

J. E. Dandy, 1903-1976

The following obituary and tribute to Mr. Dandy, world known authority on taxonomy of the *Magnoliaceae*, written by Dr. W. T. Stearn of the British Museum (Natural History), was published in *The London Times* November 17, 1976, and is reproduced in part from that newspaper by permission.

Although esteemed the world over for his well informed, inclusive and authoritative decisions on the naming of plants in accordance with the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, Mr. J. E. Dandy, who died on November 10 at Tring after a long illness at the age of 73, was much more than a kind of nomenclatural court of appeal; he was a taxonomist with an extensive and profound knowledge of plants and botanical literature. He put this so generously at the disposal of all who consulted him, with queries coming to him from many countries, and so critically and constructively revised the manuscripts of others that he completed too few of his own. Indeed, maintaining always the high standards of scholarship associated with the British Museum (Natural History), he became almost morbidly reluctant to publish his continually revised works, which were never, for him, quite perfect enough; however, they would separately have made the reputations of half a dozen lesser people, such being the diversity and quality of his contributions, published and unpublished, on magnolias, pondweeds, petaloid monocotyledons, botanical nomenclature, Watsonian vice-counties, the Sloane Herbarium and plants of the West Indies, the Sudan and the British Isles.

James Edgar Dandy was born at Preston, Lancashire, on September 24, 1903, and was educated at Preston Grammar School and Downing College, Cambridge. He joined the herbarium staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in 1925 and worked there for two years as assistant to the late Dr. John Hutchinson, who was very interested in elaborating a new system of classification for flowering plants; he gave

Dandy the opportunity to revise the genera of Loasaceae, Saxifragaceae and Magnoliaceae. The magnolias remained his lifelong interest and he became the world authority on them; characteristically he prepared a monograph but never published it. His publications of 1926 manifest the same meticulous care and thorough investigation typical of his later ones. In 1927 he moved from Kew to the British Museum (Natural History), where he was Keeper of Botany from 1956 until his retirement in 1966. He spent three months plant collecting in the Sudan in 1934.

He married in 1929 Joyce Isabelle Glaysher. They had one son.

Neil Treseder has furnished a list of more than a hundred of Mr. Dandy's taxonomical papers, of which 38 treat the Magnolia Family and 28 the genus *Magnolia*. Some of the most inclusive of these papers, listed chronologically from 1927 to 1974:

The genera of Magnolieae. Bull. Misc. Inf. Kew 1927; pp. 257-264. 1927.

Key to the species; in J. G. Millais, *Magnolias*; pp. 41-53, 1927. (name misspelled "Dendy" and key mis-set by printers.)

Key to the species of *Magnolia*. Journ. R. Hort. Soc. Lond. 52; pp. 260-264. 1927. (Corrected version of the preceding.)

A survey of the genus *Magnolia* together with *Manglietia* and *Michelia*. *Camellias and Magnolias* (Rep. Conf. R. Hort. Soc. Lond.): pp. 64-81. 1950.

Magnoliaceae; in J. Angely, *Cat. Estativo. Gen. Bot. Fan.*, No. 11. 1956.

Key to genera (of Magnoliaceae); in J. Hutchinson, *Fam. Flow. Pl.*, ed. 2, 1: pp. 123-125. 1959.

Magnoliaceae; in J. Hutchinson, *Gen. Flow. Pl.* 1: pp. 50-57. 1964.

The classification of Magnoliaceae. *Newsletter Amer. Magnolia Soc.* 8: pp. 3-6. 1971.

Magnoliaceae: Taxonomy. *World Pollen & Spore Flora* 3 (ed. S. Nilsson). 1974.