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# YEARBOOK of the HEATHER SOCIETY



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# THE HEATHER SOCIETY

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Nederlandse Heidervereniging 'Ericultura'  
Gesellschaft der Heidefreunde  
North American Heather Society

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*Yearbook  
of  
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*1995*

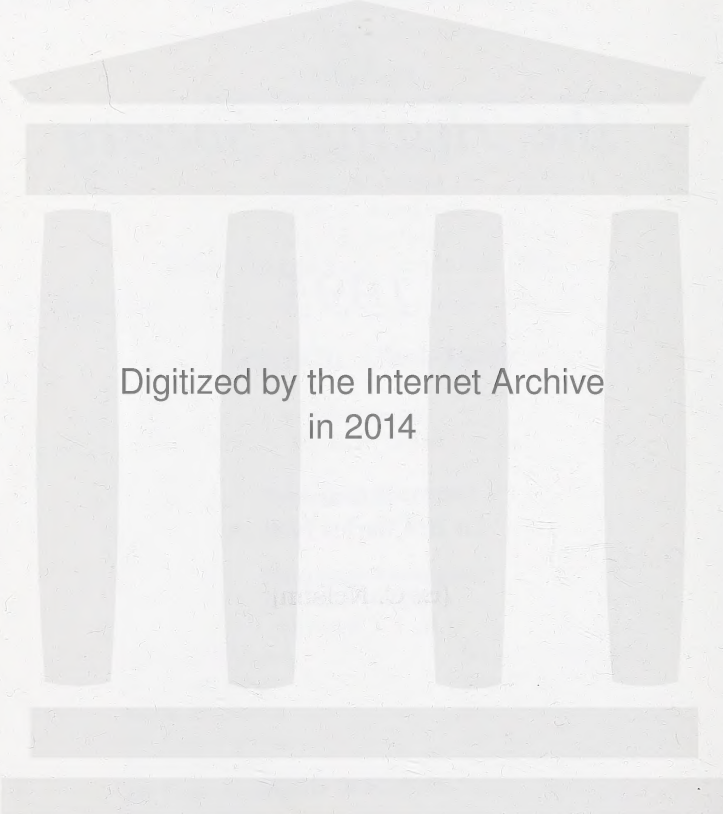
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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

*Erica pageana*, a Cape heath that can be cultivated out-of-doors in the mildest parts of Britain and Ireland, photographed at Rossdohan, County Kerry, Ireland  
[E. C. Nelson]



## FOREWORD

There was close co-operation last year between our Society and the British Heather Growers Association, much of which is due to the indefatigable David Small. Now that most major nurseries belong, the Association can concentrate on ensuring the quality of the heathers sold in our garden centres which is something we, as a Society, can applaud.

Kurt Kramer's fine new cultivars of *Erica carnea* are coming on to the market and his bud-blooming *Calluna vulgaris* will make a spectacular entrance in Autumn 1995.

How many members have been able to visit the plant sales centre at Wisley? There, heathers have a very prominent place with a wide range on sale. The heather collection in the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens has never looked better and an area is marked out already for yet another bed. The signposting to that collection is still poor and climbing the bridge over the public path en route, deters some visitors. However, those who do come are, rightly, loud in its praises.

The National Trust reaches its centenary this year. In recognition of its work, we have two articles in this *Yearbook*, explaining the Trust's involvement with heathers in gardens and in the wild.

Congratulations are also due to the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin, on reaching its bicentenary; and to mark this very special occasion, we have accepted a kind invitation from the Director, Donal Synnott, to hold our conference there in September 1995. We hope this will attract members who have not yet been to a conference to find out just what happy occasions they are.

David McClintock  
President



Fig. 1. Spring-flowering heathers in the Sunken Garden, Mount Stewart, Northern Ireland [E. C. Nelson].



## Heathers in National Trust gardens.

### SIMON THORNTON-WOOD

The National Trust, 33 Sheep Street, Cirencester GL7 1QW,  
Gloucestershire.

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One century after the founding of the National Trust, some 160 fine gardens have been brought under its protection. In earlier days, during the County Houses Scheme of the 1930s, gardens were accepted merely as adjuncts to great houses. Since the late 1940s, however, gardens have been accepted in their own rights as 'places of historic interest or natural beauty'.

Throughout history, landowners have expressed themselves and their times through gardening, investing time and money in designing schemes and establishing collections that reflected a variety of interests. The National Trust looks upon its plant collections – the greatest plant collections in the world – as valuable assets. The use of heathers across the gardens owned by the Trust reflects the ideas and aspirations of some of these owners.

One of the finest heather gardens created in England this century was at Nymans in West Sussex, laid out in 1903 by Ludwig Messel (Fig. 2). Messel had seen groups of heathers at Kew and thought them suitable for the sandy loam of Nymans: the much-copied result established his reputation. An area was shaped with hillocks and winding paths, before planting with some fifty cultivars of *Erica* and *Calluna* with dwarf rhododendrons, *Pieris* and *Rosa microphylla*.

The setting of the rock garden at Craggside in Northumberland required more dramatic landscaping. In the 1860s, the industrialist Sir William (later Lord) Armstrong produced an impressive setting for his house and a home for a bold and interesting collection of heathers, ferns and alpine plants amongst the grey Carboniferous limestone, along with thousands of rhododendrons and azaleas. Large areas of the rock garden have been restored recently with the planting of a range of large heathers and heaths to appeal to visitors through the summer, and reflecting the shrubby growth forms popular at the time: early coloured photographs illustrate the style

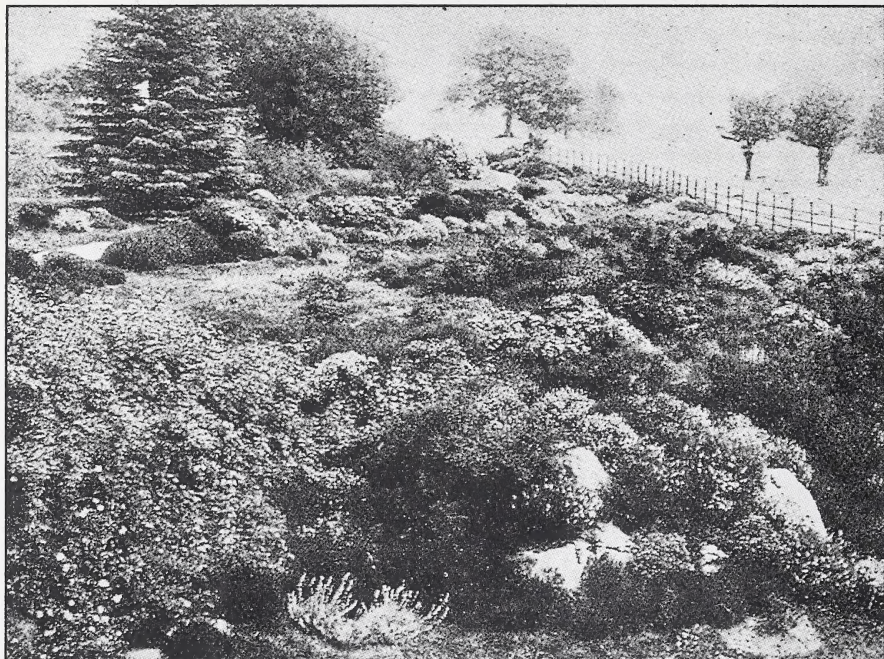


Fig. 2. The heather garden at Nymans; photograph from *The Garden* 21 January 1911.

of Cragside. Historical records are, however, poor; only a few heathers are explicitly mentioned, including *Erica vagans* 'Alba', and the tall *Calluna vulgaris* 'Alportii'. Planting, associated with a recent restoration plan, continues to develop. *E. arborea* and *E. erigena* are growing in profusion, and a spring show of colour is provided by *E. carnea* 'Springwood White', 'Springwood Pink', and 'Prince of Wales'. *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica cinerea* and *E. vagans* cultivars give colour in August through to October, and winter is brightened by the foliage of *C. vulgaris* 'Cuprea'.

One of the greatest collections of plants in the care of the National Trust is to be found at Mount Stewart in Northern Ireland. During the 1920s, Lady Londonderry created a 'grand scheme' of formal gardens and pleasure-grounds. The Italian Garden is hedged with older cultivars of *Calluna vulgaris* such as 'Serlei Aurea', to provide a year-round yellowish colour, while *Erica arborea* crowned with the purple *Clematis jackmanii*, forms a centre-piece in the Sunk Garden (Fig. 1). *Erica lusitanica*, rhododendrons and camellia provide

early spring colour in The Shamrock Garden. *Erica canaliculata*, from South Africa, may also be found in sheltered corners of this splendid garden.

The rock-garden at Emmetts in Kent has recently been reinstated from the remains of a derelict garden. The design element at Emmetts is minimal, following the principles and ideas of William Robinson who advocated that 'exotics' ought to be set in a wild countryside, and that each individual plant should be allowed to grow unrestricted. An area, demanding fairly high levels of maintenance, has been established amongst blocks of Cumbrian limestone, with *Erica erigena* 'Superba', *E. arborea* 'Alpina', and other heathers, restoring the feature originally set out in 1937.

Other gardens with heathers include Penrhyn Castle in North Wales, where tree heaths are scattered around the woodland edge, and Glendurgan, Cornwall, with double-flowered *Calluna vulgaris* 'H. E. Beale' planted amongst *Rhododendron yakushimanum* at the valley head. At Biddulph Grange, Staffordshire, during the nineteenth century conifers in the Pinetum were grown on mounds and under-planted with ling gathered on the surrounding moor which 'seem to transfer the plants at once, in appearance, to their native hills'.

The conservation of important gardens is a complex process of balancing different interests. Structure and design, historical associations, collection influences and ornamental embellishments provide rich settings for individual plants and demand the highest standards of maintenance with a minimum number of staff. With some many Trust gardens scattered throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland, there is always more to explore, to learn and to enjoy.



### **Heather House, Florence Court, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland**

The National Trust has recently erected this splendid 'rustic arbour' (summerhouse) in the pleasure-garden at Florence Court, one of the finest eighteenth century (Georgian) mansions in Ireland. The original thatched pavilion was perhaps built in the mid-eighteenth century, probably following designs by the Durham author, architect and garden designer Thomas Wright (1711–1786), but it had rotted entirely and vanished. Excavations revealed the stone floor and using old photographs\* and other evidence the building was recreated. The basic structure is timber with wheat straw for the roof thatch and ling (*Calluna vulgaris*) as cladding on the outside of the walls. The heather, remarkably, was imported from Kent, even though the surrounding hills, especially Cuilcagh Mountain, are covered in heath. Florence Court demesne is best known for the original mother tree of the Irish, or Florencecourt, yew (*Taxus baccata* 'Fastigiata').

**E. Charles Nelson**

\* see **E. MALINS & The Knight of GLIN. 1976.** *Lost demesnes. Irish landscape gardening, 1660–1845.* p. 80. Barrie & Jenkins, London.

Yb. Heather Soc. 1995: 5-7.

## Wild heathers on National Trust land.

### KATHERINE HEARN

The National Trust, 33 Sheep Street, Cirencester GL7 1QW,  
Gloucestershire.

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As a nature conservation adviser, I probably devote more time to heather, *Calluna vulgaris*, than to any other single plant species. *C. vulgaris* is not the only heather, of course, but it is the most catholic, growing both on damp peat and on very drought-prone mineral soils, from the far north of Scotland to the tip of the Lizard Peninsula, from east coast to west and from a few metres above sea level to well over 700 metres altitude.

The other wild heathers are more particular, and it is these, together with other main associates, which give the 36 different heathland communities in Britain their distinctive stamps. The main distinction is between lowland and upland heaths. In the lowland heaths, below c. 300 m, *Calluna* often grows with one or two of the three gorse species (*Ulex* spp.); in the uplands with bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) or other dwarf shrubs such as cowberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) and crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*).

On the Wealden heaths, for example, *Calluna* grows with bell heather (*Erica cinerea*) and dwarf gorse (*Ulex minor*); in the New Forest with bell heather, cross-leaved heath (*E. tetralix*) and bristle bent (*Agrostis curtisii*). In Purbeck the rare Dorset Heath (*E. ciliaris*) is abundant. Further west, in Devon and Cornwall and on the Welsh coast, western gorse (*Ulex gallii*) takes over, with bell heather, as long as it well out of the salt-spray zone of the coast, in which heather and bell heather form an open, grassy heath rich in coastal species such as spring squill (*Scilla verna*). The Lizard Peninsula has its special Cornish Heath (*E. vagans*; Fig. 1), and in a few places the robust, golden-tipped hybrid *E. x williamsii*. Altogether, in these main locations, the National Trust has 3,600 hectares of lowland heath, about 7% of the total for England and Wales.

Upland heaths are more extensive, with about 400,000 hectares in those two countries (and much more in Scotland), of which the

Trust owns valuable tracts in the Rhinogs, Snowdonia, the Lake District and the Pennines. Here in dry heaths, wet heaths and blanket mires on deep peat, *Calluna* grows with bell heather, or cross-leaved heath, and the other dwarf shrubs mentioned earlier, often with rich assemblages of bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) and lichens under the heather canopy.

Heaths are important, not just for some 14 species of heathers and related dwarf shrubs, but also for an associated flora and fauna which includes many specialist species. Although not noted for outstanding floristic richness, some 200 vascular plant species are found in the drier heaths alone, including rare and scarce species such as pale dog-violet (*Viola lactea*), wild chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*), hairy greenweed (*Genista pilosa*) and bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), as well as Dorset heath and Cornish heath which are both in the British *Red Data Book* of rare and threatened species. The lichen and bryophyte flora is very rich. There are many special heathland invertebrates – ants, bees, wasps, beetles, spiders and dragonflies – and heathland birds, such as Dartford warbler, hobby, woodlark and nightjar in the lowlands, though on the coast and red grouse, golden plover, merlin and hen harrier in the uplands. Lowland heaths are a main habitat for British reptiles and the only one for the two rarest, sand lizard and smooth snake.

The main conservation issues for National Trust heathlands are quite different in the lowlands and in the uplands. In the lowlands the main concern is abandonment. Heaths were used for rough grazing, turf stripping, fuel cutting and sand winning, all of which maintained the impoverished soil and bare ground necessary for the vigorous growth of heathers and other heathland species. Abandonment has resulted in invasion by common gorse, bracken, brambles, rank grasses and, away from the coast, birch, oak and pine. In the last decade the National Trust has reintroduced grazing to about two-thirds of its lowland heaths, using sheep, goats, cattle and hardy ponies – such as those which still graze the New Forest and Exmoor – which graze the coarse grasses, browse the shrubs and trample bracken. Much manual clearing of scrub and trees is usually necessary first, and controlled heather burning and cutting also feature in management programmes.

In the uplands there is the opposite problem: too much grazing by sheep. *Calluna* can only tolerate removal of 40% of the current year's growth; heavier grazing causes suppression and death of

heather and the other dwarf shrubs, and the heathland is eventually replaced by acid grassland of limited wildlife value. Dry heath is maintained by a maximum of 1.5 ewes per hectare, so whenever possible the Trust, often supported by government grants, is reducing the numbers of stock grazing on heathland on its upland farms. About two-thirds of these now have appropriate stocking.

Both lowland and upland heaths, and their heathers, have declined in extent markedly in the last 40 years, but following many campaigns in the 1980s they are now being vigorously protected by many government and non-government organisations. Luckily many heathland plants have long-lived seed-banks in the soil – *Calluna* seeds are reported to be able to last at least 160 years, for example, so heathlands are relatively easy to restore. The National Trust places a high priority on wild heather, and its associated species, and is managing and restoring heathland on some 120 sites in the lowlands alone. By the end of this millennium, it is hoped that the Trust will be protecting even more extensive tracts of this nationally and internationally important habitat.

## HISTORICAL & BOTANICAL NOTES

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### THE MAGINESS HEATHERS

A few years before the Heather Society was formed, I used to walk the moors to see if any new heathers could be found. As Maxwell and Beale's Nursery was a short distance from us my findings were taken there, hopefully to verify this fact. Alas, no luck. Eventually a good pink *Erica cinerea* did materialise, so cuttings were taken and plants grown on. A Heather Society member came to see our garden, took cuttings of this heather and later we discovered that he referred to it as 'Maginess Pink' (Yb. Heather Soc. 1976: 55; — 1983: 48; — 1984: 68). As no registration had been taken on, I duly registered it.

A few years after that Major-General Pat Turpin, our excellent chairman at that time, and his wife were here. I had just found a sport on a bell heather in the garden, showed it to them and – Hey Presto! – this was registered as *E. cinerea* 'Daphne Maginess' (Yb. Heather Soc. 1983: 48; — 1984: 68).

Our daughter, although married, had a heather named after her, *Erica cinerea* 'Patricia Maginess' (Yb. Heather Soc. 1992: 68) so as to keep the family name intact. This heather was found in the garden, but the exact origin is uncertain; it has a very pale, almost white bell with pink stripes. Our son-in-law wants me to find another and name it after him!

