

Edgardo Civallero

# The stories of Galapagueana

- issue IV -



Fundación  
**Charles Darwin**  
Foundation  
GALAPAGOS



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Edgardo Civallero

# The stories of Galapagueana

- issue IV -

*Project Galapagueana*  
*Galapagueana to take away*

Charles Darwin Foundation  
Library, Archive and Museum  
Puerto Ayora - Santa Cruz  
Galapagos Islands - Ecuador - 2023









## Highlight

### Galapagos in *Life* magazine

Although the Galapagos Islands have been described in a multitude of texts—including books, articles, diaries, reports, and theses—, some of them proved influential enough to put the archipelago on the map and place it in the conversations of an international audience.

This was the case, for example, of the book *Galapagos: World's End* (1925), the result of William Beebe's expedition on board the *Noma*; the work inspired numerous European colonists and Robinsons to settle in the Encantadas.

And that of an article published in the September 5, 1958 issue of the international edition of *Life* magazine.

To tell the story of this text, it is necessary to go back a few years. In January 1954, a young Austrian ethologist, Irenäus Eibl-Eibesfeldt, visited the Galapagos. He was then working as a researcher at the late Max-Planck Institut für Verhaltensphysiologie (Max Planck Institute for Behavioral Physiology), an institution founded by Erich von Holst and Konrad Lorenz and located in Seewiesen (Upper Bavaria, Germany). It was Lorenz,

who had already worked with Eibl-Eibesfeldt at the Institut für Vergleichende Verhaltensforschung (Institute for Comparative Behavioral Studies) in Altenberg (Austria) in 1949, who brought him to work there. And it was Lorenz who added him to the first of the two Submarine Research Expeditions, bound for the Caribbean and the Galapagos (August 1953-April 1954) and led by the Austrian biologist Hans Hass, a pioneer of scuba diving.

Eibl-Eibesfeldt arrived in the archipelago aboard Hass' research vessel, the schooner *Xarifa*, and was so fascinated by the biodiversity, and so concerned about the damage to the local flora and fauna, that he wrote a memorandum to the Ecuadorian government and the Union for the Protection of Nature (now IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature), denouncing the situation and suggesting the establishment of a biological station on Galapagoan soil.

Years later, and from those initial experiences on the islands, Eibl-Eibesfeldt wrote *Galapagos, the Noah's Ark of the Pacific* (1961), which would attract the attention of a multitude of scientists. But his memo had not gone unnoticed: it had revived old ideas and set in motion a complex mechanism. In fact, it had found its way into the hands of influential figures in the world of science, such as the ornithologist Robert I. Bowman, who had already been to the islands in 1952 to document his famous paper on Darwin's finches.

In 1957, ornithologists Jean T. Delacour and S. Dillon Ripley, members of the International Council for Bird Preservation (now BirdLife International), tried to make

the idea of a scientific station on the islands a reality by establishing contacts and dialogues with the Ecuadorian government in Quito. At the same time, Marguerite Caram, from IUCN, coordinated the efforts and was in charge of provoking the interest of UNESCO, an organization that finally opted to support the initiative.

UNESCO decided to organize an expedition to the Galapagos and invited Eibl-Eibesfeldt —after all, the man primarily responsible for setting the whole process in motion— to return to the islands to assess the situation in depth and study the potential location of the scientific station. To finance the trip, Ripley obtained funds from *Life* magazine, which provided them in exchange for an exclusive article. So, the expedition, which already included Bowman, was joined by photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt (sometimes incorrectly referred to as Eisenstein) and artist Rudolf Freund.

The four spent five months (1957) touring the archipelago. The result of their work was the suggestion to install the biological station —which they called Darwin Memorial Station, and which would end up being the Charles Darwin Research Station— in Santiago Island or, better yet, in Tortuga Bay, on Santa Cruz Island; a suggestion, the latter, that could not be put into practice due to communication problems, both terrestrial and maritime, between that point of Santa Cruz coast and the nearby town of Puerto Ayora. They also recommended the designation of a dozen islands as protected sites, the enforcement of nature protection laws, the implementation of a tortoise colony, and the development of environmental education programs aimed at the local community. All these recommendations, reflected in a final report produced by Bowman for UNESCO in 1960, were approved in July 1958 by the International

Congress of Zoology in London, and would lead, a year later, to the birth of the Charles Darwin Foundation and its Station.

The other fruit of the trip was, naturally, the article published by *Life*. Titled "The Enchanted Isles", it was the second installment of a series called "Darwin's World of Nature". The text was written by Lincoln Barnett, with support from a number of scientists, and featured color photographs by Eisenstaedt and beautifully produced illustrations by Freund. It included an illustrated fold-out page and quoted extensively from Darwin's work. It was the first article about the islands published in a major international magazine; one of the first popular approaches to Galapagos biodiversity and the science behind all those life forms; and an early disclosure of a conservation process that lasts to this day.

Today, the issue of *Life* that includes the text has been digitized and can be found in a number of international information repositories. The CDF Library, however, is fortunate to have an original copy in a good state of preservation. Due to its historical and artistic value, it is one of the highlights of the institution's bibliographic and archival collection.

[The image that illustrates this text belongs to the *Life* article].

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## Catalogue

Barnett, Lincoln. *The Enchanted Islands*. [Article]. *Life*, September 5, 1958. [S.d.] : col. ill. : 35 cm. DDC 508. Well preserved.

