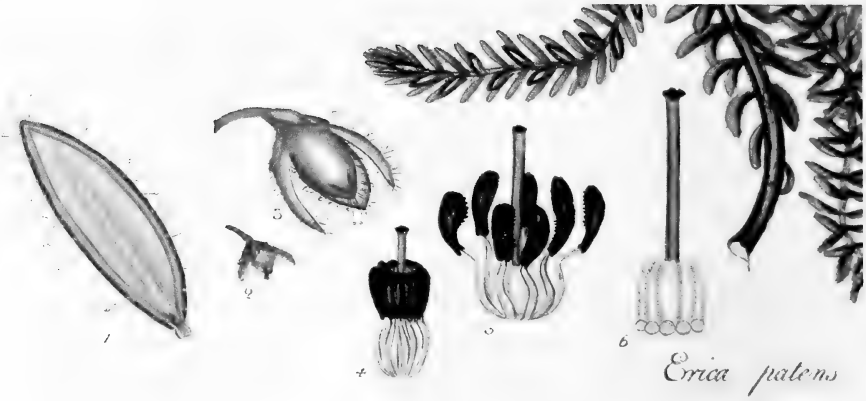

Figure 5. Details of the flower and a leaf from *Erica patens*, Andrews's *Coloured engravings of heaths*, plate 115 (September 1803).

heath had already been named – and was probably offered for sale – before any formal description was published. The sheet in Smith's herbarium has an inscription in pencil "E. patens Lee".

The specimen which Smith obtained in Lee's garden on 4 May 1803 is 16.5cm long (more than six inches long), bushy with at least 50 leafy lateral shoots, and bears around a score of flower clusters. Henry Andrews depicted a piece of a shrub that was just as large and even more floriferous. Each has the appearance of coming from a mature plant that was at least several years old – it does not have the appearance of a recently raised seedling. We do not know what the epithet *patens* alludes to exactly – the Latin word means spreading. In Andrews's original description (quoted from *The heathery*) he wrote that the corolla segments "... are oval ... and spreading", that the leaves were "by three ... and spreading", and that the branches "are numerous, whorled, twiggy, and spreading." Any of these – or more likely all of these – characters may have given rise to the name. Crucially, the name could have been devised before the flowers appeared as both the branches and foliage are "spreading".

Who discovered this plant and introduced it to English gardens? In Conrad Loddiges's publication *Botanical cabinet*, plate 1228, dated 1826, represents this species. The accompanying text stated that

> This pleasing species was introduced by Mr. Hibbert in 1800, having been gathered at the Cape of Good Hope, by Mr. Niven, the collector whom that gentleman sent out ...

James Niven, the Scottish plant collector and horticulturist was active in the Cape from 1798 or 1799 to 1812. He had certainly started collecting at the Cape by the middle of 1799; Nelson & Rourke (1993) noted a specimen of *Aspalathus* from "Cape Town near Table Hill" dated August 1799. With this *Erica* species flowering only in October/November and with seeds being ripe in, say, January/February following, it is just possible that he collected it soon after he reached the Cape in, say, October or November 1799. A second visit to the habitat had to be made to gather seed which cannot have reached England for a few more months, say May/June 1800. Then, it took only two years from sowing the seeds for the plants to reach full flowering.

Erica patens never seems to have been widely available to English gardeners, and was probably not introduced a second time. It was in the Duke of Bedford's collection at Woburn in the mid-1820s (Sinclair 1825) when, as just noted, it was also illustrated in Loddiges's *Botanical cabinet*. Specimens in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, indicate it was being grown in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, under the name *Erica expansa*, as late at 1838.

The latter name adds another conundrum. In the "General list of heaths" of 1802, Lee & Kennedy listed both *expansa* (no. 70) and *patens* (no. 137) suggesting the plants known to James Lee (and his contemporaries) were distinctly different. *Erica expansa* apparently could be grown in loam and/or peat, but *patens* only tolerated peat. Loddiges of Hackney listed *expansa* in 1804, while Sinclair's catalogue of the Woburn collection contains some very confusing synonymy with the name listed under both *Erica rosea* and *Erica rostella*.

This does not provide any clues to identifying the person who collected the plant and introduced it. There may be confirmation of Niven's role in the second specimen on the sheet in Sir James Edward Smith's herbarium which is labelled "Cap. Bon. Spei – G. Hibbert. 1801". Hibbert never went to the Cape of Good Hope – *Caput Bonae Spei* – so this must have come from the collector he employed there: James Niven. The date suggests that the consignment of pressed specimens which Niven gathered as vouchers for his seeds did not reach Clapham until 1801, although the date could signify when Hibbert presented the specimen to Smith. A consignment of seeds could have arrived in advance, of course, so the date only denotes that the plant was discovered and seed gathered before 1801.

James Niven kept notes on the localities and habitats of the plants he gathered. The original notes about *Erica* are contained in a manuscript that

is now in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, but in a greatly altered state which has rendered it almost useless. In the late 1800s, after the notebook was sent to Kew from Dublin (see Nelson 1990), all the specimens were removed rendering the interpretation of the notes almost impossible. Niven did attach small labels to his voucher specimens (some of which still exist) but there is no specimen known of *Erica patens* with such a label. Indeed, the only wild-collected specimen known (apart from those collected in the past year) is the "G. Hibbert, 1801" specimen in Smith's herbarium.

It seems safe to conclude that James Niven did collect this species and sent seeds and a voucher specimen to his patron George Hibbert but Hibbert does not appear to have retained any labels that Niven attached to the specimens or seed packets. Other labels do survive and give clues about Niven's travels. From a database of his *Erica* collections in many herbaria and other lists (for example in Nelson & Rourke 1993), the nearest locality that could be relevant to this species is "Klein Hout Hoek/Houw Hoek" where the commonly used trek-road through the mountains of the Hottentots Holland region into the Overberg passes below the population.

Yet doubts remain. Even given the undoubted skill of the gardeners who grew the Cape heaths in England in the late 1700s and early 1800s, the time from seed to bushy plant seems far too short. There is another candidate who might have been sending material to Lee & Kennedy in the last decade of the 1700s. It is not often remembered that Francis Masson lived and worked at the Cape of Good Hope for almost a decade between 10 January 1786 and St Patrick's Day 1795; this was the second of his sojourns there. Soon after returning to London in the autumn of 1795 he wrote to his friend and fellow plant-collector, the Swedish botanist Dr Carl Thunberg, with whom he had travelled in the 1770s: "I left the Cape of Good Hope 17th of last March, with a collection of growing plants which I have been so fortunate to bring safe home, all my Staphelei (about 30 Spec.) are now growing in Kew Gardens."

Few details of Masson's travels between 1786 and 1795 have survived, yet there is anecdotal evidence that he was assiduous, making many short journeys from Cape Town to collect plants. These anecdotes also extend to a claim that by 1792 "a special Cape-house had to be built at Kew to house his introductions: ixias, mesembryanthemums, oxalis, pelargoniums, and in particular heaths who were represented by more than 80 different species" (quoted in Bradlow 1994: 77, citing Hepper 1989). Yet there are no specimens of *Erica patens* attributed to Masson and almost no *Erica* species were described from his collections beyond those which he obtained on his first visit between 1772 and 1775.

Masson was well known in botanical and horticultural circles in the late 1700s. He was friendly with James Lee senior and with William Aiton, head gardener at the Royal Gardens, Kew. Indeed in a letter to Sir Joseph Banks written from the Cape at the end of May 1790, Masson stated that "On a trip over Hottentot Holland mountains I found two beautiful species of Erica which appears to me nondescripts and I beg if it is agreeable to you to name them after my two old friends Lee & Aiton." Banks never named any *Erica* species. Henry Andrews was, by chance of first publication, to commemorate William Aiton in the first plate of the first fascicle of *Coloured engraving of heaths*: the plate is dated 1 November 1796. Two years later in William Curtis's *Botanical magazine*, plate no. 429 also portrayed *Erica aitonia* [*sic*]:

> Mr. Masson discovered this very curious species of Erica at the Cape, where Lieut. Col. Paterson informs me that it has been found in one spot only, at Swartsberg, near the warm bath, in a moist situation; it has been named Aitonia, at the desire of Mr. MASSON, in commemoration of his much valued and most excellent friend.

However, Richard Salisbury had pre-empted both Andrews and Curtis, and had named the species *Erica jasminiflora*, stating "Sponte nascentem in Prom. *Cap*, legit F. Masson. [Growing naturally in Cape Promontory, collected by F. Masson.]" As for a species named after James Lee, again Andrews did publish *Erica leea* [*sic*]: it was portrayed in plate 31 (dated 1 April 1797) of *Coloured engravings*. This is a variant of *Erica viscera*.

