

FRIEDRICH DEHNHARDT AND HIS MONOGRAPH ON CITRUS FRUITS

Friedrich Dehnhardt is probably best known to botanists for his work on various *Eucalyptus*¹, whereas information about his extensive research on citrus plants and their description in a monograph with illustrations drawn by himself is less common.

Dehnhardt himself regarded this monograph as an important part of his life's work, as can be seen from his memories². So, it is not surprising that he also tried to find publishers for his monograph in Germany.

The first reference to work on a monograph on citrus plants can be found in the preface to the *Catalogus Plantarum Horti Camaldulensis*, which appeared in 1829.³ There Dehnhardt announced that he would try to create a monograph of the species Citrus with more than 125 drawings. The individual varieties were then listed in the catalogue. The second edition of the plant catalogue of 1832 reports an increase to more than 170 different citrus species and promises an early publication of the monograph.⁴

In the autumn of 1834 Friedrich Dehnhardt met the German botanist Heinrich Friedrich Link⁵ in Naples, where the publication of the monograph was also discussed. Link was President of the Association for the Promotion of Horticulture in the Prussian States. In 1834 he spent some time in Naples as part of a literary journey, where he – among other things – conducted studies on the spread of malaria.⁶

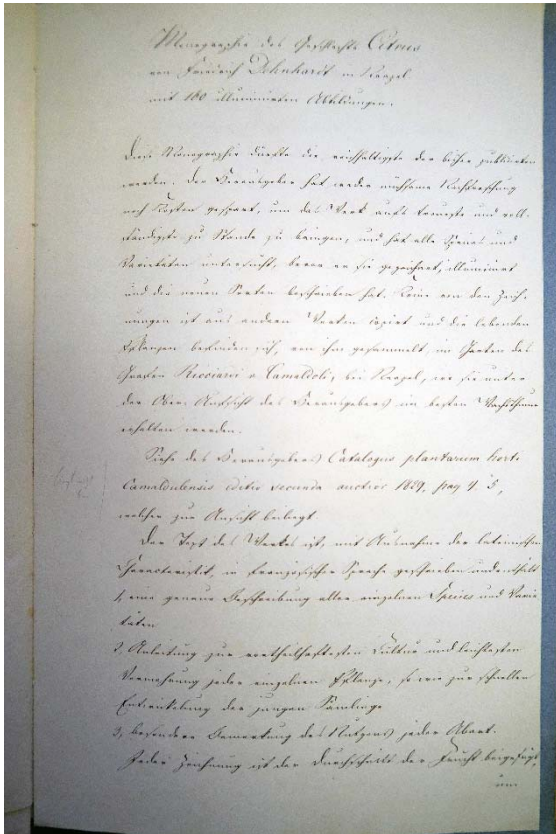
Heinrich Friedrich Link probably did not meet Friedrich Dehnhardt by chance. At a meeting of the Association for the Promotion of

Horticulture at the end of 1833, Peter Joseph Lenné, garden director of the Royal Prussian Gardens, had expressed his intention to procure all citrus species known in Italy for the citrus collection in the Sanssouci Palace Garden in Potsdam.⁷ The *Catalogus Plantarum Horti Camaldulensis* with its extensive list of different citrus species and Dehnhardt's announcement to write a monograph on it may have been known in Berlin. For Link, his stay in Naples was a good opportunity to make direct contact with the author and protagonist of the citrus collection in Count Ricciardi's garden.

Link later wrote that he had met Dehnhardt several times in Naples in the autumn of 1834.⁸ He probably saw both the citrus collection and samples of Dehnhardt's work on his monograph. In any case, Link agreed to support the publication of the monograph. Link may have discussed the next steps with Dehnhardt.

On 31 March 1835 Dehnhardt wrote a letter to the Association for the Promotion of Horticulture in Berlin in which he presented the monograph and its contents and listed several subscribers in Naples.⁹ (see figure p. 2 and transcription p. 3) Attached to the letter were three sample drawings of citrus fruits and two pages from the *Catalogus Plantarum Horti Camaldulensis* with the list of citrus species.