## Indexation

Subject categories: History of Galapagos | History of science | Natural history

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01.10.2023

<https://galapagueana.darwinfoundation.org/en/highlight/high004.html>







## Feminine presence in the islands

### The colonists of Floreana

On February 12, 1832, Colonel Ignacio Hernández, captain of the frigate *Mercedes*, took official possession of the Galapagos Islands on behalf of the Republic of Ecuador. He did so on the island known until then as "Charles" and which, from then on, would be called Floreana.

The presence of women among the colonizing population of the Galapagos Islands was evident from the outset, and was documented in a number of texts, especially those written by occasional visitors who contacted the local community and described its features.

On August 31, 1834, the *USS Potomac*, captained by Commodore John Downes, dropped anchor in Floreana. In the diary of the voyage, the author, J. N. Reynolds, indicates that Downes met José de Villamil, Galapagos' Governor. He commented that in April and June 1832, settlers of both sexes arrived in Floreana, and that in October of the same year more arrived, together with Villamil himself. The latter belonged to a group of soldiers condemned to death for rebellion against the Ecuadorian government.

Four years later, on June 22, 1838, the French captain Abel A. du Petit-Thouars, on board the frigate *Vénus*, visited Floreana, and on the 26th he was invited by the captain Nicholas O. Lawson —Villamil's trusted man— to visit the colony in the upper part of the island. There they met a man with the surname "Paraqui", who served as governor, and his wife. They led the visitors to the old house of José de Villamil, which was then occupied by a lady and her two sisters; the former was the wife of a Guayaquil officer convicted of attempted rebellion, who had ended up as a settler in Galapagos. The man, at the time of the visit, was on Santiago Island, hunting tortoises to extract oil. Petit-Thouars recounts:

Nous recûmes un gracieux accueil dans la maison de *las señoritas*, c'est ainsi que toute la population les désigne: elles nous offrirent un très-bon repas, composé des seules productions de la Floriana; au lieu de pain, on nous servit des galettes faites avec de la farine de maïs...

[We received a gracious welcome in the house of *las señoritas*, as they are known to the locals: they offered us a very good meal, made up exclusively of Floriana produce; instead of bread, we were served pancakes made from corn flour...] (p. 298).

Eight years later, in 1846, the *HMS Herald* reached the shores of the archipelago. The ship's naturalist, the German Berthold Seeman, was responsible for writing the travel diary. In his text, referring to the visit to the upper part of Floreana, he comments:

A few ruined hovels stood round a level green spot. The houses were small, formed of straight poles placed close together with thatched roofs, but devoid of cleanliness, so easily attained in such a place, a sloping declivity with a brook at the bottom offering every convenience for the comforts and decencies of life. We were soon offered fowls, wood, and potatoes for sale, which however were then not our object. Inquiring for the Governor, we were conducted to a larger house, but more dirty and in worse repair even than the rest, where we found three or four good-looking women, swinging in their hammocks, and not at all interrupted by our entrance, and a Señor Alcé, styling himself temporary governor, and acting for Don Jose Villamil, the person mentioned by Captain Fitzroy as the proprietor of the greater part of the stock then (1835) upon the island. An Englishman named Gurney, who had married a sister of Señor Alcé, gave us a variety of information (p. 56).

Two decades later, the colonization of San Cristobal Island would begin. The stories of the female colonists would move, then, to a different geography. But that would not be the end of the women's experiences in Floreana.

[The photograph that illustrates this text corresponds to a landscape on Floreana Island, and was taken by Edgardo Civallero].

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## Publication

01.10.2023

<https://galapagueana.darwinfoundation.org/en/women/wome004.html>



# Dr. Hurtado viaja a Galápagos

El Dr. Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea, Vicepresidente de la República, presidirá hoy los actos conmemorativos de la Estación "Charles Darwin" que funciona en el Archipiélago de Galápagos desde el mes de febrero de 1964.

El Vicepresidente de la República y su comitiva harán escala hoy en nuestra ciudad a las 7 de la mañana antes de seguir rumbo a la región insular de Galápagos.

No se ha informado el día en que retornarán.

*Monumento c*

Monumento conmemorativo  
la Provincia de Galápagos

## Contents and pieces | Piece

### Van Straelen Building | Dr. Hurtado travels to Galapagos

Since its inception in 1959, the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) has had a strong interest in establishing conservation-related educational activities in the Galapagos Islands. In fact, education was among the recommendations of the evaluation expedition to the archipelago organized by UNESCO in 1957.

Along these lines, in 1966, the by-then Director of the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS), Roger Perry, established the first environmental education program in the islands, in collaboration with the Education Supervisor of Santa Cruz Island, Lucio G. Saltos Gómez. This program, originally aimed at primary school teachers, was expanded years later to include local park rangers and naturalist guides.

Unfortunately, the CDRS, officially inaugurated two years earlier, had a workshop, a laboratory, the director's house, and a dock, but had no space in which to hold workshops or courses — or in which to provide biodiversity- and conservation-related contents to early visitors and tourists.

The need for such a space materialized in a project: the creation of a conference center that would serve as an exhibition hall and a museum at the same time.

The Swiss Daniel Weber produced a series of plans in which this necessary building was projected. It would eventually be named "Van Straelen" in honor of the Belgian conservationist Victor Van Straelen, one of the minds behind the creation of the CDF and the CDRS. In 1970, Peter Kramer took over the direction of the Station and, under his leadership, construction works began, lasting until 1973. After the official opening that year, the Van Straelen building was used as a meeting center, a conference and exhibition hall, and a training space.

