

The Lotus Newsletter 1970 (No.1) to 1985 (No.15)

This gives a brief outline of the Lotus Newsletter from 1970 to 1985 by the first Editor:

WILLIAM F. GRANT

Emeritus Professor, P.O. Box 4000, McGill University, Macdonald Campus, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec H9X 3V9 Canada

<http://www.mcgill.ca/plant/faculty/grant/>

<http://eqb-dqe.cciw.ca/eman/ecotools/botanists/GrantWF.html>

I thank Dr. Mónica Rebuffo for asking me to write a few words on how the *Lotus* Newsletter got started in 1970. In talking to colleagues there appeared to be interest in a Newsletter as many individuals were working on some aspect of *Lotus* research. I realized that a medium was required to let everyone know what research was being carried on in different parts of the world. This would prevent overlap of projects and form research alliances. I wrote letters (pre-Email) to all individuals who had published on some aspect of *Lotus*. The response for a Newsletter was highly enthusiastic. Thus, began the first newsletter covering all aspects of *Lotus* research from new species, new chromosome numbers, chemical constituents (such as HCN content), cytogenetics, hybridization studies, to *Lotus* species in agronomic practice such as breeding and pod shattering. In the first issue there were 21 contributors. The Newsletter consisted of a total of 30 mimeographed pages (pre-photocopying). The cover had an original drawing of *Lotus corniculatus* L. provided by one of my students.

The first *Lotus* Newsletter was sent to 71 individuals in 21 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and U.S.A.). Also to two contributors to the first issue from Australia and Uruguay made a total distribution to 23 countries.

The *Lotus* Newsletter was for an exchange of information where opinions in addition to established facts could be presented. Request for research material, personal news, new books of interest, meeting notices, letters to the editor, chromosome numbers published during the year, and recent publications, were some of the topic headings. In later issues I tried to have a lead article for each issue.

I published the *Lotus* Newsletter from 1970 (No. 1) to 1985 (No. 15). After 15 years, I thought someone else might assume Editorship and obtain financing for production and mailing costs. I was most pleased when Drs. Paul R. Beuselinck and Robert L. McGraw both

agreed to become joint Editors starting Volume 16. (Present addresses, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, Plant Genetics Research Unit, Columbia, MO, USA, 65211; Dept. Agronomy, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, USA, 65211, respectively). Under Dr. Beuselinck the Newsletter was published to volume 32, 2001, when he was requested to carry out other duties and could no longer publish the Newsletter (<http://www.psu.missouri.edu/lnl/>). I look forward to receiving the *Lotus* Newsletter published by the new Editor, Ing.Agr. Mónica Rebuffo.