Richard Salisbury's catalogue of his own garden at Chapel Allerton, near Leeds, published in 1796, provides other names of people who were collecting and introducing Cape *Erica* species in the last decade of the eighteenth century and who might also have been involved with *Erica patens*. As well as five species (*Erica jasminiflora, obesa, bruinaeformis, pharetraeformis, juniperifolia*) credited to Masson, there was *Erica grossa* "legit Jac. Wiles" – James Wiles travelled with Captain William Bligh on HMS *Providence* between 1791 and 1793, when breadfruit was successfully transferred to the West Indies. *Providence* called at the Cape in November 1791, and so that was when Wiles made the collection of *E. grossa* which Salisbury grew. He also had *E. penicilliformis* and *E. quadrangularis* "legit Jac. Mulder" – perhaps James Mulder who has not been identified.

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Obituaries

ARNOLD STOW

Arnold Stow was born on 8 April 1933 in Chiswick, West London, the son of a butcher. His childhood was spent in Greenford, Middlesex, and he was educated at Walpole Grammar School, Northfields, prior to his national service with the RAF in Germany. Arnold's career was in sales administration. He became a shipping manager with Wiggins Teape in 1969 and joined Burlington Ocean Express as a field sales manager in 1977. On early retirement Arnold took up gardening, a job which he loved and continued to do, part-time, up to a few months before his untimely death.

Arnold had always been interested in horticulture and before owning his own garden spent a lot of his spare time as a jobbing gardener, a "hobby" he was to return to after his retirement. In 1966 Arnold joined The Heather Society and at the 1972 Conference, held at Westham House in Warwickshire, he was asked if he would join the Committee (as it was then called) and not long after that he was asked to be assistant to the then *Yearbook* editor, P. S. Patrick. In October 1974 Mr Patrick died and Arnold took on the editorship. After the 1977 issue, Arnold passed over the reins of

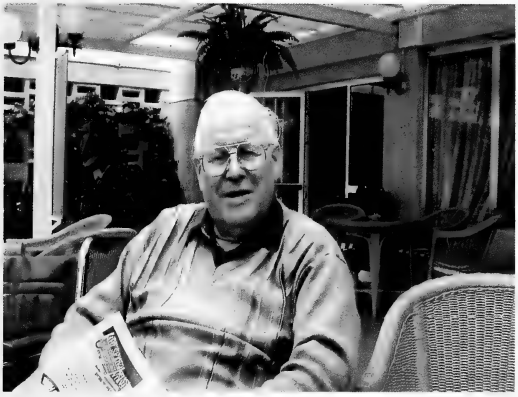
editing the *Yearbook* to Bert Jones. Arnold remained on the Committee, later styled the Council, and was for a while also a member of the Publications Committee. At the 2000 AGM when David Small became President, Arnold was elected Chairman, a position he retained until the 2008 AGM.

Throughout his time as a Council member and later as Chairman of the Society Arnold was very active in the promotion of The Heather Society and its aims. Arnold and his wife, Josey, were familiar faces at the Society's conferences and indeed were the organizers of the Reading Conference in 1993 and involved in the organizing of the 2004 International Conference in Coylumbridge. With Derek Millis, Arnold was instrumental in the formation of the Home Counties Local Group in 2000 and often supported other local groups at their meetings. Arnold was an accomplished speaker on heathers and gave many talks to local horticultural societies and for a time was on the RHS list of speakers. His talks were accompanied with slides and to that end he was a very keen photographer and Arnold was always a familiar sight at Heather Society gatherings with his camera-bag over his shoulder and his camera at the ready. Most recently, in July 2009, with other Society members, he helped man the British Heather Growers Association stand at the Hampton Court Flower Show, imparting his knowledge to the visitors and taking photographs for the Society's 2009 "Life in pictures" CD.

When Arnold wasn't gardening for others he would spend many hours in his own garden. In High Wycombe he was restricted in which species of heathers he could grow because of soil conditions but his horticultural interests extended to other plants and he had a keen interest in growing grasses and hardy cranesbills (*Geranium*). Arnold and Josey were both members of the local horticultural society and actively engaged in its many activities. He also had a keen interest in football and was an avid follower of Queens Park Rangers. Another sporting interest was short mat bowls and he was an active member of the local bowls club.

Arnold was a gentleman, a man of good humour, a good friend of many, well respected by all who knew him, and a delight to be with. He leaves his wife, Josey, a daughter, Jane, and two grand-daughters, Sarah and Clare, and our heartfelt sympathy goes to them for their sad loss. Arnold, we will all miss you.

Phil Joyner



JACK PLATT

Jack Platt, from Leyland in Lancashire, passed away in May 2008. He was a regular member of our conferences in the early days. He joined in 1970 and I first met him at the Westham House conference in 1972. I had been asked to arrange a quiz for this meeting which Jack won easily much to the amazement of our longer serving members. His knowledge became almost a legend at other conferences and the reason soon became known.

He was an avid collector especially of new cultivars with a keen eye for something different. In the 1977 *Yearbook*, David McClintock, in his article "The double-flowered heathers", mentioned (pp 26–27) a double white *Calluna* which Jack had obtained at the Southport Flower Show in 1974. After the show was over, Jack acquired all the plants, which were labelled "Bransdale". However the Registrar would not permit two white *Calluna* with confusingly similar names, as at the time a single white cultivar under the name of 'Bransdale White' was available. Despite research, including returning to Southport the following year, Jack could not trace the nursery to check on the origin of the plant, so the name 'Platt's Surprise' was chosen. Jack also registered, in 1980, *Calluna* 'David Platt', a seedling which occurred in his own garden and named after his son. This plant produced a sport and was registered as 'Sarah Platt', the daughter of David, in 1992. Also discovered in his own garden was 'Julie Ann Platt', named after his daughter.

Jack's sharp eyes were not confined to *Calluna*. Whilst visiting Cornwall he spotted a cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*) with pink flowers with yellow foliage in spring and summer becoming lime-green in winter. This was

registered and named after his wife: 'Ruth's Gold'

Under the title "New acquisitions" Jack contributed to every *Yearbook* from 1977 until 2000, a most remarkable achievement over 24 years and his offerings were gratefully received by the editors looking for copy during this time which included myself initially, Bert Jones from 1979 until 1994, and then our present editor Charles Nelson.

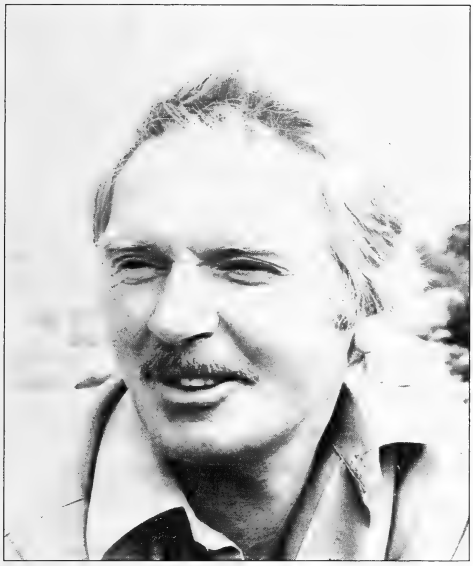
When I mention that he assessed about 20 cultivars each year this was, to my mind a monumental undertaking resulting in over 400 descriptions based on all the cultivars that he obtained and I wondered where on earth he found the space to grow them. I then discovered that he was most ruthless in discarding them all after he had assessed them for a couple of years to make way for the new ones.

Jack was a modest and friendly man and he will be remembered for his valuable contribution to heather growing and to our Society.

Arnold Stow

Jack Platt's introductions

'Andy Stewart'	*Calluna vulgaris*: obtained in a flower-shop in Lytham St Annes (Lancashire). It apparently came from Scotland.
'Cornish Lime'	*Erica tetralix*: from Goonhilly Downs, Lizard, Cornwall, 1980.
'Dava Moor'	*Erica tetralix*: from a nursery in Sutherland, Scotland, in 1991; obtained in 1996 from R. Jones (Dunblane, Scotland).
'David Platt'	*Calluna vulgaris*: seedling in his garden in 1975; introduced in 1980.
'Dorset Cream'	*Erica cinerea* : found in Dorset.
'Golden Wedding'	*Calluna vulgaris*: seedling in his garden in 1996.
'Helen Gill'	*Calluna vulgaris*: sport on 'Beoley Silver', 1984.
'Julie Ann Platt'	*Calluna vulgaris*: before 1977.
'Knapdale'	*Calluna vulgaris*: sport on 'Darkness'; obtained in 1992 from Catherine Gowrie, manageress of Major Colin B. Innes's Highland Heathers, Achahoish, Lochgilphead, Argyll, Scotland.
'Lilac Spire'	*Calluna vulgaris*: introduced by H. H. Ballantyne (Netherfield Fruit Farm, near Beeswing, Dumfries, Scotland); obtained in 1990.
'Makarska Gold'	*Erica manipuliflora*: found near Makarska, Yugoslavia, by 1987.
'Morning Mist'	*Erica* × *watsonii* : from Hartland Moor, Dorset, 1978.
'Platt's Surprise'	*Calluna vulgaris*: found at Southport Flower Show in 1974.
'Rivington'	*Calluna vulgaris*: wild-collected sport on a plant in a quarry at Rivington Pike near Bolton, Lancashire, 1978.
'Ruth's Gold'	*Erica tetralix*: from Goonhilly Downs, Lizard, Cornwall, 1977.
'Sarah Platt'	*Calluna vulgaris*: sport on 'David Platt'; found in the mid-1980s.
'Springwood Yellow'	*Erica carnea*: sport on 'Springwood White'; about 1985.
'Tallboy'	*Calluna vulgaris*: seedling near 'Anthony Davis'; found in 1990.
'Winter Orange'	*Calluna vulgaris*: obtained from John L. Jones (Glynwern Heather Nurseries, Cilcennin, Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales), c. 1995.



