

Arne Jönsson, Språk och litteraturcentrum, Lunds universitet

## **Linnaeus and South America: An edition of the *Surinamicum*, Linnaeus' apostle Daniel Rolander's report from Suriname with culture- and naturehistorical commentaries**

The aim was to produce a historical critical edition of *Diarium Surinamicum* (DS), which Linnaeus' apostle Daniel Rolander composed during his natural history expedition from Sweden to Suriname and back (1754-1756). The two volume manuscript totals 699 pages of text in quarto.

To explore archives in Sweden and abroad to gather as much primary evidence as possible related to Rolander

To produce a complementary volume of historical commentary, essays by experts in scientific and literary fields, illustrations and photographic illustrations

### **Critical Edition**

James Dobreff has transcribed the ms of DS from a black-and-white paper copy based on a microfilm copy of DS, designed the basic layout of the critical edition, and applied the LaTeX mark-up language. After mark-up, Dr. Diane Warne Anderson proofed the edition against the same paper copy of DS, and Dobreff thereafter reviewed her comments against the manuscript and incorporated the best readings. The result is a 430 page edition on A4 paper with a critical apparatus that documents over three-thousand changes made to the ms of DS by Rolander. Thus, the edition provides a layered or sequential presentation of Rolander's changes, while also differentiating stylistic and linguistic changes from those changes that alter the material content of the text.

In the Spring of 2010 the Danish Botanical Museum in Copenhagen provided Dobreff with a new copy of DS in high-resolution color digital images; the museum had in fact promised such a copy in late 2006. Dobreff compared one month of our current edition against these new digital images, finding that in fourteen instances he now provide a reading where the text had been illegible in the black-and-white copy. These instances all involved deleted text that we had documented in the critical apparatus. There were also four instances where he was able to improve the punctuation.

As part of this report, we would like to request funding for a two-month period to enable Dobreff and Warne Anderson to review our edition against the new digital images and complete a final proofing of the edition.

Prof. Dirk Sacré from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and editor of *Supplementa Humanistica Lovaniensia*, the leading publication series of Neo-Latin texts, requested that we publish DS in the *Supplementa* series – we have agreed, since this is both an honor and it will enable DS to reach a wide circle of scholars. Leuven will cover a portion of the costs of publication.

## Archival research

Dobreff's archival research has produced results far beyond what could have been foreseen at the conception of the project. Dobreff and Dr. Pedro de Moraes with the help of curators at the Botanical Museum in Copenhagen and the Bergius Botanic Garden in Stockholm have located and documented over 350 herbarium sheets containing the specimens Rolander collected in Suriname. Other scholars had reported that few of Rolander's specimens survived or that most had been stolen in Denmark during Rolander's visit to Copenhagen in 1741, all of which has now been shown to be incorrect.

By conducting a study of changes documented in his critical apparatus, Dobreff was able to identify over seventy insect specimens in the Charles De Geer Collection (Swedish Museum of Natural History) as in fact being specimens from Rolander's Suriname collection. He also used this information to bring to light a fact that several generations of intellectual historians and scientists have missed, namely that Rolander's Suriname insect specimens form the bases for nearly all of the New-World insects documented by Linnaeus in the tenth edition of *Systema naturae* (1758-59). Based primarily on Dobreff's findings, entomologists in Suriname have been able to identify scientifically most of the modern names of the insects documented in DS.

While conducting research at Hagströmer Library (Karolinska Institute), Dobreff was able to identify an 1,100-page manuscript containing a Swedish translation of an important French entomological work as having been made and written by Rolander. This discovery has added a new dimension to Rolander and provided Sweden not only with its first substantial entomological text in Swedish but also a new Swedish author – albeit from the 18th century!

Research conducted in Denmark has enabled Dobreff to document several important events, specifically:

1. that Rolander had been in Denmark from 1761 to 1765,
2. that he had been employed there for about sixteen months and thereafter been the guest of the famous German-Danish scientist Christian Gottlieb Kratzenstein, whose support and encouragement enabled Rolander to finish the last draft of DS,
3. that a set of forty-one copperplates and drawings from the 1870's in the collections of the Botanical Museum had been based on herbarium specimens from Rolander's Suriname Herbarium.

## Commentary Volume

Dobreff, Tinde van Anden and Warne Anderson will be contributing articles to this volume, while a curator at the Swedish Museum of Natural History has decided to publish a doctoral dissertation separately on Rolander's insect collections. Dobreff's contributions will be biographical and historical, focusing on putting Rolander in a wider international context in the latter stages of the Age of Exploration and narrower Swedish and Scandinavian context of the Linnaeus period. Van Anden has contributed a article

exploring which medicinal plants described by Rolander are still being used in Suriname today and how they are being used, and Warne Anderson will discuss what conclusion can be drawn from the linguistic changes made by Rolander to DS.

Dobreff has collected a wide range of images including scientific illustrations (copperplates) based on Rolander's specimens or relevant to DS, modern photographs from Suriname and photographs of both Rolander's insect collection and his herbarium. In total the project has gathered over 500 images related to DS.

De Moraes has completed a scientific identification of all of the some 1,200 plants mentioned in DS, which will be published in full in this volume. A second list, containing only the current names and Rolander's names will be published with the critical edition.

Due to great success of the project's archival research, this volume will require more time and funding to bring to publication. We are, however, of the opinion that all efforts should be first be directed to completing the final review of the critical edition and submitting it for publication as soon as possible.

### Cooperators

Dr. Diane Warne Andersson, Manuscript expert;  
Dr. Pedro Luís Rodrigues de Moraes, Plant expert;  
Dr. Peter Wagner, Bibliography and Natural History expert;  
Dr. Tinde van Ande, Medicinal Plant Expert;  
Pieter Tuenissen, Suriname and Natural History Expert

### Discoveries

In addition to the list of publications we wish to mention:

2007 The positive identification of Rottbll's copperplates and drawings as depictions of specimens of Rolander's herbarium

2007 Identified a previously unknown manuscript of 1,040 pages by Linnaeus apostle Daniel Rolander in 2007.

2008 By comparing a number of 18th-century sources against the apparatus criticus of his coming edition of *Diarium Surinamicum* James Dobreff identified over eighty insects in the collections of the Swedish Museum of Natural History as coming directly from Daniel Rolander's collection, and thus in a single stroke he established Rolander as one of the most influential entomologists of the 18th century.