Through the years we were twice privileged to have pictures of our heather bank printed in Maxwell and Beale's catalogues. Before The Heather Society was formed the caption, on the front cover of the 1963-64 catalogue, read 'A customer's heather garden in Broadstone'; the garden was photographed by Mr Stevens (Fig. 1). In a later catalogue, another photograph was titled 'A Heather Society member's garden'.

**Daphne Maginess**

19 High Park Road, Broadstone, Dorset





A customer's Heather Garden in Broadstone

*Season 1963-64*

**MAXWELL & BEALE LIMITED**

**BROADSTONE  
DORSET**

## IRISH NURSERY CATALOGUES AND HEATHERS

The National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, has a major collection of nurserymen's catalogues from Ireland, Britain and farther afield, dating from the early nineteenth century to the present day. Approximately one third of catalogues from the 130 Irish nurseries represented mention or include heathers, and of these, Doran's of Donadea and McCoy's of Kilmeague, both in County Kildare, are devoted exclusively to heathers. The remaining nurseries, while not listing heathers, do throw in the occasional comments about these plants, for instance, that heather grows well in smoky districts or that when building miniature peat mountains, an idea promoted by Murray Hornibrook<sup>1</sup> (Lissadell catalogue 1915), peat blocks from 'the top spit of bog' should be placed 'heather side facing the weather'.

Of the 40 or 50 nursery catalogues that do include heathers, four contain more than 30 varieties, 13 contain between ten and 30 varieties and the remainder fewer than ten. The earliest catalogue is of John Hervey of Comber, County Down, undated but probably printed during the 1810s or 1820s. He listed 17 varieties, unfortunately not priced, but 'he doubts not but his prices will be found at all times as low as those of any House in the Kingdom for the same quality of goods'. The poor man died in 1829 of hydrophobia and the *Gardener's Magazine* for that year devotes two pages to his obituary, almost entirely taken up with a lurid account of his horrific death. When his pleadings to those about him to put an end to his pain were ineffectual, he cried out "If ever the soul be allowed to haunt those who have done them wrong, I will return and torment you all".

In a catalogue of the Slieve Donard Nursery for Autumn 1949/Spring 1950 an entry appears for *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Praegerae', 'a new form discovered by Dr. Lloyd Praeger to whom we are indebted for permission to offer the plant'. However, Dr Charles Nelson in *An Irish florilegium* (1983) states 'Although it has been reported on a few occasions since 1940, the red-flowered *Daboecia* was first found about 1936 by Mrs Praeger, wife of Dr Robert Lloyd

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<sup>1</sup> Father of Diana Hornibrook, for whom a cultivar of *Erica vagans* was named. See Lamb, J. G. D. 1994. Murray Hornibrook a mystery resolved. *The new plantsman* 1 (2): 76-77.

Praeger, near Errisbeg Mountain at Roundstone in Connemara. The plant was propagated and introduced into commerce by Ballawley Nursery, Dublin.'

While nurserymen may not be as eloquent in their praise of heather as they might be of certain other plants, nonetheless they do occasionally express a warm appreciation of it, for instance, McGredys of Portadown in their Autumn 1954/Spring 1955 catalogue remark that 'there are few other plants which give so much pleasure as the heathers ... and with thoughtful selection they can be an unending source of joy.' Canon R. C. Patten of Fethard, County Tipperary recommends in his 1935 catalogue that *Erica carnea* and *E. mediterranea* (= *E. erigena*) 'should be in every rock garden' and Shanahans of Clonakilty, County Cork in their 1967 catalogue proudly proclaim 'As will be seen we have the largest variety of heathers in Ireland and customers are advised to visit the nursery and make a personal choice as it is only by seeing the different sorts that their full beauty can be realized'. These were sold in "4 inch whalehide pots", a feature that, if correctly described, would not be popular in our ecologically conscious world of today!

**Ruth Brennan**

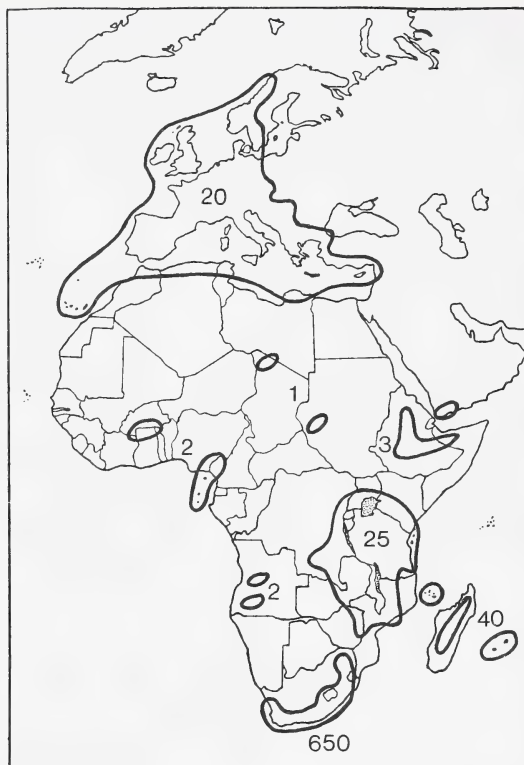
National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9

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## **ERICA - UPDATE ON SPECIES NUMBERS**

With the change during recent years in taxonomic status of most of the capsule-bearing genera of heaths and heathers, I felt that it would be useful to members to have some easily accessible reference to the size of the genus *Erica* and its total distribution (see p. 12).

The megagenus *Erica* now includes the three African genera *Philippia*, *Blaeria* and *Ericinella*, and contains approximately 735 species (see **OLIVER, E. G. H. 1988**. Studies in the Ericoideae (Ericaceae). VI. The generic relationship between *Erica* and *Philippia* in southern Africa. *Bothalia* **18**: 1-10. **OLIVER, E. G. H. 1989**. The Ericoideae and the southern African heathers. *Botanical journal of the Linnean Society* **101**: 319-327).



Our poor taxonomic knowledge of the East African species makes possible only an estimate of the number of species in that region.

The status of the European monotypic genus *Bruckenthalia* remains unresolved, as is the status of 18 other ericoid genera (containing 95 species) in South Africa. The latter genera are closely related to *Erica* and may eventually be included within it, but they have indehiscent fruits.

**E. G. H. OLIVER**

Honorary Member, The Heather Society  
Stellenbosch Herbarium, P. O. Box 471, Stellenbosch 7599  
South Africa.

*Yb. Heather Soc.* 1995: 13-16.

## Heathers in the garden.

**GRAHAM STUART THOMAS OBE, VMH.**

Briar Cottage, Kettlewell Close, Horsell, Woking GU21 4HY, Surrey.

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It may well be asked where else would a gardener, a member of the Heather Society, put them? But the question remains because this little essay does not include window boxes and other containers, formal raised beds and borders and the like. As long ago as the 1950s, the celebrated and highly successful gardener A. T. Johnson wrote the following about heathers from his garden in North Wales:

It is their care-free natures, their willingness and ability to carry on indefinitely without demanding a moment of our time in cultural aid, which are among their most gratifying attributes.

Johnson was the arch-priest of the cult of ground-cover from close-growing plants in an endeavour to prevent the growth of weeds. In this, and particularly in the use of heaths and heathers, he was most successful and I learnt much from him about this as well as the use of other plants for the same purpose.

With another quotation from the same book, *The hardy heaths* (Blandford Press, London, 1956, revised edition.), I am not so happy: 'In the mixed border, few objects are more attractive and few so telling in effect as a well-grown bush of some choice heath.' One should bear in mind that the mixed border to him did not include the usual perennial plants and modern roses but shrubs and bulbs and woodland plants. Even so, to my mind heathers do not necessarily blend into what we call mixed borders today, nor do they thrive in all mixtures of plants. What is more foreign to a well ordered garden than to find a collection of, say, a dozen assorted heaths and heathers placed in a clump and surrounded by conventional border plants, shrubs, perennials and bulbs? Perhaps they would have been purchased on impulse from the neighbouring plant-centre and placed without thought except that there was a space to be filled. But that is one of the evils of plant centres. It is always safer to go to a centre with the express desire to get a plant or plants which will fill



Fig. 1. Newly planted *Erica carnea* cultivars and other dwarf shrubs in February; Briar Cottage, Horsell [G. S. Thomas].

the needs and aesthetics of a special site, rather than to come home wondering where to put the latest purchase.

Heathers, to me, spell the wide open air, the moorland and hillsides and appear out of place when popped in our mixed borders. I am well aware that our gardens today manifestly lack the space for extensive planting of these little shrubs but by careful thought about neighbouring planting we can make them *appear* to be not only at home, but fostering the feeling of moorland. Their neighbours should be small shrubs with small leaves such as species roses, not modern roses and hearty perennials or overweening large shrubs. This remark has overtones in the fact that the spreading growth of shrubs is inimical to the heath's growth and may cause them to die back. Moreover, the fall of the leaves in autumn will cause the same trouble with consequent eventual death. Above all other plants they need an expanse of open air and wind, to keep them compact.

Their compactness is fostered by an annual clipping after flowering is over. It keeps them solid and prevents the dead leaves of autumn and winter from settling in their clumps, which causes rotting of their own leaves and indeed their twigs. The clipping does however need a little qualification: the winter-flowering heaths (*Erica*

*carnea*, *E. x darleyensis*) benefit greatly from it; so do the summer-flowering species, but the autumn-flowering heathers (*Calluna*) should have a proviso written in about the winter colour of the dead flower-spikes. It is true they make a wintry blend but after Christmas are not happy in my opinion with the warm pink of the winter-flowering heaths, hence the need for late clipping.

In fact the whole matter of colour needs much thought. If we have the space to indulge our fancies, we shall plant in patches (more attractively called "drifts") of some size, each drift echoing the others in as natural a way as possible, not in rounded clumps. Thus we achieve a blend of shapes rather than a patchwork quilt effect which might well accrue even though far from the original intention. It is well to bear in mind the Hidcote rule, to put in an extra plant or two adjacent to the main drift to appear as if self-sown.

To prolong the interest in our imaginary moorland, we shall be tempted to include some of the clones of *Calluna* whose foliage is of bright orange-red and orange-brown, yellow or allied tints. These are not only unnatural but are fiercely antagonistic to the general tones of pink and mauve, crimson and purple of the flowers of the little bushes. The result will be a hotch-potch of colours far removed from a wild heathland. Therefore blend your pink-flowered cultivars with grey-foliaged clones of *Erica tetralix* 'Alba Mollis', *Calluna vulgaris* 'Tomentosa' and *Hebe pinguifolia* 'Pagei' and keep your orange- and reddish-leaved cultivars in a separate position where they can blend with the serene flowers of the old year. I have found the shrubby veronica (*Hebe*) perfect for threading through the pink winter-flowering *Erica carnea* and *E. x darleyensis* varieties where in winter the cupped leaves glisten with dew or rain.

It is, I think, hardly necessary for me to dilate on the subject of soil; all members of this society will be familiar with the fact that the soil must be as near to lime-free as possible for all but a few species. We can add to this that soils overlying magnesian limestone in parts of the Lake District and northeastern Yorkshire are not usually the cause of disaster with heathers. I am writing from Surrey where we have experienced three very dry years (summer and winter) in a row and I have noted on a hot dry bank, planted by the local Council, how all the cultivars have died except *E. x darleyensis* 'Darley Dale', 'Arthur Johnson' and *E. erigena* 'W. T. Rackliff'. With them, serene and bushy is *E. terminalis*. This is a helpful pointer to selection. With them, fostering the same heathland effect go the various brooms,

species of *Genista* and *Cytisus*, which will likewise put up with drought. I should not want their strong yellows with cultivars of *Erica cinerea* and *E. vagans* and the earlier *Calluna* sorts, but their yellows will not upset *Erica carnea*. In some seasons the primrose-yellow *Cytisus x kewensis* will overlap with charming colour effect with later *E. carnea* clones such as the deep-toned 'Vivellii' and the noted new *E. erigena* 'Irish Dusk' which is of a unique tint among heathers, a soft coppery pink; but it is tall growing.

Once again, as with all colour scheming in gardens, it is white that holds the trumps. We are blessed with the invaluable *Erica carnea* 'Springwood White' (Fig. 1), an exceptionally good, rampant grower, whose foliage is a comparatively bright green and the later flowering more stocky *E. x darleyensis* 'White Perfection'. There is also 'Silberschmelze' but this I find is not a clear white like 'Springwood White' and it does not do to associate one with the other. The same choice can be made, throughout the season, with cultivars of *E. cinerea*, *E. vagans* and *Calluna*.

Of course, our planting of drifts of distinctly coloured clones will not even approach a moorland effect. Nor will single plants of distinct cultivars planted in mixture. If you really hanker after natural moorland, either go to it or raise your plants from seeds. It will take two or three years of attention prior to planting and the true gardeners among us would probably complain about the lack of variety. Perhaps we must make full use of our imagination and have in our mind's eye what should really be there. A lot can be done, though, with associate planting. Besides the *Hebe* mentioned above you can interplant - notably around the perimeter of the heather drifts - plants which normally grow with them, such as carpeting junipers and *Arctostaphylos* species, *Betula nana*, dwarf lavenders and *Cistus*, and *Salvia lavandulifolia* - all small-leaved dwarf shrubs which will create a *maquis* effect rather than an English moorland. The extreme in the other direction would be to take a leaf out of the garden designers' notebook and make a striking contrast with *Yucca*, *Phormium* (New Zealand flax), *Bergenia* and other plants noted for their foliage effect. Of a truth there is no finality or rule in any department of gardening when once you grasp all its vast potentials. There is room for all tastes.



*Yb. Heather Soc.* 1995: 17-22.

## Cape heaths in eastern Ireland.

**DAVID ROBINSON**

Earlscliffe, Ceanchor Road, Baily, County Dublin, Ireland.

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*Erica* species from South Africa, or Cape heaths as they are often called, were fashionable plants in northern Europe during the first few decades of the nineteenth century. At that period plant-hunters were combing southern Africa, especially the Cape of Good Hope, for beautiful plants and were sending back scores of previously unknown *Erica* species to the Royal Gardens at Kew and to nurserymen and gardeners elsewhere in Europe. These new plants created enormous interest among horticulturists and the general public as they were amongst the most attractive plant introductions at that time. The colour of the flowers ranged from deep red to white and yellow.

Over 180 species of southern African heaths were growing at the Royal Gardens, Kew, in 1811 and 250 species were cultivated at the Dublin Society's Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, in 1818.

In the last 150 years interest in the Cape heaths has declined everywhere. The climate in Ireland, Britain and most of northern Europe is too cold for their culture outdoors and these plants need to be grown under glass. As costs of heating and labour increased during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, more and more *Erica* enthusiasts turned their attention to more easily grown plants that were appearing on the horticultural scene. Many of the Cape species that were once so popular have been lost to cultivation.

Brian Morley, writing about southern hemisphere plants in *Irish gardening and horticulture* (Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland, Dublin, 1979) stated that

a few South African *Erica* can still be seen in milder Irish gardens, such as *E. taxifolia* and *E. pageana* at Rosssdohan [near Sneem, County Kerry], but the hardy European species of *Erica* and *Calluna* now attract the attention of the Irish gardener.



Fig. 1. *Erica glandulosa* at Earlscliffe, Howth [E. C. Nelson].

Admittedly European heathers are easier to grow in Britain and Ireland and are among the most valuable woody plants for garden decoration. But they lack some of the special features that make the Cape heaths such supremely beautiful plants. Many of the South African *Erica* species have large tubular flowers in bright, vivid colours and the plants are often much taller and larger than their European counterparts.

Circumstances have changed since the short-lived Cape heath craze in the early nineteenth century and another look at these remarkable plants for outdoor use in Ireland and the milder parts of Britain could well be rewarding. As with many other plant introductions in the last century, much emphasis was placed on testing the plants under glass. It is unlikely that any serious effort was made to investigate systematically the suitability of Cape heaths for outdoor use in mild areas of these islands. Where a plant can survive outdoors it generally thrives better there than under glass. The plant will have a larger, unrestricted root-run and will not be affected by the very high temperatures, low humidity and poor ventilation that can occur in a greenhouse. In addition, the Cape

*Erica* species are mostly plants of mountains, growing on acid, nutrient-poor soil and used to almost constant air movement. Undoubtedly many Cape heaths in cultivation were killed by lack of ventilation and air movement in glasshouses and by over-dosing with fertilisers.

In 1986, I decided to add to the number of South African *Erica* species growing in the open in my garden at Earlscliffe, Bally, County Dublin. *E. glandulosa* (Fig. 1) had been planted in 1974 and had survived all winters since then. *E. canaliculata*, *E. pageana*, *E. cruenta* and *E. mollis* were added in 1986; the hybrid *E. x hiemalis* was also tried.