GEOFFREY SMITH

One day in the spring of 1999 when I was working on the new *Calluna* collection in Queen's Meadow at Harlow Carr I looked up and saw that Albert was deep in conversation with a man in a cotton hat. It was a lovely afternoon and I felt we were making steady progress with the collection but shortly after the man came up to me and said, "Your wasting your time, lass, this bit of land won't grow anything. If I couldn't get it to grow plants you never will." My immediate reaction was to think how rude he was but of course I recognized Geoffrey Smith's face from watching his television programmes in the 1970s and 1980s and being aware of his long association with Harlow Carr I did not retaliate. Albert together with Peter Vickers had worked with him during the period of the Heather Trials so he knew him reasonably well.

Geoffrey was very fond of heathers. He grew many in his own large garden and I became accustomed to the telephone ringing about 8.30am, picking the receiver up and being told, "I've a bone to pick with you, lass." It meant I had written something in an article in the *Bulletin* that he disagreed with. His nickname for me was the "Queen of the Callunas".

I very much appreciated his support with the Yorkshire Heather Group. He did not attend every meeting but if we had a special topic on the agenda, which was of interest to him, there he was sat on the back row but still putting his pennyworth in. I was really pleased that he came to the talk last September (2008) but I found him to be much quieter than usual that day, which concerned me. He could still race me to the entrance from the Study Centre though.

Geoffrey Smith was born in the village of Barningham, a few miles south of Barnard Castle, the younger of two sons. His mother declared him to be half wild, as even as a child he wanted to spend as much time as possible outdoors. This was not surprising as his father was the head gardener at the local manor house, Barningham Park.

On leaving school Geoffrey went to work for the Forestry Commission but decided his heart was not in forestry and applied for a place at Askham Bryan College, where he became "Student of the Year". Thus began his lifelong love of plants and gardens. He met his wife, Marjorie, at the age of 21 and they were married in 1953. Both of them had active hobbies; he played cricket, he was fast bowler, and she played tennis, and they both enjoyed walking, cycling and ballroom dancing.

Geoffrey spent a brief spell working for a research station in Cornwall but in 1954 he took a post at the Northern Horticultural Society's new garden at Harlow Carr and the family moved into the bungalow at the corner of the garden. Soon after his arrival, at the age of 26, he was promoted to Superintendent of Gardens, shortly after J. R. Hare had left to become Bailiff of the Royal Parks.

The garden had been open since 1950 but little serious work had been done. Geoffrey with his small, hard-working team, several of whom were displaced persons from the Ukraine, set to work and it was under his leadership that all the hard landscaping was laid out. There are several areas of large rocks each of which were carefully positioned using a block and tackle, and a lot of human effort. He was responsible for the large number of specimen trees in the garden, the sandstone rock-garden, and the beautiful avenue from the wrought iron gates.

Money was tight and nurseries donated many of the plants; funding was raised by various means, for example, the sale of old lead pipes dug up from the gardens. At the time when a visitor to the garden asked Geoffrey to take part in the BBC Gardening Club they had no television and so the family had to visit the local pub, the Harlow Carr Hotel (now the Harrogate Arms), to see the programme.

Geoffrey Smith, with his wife Marjorie (right) and Mrs Jennifer Yates, at Stagshaw in 1986 when he gave the inaugral Hope Simpson Lecture at the Lakeland Horticultural Society. Russel Hope Simpson was housemaster at Shrewsbury School, and was noted for the herbaceous borders he created at the school. Geoff Yates added: "Geoffrey Smith was one of the very few horticulturists that Russell had respect for. We had been friendly with the Smiths for many years including during the Heather Society Trials at Harlow Carr. He was one of the great horticultural personalities of our era." (© G. Yates).

This was the start of many broadcasts and his television work gave him the opportunity to travel. I remember well his descriptions of the heathers he had seen in South Africa long before they became fashionable with The Heather Society's members, although I also know that our current President, David Small, has been involved with them for a very long time.

Geoffrey has written 15 books as well as thousands of articles, all carefully typed up for him by Marjorie. He was a member of BBC Radio 4's Gardener's Question Time for 20 years, he was interviewed by Sue Lawley for "Desert Island Discs" and by Thora Hird for "Songs of Praise". He was awarded an Honorary Degree by the Open University, was named Yorkshire Personality of the Year five times and given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Garden Writers Guild.

Geoffrey was a prolific photographer, and lectures were always illustrated by his own slides showing plants in detail. He gave hundreds of lectures and after-dinner speeches using them as a means of communicating his love of gardening. He worked tirelessly to raise money for local churches, village

halls, gardening clubs and other charitable causes. Henshaw's College (for the deaf and blind) in Harrogate was one of his favourite charities. He continued to work long after normal retirement age even purchasing a couple of extra acres to enlarge his own garden.

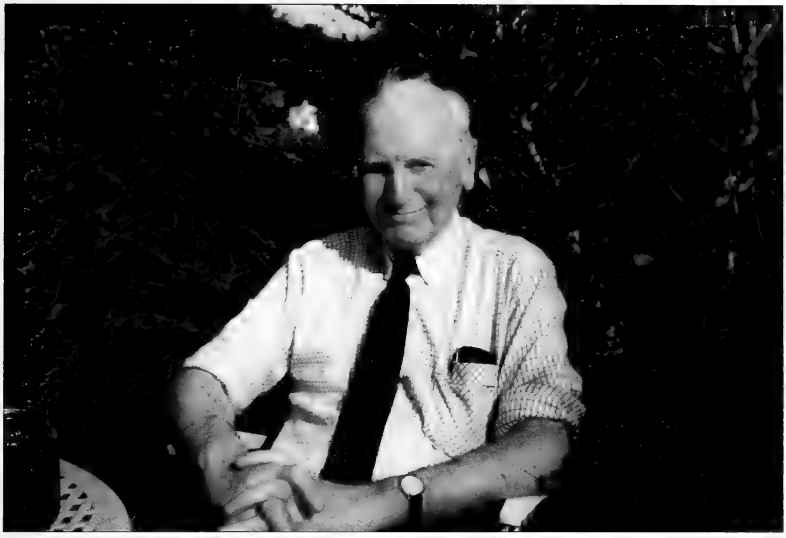
He was essentially a countryman who lived for the outdoor life. He would regularly walk 10 or 12 miles in his beloved "Dales" or return to his roots and walk the moors. He was known to look after, and nurse back to health, poisoned or injured wild animals, and released at least two tawny owls back to the wild. He kept and bred bantam hens, had a horse and three goats, all of which were zealously guarded by the family Alsatian.

Three hundred and fifty people attended his funeral at Harrogate Baptist Church where he had been a regular worshipper for more than 25 years. In a eulogy, Geoffrey was described as bringing vast knowledge and dedication to his life's work together with a deep and rich understanding of creation. He was the perfect gentleman, full of old-world charm. He abhorred impoliteness and vulgarity but had a great wit and a ready turn of Yorkshire phrase, which gave him a close connection with his audience.

He had two serious illnesses in the past and recovered from both of them to go on to greater things. Sadly, this time it was not to be, and the world will be a sadder place without him. He has been an honorary member of The Heather Society since 1975, an honour given to him for his work with the Harlow Carr Trials; his knowledge of both European and South African heathers made him a man worthy of it. Indeed the Society very much appreciates the work he has done.

He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, his son, Kelvin, and his daughter, Caroline. It is to be hoped that his family can manage to keep up his garden as a memorial to him. RHS Garden Harlow Carr has placed an epitaph to his memory on a large, simple sandstone memorial alongside his favourite streamside garden.

