

NOTES ON THE DATES OF ISSUE OF DESVAUX'S JOURNAL DE BOTANIQUE

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VOLUME ONE of this short-lived periodical is dated 1808, it being made up of six numbers, 64 pages each, for the months of October, November, and December, 1808 (pp. 1-192), and January, February, and March, 1809 (pp. 193-384). Volume two is dated 1809, and its six parts, also of 64 pages each, are indicated as April, May, June, July, August, and September, 1809; these dates appear on the fascicle covers of the set in the Arnold Arboretum library. It is evident from certain corroborative data recently located that Desvaux was able to conform to his announced plan of publication, fascicle covers p. 4: "Ce Journal paroît dans le première huitaine de chaque mois, à compter du mois d'octobre 1808."

An "Avis aux souscripteurs" pasted on the fascicle cover of volume two, no. 6, and repeated on page 4 of the fascicle cover of this number reads in part: "Des mutations arrivées dans la Maison de commerce qui s'étoit chargée d'abord de faire paroître le Journal de Botanique, obligent les auteurs de suspendre cet ouvrage, jusqu'au mois janvier prochain" Desvaux's plan was then to issue a new periodical commencing in 1810 under the title *Annales de Botanique*; this plan was never consummated, but beginning in 1813 he did issue several volumes of another run of the *Journal de Botanique*, the remainder of the title considerably modified. The full title of the first two volumes (1808-1809) was: *Journal de Botanique, rédigée par une société de botanistes*; that of the second run (1813-1816) was: *Journal de Botanique, appliquée a l'agriculture, a la pharmacie, a la médecine, et aux arts*. It is not surprising that some botanical authors have confused these two runs of what were different periodicals under the same leading name, one in 1808-09, the other 1813-16.

The correctness of the indicated dates of issue of various parts of these two periodicals have been questioned, but certain contemporaneous reviews have recently been located which clearly prove that the years and months indicated for the first two volumes of the first *Journal de Botanique* are correct in spite of a statement by Desvaux (see below) that would seem to indicate that a later date (1810), was involved. From these reviews it is clear that there was at least some distribution of all of the individual numbers within the month indicated for each number, or in some cases actually in the preceding month.

The first statement that I noticed in reference to this periodical was by Rafinesque, *Atl. Jour.* 1: 207. 1833, where he indicated the date of certain

reprints of his papers as 1809; it is barely possible that one of these came out in 1808, however. Later I noticed Fernald's statement, *Rhodora* 34: 26, 1932, which is:

"The title page of Desvaux's *Journal de Botanique*, tome 1, is dated 1808, but Rafinesque himself stated in *Atlantic Journal*, i. 207 ("Winter of 1833") in his *Cronological Index* of his own botanical writings, that the paper was 'reprinted in Desvaux' *Journal of Botany*, Paris, 1809.' Desvaux complicated the question by himself stating in a volume dated 1814 that 'Nous avons publié en 1810, deux Volumes de 384 pages chacun et de 12 gravures' (see Fernald, *Rhodora*, xxix, 227 (1927)). Since Vol. 1 (dated 1808) is the only one of the two volumes with 384 pages and 12 plates (Vol. 2 having 384 and 13 plates), we have Desvaux's word that it did not come out until 1810."

One suspects that Desvaux perhaps meant to say that by 1810 he had published two volumes, or perhaps there was not much distribution of the various issues before that date. Suspecting that the *Journal général de la Littérature de France* might throw some light on the actual dates of publication of Desvaux's periodical, and also on other botanical works issued in France between the years 1798 and 1841, a somewhat systematic examination of that serial was initiated. The data noted in reference to the two volume set of the Desvaux *Journal de Botanique* are summarized in the next paragraph.

Volume 1, no. 1, pp. 1-64 October, 1808 was reviewed *Jour. Gén. Litt. France* 11: 258 [September] 1808*; no. 2, pp. 65-128, apparently not recorded, but the fascicle cover date is November, 1808; no. 3, pp. 129-192, December, 1808, is reviewed in the November-December number of the *Jour. Gén. Litt. France* 11: 323, 1808. The next three numbers were apparently not recorded, but the fascicle cover dates are: no. 4, pp. 193-256, January, 1809, but the date at the bottom of the cover is 1808, so this part may actually have been printed in 1808; no. 5, pp. 257-320, February, 1809; no. 6, pp. 321-384, March, 1809.

