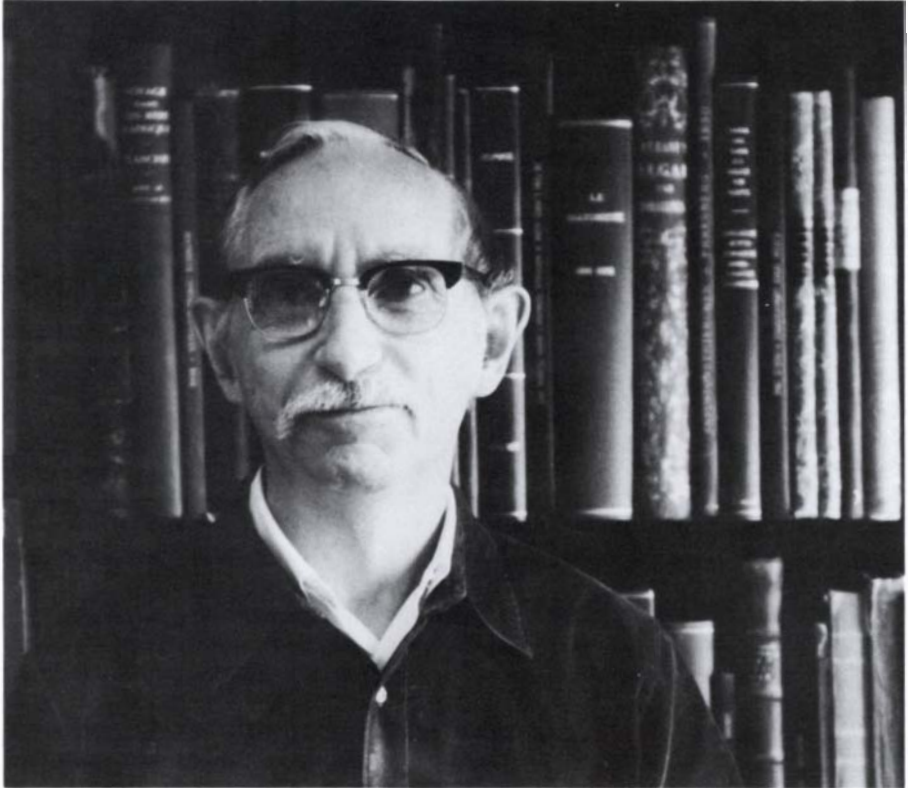


THE INTERNATIONAL PHYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S
FIRST HONORARY MEMBER:
DR PAUL C. SILVA



It is a great pleasure to announce to the IPS membership the unanimous and enthusiastic decision of the Executive Council to grant the Society's first honorary membership to Dr Paul C. Silva (Department of Botany, University of California, Berkeley). This distinction has been conferred to Dr Silva during the Second International Phycological Congress, held from 5–10 August 1985 at Copenhagen, Denmark.

According to the Society's constitution "Honorary Membership may be granted by the Executive Council to distinguished phycologists or to those who have given outstanding service to the Society". Dr Silva's service to phycology as well as to the International Phycological Society fully conforms to both criteria. It is quite unlikely that our Society would have come into existence

without Dr Silva's efforts. In 1956, the then President of the Phycological Society of America, Professor G.F. Papenfuss, asked Paul Silva to act as a convener of a group of that society's members interested in international cooperation. By 1960, an International Organizing Committee for an International Phycological Society had been formed; Paul Silva was its chairman. He drafted and printed the necessary informative documents, and—after consulting the organizing committee—he sent them out to several hundreds of prospective members at his own expense, as other funds were not yet available. This quick solution to financial problems is quite characteristic of his generosity towards groups and individuals demanding his support. In 1960 the IPS was founded and in the course of 1961 the

first issue of our journal, *Phycologia*, appeared. Paul Silva was its editor until 1968. In 1965 he also served as the Society's president. An important contribution to early issues of *Phycologia* was his yearly bibliography of phycological literature for the period 1959–1963.

At the same time he was also involved in the production of an index of the published names of algal taxa—the *Index Nominum Algarum*—comparable to the *Index Kewensis* for the higher plants. Never one to be frightened of hard work, he proceeded to form a card index of all such names in his 'spare' time, and in ten years he had about 20 000 entries recorded. Even he could see that this was rather more than could be carried out in odd moments between classes and research activities. (He was then at the Botany Department of the University of Illinois at Urbana.) Fortunately he could engage, with support from the US National Science Foundation, from 1958 to 1960 Dr David E.G. Irvine and Linda M. Irvine to cooperate in these enterprises. Recently (1984) he has completed a monumental cumulative index to *Phycologia* for the period 1961–1981 (volumes 1–20). Anxious that all members of the Society could profit by this rich source of information, he offered to send it around, again at his personal expense (which fortunately was not necessary).

Paul Silva's research activities cover the areas of algal morphology, taxonomy, and ecology. His brilliant monographs on the taxonomy of the green algal genus *Codium* form an exemplary standard for taxonomic research on algae. This research entails a good deal of resolving nomenclatural tangles. Indeed, he has rendered the phy-

cological community an enormous service in solving a multitude of nomenclatural problems, a topic about which he has published many papers, mainly in *Taxon*. His recent book *Names of Classes and Families of Living Algae (Regnum Vegetabile 103, 1980, 1–156)*, as well as the *Index Nominum Genericorum (Plantarum)* (whose algal editor he has been since 1969) are essential sources of information for algal taxonomists. He is one of the most active members of the International Committee on Algal Nomenclature.

Paul Silva also has rendered services to the Phycological Society of America in various offices. In 1958 he was its President.

Paul Silva has travelled very widely, and his vivid descriptions of out-of-the-way parts of the world in which he has worked and observed are treasured by those who receive them. His generosity with information, either drawn from the depths of his encyclopaedic knowledge of the algae or laboriously compiled from the literature in answer to a query, is remarkable in a world where little enough is free. Many phycologists have had the pleasure of working with him, and count him among their most valued friends.

C. van den Hoek*

President, IPS

* I would like to thank Drs D.E.G. Irvine, W.F. Prud'homme van Reine, J.Th. Koster, J. Stein, and Wm. J. Woelkerling for providing material for the above account. The photograph of Dr Silva was taken during April 1985.