Jean Julian



DONALD ARTHUR RICHARDS

Donald Arthur Richards, known to all he came in contact with as "Don", died peacefully on Friday 27 March 2009 in his ninety fourth year. He was born and raised in the Southampton area, the oldest (and the longest surviving) of four brothers. He had wide interests, as a child, some of which he pursued throughout his life. He was a man of many talents; a renowned grower of heathers, an inventor, a photographer and a keen participant in amateur dramatics, to name a few. He obtained a degree in pharmacology and as it became apparent that Britain was to become involved in war, he joined the Air Force Auxiliary. At the declaration of war, he transferred to the RAF and spent much of his service at an RAF base in South Cumbria and learned to love that area. He spoke of the joy the flight crews had as they returned from their missions and saw the coast of Britain and Black Combe looming up over Silecroft as they returned to base.

He put his knowledge of photography to good use providing false identity cards to crew members and other materials to aid in their escape should they be forced down over enemy territory. When the war ended he decided to settle in South Cumbria and opened a pharmacy, first in Kendal and a few years later in Seascale, on the coast road, overlooking the ocean. He became known, throughout the area, as a helping person and many's

the time he kept his shop open late or came back late at night to help people in need of advice and medicines.

He purchased a house in Eskdale Green and named it "Rydal Mount". There was a small garden in the front which he enlarged and then planted a large vegetable garden on one side with espaliered fruit trees as a border. To the rear of the house was a steep hillside that had been used as a tip for rubble and was mostly devoid of trees and plants, but he saw great potential for a garden there. It looked out on a vast grassy field full of sheep, and the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway chugged along at the end of the field.

He began to clean up the hillside. Boulders too large to move and construction materials were planted over and around. He had a love for heathers and was a long time member of The Heather Society. They became one of the main plants in the garden along with exotic rhododendrons, magnolias, eucalyptus trees and other plants, trees and shrubs. He had a special interest in blueberries (*Vaccinium*) and had a wire enclosure full of many varieties. He was especially proud of some low growing varieties that he had obtained from New England, USA.

He invented a small, home greenhouse called the Dewpoint Cabinet and formed a company, with his brothers, to market it. They eventually sold the rights to a larger company. He knew every plant and shrub in his garden and passed on several hybrids to Webbs of Droitwich to grow on.

Don shared his plants and traveled with the horticulturist at Muncaster Castle and also David McClintock to see and bring back plants from foreign lands. When a THS Conference was held in Cumbria, Don arranged for a lunch at a local pub that included a blueberry crumble using his own berries, and, of course, a tour of his garden.

He was committed to serving the local community and ran the surgery car service for many years and was chairman of the parish council. When the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway closed he joined with others to work to re-open it as a historic museum railway. He supported local charities and opened his garden regularly for charities. When he became unable to walk the steep goat-paths in his garden, his neighbors and friends assisted with the Garden Open Days as they knew these brought him much joy. He knew every foot- and hand-hold on the narrow paths down into his garden and until two years ago it still brought him joy to take a visitor to view it, when he was able to. He was known in the community as a "helping" person and he was free with his verbal and monetary assistance to those who came to him. In his will he left his entire estate to the West Cumbria Hospice at Home and a leprosy charity.

Don had three marriages at St Catherine's Church, and it was a favorite spot for him to take visitors. He was pre-deceased by two of his wives. A memorial service was held for Don at St Catherine's on 6 April 2009. Following this, his ashes were spread, by family members, under the *Magnolia liliiflora* 'Nigra' in his beloved garden right across from the entrance to his blueberry enclosure. We extend our sympathy to Toni, his faithful wife.

Walter Wornick

Cultivars associated with Don Richards; unless otherwise stated raised at Rydal Mount; most were introduced by G. Yates.

'April Fool'	*Daboecia*: seedling raised from supposedly pure *D. cantabrica* seed sown in 1969; "I call this plant 'April Fool', but if ever marketed, 'Early Bride' might be more attractive."
'Ax'	*Calluna vulgaris*: found at Ax les Thermes, France, about 1969.
'Bit'	*Daboecia* × *scotica*: seedling raised in 1969.
'Blest'	*Daboecia cantabrica*: seedling.
'Blueless'	*Daboecia cantabrica* : seedling.
'Brick'	*Erica cinerea*: perhaps a seedling found by 1973.
'Bubbles'	*Daboecia cantabrica*: seedling.
'Candel'	*Erica tetralix*: introduced by 1978.
'Candy'	*Daboecia*: one of a series of seedlings; this one from his group labelled "B" which were supposedly hybrids between *D. azorica* and *D. cantabrica*.
'Cherub'	*Daboecia cantabrica*: seedling.
'Corfu'	*Erica manipuliflora*: found on Corfu, Greece, about 1972.
'Don Richards'	*Erica manipuliflora*: found on Corfu, Greece, about 1972.
'Early Bride'	see 'April Fool'.
'Emperor'	*Erica cinerea*: seedling raised and selected in 1975; discarded by 1978.
'Eskdale Baron'	*Daboecia cantabrica*: seedling raised about 1970.
'Eskdale Blea'	*Daboecia cantabrica*: seedling raised about 1970.
'Eskdale Blonde'	*Daboecia cantabrica*
'Eskdale Gold'	*Calluna vulgaris*: seedling found before 1990.
'Eskdale Maggie'	*Daboecia cantabrica*: collected about 1971 in the French Pyrenees, at about 1200m asl,
'Evelyn'	*Daboecia* × *scotica*: seedling raised about 1979.
'John Ardron'	*Erica cinerea*: seedling from 'Velvet Night', selected before 1979. Named in memory of John Ardron (1896–1978), a prominent member of The Heather Society in the 1970s.
'Lantern'	*Daboecia cantabrica*: seedling raised before 1973.
'Leon'	*Calluna vulgaris*: found near Leon, south of Bordeaux, France, in 1969.

most common cause of an accident is a lawn mower and a close second is the flower pot. The correct way to approach most gardening tasks is described, including the folding of deck chairs!

"Caring for wild life", chapter 7, considers attracting wild life into the garden, from insects to birds and mammals. Initially I would have thought that such a large and diverse subject like this would be too large for one chapter, but not so: the photographs and illustrations are superb. It includes advice on how to create a wildlife area and build a pond.

Chapter 8, the final chapter, considers caring for the environment in general including consideration of one's neighbours! The use of peat in the garden is a current topic of concern for the heather gardener and Dr Hessayon's comments are very relevant. He considers that English sedge-peat is a non-renewable resource and should not be used. On the other hand, sphagnum peat is present in vast deposits in other parts of the world. He notes that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a UN advisory body, has reclassified sphagnum peat from a fossil fuel to a "renewable biomass" resource. He comments, however, that transporting peat across the world will increase carbon emissions. His final comment is that "non-orthodox gardeners may use peat in composts and planting mixtures when there is no substitute of equal merit."

This book is very stimulating read with concise prose, clear explanatory diagrams and beautiful illustrations and photographs. It is primarily written for the gardening tyro but there is something for everyone in it. There is further back-up for Dr Hessayon's many other publications. It is great value for money and should be on every gardener's book-shelf.

Bryon Roberts

GRAHAM CLARKE, 2008. *Success with acid-loving plants*. Guild of Master Craftsman Publications Ltd, Lewes. £12.99. ISBN 978 1861084941.

As a child, the author lived in a house in the grounds of Regents Park in London, where his father was in charge of the gardens. He studied at the RHS Garden Wisley and worked in the gardens of Buckingham Palace, before becoming a garden writer and journalist.

Section One of the book establishes the basics, with a good description of what 'acid soil' actually is and how it was formed, how to measure for acid and alkaline soils, how to cope with it and how to adjust the soil conditions if necessary.

There is a chapter on how to design a garden on acid soil, the right plants to grow in these conditions and their care and maintenance, plus advice on pest and disease problems. The chapter on garden design includes a couple of pages on heathers, with an emphasis on heather and conifer gardens. However he does mention that bulbs, perennials and small shrubs as well as ornamental grasses can be used. There are also several attractive photographs.

Section Two contains an A–to–Z of annuals, biennials, and bedding plants which

will grow in an acid soil, quoting their preferred pH range and hardiness rating. If the plant has been awarded an Award of Garden Merit, this is also quoted. A list of "popular species and varieties" is included in the information for all the plants mentioned. There is also chapter on trees, shrubs and climbers in this Section, where heathers and other ericaceous plants are described. The heathers listed are *Calluna, Daboecia, Erica carnea, E.* × *darleyensis, E. erigena* and *E. vagans,* but, sadly, not *E. cinerea* or *E. ciliaris*. He is obviously not very familiar with tree heaths as he tells us that forms of *E.* × *darleyensis* "are often thought of as 'tree heathers' ..." which I have never heard before. Vegetables, fruit and herbs are not forgotten, as well as house and conservatory plants.