At the end of 1979, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the creation of the CDF, Ecuadorian Vice President Osvaldo Hurtado Larrea traveled to the Galapagos Islands and was received at the Van Straelen — on Sunday, October 28 at 10:00 a.m., according to the official itinerary preserved in the CDF Archives. Dr. Alfredo Luna Tobar (Director of Territorial Sovereignty of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CDF Vice President) and Mr. Jacinto Gordillo, on behalf of the CDF staff, spoke at the ceremony.

A copy of a clipping from the newspaper *El Universo*, dated Saturday, October 27, 1979 and preserved in the CDF Archives, reports Hurtado's trip to Galapagos. Interestingly, the newspaper includes, on the same page, an image of the commemorative monument in which the CDRS' inaugural plaque was placed.



**Catalogue**

El Universo. *Dr. Hurtado viaja a Galápagos*. [Clip]. Guayaquil : El Universo, 1979. [N.d.]  
: n/ill. : [n.d.]. DDC 986. Well preserved.

**Indexation**

Subject categories: History of CDF | History of Galapagos

Keywords: Clips

Time framework: 1979

**Publication**

01.10.2023

<https://galapagueana.darwinfoundation.org/en/contents/cont004a.html>

Dr. Alfredo Luna Tobar

Director de Soberanía Nacional del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Vicepresidente de la Fundación Charles Darwin

Señor Vicepresidente de la República, distinguida señora de Hurtado, señores Ministros de Estado, señor representante de la Provincia de Galápagos, señor representante del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, señor Director de Desarrollo Forestal, autoridades de la provincia, señor Superintendente del Parque Nacional, autoridades, señoras y señores:

Me es muy grato dar la bienvenida en nombre de la Fundación y de la Estación Charles Darwin para las islas Galápagos al señor Vicepresidente de la República y a los altos representantes de los poderes ejecutivo y legislativo del Ecuador que atendiendo gentilmente a nuestra invitación, han venido a solemnizar con su presencia este acto en el que estamos celebrando el vigésimo aniversario de la constitución legal de la Fundación, entidad internacional de carácter científico y altruista destinada a colaborar con los esfuerzos que verifica el Gobierno del Ecuador para la conservación de esta maravilla natural y científica, de este patrimonio de toda la humanidad, el archipiélago de Colón o Islas Galápagos, región importantísima de la patria ecuatoriana.

Hemos llegado ya al punto de madurez en la etapa de toma de conciencia de/<sup>lo</sup>que el archipiélago significa para nuestro país y para todas las naciones; compartimos, nacionales y extranjeros, el convencimiento de que las Islas Galápagos constituyen uno de aquellos bienes únicos en el mundo y cuyas características deben ser definitivamente preservadas a fin de que las generaciones venideras puedan, al igual que las actuales, beneficiarse con sus valores científicos y estéticos. La arraigada conciencia que hoy poseemos sobre el valor de nuestras islas ha tenido una trayectoria tanto en el país como en el mundo que conviene

## Contents and pieces | Line

### Van Straelen Building | Invitations and speeches

At the end of 1979, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the creation of the CDF, Ecuadorian Vice President Osvaldo Hurtado Larrea traveled to the Galapagos Islands and was received at the Van Straelen building — on Sunday, October 28 at 10:00 a.m., according to the official itinerary kept in the CDF Archives. Dr. Alfredo Luna Tobar and Mr. Jacinto Gordillo spoke on behalf of the CDF staff.

Typewritten copies of Luna Tobar's speech and that of engineer Carlos Aguirre, Director General of Forestry Development, who was in Hurtado Larrea's entourage, are also kept as archival documents. The originals of several letters of apology for non-attendance are also preserved, including the one from the Commander of the II Naval Zone.

Luna Tobar's speech emphasized the CDF educational program and its tools. Including the Van Straelen building:

One of the most emphasized programs of the Charles Darwin Station is the educational program. The Station has its own professors to teach natural

science and conservation classes in the schools and colleges of San Cristóbal, Santa Cruz and Isabela. At the Central University of Quito and the State University of Guayaquil, the Station maintains information centers with informative and scientific literature. Its directors help high school students in the elaboration of works, and also give talks in schools, colleges, and universities.

To complete the information for visitors and to provide an educational and conference center, the Van Straelen classroom has been built in honor of the first president of the Charles Darwin Foundation. The library facilities have also been expanded to facilitate its use by scientists, National Park staff and the general public. The construction of the classroom is due in large part to the generous support of foreign individuals and the contribution of the National Government. The expansion of the library is due to private contributions.

The combination of these individual documentary pieces generates a line that allows us to glimpse the importance of the CDF in the national panorama of the time.

### **Catalogue**

Aa.Vv. [*Invitations and speeches*]. [Manuscript]. Santa Cruz : Aa.Vv., 1979. [N.d.] : n/ill. : [n.d.]. DDC 986. Well preserved.

