

PREFACE

The Pisum Genetics Association (PGA) is a non-profit, unincorporated organization established to facilitate the exchange of information and to ensure the preservation of valuable genetic stocks. The number of PGA members now stands at 218-

Membership

Membership in the PGA is open to all interested persons. Dues are \$10.00 for two years (U.S. currency) and are used to help defray the costs of publishing the PNL. Members are encouraged to pay dues for two or more years to simplify bookkeeping. Please make prime banker's check or money orders payable to PISUM GENETICS ASSOCIATION and send to G. A. Marx, Department of Horticultural Sciences, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, NY 14456, U.S.A. The PNL will be sent upon receipt of dues.

*United
We
Stand*

Response to the letter from the editor which appeared last year (Volume 16) has been gratifyingly positive. Individual members have willingly accepted the increase in dues and have graciously consented to pay their dues for two years or more in advance. A few have even contributed something extra, a gesture that gives us a warm glow of reassurance. I interpret this overall reaction to mean that members feel that the PNL has value, serves a need, and should endure.

Although members' dues are essential, contributions of an extraordinary kind are also vital if the PGA is to survive. I am delighted to report that the Del Monte Corporation has made such an extraordinary, PGA-saving, contribution in the amount of \$1,000. Our hearty thanks to Del Monte for this special gift and for its generous support in the past.

Thanks

One need only scan the articles published in the PNL over the years since the initial issue in 1959 to see that the nature and content of the articles has undergone a transformation or evolution of sorts. The advent in recent years of electrophoresis and other powerful analytical techniques has allowed researchers to probe ever more deeply into life's processes and the results of these investigations have appeared on the pages of the PNL. This is a favorable trend but for your editor, who is none too bright in the first place, it poses a particular challenge. There is an inverse relationship between his ability to render a fair and critical review and the incidence of articles dealing with esoteric subjects or techniques. It is for that reason I gratefully acknowledge the editorial assistance of the following colleagues: Drs. K. Mudge, N. D. Polans, S. Shannon, and N. F. Weeden.

The lady affectionately known as our "Clerk", having retired and no longer a Cornell employee, remains as a faithful ally. Mrs. Van Kirk has purchased a microcomputer and a printer and single handedly has prepared all the copy for PNL Volume 17. Moreover, she continues to perform all the bookkeeping and most of the organizational tasks associated with keeping our enterprise afloat. To her goes the credit for getting the PNL into your hands at a reasonable time. We tip our collective hats for a job well done.

	The financial report for the period 4/1/84 - 3/31/85:	
	Balance on hand 4/1/84	\$854.06
	Donations & dues collected	2040.00
	Expenditures:	
<i>Financial Report</i>	Postage	291.71
	Publishing costs	663.35
	Bank charges	44.42
	Wages:	
	Bookkeeping	150.50
	Typing	675.00
	Total expenditures	<u>1824.98</u>
	Balance on hand 3/31/85	\$1069.08
	G. A. Marx, for the Coordinating Committee	
	S. Blixt	L. Monti
	W. Gottschalk	I. Murfet
	E. Gritton	B. Sharma
	G. A. Marx	B. Snoad

COVER

The retirement of Professor Dr. W. Gottschalk from the Chair of Genetics in the Faculty of Sciences, University of Bonn, in 1985 prompts us to recognize his many contributions to Pisum genetics and cytology published in the PNL and elsewhere. He has been a member of the Coordinating Committee since the inception of the PGA in 1969. He is well known the world over, has acted as a consultant outside his native Germany, and has participated in several international research programs, e.g. EURATOM, IAEA. A leader in the field of mutation genetics, he has always stressed the potential of higher plants as research tools for solving problems, basic and applied, which cannot easily be accomplished with other organisms, if at all. His unique collection of pea mutants and recombinants is well suited to study questions ranging from biochemistry and developmental biology to ecology and to breeding. Ever energetic and committed, Dr. Gottschalk has over the years guided and supported a staff of creative and productive associates at his Institute. We hope that his years of dedicated commitment to science will be rewarded by many more years of pleasant personal activity (at a pace controlled more by him than by others or events). The papers contributed to this issue of the PNL by coworkers of the Institute of Genetics are respectfully dedicated to him.

(Cover picture drawn by Elaine Gotham from a photo supplied by Prof. Dr. H. P. Muller.)