All in all I found this a very useful and attractive publication, with plenty of basic information, and good photographs to illustrate both the advice given and the plants mentioned. And, for those who garden on an alkaline soil, there is a companion volume, *Success with alkaline-loving plants*.

Daphne Everett

LEE PENROSE & BOB TAYLOR, 2007. *Heather and its management*. (Studies in golf course management no. 7.) Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), Bingley. £7.50. ISBN 978 1873431504.

This booklet of 60 pages comprises six short but highly informative and readable sections, and leads up to a Management Section and an excellent Appendix. This appendix summarizes the problems, effects and solutions to the maintenance of heather patches on a golf course. The information and statistics are based on returns from a meaningful number of 240 golf courses in the United Kingdom, some of which are featured in the 50 photographs in the book illustrating the various problems of heather management. The relatively high cost of golf-course management is not quantified, but is a real problem especially where advice to laying six-inch heather turves is followed. Of particular interest is the appreciation that the problems are mainly caused by the golf playing fraternity, but 80% of the golf clubs are in favour of increasing the heather areas on their courses. This booklet offers realistic advice towards achieving this objective.

Reference is only made to three varieties of heather; to ling (*Calluna vulgaris*) which occurs on 80% of the maintained golf areas, to bell heather (*Erica cinerea*) on a further 18%, and cross-leaved heath (*E. tetralix*) with a mere 1% of coverage. The heather flowering season on golf courses is thus limited to late summer. No references are made to other heathers to produce colour for longer or winter periods, nor to use easier ground-covering species or hardier varieties which could be more cost-effective, and give greater pleasure which is a wish-factor for 77% of the golfers. Possible a subsequent volume could discuss these issues with supporting advice from The Heather Society.

Eric Cox

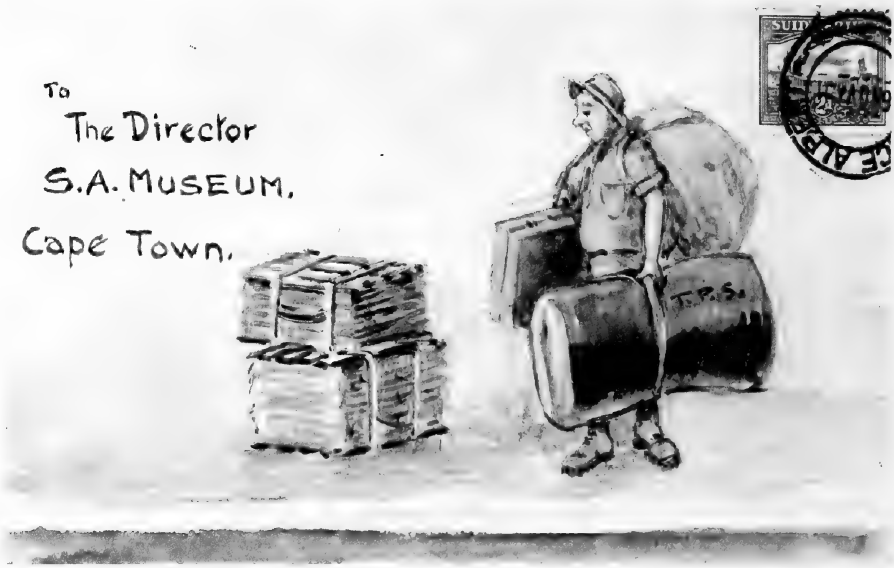


Figure 1. Self-portrait of 'TP' with all his gear, ready for a stint up in the mountains.

PETER SLINGSBY & AMIDA JOHNS, 2009. *T. P Stokoe – the man, the myths, the flowers.* Baardskeerder cc, Cape Town. R295. ISBN 978 1919900964.

This delightful book tells the life of Thomas Paterson Stokoe, a plant collector extraordinaire in the Cape Flora. Born in 1868 in Northumberland, 'TP', a lithographer by training, emigrated to South Africa in 1911. In England he had a liking for wild flowers and could sketch and paint well. In Cape Town his first outings introduced him to the wealth of the Cape Flora; on a walk in the veld "I hesitated to trespass over what I thought was a private garden". He determined to get to know their names and to look for more in the nearby mountains. Thus began a remarkable hobby that has not been equalled in local natural history. He became an adept mountain climber (including serious rock work) and made thousands of plant collections on his hikes with members of the Mountain Club but more often by himself for days at a time into the wilderness in all weather conditions with primitive equipment. In his own words: "To wander where one listeth amongst the 'buttercups and daisies' is to me the ideal life...". This gave him access to many choice, undescribed new plant species, some of which bear the epithet *stokoei*, the most spectacular being in the *Protea* family. Among his discoveries were some 40 new ericas, three named after him – *Erica stokoei*, *E. thomae* and *E. stokoeanthus*. 'TP' died in 1959 after a field-trip during which he became ill.

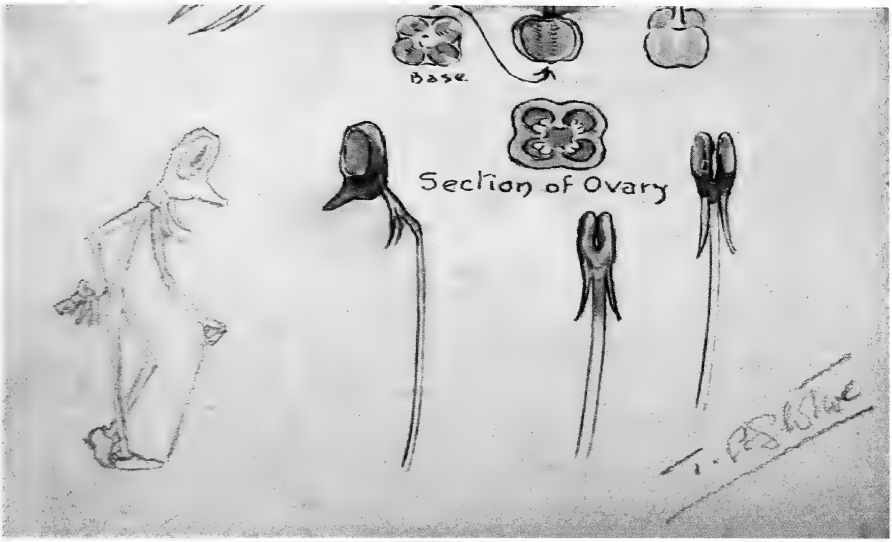


Figure 2. Thomas Paterson Stokoe's sketch of the anthers of one of his discoveries, *Erica vallis-aranearum*, attached to his herbarium collection (see Frontispiece, p. iv).

I met him once at a meeting in 1958, and saw him run down the road to jump onto a moving tram, that at age 90! In a letter to a friend in 1952 he thought "an overhaul at least once every 80 years is justified"! He had a delightful sense of humour and could produce lovely caricatures of himself and his 'hobby', often as illustrations on envelopes which he sent to contacts.

This excellent book by Peter, the top cartographer in the Cape, and botanist, Amida, who lives in the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve (see *Heathers* **3**: 22 (2006)), is a superb bit of work on a little-known person with excellent coverage of all his achievements and quirks.

Ted Oliver

E. C. NELSON, 2009. *An Irishman's cuttings*. The Collins Press, Cork. €29.99. ISBN 9781848890053.

Two days ago, I harvested the styles from my first saffron crocus. Yesterday, there were more of these delicate treasures awaiting me, but not only in my garden. They greeted me from the superb reproductions of ancient botanical illustrations on page 4 of Charles Nelson's beautiful new book, which also contains many of the author's colour photographs. An updated compendium of articles selected from the many that Nelson wrote for *The Irish garden* magazine, *An Irishman's cuttings* should be in every gardener's library.

Readers already familiar with the author's unique habit of exhaustive research combined with a sometimes whimsical, even tongue-in-cheek presentation of the results of his researches will not be disappointed with this latest offering. Newcomers to Nelson's writing have only to read the author's foreword to realize what hours of delight await them in the body of the book.

The personalities of the people behind the gardens permeate *An Irishman's cuttings*. Although many plants are described and colourfully illustrated in the book, the people who interact with the plants are integral features of every article. (There are, mercifully, far fewer illustrations of people than of plants.) Obviously the author is as fascinated by the people he describes as he is by their plants and gardens. "He [Joseph Spence] was enjoying this [designing of a garden for the Dean of Cashel], and it would be very fragrant–jasmines, honeysuckles and mezereons (*Daphne mezereon*) would pour their perfumes into the Ulster air." Indeed, Charles Nelson, who definitely knows better, was apparently in such raptures over the garden vision of Joseph Spence that he inadvertently substituted the common name of the specified daphne, mezereon, for the slightly different scientific name of the species, *D. mezereum*.

