

THE HAWORTHIA SOCIETY

is the specialist society for those collectors with a particular interest in *Haworthia*, *Gasteria*, *Aloe* and related genera.

Our journal *Haworthiad* is published three times a year. Regular seed lists, a plant exchange scheme and a biennial convention with international speakers are among the attractions for members.

For further information contact the Membership Secretary, 29 Sunset Avenue, North Chingford, London E4 7LW (email: jackson.343@btinternet.com) or visit:

www.haworthia.org



Aloe Deana Black by Sue Wilson

British Cactus & Succulent Society



Website:
<http://www.bcss.org.uk>

- Quarterly full colour Journal, CactusWorld, for all levels of interest, covering conservation, cultivation, propagation, plant hunting and habitats, botanical gardens, plant descriptions, book reviews, seed lists, news and views, and advertisements from suppliers worldwide.
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MESSAGE OF OUR HON. VICE-PRESIDENT, DR. C.E. CODD
Chief Botanical Research Inst.

South Africa can be proud of its rich and varied flora and one of the most striking features of our vegetation is the wealth of succulent plants. These have developed over countless centuries in response to a dry environment, but they are not restricted to arid areas and many species occur in the mountains under relatively moist conditions. Some are plentiful and others are rare and very localised.

It is only natural that the growing of these interesting plants can become an absorbing pastime. Not only is there a seemingly endless variety of form, but the growing of the plants provides a challenge because many of them have certain specialised requirements that must be discovered before they can successfully be grown and propagated.

Societies for the growing and study of succulent plants are already in existence in many countries and so the formation of the South African Aloe and Succulent Society is a welcome step. The Society can perform a very useful function and it is hoped that it will grow from strength to strength.

The published history of our succulent plants goes back more than 300 years. It was in 1644 that the first illustrations appeared of two species in a book published by van Stapel in Amsterdam. One of these plants was later named *Stapelia variegata* in his honour and the other is now known as *Cotyledon orbiculata*. The original drawings were probably done by Justus Heurnius, who collected plants at the Cape before the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck, and after whom the genus *Huernia* was named. Nowadays we have a number of books with beautiful illustrations of hundreds of our succulent plants but there are still many gaps in our knowledge. If the Society can foster interest in the conservation of our plants in their natural habitats, it will be achieving something really worth while.

C.E. Codd

ALOE – 25

This issue marks the completion of twenty-five volumes of ALOE. Volume 1 consisted of a single issue which appeared on the first day of December 1963. That issue may be described as a pamphlet, more-or-less in format A5 and the following volumes had the same appearance. Yet, even in those days, the contributors included well-known persons such as GW Reynolds.

From those humble beginnings, with many ups and downs, in close association with the Society it serves, ALOE evolved to the journal it is today. The Editorial Board hopes that the process of evolution is on-going and that it will be able to continue to serve a world-wide community of people who, for some reason find the study and cultivation of succulent plants stimulating and satisfying.

The current issue not only serves to commemorate a quarter of a century of existence, but also celebrates the issue of the fifth definitive series of stamps of the Republic of South Africa in which the theme is succulent plants. With the new surge of interest in succulents, the Editors thought it fit to devote the issue to the enthusiast and the grower. We hope that the information contained in ALOE will serve to enhance your activity.

Niko Sauer



Succulent Society of South Africa
Vetplantvereniging van Suid-Afrika

Objectives

The objectives of the Society are to promote knowledge, the cultivation and conservation of succulent plants and to contribute towards the protection and conservation of all indigenous plants and their habitats.

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Front cover: *Haworthiopsis fasciata*. Photographed at Baken River, Walmer. This species was previously known as *Haworthia fasciata*, but a new classification put it in the new genus *Haworthiopsis*, see the article on *New Developments in the World of Aloes* in this journal. Photo: Sean Gildenhuys.

ALOE

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Back cover: *Aloe comptonii* near in habitat near Montagu, Western Cape Province. Here *Aloe comptonii* flowers in spring (September), the flowering time of this species varies a lot, near Willowmore it flowers at Christmas time, at other localities flowering time is in autumn. Unlike a number of former *Aloe* species, this one stayed in Aloe. Photo: Kotie Retief

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ALOE 50

With the completion of this volume of ALOE we have reached the end of the first 50 years in the life of the journal. The first issue was indeed published a bit more than 50 years ago. On the opposite page we have put a message from Dr. Codd that was published in vol.1 no.1 in December 1963 as well as an editorial by Prof. Niko Sauer, who was editor of the journal when a commemorative issue was published in 1988. In 1963 Dr. Codd expressed the hope that the newly formed Society would perform a "very useful function" regarding the growing and study of succulent plants and would foster interest in the conservation of the plants and their natural habitats. In Niko Sauer's editorial in 1988 he expressed the hope that the journal "will be able to serve a world-wide community of people who...find the study and cultivation of succulent plants stimulating and satisfying."

We sincerely trust that the editorial boards have lived up to these expectations over the years and that the journal will continue to play an important role in the dissemination of knowledge on the succulent plants from the African region.

Kotie Retief
Editor