Earlscliffe is a coastal garden situated on the southern side of the Howth peninsula just north of Dublin (53° 4' N latitude and 6° W longitude). The soil, derived from Cambrian shale and quartzite, is a clay to silty clay-loam, well drained with approximately 12% coarse sand, 13% fine sand, 47% silt and 28% clay in the 0-100 mm layer. The soil is shallow, much of the area having only about 20 cm of top soil. The natural pH is between 5.0 and 5.5 and the organic matter content around 4.5% in the top 7.5 cm.

Most of the 2.75 ha garden has a gentle slope to the south but close to the southern boundary it falls steeply to the edge of the Irish Sea. Cliffs, 80 metres high, along the southern boundary help to deflect the worst of the southerly gales over the garden. The site is well protected on the north and east by the Hill of Howth, which reaches a maximum height of 180 m. Shelter on the west is provided by a belt of tall trees, mainly lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*).

The garden has been maintained largely by means of a herbicide regime since 1969. Simazine at 1.7 kg a.i./ha is applied twice a year as an overall application in April and July. Any surviving weeds are treated with spot applications with appropriate leaf-acting herbicides, usually glyphosate or paraquat, as necessary throughout the year. Occasionally weeds are pulled out by hand but no hoeing or cultivation is given. An attempt is made to kill all weeds before they shed seeds. This goal is largely but not completely achieved. No evidence of a build-up of resistant weed biotypes or herbicide residues has occurred after 25 years.

All the African *Erica* that I planted in 1986 have survived except *E. x hiemalis* which never established well and died in the winter



Fig. 2. *Erica canaliculata* at Earlscliffe, Howth, May 1990 [E. C. Nelson].

after planting. The experience gained in the last eight years suggests that many more South African *Erica* species than those listed by Morley will survive outdoors in mild coastal areas. Because of the generally milder climate that their gardens enjoy, gardeners in Ireland are better placed than those in most of Britain to exploit Cape heaths both for garden decoration and as a potential commercial crop.

Outdoors, large plants make an extensive root run but the bulk of the root system is close to the soil surface. All heathers dislike root disturbance and resent cultivation around their roots. The present availability of soil-acting herbicides is another factor that has changed since the days of Cape heath mania. The careful use of herbicides is a valuable aid to weed control and is likely to be a contributory factor, along with the mild climate and acid soil, which enables a number of tender *Erica* species to flourish in my garden in north County Dublin without special attention.

Probably the most noteworthy is *Erica canaliculata* (Fig. 2), formerly grown as *E. melanthera*. This reached a height of 2.5 m in five years, despite periodic cutting back, and promises to grow much

taller. In Ireland, flower buds are clearly visible on the plant from November onwards and the flowers are open between March and May. The flowers are small but are borne in enormous numbers and are an attractive violet-pink with conspicuous, contrasting black anthers. The flowers are carried on spectacular spikes that may be 60 to 80 cm long, and they last well after cutting.

With the increasing demand for flowers for interior decoration *E. canaliculata* appears to have potential as a commercial cut-flower crop for British and European markets. Such an enterprise would need to be located in specially selected coastal areas. However, this species is one of the easiest to root from cuttings, which can be taken over a long period, and the young plants grow vigorously.



Fig. 3. *Erica cruenta* at Earlscliffe, Howth [E. C. Nelson].

Although *Erica glandulosa* never experiences frost where it grows wild in the Western Cape, it has not been damaged by temperatures down to  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$  in north County Dublin. This heath is easily identified as the leaves are covered with glandular hairs so that the young leaves at the shoot tip will stick together in a characteristic way when the shoot is lightly squeezed between finger and thumb. The flowers are long and tubular, about 2.5 cm long and are a pleasing blend of pink, orange and white.

Many Cape heaths, such as *Erica mollis*, are attractive because of the overall effect of masses of smallish flowers carried in large numbers on short lateral branches, but the large, shiny, blood-red flowers of *E. cruenta* (*cruentus* = blood-stained) (Fig. 3) are sufficiently striking to be admired for their individual beauty. This species is not a vigorous grower but can reach a height of about 1 m. As it occurs mainly at low altitudes in South Africa, its survival in the wild is threatened by agricultural development.



Fig. 4. *Erica pageana* brightening a dark corner, Earlscliffe, Howth [D. Robinson].

*Erica pageana* (cover & Fig. 4) is one of the few yellow-flowered heathers in European cultivation. The colour is intensely bright and the flowers are slightly fragrant, although the scent will not appeal to everybody. The plant grows to 0.75–1 m high and is not long lived but like most of the heathers it is easily propagated. This species would not be suitable for cutting as the shock of sudden branch removal would probably be enough to kill the plant. This species occurs naturally in marshy areas and appears to be sensitive to summer drought in Ireland. Nevertheless, this remarkable plant is worth growing for garden decoration in mild areas.

Cape heaths may suffer in extremely severe winters such as those that occurred in 1946–1947, 1961–1962 and 1978–1979. But severe winters are widely spaced and there are some indications that winters are tending to become milder.

Many species would make ideal conservatory plants now that their need for good air movement and ventilation is better understood. How many of the 700-odd species of South African heathers would thrive outside in favourable areas in these islands is unknown. What is certain is that several of these supremely beautiful plants will grow well in mild coastal areas and deserve to be better known and more widely tested than they are at present.

## **Propagation of hardy heathers in the garden.**

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A compost into which rooting can take place can be prepared from three parts sphagnum moss peat (do **not** use sedge peat as this can often have a high pH) and one part of horticultural perlite. An acid, gritty sand can be used instead of perlite where available, but it must be acid. This applies even for the propagation of heathers which would normally grow in any soil, as an acid medium will improve the rooting yield. There is no need to add fertiliser at this stage, in fact, the yield is likely to be higher if none is added.

If horticultural perlite is being used add water to the perlite as instructed by the manufacturer, otherwise for easy mixing and subsequent handling, there is no need to add extra water at this stage.

Many gardeners have trouble rooting heathers from cuttings but if a number of simple rules are followed, a high success rate can be achieved.

1. Cuttings should be taken from healthy vigorous plants preferably not more than three years old.

#### *Calluna vulgaris*

Cuttings can be taken in April using the leafy growth appearing above last year's flowers. In this case select stems where the leafy growth is at least 1 cm long. Cut the stem with a sharp knife 2 cm below the leafy growth. Remove any dead flowers by rubbing your finger and thumb down the stem.

Cuttings can also be taken during July and August from the growth just below the flowering stem. Select stems which are firm and just turning straw brown. Discard stems where the leaf nodes are more than 2 mm apart as these will be more difficult to root and make a less shapely plant. Cut the stem with a sharp knife



Preparation of  
April  
*Calluna vulgaris*  
cuttings



Preparation of  
July  
*Calluna vulgaris*  
cuttings



Preparation of  
*Erica cinerea*  
cuttings



Preparation of  
*Erica carnea*  
cuttings



Fig. 1 Propagating heathers; drawings by Brita Johansson.



immediately below the flowers and then cut again to create a cutting 4–5 cm long. Remove the leaves from the lower 2 cm of the cutting by rubbing your finger and thumb down the stem.

#### *Daboecia cantabrica* & *D. x scotica*

Cuttings are best taken in July. Select side shoots which are firm and just turning to straw brown about 4–5 cm long. Pull down carefully to 'tear' the cutting from the main stem so as to leave a small 'heel' at the base of the cutting. Remove the leaves from the lower half of the cutting by pulling downwards. Sometimes this type of cutting is not readily available in which case, prepare in a similar way to a July *Calluna* cutting.

#### *Erica carnea*

Cuttings are best taken in July or August by selecting stems which do not have buds forming on them. Ideally heel cuttings about 4–5 cm long are best but if in short supply a tip cutting can be prepared by cutting off the top 5 cm of growth with a sharp knife. Avoid stems where the leaf nodes are more than 2 mm apart. The lower half of the leaves should be removed by rubbing a finger and thumb downwards along the stem. In the case of the tip cutting, nip out the growing tip. As *E. carnea* flowers profusely, it may be difficult to find cutting material without buds, in which case these will have to be used. Prepare as above but remove all flower buds by rubbing a finger and thumb upwards along the stem.

#### *Erica ciliaris*, *E. mackaiana*, *E. tetralix* & *E. x stuartii*

Cuttings are best taken during July and August using non-flowering heel cuttings about 1–2 cm long, which are usually plentiful. Remove the leaves from the lower half of the cutting as described above.

#### *Erica cinerea*

Cuttings are best taken during July and August, using non-flowering heel cuttings. If available, these are likely to be quite small, 1–2 cm long. Remove the leaves from the lower half of the cutting by rubbing finger and thumb down the stem. Often heel cuttings of this type are difficult to find, in which case the stems below flowering shoots can be used, provided the spacing between the 'tufts' of leaves does not exceed 2 mm. Cut these from the plant in a similar way to

that described for July *Calluna* cuttings, but making sure the lower cut is made immediately below a 'tuft' of leaves. Remove the lower half of the leaves.

*Erica x darleyensis* & *E. erigena*

Cuttings are best taken in August, making particularly sure in the case of *E. erigena* that the stem is semi-ripe, when they are firm and turning to straw-brown. Take and prepare heel cuttings 3–5 cm long as described for *E. ciliaris*.

2. Place some of the compost into a seed tray, very lightly firm and then dib holes with a nail about 2 cm apart.
3. Place the cuttings in the prepared holes but do not firm them in.
4. Once the seed tray has been filled, water heavily so that compost seals the holes.
5. Leave for 20 minutes and seal the seed tray in a polythene bag (one with no holes in it), ensuring the polythene is kept clear of the cuttings.
6. Place the seed tray against a north wall or in light shade under a bush or a place where the sun cannot play on the polythene bag. **Never** place the tray in a greenhouse as the temperature variation is too great, nor in a propagator unless you are prepared to spray the cuttings five or six times a day.
7. Leave for several months, checking occasionally that the polythene bag is fogged. If not, simply heavily water again, leave 20 minutes and re-seal. Any cuttings that die should be removed to minimise disease. To check that rooting is taking place lightly pull the cutting. If resistance is felt, you can be sure that rooting is taking place. Those not rooting will come out easily and can be replaced as easily.

*Yb. Heather Soc.* 1995: 27–32.

## Introduction of St Dabeoc's heath into English gardens, 1763.

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The names of St Dabeoc's heath, *Daboecia cantabrica* (sometimes known as the Connemara heath), derive from an Irish saint, Dabeoc, the son of an early convert of St Patrick, who founded a monastery on an island in Lough Derg, County Donegal, where, according to tradition, he died and was buried about 516 AD.<sup>1</sup>

Although the Irish had associated this Connemara heather with St Dabeoc for countless years, it was not until 1700 that the naturalist and Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, Edward Llwyd (*olim* Lhuyd) (1660–1709), found the plant in the west of Ireland. From Llwyd's gatherings of the heath, the Revd John Ray described it in 1704 as *Erica S. Dabeoci Hibernica*.<sup>2</sup> Llwyd gave a specimen to Adam Buddle (1660–1715),<sup>3</sup> who bequeathed his herbarium to Sir Hans Sloane (1660–1753), and in this way that specimen was included in Sloane's herbarium (in turn, this formed part of the nucleus of The British Museum (and latterly The Natural History Museum), London).<sup>4</sup>

In the meantime, on 25 August 1700, Llwyd wrote<sup>5</sup> from Penzance, Cornwall, to the King's Physician, Tancred Robinson FRS (d. 1748), who was a friend also of Sloane and Ray: this letter was later published in the *Philosophical transactions* of the Royal Society of London.

In most of the Mountains of *Galloway* and *Mayo* grows an elegant sort of Heath, bearing large Thyme-leaves, a Spike of fair purple Flowers like some *Campanula*, and viscous stalks.

He also wrote<sup>6</sup> to Dr Richard Richardson, a physician of North Bierley in Yorkshire, that the heath was

so common that the people have given it the name of Frých Dabeög ... and sometimes the women carry sprigs of it about them as a preservative against incontinency [i.e. unchastity].

Apart from Ireland, St Dabeoc's heath grows naturally in south-western France, northern Spain and Portugal.

### Heathers in 18th century English gardens

In the eighteenth century, although heathers grew in abundance on the moors, commons, wastelands and heaths throughout these islands, they were not popular garden plants. In various editions of his *Gardener's dictionary*, Philip Miller wrote of heathers: 'these are seldom propagated in gardens and so not to be had from the nurseries'. Ignoring St Dabeoc's heath, Miller confined himself to five species; *Erica vulgaris* (*Calluna vulgaris*) or ling, *Erica carnea* (*E. herbacea*), *E. cinerea* or bell heather, *E. tetralix* or cross-leaved heath, and *E. arborea* or tree heath which had been introduced into Britain in 1658. Unconcerned by conservation, Miller advised his readers to dig them up 'with a ball of earth to their roots, from the natural places of their growth', and to plant them in their gardens.

Notwithstanding the lack of interest in heaths, the Duchess of Beaufort (d. 1713) had received seeds of *Erica* from the Cape of Good Hope in 1694,<sup>7</sup> and a hundred years later Peter Collinson (Fig. 1), a Quaker merchant and one of the greatest plantsman of his day, grew hardy and Cape heaths in his garden at Mill Hill, near Hendon in Middlesex.<sup>8</sup>

In a handwritten catalogue of his garden plants, *Horto Collinsoniano*, Collinson listed 'Erica in varietas', though his first reference to *Daboecia cantabrica* is a note found in one of his copies of Miller's *Gardener's dictionary*:<sup>9</sup>

*Erica cantabrica* raised from seed sent me fr Spain anno 1763 p. Mr Bowles.

It seems out of character for Collinson to have overlooked St Dabeoc's heath for so long, for hardly any plant escaped his eagle-eye. Moreover he was a close friend of Hans Sloane, whose herbarium collections he knew well. Collinson was also in touch with Richard Richardson and, as a young man, he knew Edward Llwyd; for these reasons it would be odd if he had never heard of this Connemara heather. However by 1763 Collinson was in



Fig. 1. Peter Collinson FRS (1694-1768).

correspondence with Dr William Bowles (1705-1780), an Irish geologist and natural historian who was born and bred in County Cork.<sup>10</sup> Having studied medicine, Bowles became Superintendent of the State Mines in Spain and while he was living in Madrid, the Earl of Rochfort was appointed as Britain's ambassador to Spain.

On 17 December 1764, Bowles wrote to Collinson from Madrid:<sup>11</sup>

You desire to know ... whether your letter to Lord Rochfort met with a cordial reception. I can assure you it did. His Lordship sent for me the day he received it. He read it to me and after his goodnatured gay manner, said, honest Peter and I eat Ham and Chickens together, how do you direct to him Bowles? I said in Gracechurch Street. He took it down and I dare say you have received an answer. this day he read your last letter to me. He heartily laughed at your talking of His Vegetable Sports on the banks of the Po. Good part of the conversation at dinner rowled [sic] upon Mr Peter Collinson ... I cannot believe that the Erica, of which

I sent a small specimen, grows in England; I am sure it is not in France. It looks at a distance like a small Fir tree.

As Collinson found that 'dusty seeds', as he called them,<sup>12</sup> were difficult to raise, he probably gave Bowles's seeds of St Dabeoc's heath and the one like 'a small Fir tree' (surely *Erica arborea*) to the nurseryman, James Gordon (d. 1780).

Late in 1765, Collinson made this note about St Dabeoc's heath:<sup>13</sup>

From seed sent me from Spain was rais'd the *Erica cantabrica Myrtifolia* &c this elegant plant flowr'd in August 1765 in my Garden at Mill Hill Essex in Hendon Parish Middlesex ...

On the strength of this, on 17 September 1765, he sent a specimen of the blooming heather to Carl Linnaeus, the great Swedish botanist. In his letter to Linnaeus Collinson added a postscript,<sup>14</sup> saying that he was enclosing specimens

of *Erica cantabrica* &c now in flower in my garden, which was raised from seed, sent me last year from Spain. It is an elegant plant and makes a pretty show.

Linnaeus, in turn, commented to another naturalist, John Ellis FRS (c. 1776)<sup>15</sup> –

*Erica Dabeoci* was sent by Peter Collinson: a fine specimen which much delighted me. It is truly an *Erica*, though so unlike the rest.

Like Collinson, Bowles did not divulge whether he knew that St Dabeoc's heath grew naturally in Ireland. Nevertheless the facts remain that Llwyd found the heather in western Ireland in 1700; there were specimens, gathered by Llwyd, in several herbaria in London; it was described by Ray in 1704 and illustrated that same year by James Petiver. Regardless of this evidence,<sup>16</sup> some reference books still attribute the first date of cultivation in England of *Daboecia cantabrica* to about the year 1800.<sup>17</sup>

The irony is that whether or not Collinson and Bowles knew that St Dabeoc's heath was a native of Ireland, the first plants of *Daboecia cantabrica* known to have been cultivated in the eighteenth century were of Spanish origin. Thus to William Bowles as collector and Peter

Collinson as gardener goes the credit for introducing this beautiful heather into English gardens.