The letter was handed over in Berlin by Christian Friedrich Bellermann¹⁰. From 1827 to 1835 Bellermann was a legation preacher and pastor of the Protestant Congregation in



First Page of the letter from Dehnhardt
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Naples and probably already at that time a friend of Dehnhardt.

The receipt of the letter and its contents were announced at the 143rd meeting of the Association in November 1835.¹¹ The text largely corresponds to that of the letter. Link, on behalf of the Association, recommended subscribing to a publication that was to take place in Germany and presumably in Berlin.

On 10 January 1836 Heinrich Friedrich Link wrote a letter¹² to the Prussian Minister von Altenstein¹³, to which he enclosed the letter from Dehnhardt and the three sample drawings. Link wrote that Dehnhardt was personally well known to him as a gardener of excellent skill and excellent education. He asked von Altenstein to arrange the subscription for the publication of the monograph in Prussian universities and scientific institutes.

Altenstein's answer was cautious. Although he was not against ordering some copies for the universities, he wanted to make this dependent on the price of the monograph and further information about the drawings it contained. He also regarded the members of the Horticultural Association as priority subscribers, since »the interest in the aforementioned work is more distant from the scientific institutes«.¹⁴

In his reply, Link made it clear that only a few of the members of the Association would be considered as subscribers to such a work. He was also unable to estimate the price, as no publisher had yet been found.¹⁵

In his final reply, von Altenstein informed the Association that the price of the monograph had to be so low that a large number of private subscribers could be found. This was to be ensured by deliveries in parts and favorable printing costs. The Association should influence the design of the monograph. Under these conditions he allowed the subscription of two copies by the Association.¹⁶

Link informed the Association about von Altenstein's answer at the meeting on 27 March 1836.¹⁷ He announced that the board would first negotiate with Dehnhardt about an »appropriate announcement« in the newspapers.

In the later publications of the Association and in the correspondence between Link and von Altenstein there are no more references to the monograph.

It is well known that the monograph by Friedrich Dehnhardt was never published. The efforts of his son, Alfredo, to publish parts of the monograph were also unsuccessful.¹⁸ But the manuscript and almost 200 botanical watercolor drawings exist. They are now in the possession of the descendants.

Letter from Dehnhardt to the Association for the Promotion of Horticulture in the Prussian States
[Transcription]

*Monographie des Geschlechts Citrus
von Friedrich Dehnhardt in Neapel
mit 160 illuminierten Abbildungen*

Diese Monographie dürfte die vielfältigste der bisher publizierten werden. Der Herausgeber hat weder mühsame Nachforschung noch Kosten gescheut, um das Werk aufs treueste und vollständigste zu Stande zu bringen, und hat alle Species und Varietäten untersucht, bevor er sie gezeichnet, illuminiert und die neuen Sorten beschrieben hat. Keine von den Zeichnungen ist aus anderen Werken kopiert und die lebenden Pflanzen befinden sich, von ihm gesammelt, im Garten des Grafen Ricciardi v. Camaldoli, bei Neapel, wo sie unter der Ober-Aufsicht des Herausgebers im besten Wachsthum erhalten werden.

Siehe des Herausgebers Catalogus plantarum horti Camaldulensis editio secunda auctior 1829, pag. 4, 5, welcher zur Ansicht beiliegt.

Der Text des Werkes ist, mit Ausnahme der lateinischen Characteristik, in französischer Sprache geschrieben und enthält

- 1. eine genaue Beschreibung aller einzelnen Spezies und Varietäten*
- 2. Anleitung zur vortheilhaftesten Cultur und leichtesten Vermehrung jeder einzelnen Pflanze, sowie zur schnellen Entwicklung der jungen Sämlinge*
- 3. besondere Bemerkung des Nutzens jeder Abart.*

Jeder Zeichnung ist der Durchschnitt der Frucht beigelegt, um die innere Farbe und das Gewebe der Häuschen zu zeigen, der Name ist in 4 Sprachen, lateinisch, deutsch, italienisch und französisch angegeben. Zur größeren Verständlichkeit auch noch der vulgäre Landesname.

