

PRESIDENT STEVE FAZIO: This morning I would like to welcome all of you to the twenty-first annual meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society, Western Region. I would like to do something a little unusual that we haven't done before. We have a large group of new member New members, if this is your first meeting, you are in for a treat. You are going to be exposed to new research in plant propagation and you are going to see some new techniques and innovations in the nurseries that we are going to visit on our tours. Our motto, if you are not familiar with it, is in Latin on the front of your program; it states; "To Seek and To Share." This is what we do. We have no secrets. All of these people that you will visit on the tours and the speakers on the program will be glad to tell you all about their propagation procedures, and so on. So, to you we dedicate this program, this meeting this year, and we hope that you will find it very, very interesting and worthwhile.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE I.P.P.S.

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The thoughts I shall share with you will be centered from the title — The Philosophy of the I.P.P.S. Mr. Webster's dictionary, in defining the word "philosophy," will guide our discourse. He suggests three concepts for the word philosophy and we shall share together the relationship of the dictionary definition and our beloved Society.

Philosophy — "The study of the causes and relations of things and ideas." This first dictionary concept will allow us to reflect upon the beginning of the International Plant Propagators Society and some thoughts shared during the founding of the Western Region. As we look back in history, we learn that our Society is traceable to the existence of a previous and somewhat similar group. An organization known as, "The National Association of Propagating Nurserymen," was formed in 1919 and survived until 1931, at which time it succumbed due to the severe economy of the period. At the Eighth Annual Meeting in 1927, the name was changed to the "American Plant Propagators Association." The constitution allowed membership eligibility for nursery firms "engaged in the propagation of nursery stock for lining out in nursery rows," but disallowed membership to the academician, florists, and only to those propagating nursery stock for United States distribution. As Al Fordham noted, "One won-

ders if this stipulation could lead to expulsion of a member doing foreign business!" The 12th and final meeting was held in Detroit in 1931, and the Society did not convene again.

The review of our predecessor society allows us to study the cause of ideas, because it was exactly this philosophy which created the association known today as, "The International Plant Propagators' Society." In November of 1951, in Cleveland, Ohio, an enthusiastic assembly of about 100 people enjoyed a two-day program to discuss plant propagation. At this meeting a committee was appointed to draft a constitution and the meeting produced a printed Proceeding of 50 pages. For an example of growth and development, the Proceedings of the 1978 twenty-eighth annual meeting consisted of 661 pages!

The history of your Western Region is equally fascinating with initial action going back to the summer of 1958, followed by a meeting in June of 1959 at Davis, California, which was attended by 22 interested and devoted individuals. At the first formal meeting of the Western Region, Webster's second definition of Philosophy is exemplified by the words, "The serene wisdom that comes from calm contemplation of life and the universe." It was in 1960, at the Western Region First Annual Meeting that Dick Fillmore suggested that Society membership could be a "lessening of professional loneliness." Also at this meeting, the keynote address, presented by Jim Wells, truly pointed out that the plant propagator is indeed the basis of our industry.

In reflecting on the dictionary words of "calm contemplation", those words have meaning sitting in an airplane returning home from a conference. However, all the meetings I have attended afford very little "calm contemplation" in the meeting rooms. How vividly I recall Harvey Templeton's first discussion relative to constant mist. I recall the frenzy of excitement that paper generated and the few comments that it would never work — "You will drown the cuttings!" The impact of that paper, and the ensuing multitudinous words which followed, truly revolutionized the propagation practices throughout the world. For the benefit of the guests in the assembly, I urge you to attend the Liars Forum this evening, since I assure you that Jolly Batchellor will not create an atmosphere of "calm contemplation!"

During our philosophic "study of ideas" we are amazed with the advances of tissue culture as a plant propagation technique and you shall be hearing words of wisdom on this practice this morning. All of us can be justifiedly proud of the fact that much technological advance in plant propagation was promulgated by the I.P.P.S. It is a unique body truly adhering to the principles of the motto — "To seek and to share." The Society is strong because of its members dedication and the union of the person

concerned with the scientific investigation as well as those involved in the more practical aspects of commercial plant propagation. The constitution of the preceding society in the 1920's has been radically altered for the best. We now have the exchange of thoughts between the academic and practicing nurserymen, and the restriction of the distribution is no longer valid. Quite the contrary; we have a strong, devoted, membership from Canada in both the Eastern and Western regions, and with recent Region formations in Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand we are today truly "international" and I would predict that other areas around the world shall someday attain regional status.

The final definition of Philosophy tells us it is, "A system of thought or ethics." The final word in that quotation is ambiguous, to say the least. In reviewing the Proceedings, a member might challenge the ethics of budding or grafting *Syringa* cultivars on *Syringa vulgaris* seedlings. Be that as it may, but the ethics of a sound propagation program are constant and feasible. The vast amount of knowledge which can be gleaned from our Proceedings — and from our meeting this week — affords all of us the true potential of producing a better plant. An opportunity to be a wiser and better individual due to our accomplishments.

It was amusing to read the words of Alfred Hottes as he was introduced at the 1926 meeting as the author of a book on propagation. Part of his response to the introduction includes these words: "Books on propagation are not made the way poems are — out of pure fabrication or a trip to the cave. It is a person who investigates after long hours of work and study who can properly produce a book on plant propagation." I feel confident that both Hudson Hartmann and Dale Kester would agree, and neither of them took any "trips to the cave."

My friends, the Philosophy of the I.P.P.S. is communicating, seeking — sharing — the many facets found in the art of plant propagation. Henry David Thoreau said, "... if life proved mean, why then to get the whole and genuine meanness of it; or if it were sublime, to know it by experience." Our Society has created a treasure chest of vast amounts of plant propagation information derived from the experience of the plant propagator. The legacy of our art is indeed in good hands with the members of The International Plant Propagators' Society. In no other profession is the definition of the word Philosophy so apropos. We are all so very, very fortunate to be engaged in the stimulating science of propagating plants. During this session, I urge all of you, once again, to seek and share your talents.