The names of many plants link them inextricably to friends, relatives, and even enemies of the people who discovered or named them. Therein lie some fascinating stories. In the hands of Dr Nelson, the search for the origins of plant names can lead to tales of intrigue, accounts of friendships, fashions (garden and otherwise), pharmaceuticals, and foreign lands. Even when the name itself doesn't lead to a story, a plant's geographic distribution may.

To call this book a "garden history", though the appellation is accurate, would be to do it a grave injustice, conjuring up as it does the image of a dull, dusty tome, which this most decidedly is not. As with the much-admired writing of the late, very opinionated gardener Christopher Lloyd, the writing of botanist Charles Nelson is enlivened by his opinions. "Some variegated plants are abominations, and should have been composted at birth."

As might be expected from a long time heather enthusiast, Charles Nelson has sprinkled references to heathers throughout the book. Some are brief, such as mention of the Cape heaths grown successfully by John Templeton in his early nineteenth century garden near Belfast. The Cape heaths later receive their due in an article about the early years of the botanic gardens at Glasnevin.

"A Saintly Heather" sheds light upon the derivation of the generic name of the largest-flowered European heather. *Daboecia* was named for "a luminary of the Early Celtic church", though which luminary is not quite clear. St. Dabeoc's heath (note that two letters of the saint's name were transposed when it was Latinized) is found in Ireland "only in "Connemara and south Mayo", though it is widespread in northern Spain and northwestern Portugal and is also found in western France and the Azores. Although the scientific name undoubtedly is derived by a circuitous and obscure route from the Irish population, the first garden introduction sprang from Spanish seed with an Irish connection: it was sent to London in 1763 by Dr William Bowles of Cork, Superintendent of Spanish Mines.

This article is a rich source of information about using daboecias in the garden, including comments about the unique attributes and garden worthiness of a number of cultivars. Among these are the interesting "double"-flowered plant discovered in Connemara by Charles Nelson and named for him, and 'Celtic Star', also found in Connemara, with "purple bells enclosed by fleshy, almost scarlet sepals", an arresting combination when viewed up close but also quite lovely in the garden.

"Among the Heather Bright" is less about heather (in this case ericas from the Cape of Good Hope) than it is about the relationship between the botanic gardens at Glasnevin and the nurseries that supplied Glasnevin with exotic plants in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Nelson makes a strong case for the vast, and expensive, influx to Glasnevin of rare and fashionable new plants from the Cape and other distant lands being attributable to the close association of Glasnevin's head gardener John Underwood with London area nurseries, especially the Vineyard Nursery, Hammersmith, which supplied most of the Cape heaths at Glasnevin. Along the way, the reader is titillated with hints about the eminent (or in at least one case, notorious) personages for whom the newly discovered Cape heaths were named and also with the possibility that some of these heaths had not been discovered but "created" (hybridized) as nurseries tried to cash in on the immense popularity of these plants among their wealthy patrons.

These little ventures down side alleys contribute immeasurably to the book's charm and may be found in nearly every article. Charles Nelson is endowed with both insatiable curiosity and diligence sufficient to pursue its objects, wherever they lead him. Remarkably, in the article about the Porter family, Nelson sticks to his subject quite closely, perhaps because there is sufficient scope within the story of this family's association with cultivated heathers to wander around to his heart's content.

A passion for heathers, a fortuitous discovery on a holiday walk, the scientist's natural inclination to experiment, and some good old-fashioned luck led J. Walker Porter to create some outstanding heather cultivars that are still widely grown nearly a half-century after his death.

The Porters on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary (from *An Irishman's cuttings*, by courtesy of Heather Dobbin).

Perhaps Porter's most valuable discovery was his wife, Eileen, for it was she who "was responsible for ensuring Walker's plants were propagated and distributed, 'J. W. Porter' and 'Margaret Porter' being named at her suggestion." The name "Porter" on a cultivar usually guarantees that it is worth growing.

An Irishman's cuttings is liberally endowed with sufficient information about particular plants' preferred habitats, manners of growth, and plant companions to aid gardeners in the successful cultivation of those plants, though just as this is not only a "garden history", it also is by no means a "how to grow it" garden manual. It is, rather, a book wherein there is something for everyone, from the keen gardener to the plant collector, the herbalist, and the history buff. An amazing amount of information may be gleaned here in easily digestible form. I suggest reading no more than a "cutting" or two at a sitting, in order to fully absorb and appreciate the many bits of knowledge packed into a few generously illustrated pages. This book will not disappoint.

Ella May T. Wulff

Supplement X (2010) to *International register of heather names*

Registered names

Calluna vulgaris

'Claire'
® **C.2009:01**, registered on 11 March 2009 by Kurt Kramer, Edewecht, Germany.
* Bud-flowerer; September to November, white, with bright green foliage; after 3 years 10cm tall, 30cm spread.
♦ Seedling, raised and selected by Kurt Kramer; CLL 397.

'Connemara Colleen'
® **C.2009:06**, registered on 20 July 2009 by Susie Kay, Lettergesh, County Galway, Ireland.
*Bud-flowerer; late August to November; buds solitary on very short lateral shoots; composed of 8 calyx segments, c. 4mm long; corolla and stamens absent; ovary hirsute with shaggy hairs; style enclosed and contorted at apex; foliage more or less glabrous.
♦ Wild-collected; found in October 2006 at Letterfrack, Connemara, County Galway, Ireland.

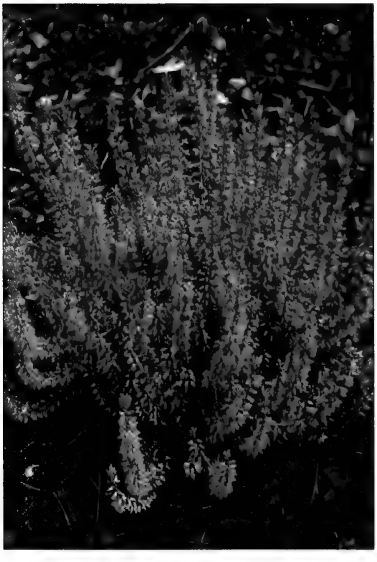
'Hera'
® **C.2009:02**, registered on 11 March 2009 by Kurt Kramer, Edewecht, Germany.
* Bud-flowerer; September to December, shell-pink (H16), with mid-green foliage; after 3 years 30cm tall, 25cm spread.
♦ Sport on 'Helena', found by Kurt Kramer in October 2007.

'Lena'
® **C.2009:07**, registered on 26 November 2009 by Johannes van Leuven, Geldern-Lüllingen, Germany.
* Bud-flowerer; August to October; pink-purple ("rosalila"); habit upright; after 5 years 60cm tall, 50cm spread.
♦ Seedling selected by Johannes van Leuven in September 2007: "sehr frühe Blüte im August, dickere Knospe als bei 'Loki'."
ⓘNamed after Lena Keyseres: "... ist eine junge Frau, die in unserer Gärtnerei die Ausbildung macht und ihr gefällt diese Sorte sehr gut".

'Loki'
® **C.2009:03**, registered on 11 March 2009 by Kurt Kramer, Edewecht, Germany.
* Bud-flowerer; August to September, cerise H6 (RHS 63A); foliage dark green; after 3 years 30cm tall, 25cm spread.
♦ Sport on 'Athene', found by Johannes van Leuven in October 2006.

'Red Angie'
® **C.2009:08**, registered on 27 November 2009 by Johannes van Leuven, Geldern-Lüllingen, Germany.
* Bud-flowerer; September to December; dark red; bushy, upright, after 5 years 50cm tall, 50cm spread. "Dunkler als 'Angie'."
♦ Sport on 'Angie', found by Johannes van Leuven in September 2007.

Johannes van Leuven's new bud-flowering cultivars of *Calluna vulgaris*: (above) 'Lena' being shown by Lena Keyseres (with 'Madonna' in the background); (lower left) 'Red Angie' and (lower right) 'Silvana'.



'Silvana'
® **C.2009:09**, registered on 27 November 2009 by Johannes van Leuven, Geldern-Lüllingen, Germany.

* Bud-flowerer; September to November light pink; foliage silvery grey; upright; after 5 years 60cm tall, 50cm spread.

♦ Chance seedling, found by Johannes van Leuven at Geldern-Lüllingen in September 2007. "'Silvana' ist die erste silberlaubige Knospenheide."

'Tessa'
® **C.2009:04**, registered on 11 March 2009 by Kurt Kramer, Edewecht, Germany.

* Bud-flowerer; September to December; cerise (H6); foliage dark green; after 3 years 25cm tall, 30cm spread.

♦ Sport on 'Theresa', found by Kay Müssig (Engelbergweg, Miltenberg, Germany) in October 2006.

'Zipi'
® **C.2009:05**, registered on 11 March 2009 by Kurt Kramer, Edewecht, Germany.