## NOTES<sup>18</sup>

1. **NELSON, E. C. 1984.** Dabeoc - a saint and his heather. *Yearbook of the Heather Society* **3** (2): 41-46.
2. **RAY, J. 1704.** *Historia plantarum ...* tom. 3. p. 98. Samuel Smith & Benjamin Walford, London.
3. Revd Adam Buddle (after whom *Buddleja*, the butterfly bush was named), was rector of North Fambridge, Essex (see **DESMOND, R. G. C. 1993.** *Dictionary of British and Irish botanists and horticulturists*. Revised edition. Taylor & Francis, & The Natural History Museum, London).
4. On Sloane's death and according to his wishes, the government purchased his collections, at half the price that Sloane had paid for them. Thus, the collections of Sir Hans Sloane form part of the collection in the British Museum and the Natural History Museum, London.
5. E. Llwyd to T. Robinson 25 August 1700: see *Philosophical transactions* **27**: 524-526 (1712). (**DANDY, J. E. 1958.** *The Sloane herbarium*. p. 158. British Museum (Natural History), London.)
6. E. Llwyd to R. Richardson, October 1700 (Sloane Ms 4063 f. 48); see Dandy (1958), p. 156.
7. Sloane Ms 3343, f. 279 (British Library, London).
8. See marginal note in Collinson's copy (in National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth) of **MILLER, P. 1752.** *Gardener's dictionary*. (6th edition). 'Horto Collinsoniano' is bound into Collinson's copy (now in National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth) of **MILLER, P. 1759.** *Gardener's dictionary*. (7th edition). (See **O'NEILL, J. 1993.** Peter Collinson's copies of Philip Miller's *Dictionary* in the National Library of Wales. *Archives of natural history* **20**: 373-380). We are grateful to the staff of the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, for their assistance and to The Librarian for permission to examine Collinson's books.
9. 6th edition (1752) (National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth).
10. **COLGAN, N. 1911.** An Irish naturalist in Spain in the eighteenth century. *The Irish naturalist* **20**: 1-5. **SCANNELL, M. J. P. 1975.** William Bowles and the introduction of *Daboecia cantabrica* to cultivation in Britain. *The Garden* **100**: 318-319.

11. Dr Guilermo [sic] Bowles to P. Collinson, 17 December 1764 (Library, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia; BC 692. 1). At the end of this letter, Collinson added a note which, although indistinct, it reads more or less as follows:  
Inform's his Erica Cantabrica flower'd ... Desire seed of the Firr like heath mentioned [in] Dilenius and Petivers works Figured after Land & River shells.
12. Annotation in Collinson's copy of Miller (1752, 6th edition): see Collinson's tribute to James Gordon, dated 2 September 1763. (National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth).
13. Marginal annotation in Collinson's copy of Miller (1759, 7th edition) (National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth).
14. Ms in Linnean Society, London (see **SMITH, J. E. 1821**. *A selection of the correspondence of Linnaeus and other naturalists*. Vol. 1, p. 69. London.)
15. C. Linnaeus to J. Ellis 27 December 1765 (see Smith (1821), Vol. 1, p. 184).
16. See also **McCLINTOCK, D. 1969**. *Daboecia azorica* and its hybrids with *D. cantabrica*. *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* **94**: 449-453. **McCLINTOCK, D. 1973**. The wild heathers of Ireland, in *Report of Recorders' conference Dublin September 1972*. pp 24-35. The Irish Regional Committee, Botanical Society of the British Isles, [Dublin].
17. e.g. [**COOMBES, A. J.**] **1991**. *The Hillier manual of trees and shrubs*. 6th edition. Hillier Nurseries (Winchester) Ltd., Romsey.

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Yb. Heather Soc. 1995: 33-40.

## ***Erica mackaiana* forma *multiplicata*: a new name for the "multipetalled" form of Mackay's heath, with a history of Crawford's heath.**

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### **"MULTIPETALLED" MACKAY'S HEATH**

The Connemara (County Galway) and Mayo populations of Mackay's heath (*Erica mackaiana* Bab.) contain numerous plants that display varying degree of malformation of the flowers, including "doubling" (Nelson 1989: 272) – "doubling" is an inexact and very misleading term, for in reality the floral parts concerned are sometimes more numerous than twice the original number, and often they are so abundant as to be literally almost countless. In the familiar "double" cultivar of *E. mackaiana*, originally called Crawford's heath, some individual flowers have such an over-stuffed corolla that it bursts to form a rose-like blossom.

My observations of plants in the Irish populations of *E. mackaiana* during the past two decades indicate that Crawford's heath is an extreme example of a strange phenomenon in which the stamens, style and stigmas of *E. mackaiana* can be malformed. When the phenomenon occurs, all the flowers produced by an individual plant are affected and the nature and degree of the malformation is, in general terms, consistent within that plant. Moreover, judging by the several "double-flowered" cultivars, the malformation is perpetual; the progeny of such plants, when produced by vegetative propagation, retain the malformed floral parts. Thus the malformation probably has an internal, genetic origin, and is not caused by ephemeral, external agents such as chemicals or insects.

The most prevalent malformation involves degenerate stamens which could be called staminodes. In plants displaying the malformation, the anthers are always moribund, distorted and empty of pollen, or in many cases entirely absent. The filaments of the

stamens are also different from those in normal, fertile plants; in some of the plants with distorted anthers the eight filaments may merely be broadened, while in others the filaments will be more numerous and petal-like with no trace of anthers. As noted, in the most extreme examples such as the plants collected by F. C. Crawford in 1901, or by A. G. More in 1869 (Praeger 1938), there is an astonishing proliferation of the irregularly shaped, flattened, petaloid filaments (sometime termed "petals") without anthers. The broadened filaments may be fused for their entire length into a cylinder, thereby forming one or more secondary corolla-like structures inside the true corolla.

Usually, plants displaying these characteristics are not conspicuous in the field, but when random collections are made and the individual flowers are examined with a hand-lens, the petaloid, anther-less filaments can sometimes be seen protruding at the mouth of the urn-shaped corolla. When flowers are dissected under a microscope, the broadened, petaloid filaments are immediately obvious, and in this way these variants are found to be relatively frequent.

As *E. mackaiana* plants possessing this range of characters are not infrequent, I propose that they should be segregated into a botanical form named *E. mackaiana* f. *multiplicata* (see Appendix), distinguished from the type by the moribund or absent anthers and the flattened petaloid filaments, whether equal in number to the stamens of intact, fertile flowers (i.e. 8), or, as in Crawford's heath, more numerous. Included within this botanical form are the cultivars 'Flore Pleno' (which is the earliest (1905) available name for Crawford's heath, but one long since abandoned in favour of the later 'Plena') and 'Maura', both wild collected, and 'Ann D. Frearson'.

*Erica mackaiana* f. *multiplicata* is recorded from Connemara, from the populations at Craiggamore near Roundstone, and at Carna, and from the recently discovered population near Bellacorrick in west County Mayo. The form has not been detected in County Donegal (Lough Nacung) nor in Spain. This form was among the specimens collected at Craiggamore by William McCalla when the species was first brought to attention in the mid-1830s.

*Erica Mackayii*, Hook., was growing in abundance and in great beauty, and Mr. Crawford was fortunate enough to find in some quantity the particularly fine very double variety of it... .

January 1902: *Trans. & proc. of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh* **22**: 163.

*Erica Mackayii*, Hook., and double variety - Connemara.

*ibid.*: 164.

Professor Balfour gave an exhibition of forms of *Erica Tetralix* from Connemara, namely, true *Tetralix*, *E. Mackayi*, and *E. Stuarti*, and referred to the new find of *E. Crawfordi* ... .

November 1902: *The Irish naturalist* **11**: 287  
repeated word for word elsewhere as follows -

... an exhibition of forms of *Erica Tetralix* from Connemara ... and referred to the new find of *E. Crawfordi* ... .

December 1902: *Journal of botany* **40**: 428-429.

A highly interesting description of Crawford's Heath (*Erica Tetralix* fl.-pl.) was given ... . The existence of this double variety of *E. tetralix* is not yet widely known ... .

25 March 1905: *The garden* **67**: x.

The President contributed a note on *Erica Tetralix*, L., subsp. *Mackayi*, Hook., *flore pleno*, Crawford's Heath.

April 1905: *Trans. & proc. of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh* **23**: 91.

*E. Mackayii* ... A double-flowered form found at Craigga More by Mr. F. C. Crawford of Edinburgh in 1891 [sic], has been called by nurserymen *E. Crawfordii*.

1909: R. Ll. Praeger, *A tourist's flora of the west of Ireland* 163  
repeated elsewhere, almost word for word, as follows -

A double-flowered form, found in Galway by the late F. C. Crawford, has been named by nurserymen *E. Crawfordii*, but the description has not been published, and the name may be allowed to drop... .

5 November 1910: *The gardeners' chronicle* **48**: 333.

### "*ERICA CRAWFORDII*" – DISCOVERY AND INTRODUCTION

On 5 August 1901, Dr Frank C. Crawford (1851–1908: see e.g. Marshall 1910), with two fellow members of the Scottish Alpine Botanical Society, visited Connemara and 'was fortunate enough to find in some quantity the particularly fine very double variety' of *E. mackaiana* (Paul 1902). Several authors (e.g. Ball, 1911, 1914; Scannell & McClintock 1973; McClintock 1973) dated the original collection as 1891, an error that seems to have arisen from the coincidence of two separate visits, a decade apart, by the Scottish Alpine Botanical Society to the same part of Ireland (the earlier visit resulted in the discovery of *E. x stuartii* (Macfarl.) Mast. which Crawford went to re-find (Paul 1902; Nelson 1995)).

Crawford's heather was remarkable because of the double flowers, the stamens transformed into countless, sterile, petaloid filaments which pack tightly into the barrel-shaped corolla (Uphof 1939; Webb 1956). Within days of returning home from Ireland, Crawford sent specimens of his heather, correctly identified as a form of *E. mackaiana*, to the editor of *The Garden*, and a note appeared on 24 August 1901:

Mr. F. C. Crawford sends from Edinburgh a most interesting and uncommon example of a double heath occurring in a wild state with these words: "Herewith I send you a twig of a charming heath which I found in Connemara the other day. You will note that it is a double-flowered form of *Erica Mackayii* [sic]. I do not know if this form has been found before now ... .

Crawford (1901) asserted that he gave plants of this new heath to the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and thus it was quickly established in cultivation and was exhibited at meetings of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh during December 1901, and again in January 1902. Within a year the heather had been dubbed *Erica crawfordii* by horticulturists, and was among the subjects discussed and exhibited by botanists at the British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Belfast during September 1902.

By November 1905, the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, was ready to distribute plants of this heather – two were donated to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, and were recorded in the Glasnevin accessions register as '*Erica ciliaris* [sic] *crawfordii*' – this is the only occasion I have found where it was misnamed as a variant of *E. ciliaris*, Dorset heath.

## THE PUBLICATION OF *ERICA CRAWFORDII*

The binomial *Erica crawfordii* has long been consigned to the proverbial rubbish-bin, yet it is a name that has been published. Is *Erica crawfordii* a valid binomial? Can a place of publication with an accompanying diagnosis or description be traced?

Standard sources (e.g. Prain 1921, McClintock 1973) state that it was published by G. C. Druce in his *List of British plants...* issued in Oxford in January 1908. Druce's book is correctly denominated a list as no description accompanied the epithet, which was printed incorrectly as "Craufordii" and therefore no matter what other conclusions may be achieved, Druce was not the author, and did not effectively publish this binomial. In a later note, Druce (1913) stated that Crawford heath was a double-flowered variant of *E. tetralix*.

The epithet "crawfordii" was employed in print as early as November 1902 in the report of the Belfast meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science – at the botany section, Balfour displayed specimens of 'the new find of *E. Crawfordi*' (Balfour 1902; repeated in [Britten] 1902), but there is no diagnosis accompanying this report.

Balfour seems to have been intrigued by this heather for he addressed the subject again in 1905 (Anonymous 1905):

At a recent meeting of the Edinburgh Botanical Society ... a highly interesting description of Crawford's Heath (*Erica tetralix* fl.pl.) was given by Professor Bayley Balfour. The existence of this double variety of *E. tetralix* is not yet widely known. It was found in Connemara by Mr F C Crawford a year or two ago, and, as Professor Balfour said, is a valuable plant for the garden, as well as interesting as one of the few double Heaths.

It is important to stress that, as far as I can trace, all references to this double-flowered heather published in horticultural and botanical books and periodicals *before* 1911 contain *either* a Latin name *or* a diagnostic phrase, but these two vital ingredients of an effective publication are never combined; thus none of the references constitutes valid publication (see Table 1). In the issue of *The Gardeners' Chronicle* dated 10 June 1911, C. F. Ball, Assistant Keeper of Glasnevin Botanic Gardens, published an article entitled 'The double-flowered *Erica mackaii*' which contained a full description of the plant. However Ball's account does not constitute a valid publication because the title of the article indicates that he considered *E. crawfordii* was a variant of *E. mackaiana*.

This pretty *Erica* is identical with the plant known as *E. Crawfordii*, or Crawford's Heath, from it having been found by Mr. F. C. Crawford ... Mr Crawford's plant was, until recently, supposed to be the only specimen from the wild, but Mr. Praeger informs me that a dried example of this double-flowered heath has been found among the late Mr. A. G. More's collection of *E. Mackaii*, in the herbarium of the Dublin National Museum ... The corolla is urn-shaped, undivided unlike that of the type plant, but wider at the mouth, the inside being closely packed with petals. The essential organs are absent, so that the doubling whilst not disfiguring the flowers enable them to last for a longer time. The plant ... forms a spreading tuft about 18 inches across and 6 inches high. The flowers are pink on the sides exposed to the sun, and blush or white where unexposed ... .

Thereafter there are numerous references to the double-flowered form of Mackay's heath (e.g. Bean 1914; Praeger 1914) but considering each and every one seems a pointless exercise. The name *Erica crawfordii* was established in botanical and horticultural literature without apparently being published in accord with the rules of nomenclature now in effect.

## CONCLUSION

Although *Erica crawfordii* was used as early as 1902 by gardeners and botanists, I have not yet found a publication in which it can unequivocally be said to have been published validly.

Botanical epithets at specific and infra-specific ranks have been published in nurserymen's catalogues. These names, when accompanied by a diagnosis, may be effectively published, and thus they cannot be ignored. In the case of *Erica crawfordii*, the clear statements that the heath was named by nurserymen before 1902 suggest that the binomial may be found in catalogues. If contemporary catalogues containing the heather can be traced – none was found by the present author – the nomenclatural arrangements and the conclusions of this paper may yet be proved inaccurate.

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## APPENDIX

*Erica mackaiana* Babington forma *multiplicata* E. C. Nelson **forma nov.**

*Forma multiplicata a forma typica staminodiis petaloidis octo vel innumerabilibus additis, antheris deficientibus, vel octo staminibus deformibus filamentis conspicue latis factis antherisque sterilibus, statim diagnoscenda.*

*Erica mackaiana* f. *multiplicata* is immediately recognizable from the typical form by 8, or innumerable additional, petaloid staminodes without anthers, or by 8 deformed stamens with conspicuously broadened filaments and deformed sterile anthers.

Holotypus: **IRELAND, W. County Galway:** south of Derryehorraun River, east of Clifden, E. C. Nelson, 15 August 1980. **DBN.**

## Synonyms:

- E. crawfordii* hort.: *The Irish naturalist* 11 (November 1902): 287. *nom. nud.*; *Journal of botany* 40 (December 1902): 428-429; R. Ll. Praeger, *A tourist's flora of the west of Ireland* (1909): 163; *The gardeners' chronicle* 48 (ser. 3) (5 November 1910): 333; C. F. Ball in *The gardeners' chronicle* 49 (ser. 3) (10 June 1911): 372.
- E. tetralix flore-pleno* I. B. Balfour, *The garden* 67 (1905): x. *nom. illeg.*
- E. tetralix* subsp. *mackayi flore-pleno* I. B. Balfour, *Transactions and proceedings of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh* 23 (April 1905): 91. *nom. illeg.*
- E. tetralix* var. *crawfordii* G. C. Druce, *List of British plants...* (1908): 47. *nom. nud.*
- E. tetralix* forma *flore pleno* G. C. Druce, *Report of the Botanical Exchange Club of the British Isles for 1913* (1914): 329. *nom. illeg., descr. en passant.*
- E. mackayi* var. *flore pleno* W. J. Bean, *Trees and shrubs hardy in the British Isles* (1914): vol. 1, 522. *nom. illeg.*
- E. mackayi* var. *pleniflora* Bergmans, *Vaste planten en rotsheesters* (1924): 209.
- E. mackaii* var. *plena* Rehder, *Manual of cultivated trees and shrubs* (1927): 721. *descr. angl.* (cites var. *flore pleno* Bean).

