

HISTORICAL SUCCULENT ORGANIZATIONS

1 January 2018

The first published recognition of succulent plants as a group dates from 1619 (GD Rowley 1976).



The **International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS)** was organized in 1950 as a Commission of the International Union of Biological Sciences by H Michael Roan, Hans Krainz, Louis F Vatrican and Willy Cullman.

The first IOS Congress was held in Zürich, and others followed biennially (with a few exceptions).

The first *Repertorium Plantarum Succulentarum* recording all new names of succulent plants each year was published in 1950 with H Michael Roan as Editor.

The first printed *IOS Bulletin* appeared in November 1961 with BK Boom as editor. It was preceded by mimeographed bulletins 1958-60 and IOS Circulars 1955-57.

The first *Cactus d'Or* statuette in solid gold was awarded to Werner HH Rauh in 1978 by Princess Grace of Monaco. This award is given to a person for extensive research that has contributed to the extension of knowledge of succulent plants.



The **Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. (CSSA)** was organized in US in January 1929 with Arthur D Houghton as president.

The first *Cactus and Succulent Journal* began on a monthly basis 1 July 1929, with Scott E Haselton as editor; changing to a bimonthly basis on 1 January 1949.

The first *affiliation of a local cactus group* was established in 1931 by James West as the *Cactus & Other Succulent League of Oakland, Calif.*

The first *Convention* was held in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1941.

The first *Fellow* award was given to Robert T Craig in 1940. This award is given to a person for outstanding achievements in the world of cacti and other succulents. CSSA is made up of many regional *Affiliates*.



The **Cactus and Succulent Society of Great Britain (CSSGB)** was organized on 8 March 1932 with Sir William MT Lawrence as president. CSSGB ceased to meet from 1939 to 1946 due to the World War II years. CSSGB merged with NCSS on 31 December 1982.

The first *Cactus and Succulent Journal of Great Britain* began on a quarterly basis in September 1932 with Vera Higgins as editor.

This society did not have *Fellow* awards. CSSGB was made up of many regional *Branches*.



The **National Cactus and Succulent Society (NCSS)** was organized in August 1945 with Mr W Hays as president. NCSS merged with CSSGB on 31 December 1982.

The first *National Cactus and Succulent Journal* began on a quarterly basis in September 1946 with H Michael Roan as editor.

Fellow awards were given in this society 1946–1982. This award was given to a person by NCSS for outstanding achievements in the world of cacti and other succulents.

NCSS started out as *The Yorkshire Cactus Society* in August 1945 before changing its name prior to the September 1946 journal to NCSS. Two issues of *The Yorkshire Cactus Journal* were issued in March & June 1946 with HM Roan & F Ives as editors, and the first issue of NCSS journal in September was labelled Vol 1, No 3. NCSS was made up of many regional *Branches*.



The **British Cactus and Succulent Society (BCSS)** was organized on 31 December 1982, as a merger between CSSGB and NCSS, with Gordon D Rowley as president.

The first *British Cactus and Succulent Journal* began on 1 January 1983, with William C Keen as editor.

The first *Fellow* award was given to R Brian Ivimey-Cooke in 1983. This award is given to a person by BCSS for outstanding achievements in the world of cacti and other succulents. BCSS is made up of many regional *Branches*.



Prior to 1900: The known cactus societies and journals were (GD Rowley 1983 & 1989):

Cactus Societies

- 1887 — Antwerp, Belgium Succ Club, first pres L de Smet.
- 1889 — Baltimore Cactus Soc (Maryland, US), first pres JA Becker.
- 1891 — Deutsche Kakteen-Gesellschaft (German Cactus Society).
- 1892 — Cincinnati Cacti Club (Ohio, US).
- 1895-1900 — National Cactus Soc (Eng), first pres John W Singer.
- 1895-1900 — St. Louis Cactus Association (Missouri, US).

Cactus Journals

- 1891- — *Monatsschrift für Kakteenkunde* = "Monthly journal of cactus information" (German Cactus Journal), first editor KM Schumann.
- 1894-96 — *The Baltimore Cactus Journal* (Maryland, US), first editor AM Cordray & pub by FW Lantz.
- 1896-97 — *The Sharon Cactus Guide* (Pennsylvania, US), first editor Fred W Heinz.
- 1898-1900 — *National Cactus Soc Cactus Journal* editor FA Walton.

It is noteworthy to mention that the German Cactus Journal is the longest running journal of all journals devoted to succulent plants, with the exceptions of a few years in the 1940s due to World War II. There have been several name changes since the start in 1891, and it is currently called *Kakteen und andere Sukkulente*.