* Flowers not produced; foliage light yellow; after 3 years 30cm tall, 25 cm spread.

♦ Seedling raised by Kurt Kramer in 2004; CLL 359.

Daboecia

'Andrea' : *D. cantabrica*
® **D.2009:02**, registered on 19 August 2009 by Johannes van Leuven, Geldern-Lüllingen, Germany.

* Flowers the same colour as 'Amelie' (red); August to October; foliage also like 'Amelie'; habit extremely upright, taut; after 2 years 50cm tall, 40cm spread.

♦ Selected by Johannes van Leuven in August 2007 from 15,000 seedlings.

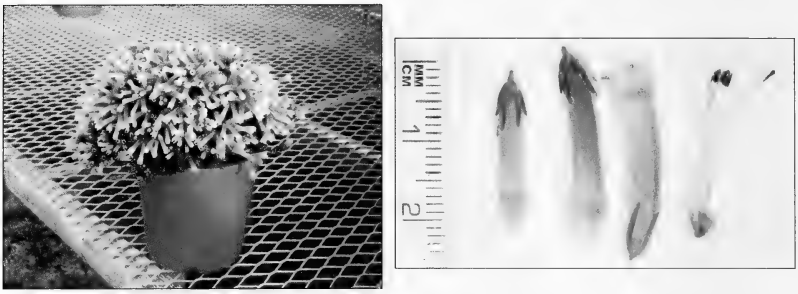
ⓘ Named, with her consent, after the actress Andrea Sawatzki.

'Thumbelina' : *D.* × *scotica*
® **D.2009:01**, registered on 18 June 2009 by Julian Fitz-Earle, West Wickham, Kent, UK.

* Flowers heliotrope (H12); corolla small (less than 10mm) with a few scattered gland-tipped hairs; ovary with prominent gland-tipped hairs very obvious when corolla falls; June to July; foliage dark, glossy green; leaves to c. 6mm; low-growing, compact, after 3 years 15cm tall, 10cm across.

♦ Self-sown seedling found in Forest Edge Nursery (Woodlands, Wimborne, Dorset); parentage not known but believed to be from *D.* × *scotica* cultivars grown on the nursery. Given to Julian Fitz-Earle about 2006.

ⓘ Name suggested by David Edge, because it was a tiny plant and Thumbelina was the name of the tiny girl from the Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale.



'African Showgirl'; (left) a neatly pruned plant ready for sale in Japan; (right) flowers at various stages of maturity with a dissected flower showing stamens and gynoecium.

Erica

Erica '**African Showgirl**' (Cape heath)

® **E.2009:06**, registered on 9 October 2009; see *Heathers* **7** (this volume): 00-00.

🕮 Satoshi Miwa, in *Engei Nyūsu Retā* **66** (2010): 2.

♦ *Engei Nyūsu Retā* **66**: 2 & cover; this issue pp 16, 19 & above.

ⓘ Name suggested by Anna Baggallay, alluding to the showy flowers.

E. × *watsonii* '**Allen Hall**'

® **E.2009:05**, registered on 29 September 2009 by Stephen James Yandall, Germoe, Cornwall.

* Flowers mauve (H2), May/June to October; corolla urn-shaped; calyx green; foliage downy, green; habit spreading; after 2 years 20cm tall, 30cm across. Differs in being very floriferous, early flowering and repeat-flowering.

♦ Wild-collected, found by Steve Yandall in 2007 on Ventongimps Moor, Cornwall; selected in 2009 by Steve Yandall.

ⓘ Named (with his consent) after Allen Hall, Vice-President of The Heather Society.

E. cinerea '**Flott**'

® **E.2009:04**, registered on 22 October 2009 by Mrs Mary Bowerman, Champs Hill, Coldwaltham, West Sussex, UK.

* Flowers purple shading to crimson (H10 to H13), late June/July to October; foliage very fine, pale green to yellow, with red shoot-tips; compact; after 4 years 16cm tall, 18cm across when not pruned.

♦ Sport on 'Blossom Time' at Champs Hill in 2003, found and selected by Sid Brown.

ⓘ Named (with her consent) after Dame Felicity Lott, singer; her affectionate nickname.

E. spiculifolia **'Graf Dracula'**
® **E.2009:02,** registered on 11 March 2009 by Kurt Kramer, Edewecht, Germany.
* Flowers cerise (H6), small, June to July; plant after 3 years 20cm tall, 20cm spread.
♦ Seedling "reinrosa K1", raised by Kurt Kramer about 2004.

E. erigena × *lusitanica* **'Lucy Gena'**
® **E.2009:03,** registered on 17 August 2009 by Barry Sellers, Norbury, London, UK.
* Flowers white, November/December to March/April; corolla urceolate, to 5.3mm long; width at lobes 2.0mm, at widest 2.9mm; calyx white; foliage green; low shrub, after 2 years approximately 15cm tall, 30 cm spread.
♦ Deliberately created hybrid with *Erica lusitanica* 'George Hunt' pollinated by an unnamed *E. erigena* seedling (from 'Golden Lady' (EEGLS 87.69)); hand-pollinated; seed taken 1996. This is only surviving seedling of three (coded ELGH 96.1 to 96.3); the other two of yellow foliage died.
ⓘ A punning reference to the parents' names.

E. × *darleyensis* **'Rubina'**
® **E.2009:01,** registered on 11 March 2009 by Kurt Kramer, Edewecht, Germany.
* Flowers November to April, corolla and sepals magenta (H14 RHS 68A); foliage dark green; after 3 years 25cm tall, 25cm spread.
♦ Seedling raised by Kurt Kramer in 2006.

Other names new to the ICRA

Erica

'Cecilia': *E. carnea* : orthographic error. RHS checklist 2008.

'Evening Glow' : Cape heath hybrid : established 1961.
* "An evergreen shrub; flowers tubular, 1/2" to 1" long, opening white then changing to rose. Very decorative."
♦ Obtained in September 1959 by F. G. Meyer in Palmengarten, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, and brought to Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania, USA (acc. 611387). A nomenclature standard is in US National Herbarium (NA-0025407). The origin of the original plants is unknown but it had been cultivated in the Palmengarten for "a long time". It "almost certainly" had *E. cerinthoides* in parentage. Not in cultivation at Longwood Gardens in 2009.

🕮*Baileya* **9**: 131 (1961); T. Anisko, *Plant exploration for Longwood Gardens*: 234 (2006); *Hanburyana* **4**: 45.

GREAT STAR : *E.* × *veitchii* : trade designation for *E. lusitanica* 'Le Vasterival'.

hyblaea : *E. multiflora* L. subsp. *hyblaea* Domina & Raimondo
* Flowers longer, corolla 6-8mm; pedicels longer, 12-18mm; anthers longer 1.5-2mm than in type subspecies; foliage pubescent not glabrescent. Blooms several months after type subspecies.

Erica multiflora subsp. *hyblaea* at the type locality, Iblei Mountains, Sicily. © G. Domina.

♦ Described from a small, isolated population growing at 270m a.s.l. in Valle dell'Anapo, near Pantalica, in the Iblei Mountains, in southeastern Sicily. The habitat is a limestone gorge, and the heather grows on the rocks. A few plants are in cultivation in the botanic garden of Universita degli Studi di Palermo.

🕮 *Bocconea* **20**: 11 (2007).

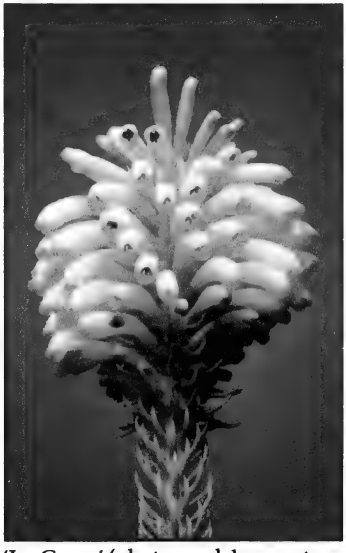
ⓘ Toponym: from the Iblei Mountains.

'Ice Green': *E. sessiliflora*

⁕ 'An erect multi-branched shrub with fine, fresh green foliage. Exquisite pale lime-green tubular flowers in crowded terminal clusters - an excellent winter and early spring flowering garden shrub. [Informatiom by courtesy of Anne Reid, NZ Colour Labels Ltd.]

🕮 NZ Colour Labels website 2009.

'Jack Scott': *E. carnea* : typographic error. RHS checklist 2008.



'Ice Green' (photograph by courtesy of Mike Summers)

Erica lusitanica 'Le Vasterival': (left) flowers and buds; (right) planted with *E.* × *darleyensis* 'White Glow', 'Margaret Porter' (rear) and 'Kramers Rote' (left foreground): © pépinières MINIER (by courtesy of Jean-Paul Davasse and Sylvian Milliand).

