

ICON: Biologist Linnaeus honored on 400th birthday

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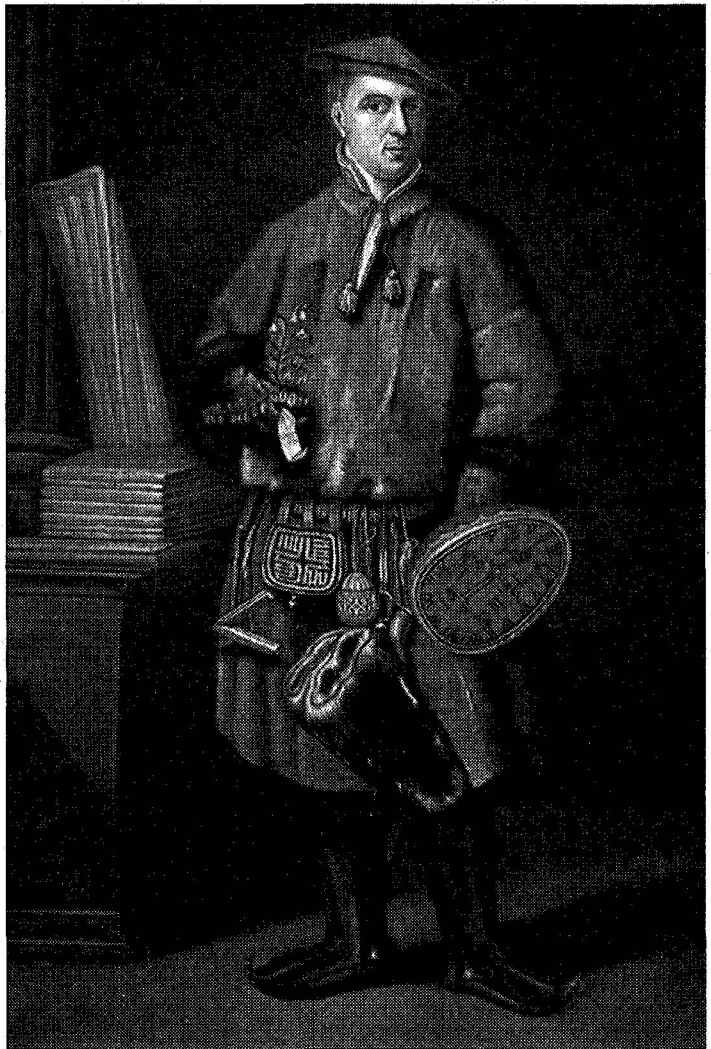
... dation for plant names goes farther back, to the 1753 publication of *Species Plantarum*, where he named and classified all plants known to Europeans at that time.

Although he never traveled outside Sweden again, his admirers and students came to him, or shipped plants and animals from around the world to be classified and named. Many North American plants, such as the white oak and yellow ladies slipper orchid, are still known by the names assigned by Linnaeus.

He believed his mission was to classify and name all living organisms. He said of himself "God creates, Linnaeus classifies." In fact, he did not address his students as such but as his "apostles."

Despite his scientific vision Linnaeus was a vain man. He sought every conceivable award and decoration of his time and named beautiful species of plants after his friends and ugly and poisonous ones after his enemies.

Biologists of today still regard field trips as one of the highlights of their classes and research experiences. But modern field trips will never attain the grandeur of the Linnean field trips celebrating his May birthdate. Marching in columns to the music of French horns and kettledrums, they trooped through the countryside, collecting plants and insects, re-



Above is a painting, reproduced from one of his books, of young Carolus Linnaeus during his early expeditions to northern Sweden.

turning at the end of the day to disperse, cheering both science and Linnaeus.

This Wednesday faculty and students at ASU will echo those cheers as we honor the 400-year legacy of Carolus Linnaeus, the Swedish botanist and physician who laid the foundations for modern taxonomy.

For more information con-

tact the Arkansas State University Department of Biological Sciences at biology@astate.edu.

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