Bei einer Anzahl verehrlicher Subscribenten wird sich leicht in Deutschland ein Buchhändler zum Verlag des Werkes für einen angemessenen Preis finden.

Der Verfasser wendet sich vertrauensvoll an den Verein zur Beförderung des Gartenbaus in den Königl. Preuß. Staaten, dem die Wissenschaft so vieles verdankt, und empfiehlt sein Werk zur geneigten Beförderung durch Bekanntmachung und Subscriptionsen. Zur Probe liegen drei Zeichnungen bei.

*gez. Friedrich Dehnhardt
erster Inspektor des Königl. botanischen Gartens in Neapel.
Neapel, den 31^{ten} März 1835.*

In Neapel hat die Subscription auf das gedachte Werk begonnen, und bereits haben vom 31ten Februar bis 31^{ten} März 1835 unterzeichnet

*Ihre Majestät, die verwittw. Königin von Neapel 10 Exemplare
der Graf Monte di S. Angelo
der Herzog v. Terranova
General Toledo di Alava
Graf Ricciardi di Camaldoli
Lady Drummont
Kaiserlich Russischer General Rachmanoff
D Guiseppe Avellino
Principe Torella.*

Annotations

- ¹ Del Guacchio, Emanuele et al.: Wandering among Dehnhardt's gums, in: *Taxon* 68 (2019), p. 379-390.
DOI 10.1002/tax.12058
- ² Dehnhardt, Friedrich: *La mia vita e il mio destino*, Napoli 1868, Archivio Diaristico Nazionale (Pieve Santo Stefano)
- ³ Dehnhardt, Friedrich: *Catalogus Plantarum Horti Camaldulensis*, Napoli 1829, p. 3
- ⁴ Dehnhardt, Friedrich: *Catalogus Plantarum Horti Camaldulensis, Editio secunda auctior*, Napoli 1832, p. 1
- ⁵ Heinrich Friedrich Link (1767 - 1851), German naturalist and botanist, director of the Botanical Garden Berlin
- ⁶ Link, Heinrich Friedrich: *Reisebemerkungen über Malaria*, in: *Journal der praktischen Heilkunde*, 80, 4 (1835), p. 3-12
- ⁷ Auszug aus der Verhandlung, aufgenommen in der 125sten Verhandlung des Vereins den 1sten Dezember 1833, in: *Verein zur Beförderung des Gartenbaus in den Königlich Preußischen Staaten (Hg.)*, 10 (1834), p. 342-343
- ⁸ Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz (GStA PK), I. HA Rep. 76, Vc. Sekt. 1 Tit. XII Nr. 81, Acta betreffend: die Herausgabe einer Monographie der Zitrus-Arten mit illuminierten Abbildungen von Friedrich Dehnhardt in Neapel
- ⁹ *Ibid.*, Letter from 31.03.1835
- ¹⁰ Christian Friedrich Bellermann (1793-1863), German Protestant theologian
- ¹¹ Auszug aus der Verhandlung, aufgenommen in der 143sten Verhandlung des Vereins den 15ten November 1835, in: *Verein zur Beförderung des Gartenbaus in den Königlich Preußischen Staaten (Hg.)*, 12 (1837), p. 168-169
- ¹² *Ibid.*, 8, Letter from 10.01.1836
- ¹³ Karl Sigmund Franz Freiherr vom Stein zum Altenstein (1770-1840), politician, 1817-1838 Prussian Minister for Education
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 8, Letter from 02.02.1836
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 8, Letter from 17.02.1836
- ¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 8, Letter from 06.03.1836
- ¹⁷ Auszug aus der Verhandlung, aufgenommen in der 147sten Verhandlung des Vereins den 27ten März 1836, in: *Verein zur Beförderung des Gartenbaus in den Königlich Preußischen Staaten (Hg.)*, 13 (1838), p. 78
- ¹⁸ a short reference to the efforts of Alfredo Dehnhardt to publish his father's material can be found in: *Gartenflora* 25 (1876), p. 101