**Indexation**

Subject categories: History of CDF | History of Galapagos

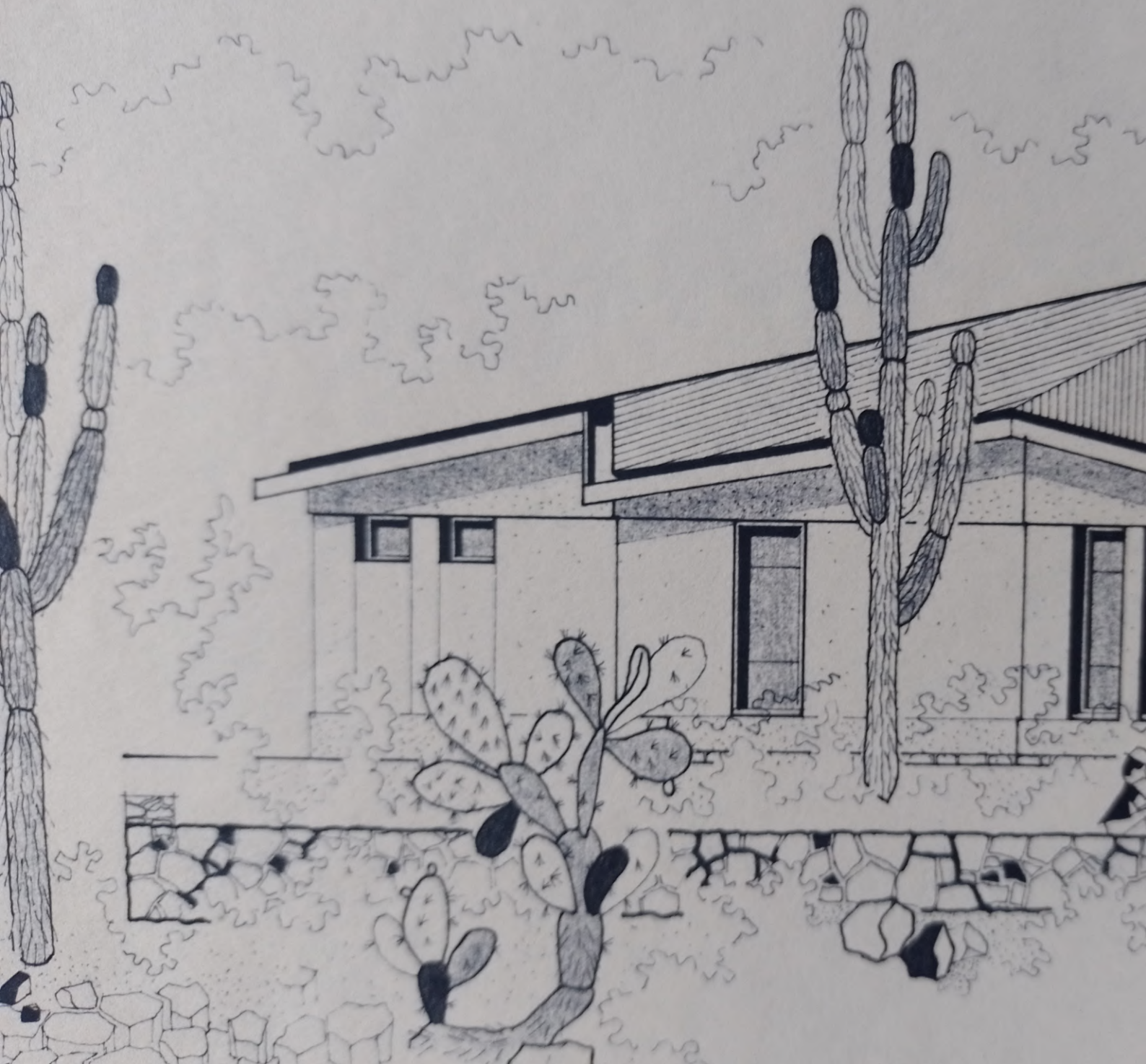
Keywords: Manuscripts

Time framework: 1979

**Publication**

01.10.2023

<https://galapagueana.darwinfoundation.org/en/contents/cont004b.html>



## Contents and pieces | Story

### Van Straelen building | Weber's plans

The Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS), officially inaugurated in 1964, had a workshop, a few laboratories, the director's house, and a dock. However, it had no large space in which to hold workshops or courses, or in which to provide biodiversity- and conservation-related contents to early visitors and tourists.

The need for such a space materialized in a project: the creation of a conference center that would serve as an exhibition hall and a museum at the same time.

In December 1968, Swiss botanist Daniel Weber —who was then working on the islands studying the local orchids, and happened to be an architect as well— produced a series of plans for the needed space.

In Weber's designs, preserved in the CDF Archives, the building already had the star-shaped silhouette it has today (a combination of two superimposed squares, one of them rotated 45°) and was located in its present location.

In addition, Weber's plans are among the few that show the original distribution of the CDRS buildings a few years after their inauguration. It is curious to note that the small house next to the Station Beach ("Mrs. Hornemann Summer House") was already built.

### **Catalogue**

Weber, Daniel. [*Proposed Lecture Centre & Museum*]. [Plan]. Santa Cruz : Daniel Weber, 1968. [N.d.] : b/w ill. : [s.d.]. DDC 986. Well preserved

### **Indexation**

Subject categories: History of CDF

Keywords: Plans

Time framework: 1968

### **Publication**

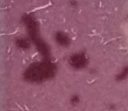
01.10.2023

<https://galapagueana.darwinfoundation.org/en/contents/cont004c.html>





¿De dónde vienen los animales?  
¿Cómo dellos animales como los?



Los animales  
que viven en  
el mundo.

# BIOLOGÍA

DE LOS CALIFORNIA  
OF THE CLASSICAL

# BIOLOGY



## Contents and pieces | Memory

### Van Straelen building | The information panels

After its official opening in 1973, the Van Straelen building, at the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS), was used as a meeting center, a conference and exhibit hall, and a training space.

To equip the exhibit hall properly, a set of information panels were developed; by February 1976, a series of photographs by Janice MacFarland preserved in the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) Archive's audiovisual collection show that these initial panels were completed.

