IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Monte Gregg Manuel, bryologist, 1947 - 1981.

Friends, bryologists, and Malesian botanists will be saddened to learn of the death of Monte G. Manuel, who for three years past was staff bryologist and bryological curator in the Department of Botany, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. Monte had just departed from Malaysia after his contract and was taking up a new post at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, but suffered a sudden stroke and died in Nairobi in April 1981.

Monte G. Manuel was born in Missoula, Montana, U.S.A., on 29th May 1947, and received his early education in Lakes High School in Tacoma, Washington. After obtaining an Associate in Arts degree from Lower Columbia College in Longview, Washington, in 1968, he entered Central Washington State College in Ellensburg and majored in botany, with a minor in geology, receiving his B.A. in 1970. He then continued at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, studying under William D. Reese, and gained the M. Sc. degree there. He completed his academic work at the University Park laboratory of Dr. Ronald A. Pursell (The Pennsylvania State University) and received his Ph. D. in 1976. He spent a postdoctoral year at the Farlow Library and Herbarium of Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he worked partly with Dr. Norton G. Miller.

Monte had worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Oregon and had a taste for nature and the outdoors. During his graduate work he taught in the biology laboratories and did duties in the herbaria. His Research Fellowship at Harvard was a very valuable experience and he then took a teaching post at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, for a year (1977-8) where he was very successful. But the tropical florae enthralled him and he won a post at the University of Malaya, where he worked from May 1978 to March 1981. Here he accomplished much in both teaching and research, publishing several papers, and instituting advanced courses in bryology. A devoted botanist, Monte had high research ideals. Before he left Malaysia, he had prepared a generic moss Flora for the area and luckily this was published, albeit posthumously*. This work will be a permanent memento of his application, ability, and enthusiasm, and will certainly become a standard text in the region at universities.

Monte, a bachelor, had many friends in Malaysia and Singapore, in many fields apart from the academic life. His untimely demise, at the age of 34, has deprived tropical bryology of an exemplary taxonomist, and many of us of a good and gifted friend.

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227