BOOK REVIEW


John Williams, in his book, The Writings of Ferdinand Lindheimer: Texas Botanist, Texas Philosopher, gives us for the first time a complete translation, chapter by chapter, of Lindheimer's Aufsätze und Abhandlungen von Ferdinand Lindheimer in Texas (Essays and Articles of Ferdinand Lindheimer in Texas, 1879). Lindheimer died on 2 December 1879 and is buried in Comal Cemetery in New Braunfels.

John's introduction chapter is a very captivating account of Lindheimer's life who he says through his collections and newspaper writings, “was a bold, outspoken, sword-wielding warrior determined to defeat ignorance, blind faith, and tyranny. He intended to conquer the world through knowledge.”

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My only disappointment is the apparent oversight, or at least missing in the Bibliography, is the reference and citation of Samuel Wood Geiser’s, Naturalist of the Frontier (1937, 1948). Geiser’s biographical sketch of Lindheimer’s life and his labors in science (particularly Texas) is 16 pages (Chapter 7).

If you are a naturalist, botanist in Texas there are two things you should add to your bucket list without question. Neither one will cost a lot of money but both will enrich your knowledge, history, and appreciation of Texas botany in the 19th Century. The first thing is take a road trip to New Braunfels and visit Lindheimer’s home and while you are there, visit Lindheimer’s burial site in the Comal Cemetery. The second thing is purchase a copy of John’s book for your library.—Barney Lipscomb, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.