However, it seems that the results were not entirely satisfactory. In September 1976, with the arrival of Gayle Davis at the CDRS, the process of contents development, both textual and visual, continued. For three more years.

This process involved a series of lengthy discussions, which are reflected in a number of archival documents. It also involved the application for an extensive (and tortuous) set of permissions for the authorized use of photographs — including works by Tui de Roy, Hendrick Hoeck, Dagmar Werner, and Janice MacFarland, among others.

In late 1979, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the creation of the CDF, Vice President Osvaldo Hurtado Larrea traveled to the Galapagos Islands and was received at the Van Straelen. By then, the work on what was already known as the "interpretation building" or the "Van Straelen classroom" had been completed. The entire floor had been replaced, the access road had been improved, and all the original information panels had been replaced with new ones.

These panels were divided into areas: Geology, Biology, Climate, Conservation and Contributions. In addition to panels, archival documents indicate that a number of items from the natural science collections and the museum were on display: a handful of archaeological objects (glass bottles, ceramics...) in the Conservation section, a rock from the Alcedo volcano (Isabela island) in the Geology section, and various specimens (turtle and tortoise shells, corals, mollusks...) in the Biology section.

A letter from Gayle Davis dated shortly after the ceremony, in November 1979, states that the Van Straelen was ready for visits, although not continuously. At that time, it only opened for two hours, three times a week, and exclusively for tour groups who had made an appointment in advance. Visitors would disembark at the CDRS pier and follow the "ash trail" that led to the Van Straelen building.

The space had, for many years, a guestbook, which served as a visitors' log for the Station in general; one of the surviving copies is preserved in the CDF Archives.

Interestingly, some documents dated March 1980 show that work was still being done on the information panels: at that time there were new texts that were being translated and edited. The contents would be kept under constant revision: in fact, the last materials placed for display in the Van Straelen were produced in 2018.

[The photograph that illustrates this text belongs to Janice MacFarland, was taken in February 1976 and is kept in the CDF Archives].

### **Catalogue**

Aa.Vv. [*Information panels*]. [Photograph + manuscript]. Santa Cruz : Aa.Vv., [ca1979]. [N.d.] : col. ill. : [n.d.]. DDC 986. Well preserved

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## The traces of the islands' memory

### **The Galapagoan intangible heritage**

Intangible heritage is understood as that part of cultural heritage that, as its name suggests, cannot be touched: a set of non-physical practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, and skills that are often part of the folklore, customs, beliefs and traditions of a place, a people and/or a community.

Oral tradition (including the linguistic form that codifies it), performing arts (song, music, dance, theater), social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge, and memory in general, and certain skills (crafts, cooking): all these elements are part of intangible heritage, which, by its very nature somewhat elusive and ethereal, is sometimes difficult to define, and even to identify.

In the Galapagos Islands, the main form of intangible heritage is orality: the contents preserved, transmitted, and enriched through spoken language. Much of the islands' memory has been maintained through oral channels, which have been poorly studied and systematized; although some documentaries and books (e.g., interviews with old settlers) have safeguarded knowledge and experiences that would otherwise have disappeared with the death of their narrators, there remains an enormous body of

knowledge to be recovered. And such recovery is urgent in the case of the elderly; young people, on the other hand, have found, in new communication technologies, new formats for their own orality.

Other forms of intangible heritage are transmitted through these oral channels. Folklore is one of them: customs, traditions and events preserved in the collective memory through generations. Tales of apparitions and ghosts, or legends about hidden treasures and curses, so common in the four inhabited islands of the Galapagos, make up an enormous body of folklore stories that have not yet been fully collected. The oral history of the islands —the "big" history of society in general, and the many "small" family and individual histories— has not been fully systematized either: although authors such as the Norwegian settler Jacob Lundh took the initiative to collect and make extensive use of the spoken testimonies of local community members, much of the history of Galapagos has been written in the traditional method, based on (very few) written and printed documents.

Trades —farming, fishing, salt and shellfish gathering— and local cuisine, music and dances are also part of the intangible cultural heritage. Generally speaking, and with a few honorable exceptions, the customs behind these practices have not been collected and documented, nor have the working methods, recipes, learning and teachings.

A community, a people or a society is much more than its material culture: it is its knowledge and its memories. A handful of fragile, unstable, and valuable elements, of whose importance human beings are often unaware — until they are lost.



[The photograph that illustrates this text is of a landscape on Isabela Island, and was taken by Edgardo Civallero].

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## Publication

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<https://galapagueana.darwinfoundation.org/en/memory/memo004.html>



## *Galapagueana's collections*

### **Travan tapes**

A significant part of the CDF Archive's audiovisual collections consists of magnetic data storage media. Among them, probably the best known are the famous and ubiquitous floppy diskettes. However, there were other magnetic materials, especially those based on tapes (similar in structure to traditional audio and VHS cassettes), many of which were much less known. One example is the Travan tapes, of which there are several items in the CDF collections.

Launched in 1995 by 3M, Travan tapes were 8 mm wide and 750 inches long, encapsulated in a strong plastic and metal frame. Their storage capacity ranged from 400 Mb (TR-1) to 20 Gb (TR-7, 2002), making them very popular for back-ups.

At the time, Travan competed against media such as DAT (Digital Audio Tape), AIT (Advanced Intelligent Tape) and the lesser known VXA tapes. One of the biggest problems with the Travan format was its "ability" for physical contamination, and its inability to verify its data automatically, which led to logical corruptions that were very difficult to detect and fix.

