

**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE DATE PALM**

**by**

**V. H. W. DOWSON**  
Consultant, F.A.O., Rome

*Edited by Henry Field and William T. Gillis*

Published by:  
FIELD RESEARCH PROJECTS  
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## FOREWORD

During the spring of 1969, while we were guests of ARAMCO in Dhahran, Mr. V. H. W. Dowson, consultant to FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.), drove 70 miles across the desert to see us. At that time, Mr. Dowson told me of his list of taxonomic references to the Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* Linn.) which he had collected during a period of 60 years. This obviously would be a valuable addition to our research publications on Southwestern Asia.

As did another famous botanist, David Fairchild, Mr. Dowson kept a diary. Each year, for 60 years, he entered all his research notes in the diaries. Among these 60 volumes were thousands of references to the Date Palm. The diaries were stored in a footlocker at FAO, Rome. Upon retirement, he planned to collect and publish the references. I offered to help him, and on my way back from Assam, I stopped in Rome to talk to the Librarian, requesting his coöperation in providing a desk in a quiet corner of the Library, since many references would have to be checked there. He readily agreed to give Mr. Dowson every assistance.

In 1971 I returned to Rome to meet with Mr. Dowson and discuss the preparation of the material for publication by Field Research Projects. I suggested that he go through each diary and place a 3 × 5 card in front of each reference to the Date Palm. I offered to find somebody to type these references and he, himself, checked each reference before the card was put in a box. I found Ms. Faye Podell, who had worked for me in Florence some years before, to type the Bibliography.

In 1973, after leaving the Mongolian People's Republic, I stopped in Rome and found about 3500 references on 3 × 5 cards typed by Ms. Podell. The references were in ten European languages. Naturally, there were a number of typographical errors, particularly in German, French and Portuguese. After checking, Mr. Dowson forwarded them to me in Coconut Grove for editing.

As usual, I called on Dr. William T. Gillis, now of Hope College, Holland, Michigan. Dr. Gillis has checked many botanical references for me and has a wide knowledge of the nomenclature. While he did a great deal of work in checking dates, names of authors and places of publication, there remain a number of incomplete references which could not be found to check.

The Bibliography should be considered as a complement to *The Date Palm* by Paul Popenoe, published by Field Research Projects in 1973. We would like to call attention to the following titles:

1. References to Dates and Date Palms in my *An Anthropological Reconnaissance in West Pakistan, 1955* with Appendixes on the Archaeology and Natural History of Baluchistan and Bahawalpur, Peabody Museum Papers, Vol. LII, pp. 270-73 and 316, 1959.
2. Dowson, V. H. W., *Notes on the Date Palm in Iraq*. FMNH, Anthropological Series, Vol. 30, No. 2, pp. 407-11, 1949.
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4. Janjua, Nazeer Ahmed, *Insects of Baluchistan and their Distribution*. PMP, Vol. LII, pp. 231-64, 1959.
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We are grateful to Dr. Gillis for his technical assistance and perseverance in checking the references in many libraries. Carol D. Jones, Michigan State University Librarian, assisted Dr. Gillis in searching for some of the obscure references. Judith Voliner Wilson assisted in checking copy in Coconut Grove. As usual, we are grateful to Ms. Eva Nyqvist of Palo Alto, California, who typed the copy on her IBM Composer. Her multilingual knowledge enabled her to make hundreds of linguistic corrections as she produced the final copy for photo-offset.

In conclusion, we must repeat our gratitude to V. H. W. Dowson for his permission to include this Bibliography under the imprint of Field Research Projects.

*HENRY FIELD*

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