Specimens examined: **IRELAND, West County Galway.** Near Roundstone, J. T. Mackay, 25 November 1835 (**DBN**). Between Roundstone and Clifden, J. H. Balfour, 10 August 1838 (**E**). Craigga-more near Roundstone, A. G. More, August 1869 (**DBN**). hill slope near Carna, A. G. More, August 1874 (**DBN**). Roundstone, T. J. Kelly, September 1888 (**OXF**). near Roundstone, F. C. Crawford, 6 August 1901 (**E**). Craignameara, David Paul, 6 August 1901 (**E**). Craigga More, T. J. Foggitt, 28 August 1926 (**BM**). north side of the road, about 1 miles E. of Carna, M. J. P. Scannell, 29 August 1970 (**DBN**). Hill 201, *ex hort.* (originally from Craigie Moor), D. P. Bourke, 13 September 1972 (**DBN**). bog, by Lough Tawynalararoe, west of Cloonagat Lough, M. J. P. Scannell, 9 September 1973 (**DBN**). Craiggamore, M. J. P. Scannell & D. McClintock, 23 August 1974 (**DBN**). Track to Lough Nafeakle, Connemara, E. C. Nelson, August 1978 (**DBN**). Bog road near Clifden, O. M. Stewart, 8 September 1991 (**E**). **West County Mayo.** Dooleeg Mor, near Bellacorrick, E. C. Nelson & C. J. Hora, 12 September 1989 (**DBN**).



*Yb. Heather Soc.* 1995: 41-51.

**THE HEATHER SOCIETY**  
**24th ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1994**  
**ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE, YORKSHIRE**

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**Remembering York in '94**

**Dee Daneri**

It was time for an adventure!

*There were gardens to visit and lands to explore;  
 September's promise of heather galore.  
 With experts to query and a glimpse of the moor,  
 We headed for York in Ninety-four.*

And so it was that we decided to venture East, about 6,000 miles, to attend an 'authentic' convention of The Heather Society. The thought conjured up prospects of botanizing and meeting fellow heather enthusiasts. Was it possible that anyone else shared the joy of heather which had become my obsession? Where would we stay, and what would we eat? It wasn't easy to convince Dick that this would be an experience of a lifetime; not until I mentioned the unisex showers and baths at Askham Bryan College.

**Friday 2 September**

The roundabout at Askham Bryan easily led us onto the campus of this delightful horticultural college. A sprouting bouquet of heather led us to another bouquet, and then another, until we drove into an arena that might have been The Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Steaming, beautiful tea was a welcome refreshment after a long day of map reading. People were talking and hugging, and busy organizers were darting about, seeing to it that no one was without a steaming cup. Dick and I, 'draggee'<sup>1</sup> and 'draggor', were quickly swept up in the magic of the moment. Within minutes he had found another draggee, a beautiful lady from Holland, Lammy Albronda. After six months of knowing that no-one would speak to us, how quickly we felt harmony with our new friends. The plant sale was in progress, and heather honey was available. Tee-shirts, printed from a painting by Brita

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<sup>1</sup> I cannot find this word in my copy of *The shorter Oxford English dictionary*, but I did find 'dragee ... a sugar plum ... now often, a chocolate drop'. I am told 'draggee' is American for the one who is dragged. [Editor]

Johansson, sold quickly, and our reception coordinators made the entire scene appear as though they did this routinely. We later heard that Jean Sharpe, Albert Julian, Peter Vickers, and Mr and Mrs David Mayne were responsible for creating this delightful week-end for us.

Our quarters were in Building #2. There was some discussion about the 'Spartan' living conditions. I don't know what the exchange rate would have been in Sparta, but for the price of this convention, I couldn't have expected more. With rose-colored glasses I remember a beautiful picture window looking out onto the gardens of the college. The campus was impressive, plants well labelled – a botanical experience in its own right. My room had hot and cold running water in a huge basin, and the desk was much larger than those at the Savoy. It was quite handy for storing plants and luggage. The ladies' toilets were downstairs and to the left. I decided to think of it as an exercise program thrown in at no extra charge.

### **Education**

After a delightful dinner of scrumptious meat pies it was time to participate in the Peter Vickers Quiz (now famous the world over). The plant I.D. game was an excellent opportunity for mixing, and Peter had done an outstanding job of organizing the material. I chimed in with Police Lieutenant Judy Anmahian from the North East Heather Society, and we stood together looking helpless (maybe it was just me). Andy Collins, who is in charge of the heather collection at Wisley, and David Small, our chairman and man of all heather knowledge, soon took pity on us. Don Richards joined in, so all Judy and I had to do was sit back and wait for the awards. We were definitely the A Team. Oh dear, oh dear! Andy was fine, but David began to go down quickly. Our Chairman forgot about identifying the plants, and started thinking more about what Peter Vickers' mind would have done to trick us. Such terms as 'The Beast', and 'Sneaky' were uttered, and Judy and I knew we were in trouble. The B Team won the Besom Broom Award and we learned that Peter Vickers is very current on his heather inventory.

### **Saturday 3 September**

The AGM was most impressive. David Small was strong at the helm, but offered an atmosphere of humor and invitation from the assembly. Prior communication and planning were apparent. Several



Fig. 1. Anne and David Small and Daphne Everett are distracted by a small group of photographers while everyone else poses for everyone else.

important decisions were made, new appointments were approved, and Convention '95 was decided in short order. The only time spent was in the recognition of resigning treasurer, Des Oliver. A beautiful Sussex Glass vase was presented, inscribed with the Heather Society emblem and an inscription recognizing his 17 years of service to the Heather Society. Well done! The checkbook [cheque book!] was turned over to in-coming treasurer, Allen Hall. Then there was the annual photograph! It would be worth the trip to Dublin next year just to see this event. Heaven forbid that we should find a single photographer and have everyone buy a copy. I'm quite certain that my best photograph of the most people is the group of photographers taking photos of the group. It was time for our first outing! This first exploration was most anticipatory for me. Brita Johansson was seated behind me on the bus, and I was practising the correct pronunciation of *Calluna vulgaris* 'Kerstin', named for Brita's daughter. It went something like "Cher-stein, Church-tun, Shurstyn, Christ-tyne...".

The coach pushed on through tranquil countryside, and sights of new-mown fields. Some hay was baled and some fields lay waiting for a saviour from imminent rain. These thoughts were developing into poetic rhymes, when from behind me came the sound of Walter Wornick's voice saying, "Tell me Brita, do you prefer the round bales or the square bales". For an infusion of humor, Walter was a constant inspiration. Golden Acres Park, the generous gift of Harry Ramsden, invited an opportunity to study a public heather garden. With total access to every man and beast, 24 hours a day, the garden is a tribute to the generous man who dedicated the property to serve the public. Mr. Ramsden, we're told, made his fortune frying his fish and chips in good beef drippings instead of that ho-hum stuff of the 'heart-smart' generation. However it's done, we're delighted that Mr. Ramsden generously donated this lovely profile to the development of a heather garden. Our coach took a circuitous route around Harrogate, allowing us more vistas of this celebrated land of Yorkshire. Actually we got lost, but don't tell anybody.

The botanical luxury of Harlow Carr was our next stop. It was rather enchanting to visit *Erica carnea* 'Barry Sellers', while standing next to its name-sake. The impromptu summit meeting of the conference was held in the *Calluna* garden at Harlow Carr. Our only rain of the convention was during this visit. Several members of the tour gathered under a tree and began to chat. I asked Brita if we might simply change her daughter's name to Jane. Then we needed to discuss the pronunciation of Beoley. Everyone knew the answer. It was definitely "Beu", as in "Beulah". It was definitely "Bee-o-lee". It was definitely "Bee-lee" (most popular vote). There was even the Beowulf pronunciation. Not a bad argument, but please check your encyclopedia for this pronunciation. Well, that solved, we moved on to *Daboecia*. The mecca for me! At last, a chance to introduce the correct pronunciation of *Daboecia* to Western America. At first we all agreed that it was definitely "oe" as in the Greek phoenix. Then there was discussion about St Dabeoc<sup>2</sup>, and that the pronunciation should be something like "Tapioca", but change the t and the p and you're there. I think our President, David McClintock is responsible for this one. Oh dear, oh dear! The rain stopped! Or was it Tapiochia! Our

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<sup>2</sup> Pronounced Dav-ock. Had our forefathers had better type-setters and proof-readers, the plants would be "Dav-ock-ee-ah". [Editor, again!]

coach drifted on, carrying us through the fairyland city of Harrogate. Those Spartans appeared in my head as I enjoyed the enchanting sites and quietly luxuriated in our chauffeured coach, unknown to the Spartans and all the most noble until this century. Such were the hardships of this convention. The chefs at Askham Bryan were prepared with lovely food after a freshen-up and a visit to the pub. Odd about the pub! Dick and I enjoy a good malt whisky, but in the finest restaurants in America we rarely find good malt whisky. There we were, sipping on this distinguished beverage at Askham Bryan, living in separate bedrooms, with toilets over the next horizon. It really was an adventure! Our dinner table was adorned with miles of Bell's Extra Special, the whisky, for which we now have a celebrated *Erica carnea*. Norrie Robertson was our host, and rumors have it that the bar was open late that night.

### **Communication**

Communication is the strongest word in the English language. We'd exercised that at the summit meeting at Harlow Carr and now we were hearing from Dr Simon Caporn on the effect of pollutants on heather. Dr Caporn presented an eloquent talk. Everything was moving along quite nicely until he showed a slide with the effects of too much animal waste – nitrogen – on the heathers. Other paltry looking plants demonstrated growth without the pollutants. The plants in the slides exposed to animal waste showed big vigorous, blooming plants in the first few years, and then they died. Nearly everyone in the audience concluded that six years of big blooms would be good, and wanted to know where they could get the nitrogen product that was used for the experiment. So much for communication.

### **Sunday 4 September**

A beautiful Sunday morning led my eyes through my picture window and across the lovely beds at Askham Bryan. I'd been told the garden had no summer maintenance. Each bed looked manicured. The labels will forever be a joy to those of us who are novices, professionals, or experts checking the references. A morning presentation by Don Richards was nearly concluded with his opening remarks. Don announced that upon being introduced to the splendor of Yorkshire, he "found a wife and fell in love with Eskdale". As the laughter subsided, I realized that mistresses do come in many

disguises. Where is there a pleasing garden that doesn't exhibit a love affair? (I must admit that it was another six hours before I learned that Eskdale is a town.)

### **Botanizing**

And then it was a day of botanizing. Imagine those who have gone before: tents peeking above snowy blizzards, the plant people determined to move forward, despite the frost-bitten limbs and the knowledge that not all would return. Food was low, but at any moment the rarest of the rare would be discovered. The new botanizers ventured out onto the North York Moors on this date after the usual nine-course breakfast. Our climate-controlled motor coach wound through the ageless tranquillity of England, offering purple countrysides. We entered the North York Moors and were greeted by Sue Rees, ecologist for the area. Journeying through the villages, Sue entrenched many familiar statements about preservation. One concept was new to me, and delightful – village-housing has been created for descendants of the original village people, enabling them to remain in the scheme. Our team of botanizers arrived at the summit, and the exercise commenced. Within four minutes, two acres of moorland was covered with serious collectors. Within 30 minutes everyone was back on the coach and we were on our way. After checking out the botanizing finds, it was obvious that the bouquets of flora were proportionately as large as the position of importance in The Heather Society. Who would have had the largest bouquet of sports? Hint: David McClintock had to leave early and wasn't on the trip. The Sunday night wrap-up was interesting and fun. Mrs Phyllis Kennedy enticed us with lovely slides of South African aloes, and others shared excellent slides of great interest, including the introduction of *Erica arborea x carnea* cross. Wow! Did you miss the Yorkshire pudding in Yorkshire, complete with the traditional meal, as it was presented at our closing dinner? Did you miss the lady at dinner telling Barry Sellers that she had him in her garden but he died? Did you miss the salivating splendor of the plant sale? On the way home, I had a little time to think while flying over the Atlantic, the North Pole, Alaska, Canada, a bit of the Rockies, the glaciers, and our beautiful California redwoods. Was this all worth it? Ten international members visited York this year, and whatever the home territory, we never ceased to talk about heathers and everything affiliated with the expansion of heather awareness on the

planet. It's time to think about Dublin in 1995, and when members of the North American Heather Society ask if it's worth the trip, I will answer in perfect English, "You Betcha!"

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### **Another view**

**Ron Cleevley**

Having read, listed and indexed all the previous reports of the Society's conferences and about to become one of its officers, it seemed that I really should attend the meeting at Askham Bryan College, near York. Consequently, on Friday 4 September I arrived at the College after a morning's drive from Sussex just as the organisers were completing their preparations. Such promptness was due to their clear location map and the very noticeable signposts bedecked with sprigs of *Calluna* - this just had to be the right place!

Despite turning up at the wrong time, the friendliness that has always been a feature of such occasions was immediately apparent and I was welcomed like a friend of long-standing. Within minutes I had been introduced to several well-known names in the Society's affairs, who all echoed identical greetings. Before dinner, I had identified names known for many years with their real figures and personalities, realising in the process that I should really have made an effort years ago and foregone some of the other meetings that had prevented this.

The array of cultivars lining the route to reception had many delegates in two minds: "Should we purchase some of Peter Vickers' plants, while a wide choice was still there, or register and collect our room key?" In most cases the heathers won, at least, a long look and lengthy chat about them, whilst Beryl Mayne patiently waited to direct everyone to suitable quarters. The route to register was also slowed by the need to greet old friends and discuss cultivars, exchange news, and bemoan travelling problems - no one seemed to proceed directly. Once in the foyer, the distraction of the models of the Cherrybank 'Mother and child' statue prompted further exclamation and delay.

A counter-attraction was David Mayne's thoughtful sale-stall of freshly gathered heather honey, but with his E.U. regulated proviso that no one could guarantee that the 'workers' had not stopped off en route to taste pollen from other flowers. To ensure that we were

all adequately identified, David and Anne Small managed to extricate the box of name-tags from their car, before they too became besieged by everyone else.

My own pre-conference chats were with Peter Vickers about his laburnum parquetry table-stools, cornering David Small for his comments on the draft International Register almost as soon as he had got out of his car, while the opportunity provided by Albert Julian to examine his recently acquired copy of the 1911 Backhouse catalogue of *Erica carnea* cultivars allowed everyone to enjoy a piece of heather history.

After burning tongues on scalding steak pies and salving them with crisp meringues, the whole complement of '57 delegate varieties' were soon wagging in groups of five to decipher the answers to the visual identification quiz compiled by Peter V. In accordance with modern teaching practice, he patiently went round to each group to give encouragement, or other enticement as they puzzled over what may well have been remnants of his forsaken stock of *Calluna*. Eventually, to groans and shouts, the answers were declared; often our answers were not in the correct sequence but two groups had to face a tie-breaker taken from the new cultivars on show from Wisley. The winning team was awarded heather besoms as alternative transport, or garden aids, depending on their affinities. Before adjourning to the bar, several of the members had informally to carry out their official duties by considering matters that had been on the agenda for meetings postponed through earlier transport problems.

Next morning, the business of the AGM proceeded smoothly. Later, after posing for the customary group photograph and its derivatives, the party departed for a day of visits.

Eventually, due to limited maps and directions and three sightings of The Brown Cow – animal rather than pub – as we homed in on the Golden Acre Park, we found the Harry Ramsden Heather Garden. It was undoubtedly worth the wait, for the colourful sweeps of *Calluna* cultivars provided a mosaic worthy of any modern abstract painting – and to my eye blended far more satisfactorily. Even the lower beds of early-flowering *Erica carnea* provided an indication of the contrasts they would give in another season. Critical comment constructively averred that the incorporation of varying levels would enhance the display, whilst the addition of suitable trees and shrubs such as birch, dogwood and cherries might give further contrast. In the absence of labels, due to acquisitive local visitors,



members continued the identification quiz of the previous evening by wandering through the beds deliberating on cultivar identities. My own particular memory of the occasion is of David McClintock implementing his interest in reversion by removing all the degenerate shoots that he could find to ensure stocks remained true. Among other snatches of conversation were accounts of bark splitting in different heathers after frost and the varying results suggested that the structure of the stem might be the cause of differences, but apparently no work had been carried out in this field.

Spending the afternoon at Harlow Carr, most of the party joined the conducted tour led by Chris Margrave and proceeded past the early heather beds and on into the trial areas. The grouping of various heather cultivars enabled comparisons to be made *in situ*, but also with those grown in other gardens. Equally interesting were the trials of other flowers and vegetables but, although it was possible to see the best forms, their appearance in September belied the tests for we learnt once the results had been recorded, usually in July, nothing more was done. The gardeners amongst the party badly wanted to cut the sweet peas, while the prolifically flowering runner-bean 'Lady Di' must have been making numerous muted calls for assistance. After a welcome cup of tea, everyone climbed the hill to the top of South Field in order to deliberate over the beds of *Calluna*, in the end wishing that they had gone there immediately as a heavy shower prevented the detailed comparison and photographs that had been intended.