Today, these tapes have been discontinued in favor of solid disk-based technologies. Although, with the permanent return to formats considered "obsolete", it is impossible to say that a given medium has been totally abandoned or forgotten.

### **Catalogue**

Aa.Vv. [*Travan tapes*]. [Tape]. Santa Cruz : Aa.Vv., [ca1995?]. [N.d.] : [n.d.] : [n.d.]. DDC 506. Well preserved.

### **Indexation**

Subject categories: History of CDF | History of science

Keywords: Tapes

Time framework: 1995

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## *Galapagueana's* collections

### **Seismograms**

The Charles Darwin Research Station began construction in 1960 and was officially inaugurated in January 1964. In addition to offices, laboratories, sheds, and even a meteorological station, the space included a seismograph.

According to CDF records, the original facilities for this sensitive instrument were built, with support from the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (C&GS), between March and December 1963 on a cliff inland from the CDRS.

Between April and May 1964, the device and a second generator, essential for its operation, were installed. Once it began operating, it became a member of the World-Wide Standardized Seismograph Network (WWSSN). That network was born in the early 1960s out of political concerns: the possibility of detecting nuclear tests and combating them. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of the U.S. Department of Defense founded the C&GS to design and build an international network of seismographs, which would eventually become the WWSSN, and whose first station, Albuquerque (USA), was inaugurated in October 1961. By the end of 1963 there were 89 stations worldwide, which eventually grew to 121. In 1967 DARPA

funding was discontinued, and the WWSSN became monitored by the U.S. Geological Survey, which ceased operations of the network in 1996.

In order to keep the seismograph active, the CDF received financial and logistical support from the C&GS, where the seismographic records were sent on a monthly basis. The CDRS received microfilmed copies of these records, which are currently preserved as an independent collection at the institutional Archive.

Together with the seismograms, an interesting series of reports, letters and notifications is kept, whose chronological range encompasses three decades. These documents provide a glimpse of the many difficulties and complications (technical, but also operational and bureaucratic) faced by those responsible to keep the seismograph in Galapagos active.

The history of the seismograph and that of the people who operated, maintained, and repaired it is yet to be written. In the meantime, the seismograms are a reminder and a small sample of the many and varied scientific works carried out at the CDRS, sometimes against all odds, throughout its six decades of existence.

### **Catalogue**

Aa.Vv. [*Seismograms*]. [Microform]. Santa Cruz : Aa.Vv., 1964-1990. [N.d.] : [n.d.] : [n.d.]. DDC 551. Well preserved.



