

BOOKS

Dr. Richard Evans Schultes

The New Environmental Age, by Max Nicholson. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England. 1987. Pp. xvii + 232. Hardback \$27.95; paper \$14.95.

The plethora of publications on environmental conservation has produced a number of outstanding studies. The present volume, however, stands far above most of the run-of-the-mill publications. It is superb.

The author was "one of the environmental revolutionaries of the early post-war years." The main thrust of this volume can be summed up adequately by a statement found in the introduction: "It is one thing to be conscious of the damage we are doing; it is quite another matter to come to understand how to repair the damage already done and how to limit further damage in the future."

The foreword is by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, himself an avid and extremely active conservationist and president of the World Wildlife Fund. The book is divided into nine chapters: (1) Context of the Struggle; (2) Early Years of Environmental Conservation; (3) Environmental Conservation Comes of Age; (4) Growth of Knowledge and the Spread of Ideas; (5) Organization and Resources of the Movement; (6) Interactions; (7) Pioneers of Conservation; (8) Critical Appraisal of the Movement Today; (9) A Forward View.

The most cogent of these nine chapters are numbers 3, 4, 8, and 9, although much of inestimable value is presented in the other chapters. The whole book is outstandingly pertinent and deserves to be read and taken to heart by all interested in environmental protection and its significance to the future of the human race.

Complete Book of Everlastings, by Mark and Terry Silber. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. 1988. Pp. ix + 214. \$29.95.

A most charming book on a neglected aspect of horticulture, this contribution—beautifully illustrated in color and superbly published—is a magnificent credit to the authors and to the publishers.

When Mark, one of my former students at Harvard, and his wife Terry, formerly art director of the *Atlantic Monthly* and author of *A Small Farm in Maine*, decided to live in the peace and quiet of Maine, they began to investigate and cultivate "everlasting" plants—those whose beauty is preserved, and in some cases enhanced, by drying. What started out as a hobby has become a full-time effort. For the authors it is not only a financially profitable occupation but also an artistic endeavor of the most unusual nature. The book contains very detailed data on how to collect and grow, preserve, prepare, and display many everlasting species.

The book is divided into several sections: Introduction; From Seed to Harvest; Annuals; Perennials; Picking in the Wild; Designing with Everlastings. There is a selected bibliography and common-name and botanical-name indices. In the pages of *The Complete Book of Everlastings*, enthusiasts will find all that they need to know about this fascinating aspect of horticulture.

Prof. Richard Evans Schultes is the former director of the Botanical Museum of Harvard University, a position he held for many years.