To ensure that everyone was adequately warmed and glowing at dinner that evening, Bells through Norrie Robertson provided a miniature of their new whisky to mark the introduction of the new cultivar *Erica carnea* 'Bells Extra Special'. The evening's lecture by Dr Simon Caporn on the effect of pollutants on heather, apart from providing detailed information on various influences on heather growth, revealed the dedication that is required to carry out such controlled experiments over prolonged periods in difficult terrain and with limited equipment. His results of exposing heathers to different combinations of pollutants and fertilisers over a period of 10 years, to my mind, underlined the dangers of naming new cultivars on the grounds of their different growth habits and forms.

Sunday began with Don Richards' revelation that he had become involved with heathers and Eskdale partly through an episode of rural blackmail – "If you don't purchase this field, I'll use it for a

piggery!" His lively account of the trials of turning a granite outcrop into a colourful garden and the learning processes of propagating the necessary heather plants, entertained everyone for longer than the scheduled slot. Fortunately, the day's coach driver made up the time and even allowed a glimpse of Castle Howard en route to collect Sue Rees, our guide for the North Yorkshire Moors. Taking advantage of the coach speaker system, she was able to explain features of management of the moors as we passed them, to point out landmarks (such as Roseberry Topping) and to note evidence of past ways of life ranging from ironstone mining and old railway lines. During the course of the day, she also mentioned solutions that the Park had attempted in order to cope with the influx of tourists at particular times and spots in the North York Moors.

By stopping along Blakey Ridge, just short of the ancient Ralph's Cross, everyone was able to gaze down into Rosedale on one side and Farndale on the other. The thin depth of the peat above the rock formations was apparent from numerous roadside exposures. Throughout the moorland, the mosaic of different heather levels reflected various management policies and contributed to the scenic effect. Burnt areas of varying sizes and ages ensured that the growing heather provided the necessary conditions for either sheep or grouse. Later in the afternoon, on the lowland heaths near Egton, the encroachment of grasses through over-grazing the heather was apparent, whilst elsewhere its gradual replacement by bracken was also in evidence. The North York Moors National Park service has now introduced measures to limit further loss of the heather moor, re-instate other neglected areas and ensure that it remains 'the largest expanse of heather moorland in the country' (meaning England rather than the entire United Kingdom).

Using the Moors Centre at Danby, Sue Rees then gave an excellent lecture explaining the diversity of life on the North York Moors showing the significance of the heather in the life-cycles and behaviour patterns of birds, animals and insects and ended her talk with an account of the various uses mankind has made of heather over the years. Continuing eastward across the moors, glimpsing the North Sea and Whitby, we stopped above the natural amphitheatre of High Horcum to gaze at Levisham Moor and Lockton Low Moor. Perhaps some spent their time debating whether it was caused by ice melting, or The Devil, or the angry giant Wade who, legend says, scooped it out of the earth and thereby also created the nearby

Blakey Topping. Others, more heather-oriented, hastily descended the slopes to find plants of crowberry and cowberry to augment the lecture and end the trip on the right note.

That evening someone had decided that we had not had enough exercise so we reached the dining-room only after touring the more opulent corridors of the College. The conference closed with the customary Open Forum and slide show. The Chairman demonstrated the difficulties of describing cultivars using familiar terms by asking everyone to suggest two suitable words to describe the habit of 'J. H. Hamilton', 'Myretoun Ruby' and 'Minima Smith's Variety', words that would easily separate them. Confusion then prevailed. From the succession of slides that was shown, the most memorable were those of the new cross 'Oldenburg' with its vividly coloured shoot tips, and a most eloquent shot, taken by Walter Wornick, showing our President and Chairman, in front of a heather bed, in earnest conversation about an important Society matter (at least judging by the rear view of their thoughtful postures). Barry Sellers showed his video of a trip made last April by several officers of the Society to various nurseries in Germany that have extensive heather trials. The intriguing new cultivars, the extent of such establishments and the propagation methods they used, provided a fascinating end to this year's meeting as well as sufficient topics to mull over until the next occasion.

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□ Dee Daneri is First Vice President-elect 1995-1996 of the North American Heather Society.

□ Ron Cleevely is a member of the council of the Heather Society, and Assistant Editor of the *Yearbook*.

## CULTIVAR & SPECIES NOTES

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### CULTIVARS REGISTERED to 31 OCTOBER 1994

#### 127 *Erica carnea* 'Gelber Findling'

Registered 1 September 1994: Fritz Kircher, Hamburg, Germany.

Foliage yellow; flowers rose (H11), January to March; the habit is more compact than most other yellow-foliaged cultivars of *E. carnea*, and it is in bloom some two weeks earlier. A seedling found in the garden of Fritz Kircher, Hamburg, in 1981.

#### 128 *Erica carnea* 'Hamburg'

Registered 1 September 1994: Fritz Kircher, Hamburg, Germany.

A free-flowering plant; foliage dark green; flowers dark violet (H10), January to March contrasting well with the foliage. A seedling found in the garden of Fritz Kircher, Hamburg, in 1987.

#### 129 *Calluna vulgaris* 'Loni'

Registered 1 September 1994: Fritz Kircher, Hamburg, Germany.

Foliage golden yellow in spring, bronzy later; flowers violet-red (H13), August to October. A seedling found in the garden of Fritz Kircher, Hamburg, in 1986.

#### 130 *Erica* x *veitchii* 'Brockhill'

Registered 29 October 1994: David McClintock, Platt, Kent.

Vigorous, tall (to c. 3.5 m), hardy seedling, said to have originated between the wars at Veitch's Nursery near the Bayne-Powell family home of Brockhill, Devon.

compiled by **D. McCLINTOCK** (Registrar)

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## NEW ACQUISITIONS

Descriptions in this list were made from plants that were two years old, grown in open ground in a small garden on the coastal plain in north-western England. The soil is a heavy clay. The heather garden is top-dressed with moss peat.

#### *Calluna vulgaris*

##### 'Alexandra'

A seedling raised by Kurt Kramer, Edeweicht-Süddorf, Germany, c. 1991.

Ref: Yb. Heather Soc. 1994: 39.

Carise buds, deeper red than 'Marlies'; upright, bushy habit; dark green foliage. October-January.

**'Cilcennin Common'**

A wild seedling found in Dyfed about 2 miles from his nursery by nurseryman, John L. Jones, Glynwern Nursery, Cilcennin, Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales; introduced c. 1992. [new name]

Earliest bud-flowering cultivar to show colour, deep purple-red buds; low, open habit with arching branches; dark green foliage. August-October.

**'Flaming Silver'**

A sport found on 'Silver Knight', at Twin Acre Nursery, near Knutsford, Cheshire.

Ref: *Yb. Heather Soc.* 1994: 40.

Grey foliage with yellow and flame coloured young shoots, upright habit; lavender flowers like its parent. August-September.

**'Golden Blazeaway'**

A sport found on 'Blazeaway' by John L. Jones, Glynwern Nursery, Cilcennin, Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales; introduced in 1994.

[new name]

Differs from its parent in keeping its intense gold foliage in winter, making a very nice plant. August-September. (Mr Jones reports that this cultivar is disease-resistant).

**'Sandhammaren'**

A seedling found east of the Beacon of Sandhammaren, Skåne, Sweden, by K. Olsson, in 1987.

Ref: *Yb. Heather Soc.* 1993: 46.

Bud-flowering cultivar; crimson buds of a good colour but does not produce many flowers; tall, upright habit; bright green foliage.

**'Silver Fox'**

A seedling found near 'Silver Queen' in his nursery by John L. Jones, Glynwern Nursery, Cilcennin, Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales; introduced in 1992.

[new name].

Lavender flowers on long, upward arching stems; open habit (similar to 'Oxshott Common'); silver-grey foliage. August-September (- October in Dyfed).

**'Sonny Boy'**

Seedling of 'Darkness', found by H. Hatje, Tornisch-Ahrenlohe, Germany in 1987; introduced by him in 1992.

Ref: *Yb. Heather Soc.* 1993: 46.

Violet flowers; broad, upright habit, making it a neat plant; gold foliage. September-October.

***Erica carnea*****'Moonlight'**

A seedling raised by nurseryman, P. Bakuysen, Boskoop.

Ref: *Yb. Heather Soc.* 1993: 45.

Yellow-green foliage, turning orange in winter; habit more compact than 'Foxhollow'.

***Erica carnea* x *arborea*****'Ammerland'**

A hybrid deliberately raised by Kurt Kmamer, Edewecht-Süddorf, Germany, c. 1997  
 Ref: *Der Heidegarten* nr 35: 14 (1994)

Pink flowers; open habit; mid-green foliage; after two years 30 cm tall x 40 cm spread. Apparently hardy in northwestern England.

***Erica cinerea*****'Celebration'**

A seedling found in his nursery by John L. Jones, Glynwern Nursery, Cilcennin, Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales; to be available in small numbers during 1995.

[new name]

White flowers (few in July-September); prostrate habit, long curling stems; intense gold foliage in autumn, later lime-green; August-September.

**'Golden Striker'**

A seedling in the garden of nurseryman John Proudfoot, Methven, Perthshire, Scotland.

[new name]

Amethyst flowers; unusual habit, weeping branches radiate from the centre of the plant rising at the tips; gold foliage. July-August.

**'Nocturne'**

A seedling raised by John Proudfoot, Methven Perthshire, Scotland.

[new name]

A minute plant similar to *Erica cinerea* 'Dark Clouds' (also raised by John Proudfoot) which is taller; beetroot flowers; very dark green foliage; August-October.

***Erica* x *darleyensis*****'Epe'**

Found growing in his garden in Emst, Holland, by J. Dogger, c.1982

Mauve-rose flowers; broad upright habit; dark green leaves but with beautiful yellow spring growth lasting well into summer; February-April.

compiled by **J. PLATT**

Fern Bank, 176 Southport Road, Ulnes-Walton PR5 3LN, Lancashire

[Additional notes on his own cultivars by **John JONES**  
 Glynwern Nursery, Cilcennin, Lampeter SA48 8RJ, Dyfed]

## NEW SPECIES & COMBINATIONS

(*Erica excelsa* (Alm & T. C. E. Fries) H. J. Beentje **illegitimate combination**) = *E. rossii* L. T. Dorr (see below)

*Ufajiti* 3: 13 (1990); (basionym *Philippia excelsa* Alm & T. C. E. Fries) because of *E. excelsa* Tausch this new combination is a later homonym and therefore illegitimate.

*Erica mafiensis* (Engler) L. T. Dorr

*Novon* 4: 220 (1994); comb. nov. (basionym *Philippia mafiensis* Engler)

*Erica rossii* L. T. Dorr

*Novon* 4: 220 (1994); new name for *E. excelsa* (Alm & T. C. E. Fries) H. J. Beentje non Tausch

## CULTIVAR NAMES NEW TO THE REGISTRAR

Editorial note – because some of the names listed below are not validly published according to the *International code of nomenclature for cultivated plants*, all descriptive phrases, which would validate these names herein, have been omitted. Members are reminded that they should abide by the *Code* when naming new cultivars. **E.C.N.**

'Abbotswood'	<i>Erica x darleyensis</i>	Exhibited at RHS Show, August 1994 by Bullivant.
'Amethyst'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Seedling from Kurt Kramer, Edewecht-Süddorf, Germany.
'Ammerland'	<i>Erica arborea x carnea</i>	Seedling bred by Kurt Kramer, Edewecht-Süddorf, Germany.
'Anderton'	<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	Seedling from near Nierburg, Germany.
'Anne'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Reported to German Patent Office in 1994.
'Arielle'	<i>Daboecia cantabrica</i>	Seedling bred by Kurt Kramer, Edewecht-Süddorf, Germany.
'Ashlea Gold'	<i>Erica manipuliflora</i> <i>x vagans</i>	Seedling bred by J. Griffiths, Garforth, W. Yorkshire.
'Bicolor Beetroot'	<i>Erica x stuartii</i>	<i>Heather news</i> 4(3): 6 (1994).
'Berrydown A' [illegitimate]	<i>Daboecia cantabrica</i>	From Berrydown Nurseries, Gidleigh, Devon.
'Berrydown B' [illegitimate]	<i>Daboecia cantabrica</i>	From Berrydown Nurseries, Gidleigh, Devon.
'Berrydown E' [illegitimate]	<i>Daboecia cantabrica</i>	From Berrydown Nurseries, Gidleigh, Devon.
'Bill Brewer'	<i>Daboecia cantabrica</i>	From Berrydown Nurseries, Gidleigh, Devon.
'Brockhill'	<i>Erica x veitchii</i>	(see List of registered heathers)

'Celebration'	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	(see New Acquisitions above)
'Cilcennin Common'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	(see New Acquisitions above)
'Djinn'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Seedling from Benoit Choteau, Binche, Belgium; c. 1990.
'Elaine'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Seedling from Pamela Rodwell, Upminster Lodge Nurseries, Upminster, Essex.
'Forty-niner Gold'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Listed by Heather Heaven of Humboldt, Fortuna, California, USA.
'Golden Blazeaway'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	(see New Acquisitions above)
'Golden Sunrise'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	from John L. Jones, Glynwern Nursery, Cilcennin, Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales; before 1994.
'Gold Leaf Scotch'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Listed by Melligens Mail Order, Ohio, USA.
'Heidi'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Reported to German Patent Office in 1994.
'Holiday'	<i>Erica quadrangularis</i> (syn. <i>E. persoluta</i> )	USA patented name.
'Indian Road Runner'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Seedling from R. M. Steele, Rose Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada.
'Janek'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Sport on 'Marleen' with Kepels; reported to German Patent Office in 1994.
'Kristal'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Seedling from Mrs. B. Johansson, Vargön, Sweden.
'Oldenburg'	<i>Erica arborea x carnea</i>	Seedling bred by Kurt Kramer, Edewecht-Süddorf, Germany.
'Peter Gurney'	<i>Daboecia cantabrica</i>	From Berrydown Nurseries, Gidleigh, Devon.
'Purple Beauty'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Sport on 'Dark Beauty' reported to the German Patent Office in 1994.
'Red Beauty'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Sport on 'Dark Beauty' reported to the German Patent Office in 1994.
'Rose Bay'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Seedling from R. M. Steele, Rose Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada.
'Silver Bells'	<i>Daboecia cantabrica</i>	Seedling from David Wilson, Sardis, British Columbia, Canada.
'Silver Fox'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	(see New Acquisitions above)
'Simone'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Reported to German Patent Office in 1994.



'Sir Anthony Hopkins'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Seedling from N. Sheldon, Wrenvale Nurseries, Ammanford, Dyfed, Wales. Exhibited at RHS Show by D. R. Strauss, Kent.
'Stoneyhurst Alba' [illegitimate]	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Seedling from K. Kramer, Edewecht-Süddorf, Germany; introduced by Kingfisher Nursery, Gedney Hill, Lincolnshire.
'Spring Surprise'	<i>Erica x darleyensis</i>	USA patented name.
'Sunset'	<i>Erica quadrangularis</i> (syn. <i>E. persoluta</i> )	Reported to German Patent Office in 1994.
'Sylvester'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Seedling from David Wilson, Sardis, British Columbia, Canada.
'Teenage Crush'	<i>Erica x watsonii</i>	From Berrydown Nurseries, Gidleigh, Devon.
'Tom Cobley'	<i>Daboecia cantabrica</i>	Seedling from Otters' Court Heathers, West Camel, Somerset.
'Waterfall'	<i>Erica manipuliflora</i>	

### CULTIVAR NAMES AMPLIFICATIONS & AMELIORATIONS

'Gleneagles'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Corrected spelling (Yb. <i>Heather Soc.</i> 1994: 40).
'Little John'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Named after the finder's father not finder (Yb. <i>Heather Soc.</i> 1993: 49).
'Marianne'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Geldern is in Germany not The Netherlands (Yb. <i>Heather Soc.</i> 1994: 41).
'Renate'	<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Flower colour is pink not white (Yb. <i>Heather Soc.</i> 1993: 46).
'Silberglanz'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Corrected spelling (Yb. <i>Heather Soc.</i> 1994: 42).
'Weinroter Oktober'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Geldern is in Germany not the Netherlands (Yb. <i>Heather Soc.</i> 1994: 42).
'Winter Rubin'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	In error listed as a cultivar of <i>Erica carnea</i> (Yb. <i>Heather Soc.</i> 1994: 43).