**Indexation**

Subject categories: History of CDF | History of Galapagos | History of science

Keywords: Microforms | Seismograms

Time framework: 1964

**Publication**

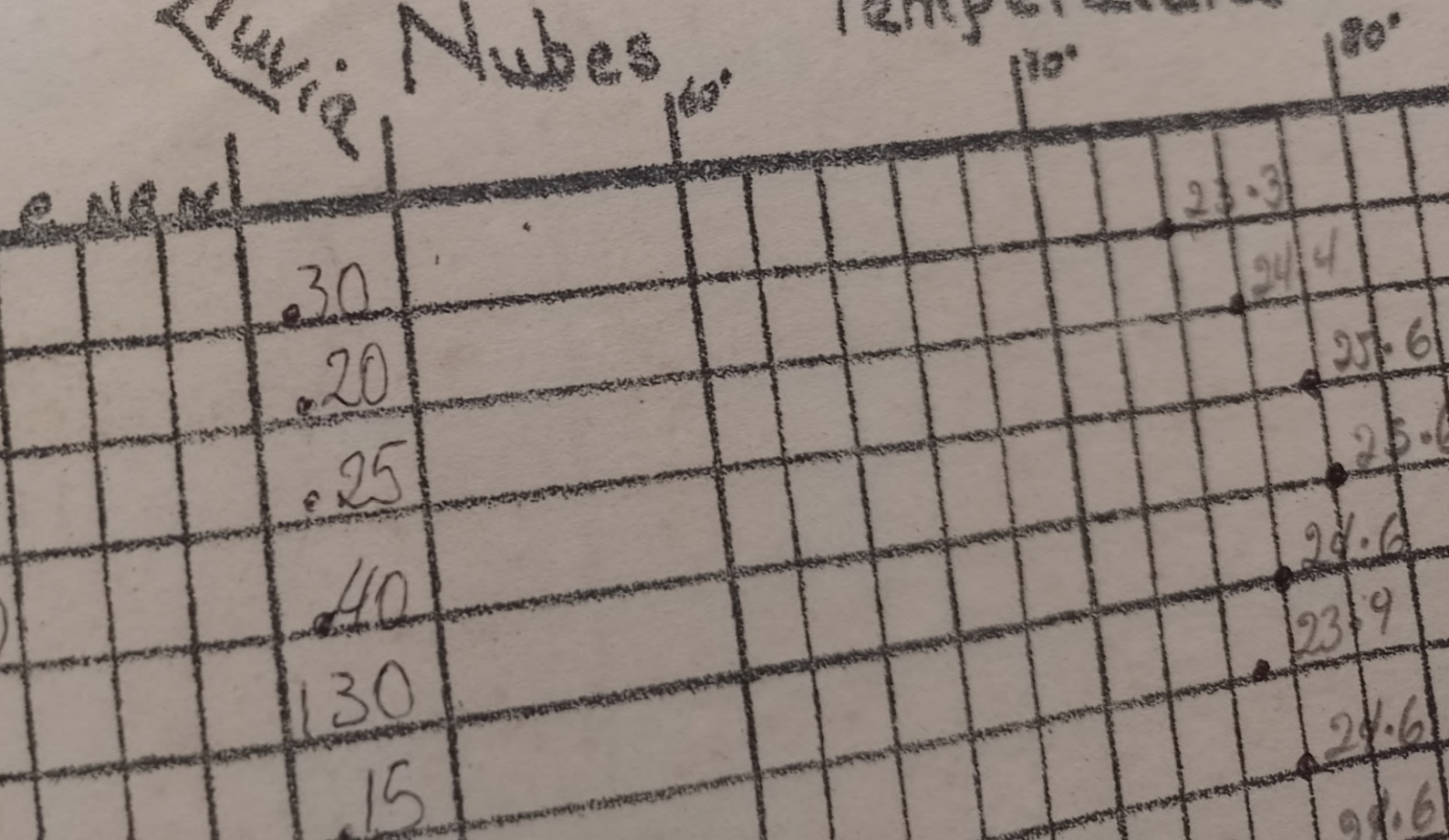
01.10.2023

<https://galapagueana.darwinfoundation.org/en/collections/coll004b.html>

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Lluvia Nubes Temperatura



## *Galapagueana's* collections

### **Meteorological reports**

Among the numerous collections of paper-based documents preserved in the CDF Archive, one of them stands out for its scope and depth: the one belonging to the Meteorology area.

According to historical records, the meteorological station of the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) —located near La Ratonera beach— was created in 1962 by André Brosset, the second director of the CDRS. Since then, and thanks to its instruments, a wide range of data has been compiled using a whole battery of formats, ranging from photocopies completed by hand in pencil to digital templates.

All this information makes up one of the most complete series of the Archive —its continuity has not been broken so many times, unlike others—, one of the biggest (literally thousands of individual documents), and one of those that extends the most over time: practically since the start-up of the meteorological measuring devices.

Inventoried under the generic denomination of "Meteorological Reports", the collection has begun to be organized and analyzed, and a process of digitization of its

holdings has begun for preservation reasons: a significant part of the documents were produced on poor quality paper and have been seriously affected by the climatic conditions (high humidity and temperature) typical of the Galapagos.

### **Catalogue**

Aa.Vv. [*Meteorological reports*]. [Report]. [N.d.] : Aa.Vv., [n.d.]. [N.d.] : [n.d.] : [n.d.].  
DDC 551. Well preserved.

### **Indexation**

Subject categories: History of CDF | History of science | Meteorology

Keywords: Reports

Time framework: 1960

### **Publication**

01.10.2023

<https://galapagueana.darwinfoundation.org/en/collections/coll004c.html>



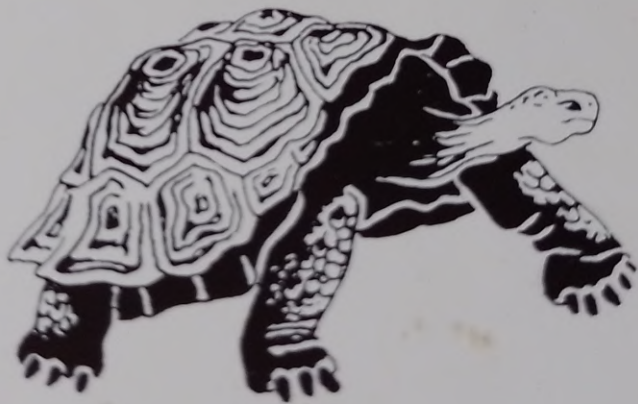
# NOVIEMBRE - NOVEMBER

Dom	Lun	Mar	Mie	Jue	Vie	Sab
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
	3	4	5	6	7	8
	10	11	12	13	14	15
	17	18	19	20	21	22
	24	25	26	27	28	29

# DICIEMBRE - DECEMBER

Dom Lun Mar  
Sun Mon Tue

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28				



## *Galapagueana's* collections

### **The count of time**

From the mid-19th century onwards, calendars have been used as one of the most successful and repeated tools in the history of advertising, either in pocket format or as large commercial wall / desk calendars. The pages of the latter have made it possible to disseminate photographs and messages, and to bring commercial brands or institutional logos into many homes and workplaces.

CDF did not miss the opportunity to gain visibility among the local community and visitors to the Galapagos Islands and, at least since the 1980s, created a series of calendars featuring images of the archipelago's landscapes and biodiversity. Some of these photographs belong to such renowned professionals as Tui de Roy, and their analysis allows us to appreciate the changes in thematic interests over time (from generic landscapes to specific species, from artistic images to elements with a message), and even to identify stylistic variations in the overall design layout.

The CDF Archive has managed to recover and conserve a small collection of specimens and continues to track down lost items to add to the list.

**Catalogue**

Aa.Vv. [*Calendars*]. [Calendar]. [N.d.] : Aa.Vv., 1980-1990. [N.d.] : col. ill. : 21 x 30 cm.  
DDC 508. Well preserved.

**Indexation**

Subject categories: History of CDF | History of Galapagos

Keywords: Calendars

Time framework: 1980

**Publication**

01.10.2023

<https://galapagueana.darwinfoundation.org/en/collections/coll004d.html>







## Fragments for a history of Galapagos

### The conquistador who came fleeing

After the discovery of the islands by the Spanish bishop Tomás de Berlanga in 1535, the Galapagos vanished from the historical record. But only for a few years. They reappeared in 1546, with the adventure of Diego de Rivadeneira.