Volume 2, no. 1, pp. 1-64, April, 1809, is reviewed *op. cit.* 12: 100, 1809, this being in the April issue; nos. 2 and 3, pp. 65-192, May and June, are reviewed *op. cit.* 12: 130, May, 1809; no. 4, pp. 193-256, July, is reviewed *op. cit.* 12: 194, the July number; and no. 5, pp. 257-320, August, is reviewed *op. cit.* 12: 227, August, 1809. No entry was noticed for No. 6, this including pp. 321-384; its fascicle cover date is September, 1809.

The evidence here is that the editors of the *Journal général de la Littérature de France* actually received copies of the various issues of

* The parts do not actually bear the month of issue, but rather "premier cahier," "second cahier," etc. The serial was planned for twelve numbers annually, the *premier cahier* of each volume to be issued in January of each year. On the fascicle covers, however, many of which I have seen in unbound copies of volumes 23 (1820) to 27 (1824) the volume and part numbers, month, and year appear thus: "Vingt-troisième année Janvier 1820 — Premier Cahier," there being twelve numbers, one for each month of the year.

Desvaux's *Journal de Botanique* as they were issued. There would therefore appear to be no cause for doubting the correctness of the dates of issue as originally published, for Desvaux apparently was able to live up to his plan of issuing a number each month and in the first eight days of each month; in fact some of the numbers actually were printed in the month preceding the one indicated on the fascicle covers.

The record as to the dates of issue of the "second series" is unfortunately not so clear and doubts have been cast on the correctness of some of them. It was Desvaux's original plan to start an entirely new periodical in 1810 as noted above, but apparently the times were not propitious. Three years later he did initiate another serial but used the same general title that he had for the first attempt, i.e., *Journal de Botanique*. Of this new serial four volumes were issued, the third volume apparently never completed.

Fernald, *Rhodora* 20: 227. 1927, in his discussion of *Dendrium* Desv. and *Loiseleuria* Desv., for which he correctly accepts the date of publication as 1813, says: "Nevertheless, European bibliographers apparently have recent information (its source as yet unknown to me) that the part of vol. iii, or Ser. 2: 1, containing *Dendrium* (p. 36) and *Loiseleuria* (p. 35) was not issued until 1814." However, No. 1, pp. 1-48, although neither the number nor the pagination is indicated, is clearly the part reviewed in the *Jour. Gén. Litt. France* 16: 30. 1813, as determinable from the titles of the papers cited. This would be the January number for the year 1813 and the entry proves that number one of this new Desvaux *Journal de Botanique* was actually issued in 1813 and not delayed until 1814. My attention had been called to an item in Bertolini's *Flora Italica* 2: 377. 1835, in his discussion of *Primula suaveolens* R. & S. in which he refers to an entry in Desvaux's *Journal de Botanique* "tom. 4. p. 76. anno 1813," which seemed to confuse the issue. Checking the reference, however, indicated an error on Bertolini's part, for the *Primula suaveolens* entry is in Desvaux's *Jour. Bot.* 2: 76. 1813, not in volume four, again confirmation that volume two was issued in 1813.

As Fernald notes, the signatures (every 16 pages) are dated at the bottom of the first page of each beginning with p. 49, February, 1813, and continuing to June, 1813 (p. 273). It is not claimed that these monthly dates are actually the dates of issue, but this might well be the case. This system of dating the signatures was continued through volume 2, p. 1, July, 1813, to p. 257, December, 1813, but was abandoned in volumes three and four. Volumes three and four are dated 1814. On page 285 of volume four Desvaux says: "Les trois derniers Numéros du 3.^e volume pour 1814, paraîtront avec les premiers Numéros du 5.^e volume commençant l'année 1815." This explains, in part, the incomplete volume three but throws no light on the difficulties that the editor may have had with the printers. In all but one of the sets of this periodical that I have seen, volume three closes abruptly with page 192, and I judge that it was

Desvaux's plan to issue four numbers of 48 pages each. It is worthy of note that the set in the library of the New York Botanical Garden contains pages 193 to 240 of the volume under discussion, this indicated as no. 5, May, 1814. But a footnote on page 197 clearly indicates that it could not have been published before February, 1816; see Hazen, Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 56: 531. 1929. The fifth volume promised by Desvaux for 1815 never appeared, and apparently also only certain fugitive issues of the last part or parts of volume three for 1814 were actually distributed. I know of only the New York copy of vol. 3, no. 5, never having seen a reference to an existing copy of no. 6. I have seen no fascicle covers of any of the numbers of this second run of Desvaux's *Journal de Botanique*. Apparently the unsettled conditions in Paris associated with the fall of the first empire in 1814, and the first year or two of the restoration were not conducive to regularity in publication of technical periodicals.

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