

BOOK REVIEW

**Ristaino J.B. (Ed.). 2008. Pioneering Woman in Plant Pathology. APS Press
– The American Phytopathological Society, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, 339 pp.
ISBN 078-0-89064369-7.**

As indicated by the Editor and Publishers „This book is dedicated to many woman plant pathologists whose lives have not been chronicled but have worked tirelessly in the past and continue to work today to improve our understanding of plant diseases and their management, to increase our food supply, and to make the world a better place for all humanity“. To illustrate accomplishments of all these outstanding scientists the editor invited 37 authors who in 26 chapters demonstrated woman's contribution to the knowledge of plant diseases in Europe and in the United States.

In „Introduction“ (p. 1–7) the book editor J. B. Ristaino explains that with the American Phytopathological Society (APS) turning 100 in 2008 this book is an essential part of the Society's centennial celebration. He provides also basic data concerning early involvement of the USDA in the studies of plant diseases. First part titled „Early Woman in the United States and at the U.S. Department of Agriculture“ (p. 9–83) contains information on biographies and scientific achievements in the following chapters: (1) „Mary Elizabeth Banning (1822–1903) – the forgotten mycologist“ by C. Matta (p. 11–17); (2) M. E. Banning; (2) Effie A. Southworth (1860–1947) – „First woman plant pathologist hired in the United States Department of Agriculture“ (p. 19–27); (3) „Flora W. Patterson (1847–1928) – first woman mycologist at the United States Department of Agriculture“ (p. 29–39); (4) „Vera Katherine Charles (1877–1954) – One of the „dozen or more“ woman mycologists at the United States Department of Agriculture“ (p. 41–46). (5) „Charlotte Elliot (1883–1974) – great interest and unusual ability“ (p. 47–56); (6) „Anna E. Jenkins (1896–1972) – pre-eminent systematist of the scab pathogens in the genus *Elsinoë* and its anamorph *Sphaceloma*“ (p. 57–66); (7) „Edna Marie Buhner (1898–1988) and Grace Whitney Shermann Cobb (1905–1993) pioneering nematologists at the USDA Nematology Laboratory“ by S. L. F. Meyer and D. J. Chitwood (p. 67–83).

Second part titled „Woman Plant Pathologist in Europe“ (p. 85–210) contains biographies of the ten following researchers: (8) „Mary Dilas Glynnne (1895–1991) – Cereal disease pathologist and first woman plant pathologist hired at Rothamsted“ (p. 87–99); (9) „Mary T. Franklin (1911–1982) – Author of a nematology classic“ (p. 101–109); (10) „Audrey M. Shepherd (1927–2004) – cyst nematode biologist“ by R. N. Perry (p. 111–116); (11) „Marion Augusta Watson (1905–1990) – pioneer researcher on virus transmission by aphids“ (p. 117–127); (12) „Eva Sansome (1906–2001) – Pioneer in fungal and oomycete cryptogenetics“ by C. Brasier (p. 139–142); (13) „Grace Marion Waterhouse (1906–1996) *Phytophthora* systematist and taxonomist“ by B. L. Brady, D. J. Stamps and J. B. Ristaino (p. 143–153); (14) „Johanna Westerdijk (1883–1961) – the Grand Lady of Dutch Plant Pathology“ by J. C. Zadoks and A. H. C. van Bruggen (p. 155–167). (15) „Mathilde Bensaude (1890–1996) Portugal's pioneer plant pathologist“ (p. 169–177); (16) „Maria de Lourdes Vieira Borges“ (b. 1916) an important Portuguese plant pathologist“ by J. C. Sequeira, P. Amara and K. R. Gegenhuber (p. 179–188); (17) „Rosalind Franklin (1920–1958) – a pioneer in plant virus structure research“ by S. A. Tolin“ (p. 189–210).

Third part titled „North American University Faculty and Private Practitioners“ (p. 213–339) contains biographies of the nine following researchers; (18) „Helen Margaret Gilkey (1886–1972) – truffle mycologist and illustrator“ by D. H. Pfister and L. DeCesare (p. 213–225); (19) „Cynthia Westcott (1898–1983) – the Plant Doctor“ by R. K. Horst (p. 227–237); (20) „Katherine Esau (1898–1997) – a dedicated teacher, plant virologist, and anatomist“ by J. Thorsch (p. 239–249). (21) „Margaret Newton (1887–1971) – pioneering cereal rust researcher“ by J. A. Kolmetr (p. 251–258). (21) „Helen

Review of the book Ristaino J.B. – continued from the page 180

Hart (1900–1971) A life of plant pathology” by K. R. Gegenhuber (p. 259–269); (22) “Ruth F. Allen (1879–1963) a plant pathologist with a lasting scientific and social legacy” by P. H. Goldman, A. Y. Goldman and C. T. Bull (p. 271–292); (23) “Anne Marie Kopecky Vidaver (b. 1938) phyto-bacteriologist extraordinaire” by C. A. Ishimaru and J. Leach (p. 293–311); (24) “Virginia R. Ferris – the nematologist with a “velvet glove and mailed fist” (p. 313–321); “Hedwig Hirschmann Triantaphyllou (b. 1927) plant nematode taxonomist and morphologist” by J. D. Eisenback, J. G. Baldwin, K. R. Barker (p. 323–339).

Without any question the Society, the Book Editor and the Authors of particular biographies merits sincere congratulations. It is very nice that the American Phytopathological Society recognized and acknowledged contribution to the field of plant pathology made by European female phytopathologist.

I recommend all plant protection specialists to get familiar with that book as they may obtain a great volume of useful information as well as an inspiration for their current research in plant pathology and plant protection.

Jerzy J. Lipa
Department of Biological Control and Quarantine
Institute of Plant Protection – National Research Institute
Władysława Węgorka 20, 60-3189 Poznan, Poland
J.J.Lipa@ior.poznan.pl