

## LITERATURE CITED (continued)

- WOODHAM-SMITH, CECIL. 1962. *The Great Hunger: Ireland 1845-1849*. Harper and Row, New York.
- YUE, DAIYUN (with Carolyn Wakeman). 1985. *To the Storm: The Odyssey of a Revolutionary Chinese Woman*. University of California Press, Berkeley.

**BOOK REVIEW**

**The Tropical Rain Forest: A First Encounter.** Marius Jacobs, Remke Kruk et al. (editors). With a chapter on Tropical America by Roelof A.A. Oldeman and a Foreword by V.H. Heywood. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1988. Pp. 295, 157 figures and 8 plates. \$39.95 (paper). ISBN 0-387-17996-8.

This most useful book is a translation of the original Dutch version that was published in 1981. The author, Marius Jacobs, died in 1983, when he was half way through preparation of the English version. Answering a clamor from interested people who wanted it finished and published, Dr. Remke Kruk and his colleagues decided to provide an English edition with a new addition on Tropical America. As Prof. Heywood states in his foreword: ". . . there is still a need for a scientifically sound text which could be used by students, conservationists and other biologists who want to obtain a balanced, well-written assessment of the problems and issues involved in this unique ecosystem."

The table of contents indicates the breadth of coverage in this book: (1) A matter of public awareness; (2) How rain forests are studied; (3) Climate; (4) Soils and cycles; (5) Trees; (6) Other life forms; (7) Composition; (8) Primary and secondary forests; (9) Tropical America; (10) Malasia; (11) Tropical Africa; (12) Relationships of plants and animals; (13) Evolution; (14) Formation of species; (15) Fringes of the rain forest; (16) Rain forest values; (17) Damage and destruction; (18) Protection; (19) Forest and man. The very extensive list of references occupies ten pages of fine print, and the detailed index comprises ten pages.

Translation or revision of the chapters was done by numerous specialists and Chapter 9, devoted to Tropical America, was newly written by Professor R.A.A. Oldeman for this edition. Several of the chapters will be of special interest to ethnobiologists.

The underlying interest in this volume is its biological and humanistic viewpoints in dealing with rain forest problems. This characteristic of the book makes it useful to both technical and educated popular audiences. With the increasing scientific, international, governmental, and popular emphasis on the urgency of conservation of rain forests, there can be no doubt about the wide acceptance and extraordinary value of this book.

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