

BOOK REVIEW

JOHN E. WILLIAMS. 2020. **The Writings of Ferdinand Lindheimer: Texas Botanist, Texas Philosopher.** (ISBN-13: 978-1-62349-876-4, hbk). Texas A&M University Press, John H. Lindsey Building, Lewis St., 4354 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.tamupress.com). \$45.00 US, 304 pp., 68 b&w photos, 14 illustrations, 2 maps, 3 appendices, glossary, bibliography, index, 6" × 9".

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."

Contents:

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- How Plants Get Described and Named
- Appendix 1: Plants Named by Lindheimer
- Appendix 2: Plants Named in Honor of Lindheimer
- Appendix 3: Plant Names Based on Lindheimer Collections
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- Bibliography
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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.*