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS & BOOK REVIEWS

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- ADLER, W., OSWALD, K. & FISCHER, R. 1994.** *Exkursionsflora von Osterreich*. Ulmer.  
Records *Erica tetralix* new to Austria at Angertal, near Badgastein, in the Alps south of Salzburg.
- AEDO, C. et alii 1994.** Contribuciones al conocimiento de la flora Cantábrica, II. *Fontqueria* **40**: 67-100.  
*Erica vagans* noted from Merino's herbarium, collected at La Peroja, Orense, Cantabria, Spain.
- ANONYMOUS 1994.** Grubs up, among the bonnie heather. *The Guardian* (5 May) Depredations of the winter moth on Scottish wild heather.
- **1994.** Heather clones will improve quality. *Horticulture week* **214** (3): 6.  
50 clones chosen by BHGA and Horticultural Research Institute.
- **1994.** Heathers, *Amateur gardening* (22 June): 26.  
Notes on *Erica carnea*, *E. x darleyensis*, *E. arborea* and *E. lusitanica*.
- **1994.** Nursery stock. *Horticultural week* **215** (25 June).  
Lists with descriptions, *Erica carnea* 'Isabell', 'Nathalie', 'Pink Mist', 'Red Jewel', and 'Rosalie'.
- **1994.** Spotlight on heathers during national festival. *Horticulture week* **216** (7): 5.  
BHGA and first national heather festival in October 1994.
- **1994.** Lime tolerant heathers. *Organic gardening* (September).  
Horticulture Research International has developed lime-tolerant clones of *Erica*, but it does not say which species.
- **1994.** Dutch treat. *Yorkshire Post* 2 September: 3.  
Photograph of David Cussons of Forest Enterprises among the heather he cuts and exports to Holland for use as filters.
- **1994.** The Heather House at Florence Court. *Newsletter National Trust. Northern Ireland Region* (Spring): [3].  
Restoration of summerhouse - see this *Yearbook*, p 4.
- ANDREWS, S. [1994].** *Why plants change their names*. (folded leaflet). Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.  
Useful, explanatory leaflet; quotes examples of name changes and conserved names (e.g. *Erica carnea*, *E. vagans*). Free from RBG, Kew.
- BAUMANN, H.** (translated & augmented by **W. T. STEARN & E. R. STEARN**).  
**1993.** *Greek wild flowers and plant lore in ancient Greece*. Pp 252, illustrated. The Herbert Press, London. ISBN 1-871569-57-5. UK£ 16.95.  
*Erica arborea* illustrated within a pocket-sized book that splendidly weaves Greek native plants and lore. Gods, demigods, heroes and the Classical

scholars from Theophrastus and Hippocrates onwards provide the mythological and historical background. Tree heaths supplied wood for charcoal manufacture; there is no mention of any medicinal use for *Erica*. [ECN]

**BECKETT, E. 1993.** *Illustrated flora of Mallorca*. Pp 224, illustrated. Editorial Moll, Torre de l'Amor, 4, 07001 Palma de Mallorca. ISBN 84-273-0714-4.

In the style of the famous British wildflower book by the Rev. W. Keble Martin, with pages of brief text opposite pages full of adequate watercolour sketches. *Erica arborea* and *E. multiflora*, with *Arbutus unedo* appear on plate 47. A large book, so not suitable for use as a field handbook, but useful for identifying the flora of the Balearic Islands. [ECN]

**BEENTJE, H. J. 1990.** Name changes in east African Ericaceae. *Utahiti* 3: 13.

New combinations from *Philippia* to *Erica*, for *P. excelsa* (see **DORR, L. T. 1994.** below), *P. trimera*, *P. trimera* ssp. *keniensis*, *P. trimera* ssp. *elgonensis*, *P. manii* and *P. manii* ssp. *usumbarensis*.

**BLUNT, W. & STEARN W. T. 1994.** *The art of botanical illustration*. Pp 368:

illustrated. Antique Collectors' Club, Woodbridge. ISBN 1-85149-177-5. UK£ 29.50.

A sumptuous reprise of an outstanding book (originally published in 1950 in the Collins' New Naturalist series); new colour plates of very high quality have been added and the book redesigned. Bauer and Sowerby are represented by *Erica* spp., and there is a paragraph on Miss Maud Mabel Page, 'the first of the twentieth century botanical artists resident in South Africa', for whom *E. pageana* was named. A classic, in every sense, that every serious botanist and gardener should own. [ECN]

**BRAUN, E. L. 1989.** *Woody plants of Ohio*. Ohio State University, Columbus.

*Erica tetralix* apparently adventive, Youngstown, Mahoning County; *Calluna vulgaris* spontaneous and persistent, Trumbull County (p. 287).

**BUCHAN, U. 1994.** Time to take to the heath. *Sunday Telegraph* 27 March: 26.

The Wisley collection.

**CHAPMAN, S. B. & ROSE, R. J. 1994.** Changes in the distribution of *Erica ciliaris*

L. and *E. x watsonii* Benth. in Dorset, 1963-1987. *Watsonia* 20: 89-95.

Changes in relative proportion of Dorset heath and its hybrids with *E. tetralix* caused mainly by afforestation and heathland fires, but *E. ciliaris* still spreading. Includes detailed maps.

**CHARLESWORTH, G. B. 1994.** *A gardener obsessed. Observations, reflections, and*

*advice for other dedicated gardeners*. Pp [x], 244, [2]: 8 pp colour plates. David R. Godine, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston MA 02115.

ISBN 0-56792-002-0. US\$ 24.95.

Geoffrey's done it again! A bountiful, sharply written book, ripe as a gentian's seed-capsule, witty, full of laconic advice, based firmly in the soil of Massachusetts. Essentially a treat for envious alpine enthusiasts, it will be equally delightful for every plantsman in North America or western Europe. Gentians, saxifrages and countless seed-raised exotica predominate, while *Calluna* in variety blooms from August to October (illustrated in colour) and as for *Erica carnea* 'collecting forms [sic] can be addictive.' Quite! [ECN]

**CHOS, E. 1994.** *Atlas de la flore des Hautes Alpes*. Conservatoire botanique national, Gap-Charance.

*Calluna* reaching 2100 m (p. 371).

**CLARK, S. 1993.** One garden. *Garden design* (September/October).

The Thompsons' garden at Manchester, California (see **OLSEN, K. M.** below.)

**DALY, G. 1994.** Plant association. Enlivening heathers. *The Irish garden* **3** (4): 11.  
'... there is no more lifeless combination than heathers and dwarf conifers...'

**DAVIS, B. 1994.** Winter heathers. *The gardener* (November): 33.

'... will give a long lasting splash of colour'.

**DENKEWITZ, L. 1994.** Rosmarinheide. *Gartenpraxis* **9/94**: 18-22.

An excellent, well-illustrated summary of cultivars of *Andromeda* - 'there are not many cultivars, but great muddles with their names.'

**DORR, L. T. 1994.** A new name and combination in East African *Erica* (Ericaceae: Ericoideae). *Novon* **4**: 220.

A new name is proposed for *Erica excelsa* (Alm & T. C. E. Fries) H. J. Beentje, which is a later homonym of *E. excelsa* Tausch [*E. rossii* L. T. Dorr, named after Robert Ross, former Keeper of Botany at the Natural History Museum, London]. In addition a new combination in *Erica* based on *Philippia mafiensis* Engler is proposed [*E. mafiensis* (Engler) L. T. Dorr] (see also **BEENTJE, H. J.**).

**ELLIS, R. G. 1994.** - see **PERRY, A. R. & ELLIS, R. G.** (below).

**GREENOAK, F. 1994.** Preserving our garden heritage. *The Garden* **119**: 212-213  
Photographs of Wisley's national collection of heathers, and brief mention.

**GREUTER, W. et alii** (editors) **1994.** *International code of botanical nomenclature (Tokyo code) adopted by the fifteenth International Botanic Congress, Yokohama, August-September 1993.* Koeltz Scientific Books, Königstein.

A fundamental document governing plant names, listing for the first time the conserved specific names *Erica carnea* L. and *E. vagans* L. (in Appendix III B *Nomina specifica conservanda et rejicienda*).

**HARTL, H. et alii. 1992.** *Verbreitungsatlas der Farn- u Blütenpflanzen Kärntens.* Klagenfurt.

Distribution maps; *Calluna vulgaris* in almost every square (p. 109); *Erica carnea* common in south, scattered elsewhere.

**JEFFREY, D. W. 1992.** Is there a serpentine flora in Ireland?, in **BAKER, A. J. M., PROCTOR, J. & REEVES, R. D.** (editors). *The vegetation of ultramafic (serpentine) soils.* Pp xx, 508; illustr. Intercept, Andover. ISBN 0-946707-62-6. UK£ 47.50.

Notes presence of *Calluna vulgaris*, among other species, on serpentine rocks on Croagh Patrick, County Mayo. The book, as a whole, makes no other reference of heathers - strangely, disappointingly, there is no study of the English serpentine habitats on The Lizard, Cornwall, where *Erica vagans* is prevalent. Otherwise a masterful, indispensable academic text. [ECN]

**JOHANSSON, B. 1993.** Den som gräverens grot. *Hemträdgården* **nr 3**: 12-15.

Glorious photograph of her garden.

— **1994.** Ödsby plantskola. *Hemträdgården* **nr 1**:25.

The Olofssons' nursery with a photograph of their foliage heathers.

**KELLY, J. 1994.** All-weather heaths. *Amateur gardening* (29 January): 14-15.

Winter flowerers.

**KNIGHT, A. 1993.** Proven performers. Heathers. *American horticulturist* (February): 14-19 (and cover).

A good summary with some stunning photographs.

- McCLINTOCK, D. 1994.** *Erica*, in **PRESS, J. R. & SHORT, M. J.** (compilers). *Flora of Madeira*. pp. 249-250. Natural History Museum, London.  
Account of the 4 species recorded from the island.
- **1994.** Bud-flowering heathers. *The garden* **119**: 543.  
Good account of *Calluna vulgaris* variants, including Kurt Kramer's new cultivars.
- MARGRAVE, C. 1993.** Callunas. *Northern gardener* (Summer): 24-25.  
With photographs of Albert Julian's collection at Harlow Carr.
- NELSON, E. C. 1994.** – see **PERRY, A. R. & ELLIS, R. G.** (below)
- OLIVER, E. G. F. & OLIVER, I. M. 1994.** Studies in the Ericoideae (Ericaceae).  
XIV. Notes on the genus *Erica*. *Bothalia* **24**: 25-33.  
Continuing contribution to the elucidation of Cape species, including a commentary on *Erica leptostachya* Guthrie & Bolus, described from William McNab's herbarium and allegedly African but which is *E. scoparia*. Also included, *inter alia*, are comments about the publication dates of Andrews' *Coloured engravings of heaths* (e.g. part 8 is dated 1 June 1797).
- OLSON, K. M. 1994.** Jim Thompson. *Flower and garden* (July) 40-41.  
His garden at Manchester, California, with 250 cultivars of heather.
- OSTERLOH, A. 1994.** Probleme mit Heidegärten. *Gartenpraxis* **2/94**: 40-41.  
The effects of ageing, shade, etc.
- PERRY, A. R. & ELLIS, R. G.** (editors). **1994.** *The common ground of wild and cultivated plants. Introductions, invasions, control and conservation.* (Botanical Society of the British Isles Conference Report 22). Pp x, 166; illustrated.  
Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Cymru (National Museum of Wales), Cardiff.  
ISBN 0-7200-0408-X.  
Brief mentions of heathers within chapters by R. G. Ellis (British wild species and varieties in gardens) and E. C. Nelson (Ergasiophytophytes in the British Isles – plants that jumped the garden fence). [E.C.N.]
- PHILLIPS, S. 1994.** Shrub of the week. *Daboecia*. *Daily Mail Weekend* 1 October.  
A brief encomium.
- ROBINSON, D. 1994.** South African heathers. *The Irish garden* **3** (4): 24.  
With colour photograph of *Erica canaliculata*.
- **1994.** Cape heaths deserve a second look. *Horticulture & landscape Ireland* **2** (2): 14-15.  
Earlier version of paper in this *Yearbook* with colour photographs of *Erica glandulosa* and *E. cruenta*, and exceptionally poor, black-and-white photographs of other Cape heaths (the photographs are all reprinted in colour in part 3 of the same periodical.) [E.C.N.]
- RYVERDA, L. 1994.** Ericaceae, in *Norges Planter*. pp. 151-155. J. W. Capprellens Forlag.  
*Calluna* (røislyng), *Erica cinerea* (purpurlyng) with coloured drawing, *E. tetralix* (poselyng).
- SCOTT, M. 1994.** All around the blooming heather. *Wildlife* **12** (2): 44.  
Scotland's wildlife habitats.
- SHRIMPTON, J. 1993.** Capel Manor report. Winter-flowering heathers. *Gardening from Which* November: 42.  
Brief notes on *Erica carnea*, *E. erigena* and *E. x darleyensis*.

- SILVA PANDO, F. J. 1994.** Flora y series de vegetación de la Sierra de Ancares. *Fontqueria* **40**: 233-388.  
Floristic catalogue from the Sierra de Ancares range, between the northwestern Spanish provinces of León and Lugo, recording 1065 taxa, including *Calluna vulgaris*, *Daboecia cantabrica*, and 6 spp. of *Erica*, with *Arbutus* and *Vaccinium*.
- SMALL, D. 1994.** Budding success. *Amateur gardening* (15 January): 34.  
Bud-flowering heathers.
- **1994.** Good breeding always shows. *Amateur gardening* (19 February): 11.  
Good new cultivars; photograph of *Erica carnea* 'Isabell'.
- **1994.** Getting started. *Amateur gardening* (26 March): 10.  
How to choose plants.
- **1994.** Trim time. *Amateur gardening* (30 April): 11  
Pruning.
- **1994.** Fungi fighting. *Amateur gardening* (4 June): 11.  
*Calluna* more prone to fungal attack than *Erica*.
- **1994.** It's no dying matter. *Amateur gardening* (8 July): 12.  
More heather die from drought than from all other problems put together.
- **1994.** A ripe time for cuttings. *Amateur gardening* (13 August): 12.  
Propagation.
- **1994.** Planting time has arrived. *Amateur gardening* (17 September): 10  
Good advice.
- **1994.** The autumn colour producers. *Amateur gardening* (2 October): 12.  
Praise for double *Calluna* cultivars; photographs of *C. vulgaris* 'Annemarie'.
- SWARTZ, J. 1994.** Hardy heathers happy under the snow. *The Monadnock Shoppers News* (9 March): 11.  
The very different winter weather in New Hampshire.
- van de LAAR, H. J. 1993.** Vakbeurs Plantarium '93. *Dendroflora* **30**: 72-73.  
*Calluna vulgaris* 'Beoley Silver' given a silver medal.
- VIÉMONT, J.-D. & LAMBERT, C. 1994.** Transformation of the root system by *Agrobacterium rhizogenes* changes rhythmic growth of the shoot of *Erica x darleyensis* in vitro. *Annals of botany* **73**: 603-608.  
The bacterium not only modifies the root system but also dampens the morphogenetic rhythm of the apical bud.
- VILLAR, L. 1993.** Ericaceae, in **CASTROVEIJO, S. et alii** (eds). *Flora Iberica*. Vol. 4, pp. 484-507. Real Jardín Botánica, Madrid.  
A full account of *Calluna* and *Erica* spp. in Spain with line drawings of eight species, including *E. andevalensis*.
- ZAJAC, M. 1992.** *Index of general distribution maps of vascular plants of Poland*. Polish Botanical Studies guidebook series 7. Krakow.  
Sources of maps for *Andromeda*, *Calluna*, and *Erica tetralix*.

## REVIEWS

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### **T. Whilde. *The natural history of Connemara.***

1994. Pp 336; illustrated. Immel Publishing, London. ISBN 0-907151-91-4. IR£ 28.90

Connemara is a heather-filled corner of western Ireland that Tony Whilde knows and loves. His book is an explanation of the landscape, its rocks, plants and animals, illustrated with maps, diagrams and colour photographs. There is an incomparable bibliography of perhaps 1000 items – for that Tony deserves unreserved praise. I will be consulting it frequently.

I wish I could be entirely wholehearted in my praise for other segments of his approachable book, but there are some strange lapses. At least two photographs are incorrectly captioned, that on p. 70 shows *Calluna vulgaris* (ling) not bell heather, and that on p. 101 illustrates *Erica tetralix* (cross-leaved heath) not Mackay's heath. It is unfortunate that modern accounts of the distributions of *Erica* and *Daboecia* species were not consulted; for example, Mackay's heath occurs far beyond the boundaries of the 'province of Oviedo'. There are other factual errors – the first published reference to *Daboecia cantabrica* in western Ireland appeared in 1704 (not 1699). Be that as it may, this will be a valuable guide for visitors to Connemara because it will enable them better to understand a beautiful, heathery land.

**E. C. Nelson**

National Botanic Gardens, Dublin

### **Margaret Atherden. *Upland Britain. A natural history.***

1992. Pp xv, 224 + 8 pp colour plates. Manchester University Press, Manchester. ISBN 0-7190-3494-9 (paperback) £12.99. 0-7190-3493-0 (hardback) £40.

