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## Report on the VII International Botanical Congress, Stockholm, July 12-20, 1950.

G. W. Martin  
*State University of Iowa*

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## Report on the VII International Botanical Congress, Stockholm, July 12-20, 1950.

By G. W. MARTIN

It was my privilege to attend the VII International Botanical Congress as the official representative of the State University of Iowa and the Iowa Academy of Science. Although the Congress did not formally convene until July 12, the Committee on Nomenclature and the Special Committee on Fungi met on July 7 and succeeding days, in the hope that most of the nomenclatural problems could be settled in advance of the formal sessions. This proved a vain hope, and working until late at night left many things to be decided up until nearly the end of the regular session.

There were 15 sections for the presentation of formal papers. The official languages of the Congress were English, French, German, and, for the first time, Spanish. There were about 1500 delegates listed, the Scandinavian countries, Great Britain and the United States having the largest delegations, but, except for the countries under Russian domination, most of the other parts of the world were well represented. A small delegation from Russia came rather late and did not mingle much with the others. The papers I heard were for the most part interesting, and a few were good. Unfortunately, in common with the majority of representatives from the United States, my apprehension of spoken French and German was inadequate to permit me to get much from papers presented in those languages.

Too much praise cannot be given for the way in which the Swedish Committee handled the arrangements. The hotel accommodations were adequate and reasonable in price, the meeting rooms, in the buildings of the University of Stockholm group, were convenient; everything was fully mapped and there were incredible lunches, Smörgasbord style, with abundant food, for two crowns—less than 40 cents.

During the Congress there were a number of short excursions: to the Botanic Garden, to Uppsala and to the islands of the Stockholm archipelago, to mention only those I indulged in personally. There were a number of trips after the Congress. I elected the trip to the Swedish mountains, in Jämtland, and despite a week of rain and cold, I had a thoroughly profitable time.

Much of the value of such a meeting lies, of course, in the opportunity to meet people from many lands interested in the same subject and to interchange views in an informal way, and especially in the field, under circumstances peculiarly favorable to frank and enlightening discussion. I feel that all who attended were satisfied that the VII Congress was eminently satisfactory and well worth the trouble and expense of attending.

The next international congress, world conditions permitting, is to be held in Paris in 1954.

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