Johannes Bauhin (1541-1613), First Important Precursor of Pomology

SILVIO MARTINI
Berne, Switzerland

The true founder of Pomology was probably J. H. Knoop (1706-1769),[1] with his work "Pomologia," Leeuwarden 1758, translated into German in 1760, and into French in 1771. Pomologia consists of descriptions and illustrations of fruit species and varieties. However, Johannes Bauhin, the first important precursor of pomology, was far superior to all agronomists and botanists of his time, with his outstanding writings and illustrations of fruit varieties. He was born in Basle, Switzerland February 12, 1541, and died in Montbéliard on October 27, 1613.

Another pioneer of pomology, the botanist V. Cordus (1515-1544), wrote "Historiae Stirpium," which the botanist Conrad Gessner had printed in Strassburg in 1561. Included in this work are exact descriptions of 31 apple and 50 pear varieties carrying German names, but without any drawings. Olivier de Serres (1539-1619), another contemporary of Bauhin's, listed 50 apple and 55 pear varieties in his "Le Theatre d'Agriculture" (Paris, 1600), but without descriptions or illustrations.

In his book "Historia novi ed admirabilis fontis balneique Bollensis" (Montbéliard, 1598) Bauhin included 60 apple and 40 pear varieties, with a drawing of each in natural size, which were also reproduced in the German translation (Stuttgart, 1602). We find that these are the first descriptions, with drawings in natural size, of apple and pear varieties, published in France or Germany.

Bauhin discusses the apple tree, its culture, and the many uses of the fruit in his work entitled "Historia Plantarum Universalis" (Yverdon, 1650, Vol I). After considering the authors who had preceded him, he comments on the 31 varieties described by V. Cordus. Then follows his own descriptions and illustrations of 63 apple varieties. He mentions earlier authors who wrote about pears, and includes over 50 exact descriptions of pear varieties by Cordus. Then he presents his own descriptions of 56 pear varieties, with illustrations in natural size.

The famous pomologist A. Leroy wrote as follows in his work "Dictionnaire de Pomologie" (Paris, 1873, Vol. III, page 176): J. Bauhin, auteur de la premiere Pomologie avec figures," which in English means: "J. Bauhin, author of the first Pomology with figures."

The Japanese pomologist, Prof. T. Tanaka, in his interesting study, "The Beginning of Pomology" (Tokyo, 1931) called V. Cordus "the father of Pomology," with which I cannot agree. Cordus' work was only the beginning. Pomology could never have continued to develop from Cordus' simple descriptions. Cordus introduced the varietal description to pomological literature. Bauhin added illustrations. Of the two, the illustration in natural size, if possible in natural color, is the more expressive element.

In "Om Pomologier och Pomologer (Stockholm, 1926), in Figure 6, pages 11, there is a reproduction of an apple, and in Fig. 7 is one of a pear, both from work by J. Parkinson published in 1629. On page 13, in Fig. 9, there

is the reproduction of an apple, and in Fig. 10 a pear, from work by Bauhin published in 1650. However there was an earlier work by Bauhin first published in 1598, and in German in 1602 which already contained these fruit drawings. It seems that Dr. Dahl did not know of this first work. According to my findings, the illustrations of the fruit varieties by Bauhin published in 1598 were the first of their kind, and preceded those by Parkinson. Prof. Dahl, who was very positive in his remarks about Bauhin, finished with the following statement: "Anyhow, this work has to be looked at as the most important of all the works which were published until the middle of the 17th century which treat the knowledge of fruit varieties."

In any case, the descriptions and illustrations by Johannes Bauhin influenced the first real pomologist, J. H. Knoop, the true founder of Pomology. Traces of Bauhin can even be found in "Traite des Arbres Fruitiers" (Paris, 1768), by the great pomologist H. M. Duhamel du Monceau.

Bauhin layed the foundations for Pomology; J. H. Knoop completed it with his Pomologia (Leeuwarden, 1758); and P. A. Poiteau improved it with his splendid "Pomologie Francaise" (Paris, 1838-1846), in four volumes and 418 pages of beautiful, color, folio plates.

Johannes Bauhin is also considered the first important precursor of Ampelography because he described, in detail, 22 varieties of grapes. He is also believed to be the first important precursor of Citrology, since he described and illustrated five species of Citrus at the beginning of the 17th century[2].

Literature Cited

[1]Martini, S. J. H. Knoop stichter der pomologie, "De Fruitteelt," Den Haag, 1949, P. 740-741.

[2]Martini, S., Johannes Bauhin (1541-1613), der erste bedeutende Vorlaufer der Pomologie, Ampelographie und Citrologie. "Schweizerische Landwirtschaftliche Monatshefte," Bern, 1963, p. 352-366.

Citation, a New Strawberry From Kentucky

The University of Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station at Lexington introduced the strawberry variety Citation early in 1964, according to Carl E. Chaplin. This new variety originated as a seedling from the cross of Fairland x Tennessee Shipper. The selection was made in 1953 at Lexington, Kentucky.

The fruit ripens mid-season, about one or two days after Pocahontas. The fruit has averaged medium to large, and has maintained its size well throughout the season. The berries are bright medium red, have a bright red interior, and are conic in shape. The seeds are flush with the surface.

Citation makes a good matted row of very vigorous plants. It is moderately susceptible to leaf spot, productive, and has out-yielded the commercial varieties of Kentucky over a six year period.

Tests indicate that Citation has very good shipping quality. Taste panels have judged it among the very best for freezing. It has ranked first or second in these tests for several years.

It is being suggested that Citation be tried in the same general area where Pocahontas has been grown successfully.

Foundation stock may be secured from the University of Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station.

Three and four year old Vista sweet cherry trees look very good in Michigan. Its early, black fruit have enough size, quality, firmness, and crack resistence to make it very promising for the early canning and fresh markets in Michigan.