After reading this book I can only agree with David Bellamy's comment that it is 'written with authority and affection'. The author's awareness of every facet involved in the post-glacial development of these regions of Britain over the past 15,000 years, ensures it is comprehensive. However, as the book is intended for all who have an interest in, or care about such regions, many of whom are not ecologists, Latin names are omitted from its very readable text (the more academically-minded are provided with a glossary).

Comprising almost a third of Britain, these areas are this country's most important wildlife resource, although now only containing semi-natural, or artificial communities. Beginning with an account of the physical features that contribute to the diverse habitats found in the upland regions, there is a chapter on each: mountain tops, pine woods, deciduous woodlands, moorlands, wetlands, coniferous plantations and grasslands, in which the author also records the different phases of human impact. An account of the additional ecological niches provided by roads, railways, walls & hedges indicate that not all human activity has been harmful. A final chapter extends this interaction between wildlife and man by considering the future and some

of the various conservation schemes that exist. A reference section for each chapter allows further research.

Society members will be primarily interested in the chapter on 'Heather moorlands'. This contains a historical account of their development following abandonment of the cleared ancient woodland sites in late Mesolithic times to a maximum during the nineteenth century. Before discussing types of management by grazing and regular burning, the author mentions the wildlife that inhabits this environment, then deals with the modern problems arising from over-grazing, continued burning and the encroachment of bracken. To substantiate this, the chapter concludes with in depth accounts of Dartmoor and the North York Moors – two significant areas for which there are detailed records. Some disappointment might be felt at the single roadside photograph of *Erica cinerea* and *E. tetralix* growing on the North York Moors and disagreement with the comment that 'the individual flowers of heathers are un-spectacular', but then it has to be admitted we are prejudiced.

Undoubtedly a book full of information & well worth reading and – at the paperback price – worth having. Margaret Atherden has 'uplifted' general knowledge of such regions by combining consideration of heathland and moorland in contrast to Oliver Rackham in his *History of the countryside* (1986) and then adding an ecological perspective to her historical account that is an improvement on Millward and Robinson's *Upland Britain* (1980) in which the word heather does not even occur! My main criticism has to be the inadequacy of the index – but that is the fault of the publishers.

**Ron Cleevely**  
Midhurst, Sussex

### **D. Lambie. *Introducing heather. Scotland's most remarkable plant.***

1994. Pp 48; colour illustrations. Firtree Publishing Ltd., Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 6PR. ISBN 1-872825-04-4. UK£ 3. 85

Written by the proprietor of one of Scotland's best known heather nurseries, this is an attractively produced small book. There are many illustrations, mostly colour photographs of high quality. Three of the first colour pictures of heather show flowers about 3 to 3.5 cm across, that is to say about 10 times natural size! So they look gigantic. Among the black and white photographs are eight of useful objects made of heather: baskets, brooms, rope, doormats and pot scrubbers.

Apart from horticulture, the easily readable text covers the natural history of heather and heather heathlands and their exploitation, as well as present and past uses of heather; all that takes twenty pages. Particular topics include dyes, heather drinks, honey and medicinal properties. I hope it is just a slip but I must point out that it is not seeds that are pollinated; it is the flowers, from which develop the seeds, that are pollinated (p. 5).

Twenty four pages are devoted to heather gardening and the brief description of some cultivars of *Calluna* and other members of the family. Sixteen are illustrated in colour, again some much magnified.



There are no suggestions for further reading and so the reader cannot take any of the topics further. This is a pity, I think. Though the author makes it clear that heather moors are maintained by burning there is no explicit statement that these moors at low to moderate altitudes are the product of hundreds, indeed thousands, of years of human effects and have replaced woodlands. If these effects abate then invasion by bracken, birch and oak can quickly follow. So the glorious purple moors of the eastern Highlands of Scotland are the product of very long-term land-use. The works of Professor C. H. Gimingham on heather and heathlands are the standard sources.

**J. H. Dickson**

University of Glasgow

**Anne-Maria Brennan. *Over the garden wall.***

1994. Pp 40; colour illustrations. Channel 4 Television, 60 Charlotte Street, London W10 2AX. ISBN 1-85144-099-2. £ 4.95.

This book accompanied a series of eight half-hour programmes produced for Channel 4 by Flashback Television and first broadcast during June and July 1994. In its A4-sized pages is a considerable amount of useful background information on many of the plants and habitats which featured in the television presentations, together with suggestions for further reading, names and addresses of specialist societies and plant suppliers, neatly rounded off with a glossary.

The book deals with the eight habitats, including heaths, which were covered by the programmes. The ecological description for each is concise and well-written and presents the major features of the habitat in a readily understood but not simplistic fashion.

A particularly good feature of the book is the focus in each chapter on one or more of the National Collections of plants such as shrubby cinquefoils, heathers or *Clematis* which are a feature of the garden or habitat under discussion. Informative tips on propagation and cultivation are complemented by troubleshooting hints, and I was pleased to see that Dr Brennan has included a range of plants for starters as well as for the more adventurous gardeners.

The text is enlivened with a profusion of colour pictures, some of habitats, others of particular plants in their habitats and some close-ups of individual blooms. In my opinion, the last group were the least effective, particularly where a good photograph of a single, isolated flower has been edited so that it has no background and is then used a space-filler - a particularly good example of this is the treatment of the Grass of Parnassus flower on p. 25. Many of the photographs are excellent, but it is a pity that such a lot have had to be reduced to near postage stamp size, presumably because of printing costs and pressure on space. The overall effect could have been so much better if the pictures had been reproduced at a sensible size so that readers could have appreciated their quality more readily. This would have increased the cost of the book, and the marketing people would be unhappy - but I suspect that people would still have paid a pound or two more for what is really good companion volume. It is full of interesting and relevant detail and Dr Brennan has included precisely those

pieces of information that all types of gardeners appreciate since they are often difficult to track down.

Overall, I can thoroughly recommend it and for £4.95 you will have a real bargain – even more so if you recorded the programmes as well!

**P. D. Coker**

University of Greenwich

**C. Philip (compiler) & A. Lord (editor). *The plant finder 1994/95 edition.***

1994. Pp 820, [12], xxxii. Headmain for The Royal Horticultural Society, London. ISBN 0-9512161-6-3. £ 11.99.

This brilliant idea has now been acquired by The Royal Horticultural Society, and the 1994/95 edition has a few novel aspects. As before, *The plant finder* comprises a digest of plants commercially available in the United Kingdom and Ireland, with the nurserymen-suppliers encoded. The new features of this RHS edition is that those plants granted the Society's Award of Garden Merit are signalled by the suffix **AGM**.

*The plant finder* has been praised continually since it first appeared in 1987, and further accolades seem quite superfluous at this stage. Suffice it to say that if you have spent the last decade marooned on a desert island, this is an essential book for every keen gardener. As for the society's interests, *Andromeda* (2 spp. 13 cvs) and *Bruckenthalia* (1 sp. 1 cv) are listed as well as the other genera.

**E. C. Nelson**

National Botanic Gardens, Dublin

**CORRIGENDUM** — *Yearbook of the Heather Society* 1987: 71

**Ling means light.** In *Haven* nr 9 (1986) Professor Johan Lange wrote an article (Lyngen fortæller) about the linguistic origin of the word 'lyng' (spelled that way in Danish). In Denmark we have several placenames containing 'lyng' or sometimes 'lung'. The evolution from 'u' to 'y', or 'u' to 'i', is known from other words; for example between synger (in English, sing) and sunget (in English, sung).

'Lung' (lyng) in Danish means light (i.e. not heavy), because that organ (an animal's lung) can float on the water, just as that organ is called the lights (*The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* explains lights, the lungs, as a substantival use of light, of light weight).

A practical explanation of lung (lyng, ling) as the name for heather is that (heather) peat is light when dry, in opposition to (grass) turf. In ancient times both peat and turf was used in house building.

**Jens Kjærbo**

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## NURSERY CATALOGUES

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- ARDFEARN PLANT CENTRE MO  
 Ardfearn Nursery, Bunchrew, Inverness IV3 6RH, Scotland  
*Andromeda* - 3 cultivars.  
 Fine catalogue with other Ericaceae including *Phyllodoce* and *Cassiope*, and hardy alpines. Priced
- BLUE BELL NURSERY MO  
 Blackfordby, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 8AJ.  
*Andromeda* - more than 1 cultivar; *Erica* - 1 cultivar  
 Fascinating catalogue of uncommon shrubs and trees, with several unusual *Andromeda*. Not a specialist heather nursery. Priced.
- BURNCOOSE & SOUTH DOWN NURSERIES MO  
 Gwennap, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6BJ.  
*Calluna* - 15 cultivars; *Daboecia* - 3 cultivars; *Erica* - 8 species + 1 hybrid, more than 30 cultivars.  
 A general catalogue, priced, with emphasis on tender, southern hemisphere plants; heathers a small fraction of stock; includes *Erica canaliculata*, and *Daboecia* "Prolegerae" described as salmon (can this really be 'Praegerae'?)!
- COEHAVEN GARDEN & NURSERY MO  
 150 Rangiorua Road, Otaki, New Zealand  
*Calluna* - more than 50 cultivars; *Erica* - c. 60 species + hybrids; more than 50 cultivars.  
 A model catalogue with prices and good descriptions, and also mouth-watering for it contains Cape heaths in quantity. Northerners must envy the opportunities to grow such splendid plants, and also the New Zealand folk who are so well-served by this nursery. There's poetry, too! Well-worth sending \$3 all the way to Otaki!

## D &amp; M EVERETT THE HEATHER PEOPLE

Wholesale

Greenacres Nursery, Bringsty, Worcester WR6 5TA.

*Calluna*, *Daboecia*, *Erica*.

A comprehensive and succinctly descriptive catalogue with about 100 cultivars; priced only for large quantities (100 plants for about £44).

## DENBEIGH HEATHERS

MO

All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 8PJ

*Bruckenthalia* - 2 cultivars; *Calluna* - 494 cultivars; *Daboecia* - 49 cultivars;*Erica* - 14 species, 6 hybrids, 447 cultivars.

The Chairman's, so it's comprehensive! List, trimmed of names of perhaps every heather still in cultivation (but no *Andromeda*). Not so 'user friendly' as other catalogues because you really need the *Handy guide* ... beside you for descriptions. The current list has description of *Calluna vulgaris* 'Alexandra' (protected by plant breeder's rights).

## DORAN HEATHER NURSERIES

Wholesale

Timahoe, Donadea, Naas, County Kildare, Republic of Ireland

*Calluna* - more than 50 cultivars; *Daboecia* - 6 cultivars; *Erica* - 8 species, 3 hybrids, more than 60 cultivars.

Trade catalogue with brief descriptions and 18 colour photographs which are also issued in 2 leaflets entitled *Winter and spring flowering heathers for your garden* and *Summer and autumn flowering heathers for your garden*.

## DUCHY NURSERIES

The Duchy of Cornwall, Penlyne, Cott Road, Lostwithiel, Cornwall PL22 0BW

*Daboecia cantabrica* - mixed (no cultivars listed); *Erica* - 4 species, 5 cultivars. named, also "Summer and Winter flowering heathers in a wide selection".

General catalogue, not priced, including *Erica manipuliiflora* and *E. australis* 'Castellar Blush'.

## GREENWAY GARDENS

MO

Churston Gerrers, Brixham, Devon TQ5 0ES

Only *Erica canaliculata* and *E. discolor*.

A fascinating general catalogue of tender plants, especially South American wild collected species; no prices. Not a specialist heather nursery.

## HEATHER ACRES / HEATHS &amp; HEATHERS

MO

PO Box 850, Elma, Washington 98541. USA.

*Calluna*, *Daboecia*, *Erica*, *Bruckenthalia*, *Phyllodoce*.

'A descriptive list of hardy heathers available to North American gardeners'. A comprehensive catalogue, more a handbook (as indeed it is described), and a useful *vade-mecum*. No prices, and all cultivars are not available at all times.

## McCOY NURSERIES

Wholesale

Littletown, Kilmeague, Naas, County Kildare, Ireland.

*Erica* - more than 40 cultivars

Price list with brief descriptions. Other plants offered are *Rhododendron* (including azalea) and a mixture of shrubs, many with oddly printed names!

## MACPENNY'S HEATHER LIST 1992/93

154 Burley Road, Bransgore, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 8DB.

*Calluna* - 36 cultivars; *Daboecia* - 3 cultivars; *Erica* - 10 spp., 3 hybrids; more than 50 cultivars.

Typed 5 pp catalogue with concise descriptions. A substantial list, and good range, but a bit behind in names - still calling *E. x stuartii* by the synonym *E. x praegeri*.

## OTTERS' COURT HEATHERS

MO

Back Street, West Camel, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 7QF.

*Erica* only - more than 5 spp., 2 hybrids; more than 90 cultivars in catalogue; many more species and cultivars in stock list

Originally issued in 1988 but still current, this concentrates on hardy lime-tolerant heathers (*Erica carnea*, *E. erigena*, *E. x darleyensis*) with excellent descriptions - an especially useful catalogue. Supplementary stock list of cultivars of both lime-tolerant and lime-hating cultivars is available too.

## RIDGEMAN HEATHER NURSERY

Mrs N. Cordingley, Plaish, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 7HY

*Calluna* - more than 40 cultivars; *Daboecia* - 9 cultivars; *Erica* - 11 species, more than 1 hybrid, more than 80 cultivars.

Interesting list, but confusing with, for example, *Erica umbellata* cunningly concealed under "Erica hybrida". Not priced.

## SPEYSIDE HEATHER

MO

Skye of Curr, Dulnain Bridge, Inverness-shire, Scotland

*Bruckenthalia*; *Calluna* - more than 50 cultivars; *Daboecia* - 8 cultivars; *Erica* - 4 species, 3 hybrids, more than 50 cultivars.

Not so much a catalogue, but a handy booklet - in fact the 4th edition of a pamphlet entitled *Heathers. A guide to designing a heather garden*. Illustrated in colour (tartan included), a commendable, varied booklet, including brief lists of plants suitable for associating with heathers. Given the stylish production, more attention should have been paid to proof reading.



## Addresses of heather societies

*Affiliated societies*

Nederlandse Heidervereniging 'Ericultura'  
Mevr. A. Kämena  
Bavelselaan 306  
4834 TJ BREDA  
Netherlands

Gesellschaft der Heidefreunde e.V  
Tangstedter Landstraße 276  
2000 HAMBURG 62  
Germany

North American Heather Society  
c/o Pauline Croxton, Secretary  
3641 Indian Creek Road  
PLACERVILLE CA 95667-8923  
USA

*Other societies*

Northeast Heather Society  
PO Box 101  
Highland View  
ALSTEAD NH 0362  
USA

## **Notes for contributors**

The editor of *Yearbook of the Heather Society* invites members of the Heather Society and other persons with interests in heaths and heathers to submit articles, notes, illustrations and photographs for publication in the *Yearbook* which is issued once every year.

Articles and notes may be of general interest or may record the results of horticultural, botanical and historical research. The cultivation of heaths and heathers (*Erica*, *Calluna*, *Daboecia* and related genera), their conservation, taxonomy, distribution and history, biographies of individuals and histories of nurseries, bibliography and iconography are some examples of relevant topics.

**ARTICLES & NOTES** should be submitted, if possible, as corrected, legible typescript, typed on one side of the paper, double-spaced with wide margins. Electronic text on IBM-compatible 3.5 inch microdisk in ASCII format is also acceptable but hard-copy (double-spaced) should accompany the microdisk. Members of The Heather Society may send handwritten manuscripts, but please ensure these are legible; please leave a wide margin on the left-hand side, and write only on one side of the paper.

**ILLUSTRATIONS** with accompanying text and captions are also welcome. High quality pen-and-ink drawings and glossy black-and-white photographic prints can be considered for inclusion. A limited number of colour photographs will be selected for use in each *Yearbook* but only the highest-quality colour transparencies can be used. Members, artists and photographers wishing to submit illustrations are advised to consult the editor *before* sending original artwork or photographs by mail.

The editor reserves the right to obtain independent referees's opinions about articles and illustrations submitted for publication.

**BOOKS FOR REVIEW.** Publishers are invited to send books relevant to the interests of The Heather Society for review; review copies should be sent direct to the editor, and not to a reviewer.

### SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES & ILLUSTRATIONS

Please direct typescripts to the editor at the address given in this *Yearbook* — typescripts may be transmitted by fax, but a copy should also be sent by air mail. Please do not send articles for the *Yearbook* to The Administrator.

**All material for the 1996 issue of the *Yearbook of the Heather Society* must reach the editor not later than 31 October 1995.**

Due to the strict printing schedule for the *Yearbook*, the editor regrets that articles and illustrations received after that date will be reserved for publication in **1997.**

# THE HEATHER SOCIETY

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TN15 8JH, Kent

from 23 November 1994 - **Mr A. Jones:** Otter's Court, Back Street, West Camel, Yeovil  
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