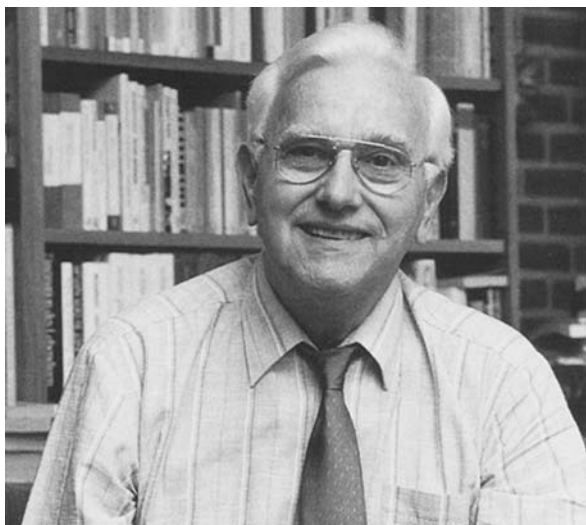


In Memoriam: Hansferdinand Linskens (1921–2007)

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On August 13, 2007, Professor Dr. phil., Dr. h.c. mult. Hansferdinand Linskens passed away at the age of 86. Professor Linskens was the Editor-in-Chief of “Theoretical and Applied Genetics” (TAG) from 1977 to 1987. In addition, he was a member of the TAG Editorial Board from 1966 until 2005. He served this journal for nearly 40 years and influenced its development more than anyone else.

In 1966, TAG was still being published under the German title “Der Züchter” (translated: “The Breeder”), with articles in German and English on plant and animal

breeding. Soon after, in 1968, the title was changed to “Theoretical and Applied Genetics”. The new English title not only reflected the change in the journal’s focus (now exclusively on plant breeding research), but also the conscious decision to make the journal more international. As a final step towards the transformation of TAG to an international journal, Hansferdinand Linskens was asked in 1977 to take over the main responsibility for this journal from Hans Stubbe. Beginning with Volume 50 (1978), only manuscripts written in English were accepted. It was with Professor Linskens as Editor-in-Chief that TAG became one of the leading international journals in its field.

Hansferdinand Linskens was born in Lahr/Baden, Germany, on May 22, 1921. His education took place in Cologne, Bonn, Berlin and Zurich, and in 1949 he received his doctorate from the University of Cologne. In 1957, he was appointed Professor of Botany at the Nijmegen Catholic University, The Netherlands, a position he held until his retirement in 1986. After his retirement, he continued to be active as a scientific cosmopolite, serving, for example, as “Professore e contratto” at the University of Siena and as Adjunct Professor at the University of Massachusetts.

Professor Linskens’s main fields of research were sexual plant reproduction, pollen physiology and self-incompatibility. He was one of the first scientists worldwide to apply molecular biology to studies on reproductive biology in plants.

Throughout his life, he was an extremely active and gifted writer, who authored or co-authored over 500 publications. With Springer publishers he had a particularly close and long-standing relationship as editor and author, publishing about 150 book reviews and more than 100 scientific papers in Springer journals. Moreover, he edited two successful Springer book series:

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- “Monographs on Theoretical and Applied Genetics” and
- “Modern Methods in Plant Analysis”, later renamed “Molecular Methods in Plant Analysis”, which has published 23 volumes to date.

Thousands of manuscripts for TAG passed over Professor Linskens’s desk and through his hands. His scientific judgement was always critical, but constructive. It has been and will continue to be a great challenge for every TAG Editor-in-Chief to follow the example of Hansferdinand Linskens.

We say farewell to a visionary scientist, a passionate writer and an esteemed colleague.

For the Editors:

Heiko C. Becker
Albrecht E. Melchinger
Gerhard Wenzel

For Springer:

Dieter Czeschlik
Sabine L. Schwarz