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FAREWELL TO ADRIAN SLACK

In early June of this year, many of us on the Internet received the sad news that Adrian Slack had died on 3 June 2018.

Adrian Slack was a famed British horticulturist that played a crucial role in the popularization of carnivorous plants, especially in horticulture. He wrote the influential book, “Carnivorous Plants” (1979) that was, for years, the closest we carnivorous plant horticulturists had to scripture—it was the best source of cultivation information we had. I studied every word of that book, as I reread it countless times. Then, in 1986, he followed that book with “Insect-Eating Plants and How to Grow Them”—which became another classic.

I cannot emphasize enough how important Slack’s books were to us, in the pre-internet era. This was a time when it was easy to own just about every carnivorous plant book that had ever been published. And while most were suitable for being read once, Slack’s books were timeless and seemingly inexhaustible. Not only were they content-rich, but as you read them, you could imagine being in the greenhouse with Slack. He dreamed of a day in which carnivorous plants were commonplace in gardens and hoped that *Pinguicula* and *Sarracenia* could be bred with that target in mind. He was an early explorer of horticulture for these plants, most of which were poorly known. He developed the first suite of interesting cultivars, many of which are highly sought even today.

Thank you, Mr. Slack, for your unequaled contribution to the fascinating realm of carnivorous plant horticulture.

The December 2018 issue of CPN will contain an extensive memorial to Adrian Slack.

BARRY RICE, editor