'Le Vasterival' : *E. lusitanica* : accepted.

* "longue floraison, blanc rosé, issue de boutons floraux rose foncés dès Mars, se prolongeant jusqu'en Mai. Plante persistante érigée, saine et rustique."

♦"Séléctionné au jardin du Vasterival en Normandie, propriété de la Princesse Sturdza. Diffusion par Minier en 2007." (Introduced by Miniers Nursery, France. See also below.)

🕮http://pepinieres-minier.fr/~minier/fichePlante.php?action=informations&codePlante=5519&route=plantes-nouveautes-research [accessed 11 August 2009].

'Le Vasterival': *E.* × *veitchii* : identification error, for *E. lusitanica* 'Le Vasterival'.

♦ The name first used on the Minier website was *E. arborea* × *veitchii*, but examination of a specimen provided by D. Edge showed no indication of hybridity and none of *E. arborea* as a parent; the plant is indistinguishable from *E. lusitanica*.

'Vasterival' : *E.* × *veitchii* : rejected (orthographic error) for 'Le Vasterival'

🕮 *Bulletin of the Heather Society* 7 (6): 3 (Spring 2009).

WINTER BELLES™ : *E.* × *darleyensis* : trade mark, trade designation.

🕮 http://www.sapho.fr/angleterre/bruyeres/erica.htm.

The Heather Society's Premier Award
Erica × *darleyensis* **'Lucie'**

Erica × *darleyensis* 'Lucie' is the first heather to gain The Heather Society's new accolade, the Premier Award. This innovative award is granted to a new heather cultivar showing outstanding attributes for general garden planting. Each plant is judged on flower colour and longevity, habit, suitability for a wide range of soils, hardiness, and versatility in the garden.

Erica x darleyensis 'Lucie' (® E.2007.05) has large, glowing magenta flowers produced from late autumn to spring set against dark green foliage. It is vigorous and resistant to disease. 'Lucie' possesses all the qualities of its popular, well-known parent, 'Kramers Rote'.

'Lucie' originated as a sport on 'Kramers Rote' at les Pépinières Renault, Gorron, France in 1997. It is being protected by plant breeders' rights and is marketed by the French company SAPHO under the trade-mark WINTER BELLES™ (which covers a group of winter-flowering heathers with large flowers, including 'Phoebe' and 'Katia').

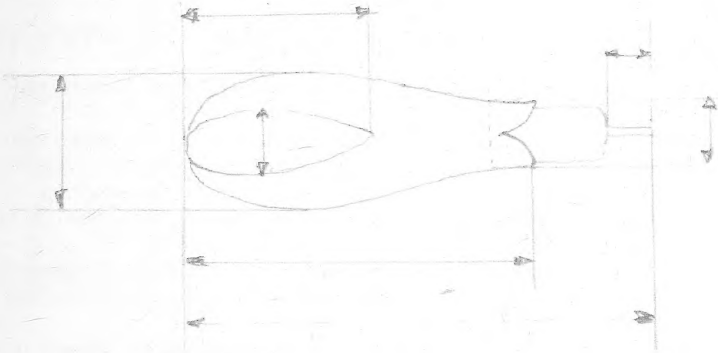
The Premier Award will be signified by the use on labels and publicity of the special logo, designed for The Heather Society by Declan Kenny, The Drawing Board, Leixlip, Ireland.

Heathers 7: 73-74

Erica carnea: the cover illustration

Brita Johansson
Musselvägen 3, 468 34 Vargön, Sweden.

I proceeded in the following way. Flowers were chosen from a plant exposed to the sun and in full flower, but neither too early nor too late. Five single flowers of each were measured and the mean values determined.



Then the drawing was made using the measurements and finally compared with the flowers to ensure it was a correct impression. When painting, I took the sheet outside to compare the colours in full light without sun.

A single flower always looks paler and less coloured than a raceme or a whole plant because when regarding a raceme of packed flowers we can see only a part of each flower—the part exposed to the light and consequently the most highly coloured.

Sitting day after day looking at these small flowers through a lens it is unavoidable that one discover something or other. The corolla lobes slightly overlap each other; the overlap ranges from just noticeable to pretty clear as with 'Myretoun Ruby'. On a hanging bell the right lobe is always overlapping the left, and I would be very surprised to find the opposite. There is a tendency that two sepals are broader than the others; this is very clear in 'Lake Garda' and 'James Backhouse'. I have measured the broadest. Open a bud of a pink or red *Erica carnea* and you will find the anthers deep crimson or carmine. They change colour when the bud opens. For some time, a little of this colour remains just above the brown. It can be orange or yellow, too. I guess that most people expect the mouth of the corolla to become wider but that is correct only when regarding the flower from this position. I have

painted from this position to show how much the sepals stand out from the corolla which I think is a fixed character. Leaves in whorls of four is no strict rule: they are often in threes or fives and in some cultivars — I don't remember which — they are arranged in a slight spiral.

1. 'Loughrigg': flowers January-May, opening pink (H8), deepening through rose-pink (H7) to heliotrope (H12). Dark green foliage with shades of bronze. Vigorous, spreading habit. 15cm tall, 50cm spread.

♦ Perhaps a seedling of 'Vivelli'; found by G. Hayes (Grasmere, Cumbria), and introduced by Robert Hayes by 1948; available from Maxwell & Beale (Broadstone, Dorset) in 1946. **AM** 1966, **AGM**.

2. 'James Backhouse': late flowering, March-April, lavender (H3), with mid-green foliage. Loose, straggling habit. 15cm tall, 40cm spread.

♦ Wild-collected; found in Switzerland by Richard Potter of Backhouse Nurseries (York) Ltd; introduced by Backhouse in 1911.

3. 'Foxhollow': flowers January-April, heliotrope (H12) to shell-pink (H16) depending on the exposure to the sun, with yellow foliage, tipped bronze for most of the year, deepening to orange-red in very cold weather. Vigorous, spreading habit. 40cm tall, 40cm spread.

♦ Seedling amongst 'Aurea'; found at Foxhollow (Windlesham, Surrey) and introduced before 1969 by J. F. Letts. **AGM** 1992.

4. 'Praecox Rubra': flowers November-May, rich rose-carmine (heliotrope (H12)), with dark green foliage, sometimes tinged brown. Vigorous, semi-prostrate habit. 15cm tall, 40cm spread.

♦ Wild-collected; like 'James Backhouse', found in Switzerland by Richard Potter of Backhouse Nurseries (York) Ltd; introduced in 1911. **AM** 1966, **FCC.**

5. 'Myretoun Ruby': flowers January-May, opening heliotrope (H12), deepening through magenta (H14) to crimson (H13), with dark green foliage. 15cm tall, 45cm spread.

♦ Seedling raised by A. Porteous (Myretoun, Menstrie, Clackmannanshire, Scotland); introduced by Delaney & Lyle (Alloa, Clackmannanshire) by 1965.

6. 'Sneznik': flowers February-March, small, rose-purple, with tiny, dark green leaves. Unusual compact habit created by the many, short side-shoots. 15cm tall, 20cm spread.

♦ Wild-collected; Dr Hans Simon found this on Sneznik, a mountain in the Dinaric Alps, Slovenia, before 1980.

7. 'Vivellii': flowers January-May, opening lilac-pink (H11), darkening to magenta (H14), with sombre bronzy-green foliage. Spreading. 15cm tall, 35cm spread.

♦ Wild-collected; found in the Engadine Alps, Switzerland, by Paul Theoboldt in 1906; introduced by Theoboldt (Aulendorf, Wurttemberg, Germany) in 1909. Named after Adolf Vivell (1878--1959), a landscape architect who was the head of Theoboldt's former firm. **AM** 1964, **FCC.**

8. 'Lake Garda': flowers January-March, pale pink (H8) with dark green foliage. Vigorous spreading habit. 15cm tall, 40cm spread.

♦ Wild-collected; found on a hill above Lake Garda, Italy, by David McClintock (Platt, Kent, England) in 1977; introduced by Mrs T. Forbes (Plaxtol Nurseries, Plaxtol, Kent) in 1984.

THE HEATHER SOCIETY

All material for the 2011 issue of the *Yearbook of The Heather Society* must reach the Editor not later than 31 October 2010. Articles may be submitted by e-mail.

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Design & typesetting: Emily Robinson
Printed in England by Witley Press Ltd, Hunstanton, Norfolk

DATES OF PUBLICATION OF *YEARBOOKS*

Heathers 1: 10 March 2004
Heathers 2: 26 February 2005
Heathers 3: 1 March 2006
Heathers 4: 3 August 2007
Heathers 5: 26 March 2008
Heathers VI: 16 March 2009

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Website: www.heathersociety.org

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