At that time, the so-called Civil War between the Conquistadors of Peru (1537-1554) was raging. Gonzalo, the last of the Pizarro brothers alive in American lands, and by then a rich *encomendero* of the Royal Audiencia of Charcas (present-day Bolivia), had risen up in 1544 against the *Leyes Nuevas* ("New Laws") decreed by Charles I in November 1542, within the framework of the so-called "Rebellion of the Encomenderos": conquerors who had been deprived, thanks to this new legislation, of the right to hereditary *encomiendas* — i.e. to the slave exploitation of Andean indigenous peoples. "Pizarristas" (Pizarro's followers) raised an army and confronted the first viceroy of Peru, Blasco Núñez de Vela, who ended up being defeated in Iñaquito (January 1546) and decapitated on the battlefield.

Knowing of such events and loyal to the Hispanic Crown, Captain Diego Centeno took up arms against Pizarro and his people in the city of La Plata (today Sucre, Bolivia) and

tried to reinstate the royal power. Hence, Pizarro sent his lieutenant Francisco de Carvajal, a veteran conquistador infamous for his "bad and cruel condition" and who ended up being nicknamed "the Demon of the Andes".

Carvajal began a long pursuit of Centeno's troops. From Cusco he reached Oruro, in the Bolivian highlands, where he confronted his rival. Centeno, who had substantially inferior forces, barely avoided a massacre and, in disband, managed to reach Arequipa with his troops.

From there, the royalist leader sent one of his subordinates, Captain Diego de Rivadeneira, accompanied by a dozen of his men, to the nearby port of Quilca to look for a ship on which to embark and head for Lima. Rivadeneira reached the coast, but the locals informed him that the nearest ships were about one hundred and fifty kilometers to the south, in the port of Arica, in present-day Chile.

They made their way to Arica, where they seized a ship by trickery and set sail for Quilca, to pick up the rest of their companions. However, when they finally arrived, they did not find Centeno. He had been there days before and, not finding Rivadeneira, and fearing reprisals from Carvajal, who was on his heels, he had disbanded his troops (about forty men) and had hidden among the indigenous communities in the nearby mountains. The one who was actually waiting for them was Carvajal himself, who had somehow learned of his adversaries' plans. With deceit and false promises, he wanted to make Rivadeneira disembark, but the latter decided to continue his journey, heading to Nicaragua.

Unfortunately, the ship had no compass or nautical charts, and did not even have enough provisions. Fearing apprehension by the opposing faction, the escapees stayed away from the coast, and the Humboldt Current ended up dragging them to the Galapagos, twenty-five days after setting sail from Quilca.

One of the most tragic anecdotes of that voyage was the attempt to catch a sea turtle for food. One of the youngest members of the expedition straddled the animal's back while the others tried to tie it up. But, due to a change of wind or currents, turtle and boat got apart, and the boy, who could not swim, was left clinging to the reptile's back, alone in the middle of the ocean.

Finally, after leaving the archipelago behind, the small crew managed to reach the coasts of Central America, disembarking in the town of San José Ixtapa, in present-day Mexico.

Apparently, there is an account of the voyage with a succinct description of the islands included by the royal treasurer Pedro Castellanos in a missive to king Philip II. There are also news of that navigation noted by Pedro de la Gasca, president of the Royal Audience of Lima, and by the chronicler Pedro Cieza de León in the third book of his *Guerras civiles del Perú* ("Civil Wars of Peru"). The latter, written around the middle of the 16th century and published for the first time by Marcos Jiménez de la Espada in 1877 (based on an incomplete manuscript in the Library of the Royal Palace of Madrid), is probably the best known source for these facts: specifically chapter CCVII,

entitled "How Captain Diego de Rivadeneira reached the port of Quilca, and how he was brought to New Spain and on the way saw a very large island".

None of the authors of this adventure seem to be aware of the existence of the letter from Tomás de Berlanga to Charles I, reporting the discovery of the Galapagos.

As an epilogue, it is worth mentioning that Carvajal ended up defeating Centeno in the battle of Huarina, in October of 1547, although at that moment the "pizarrista" faction had already disbanded. Carvajal was executed together with Gonzalo Pizarro in 1548, after his final defeat in the battle of Jaquijahuana; his house was demolished and the land, sown with salt. A year later, Centeno died of fevers. Diego de Rivadeneira made a formal request to Pedro Castellanos to be granted the right of exploration, colonization, and government of the Galapagos — a request that fell on deaf ears. After that, the name of the Spanish captain disappeared forever from the historical records.

[The image that illustrates this text corresponds to a painting representing "The 13 of Rooster Island"].

## References

- Cieza de León, Pedro (1877). *Tercero libro de las Guerras civiles del Perú el cual se llama La Guerra de Quito*. [Published by Marcos Jiménez de la Espada]. Madrid: Imprenta de M. G. Hernández.

**Publication**

01.10.2023

<https://galapagueana.darwinfoundation.org/en/history/hist004.html>

G. T. Corley Smith

*Galapagos*





## Activities and projects | Publications

### Corley Smith's *Galapagos*

Gerard Thomas Corley Smith was born in July, 1909, in Lancashire, England, and passed away in October, 1997. Educated in Cambridge, he graduated in modern languages, joined the British Consular Service in 1931, and continued a full diplomatic career that would carry him all around the world. His final destination was as ambassador to Ecuador, where he was able to develop one of his passions: birdwatching. That interest put him in contact with French ornithologist Jean Dorst — and with the activities of the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands.

His first visit to the archipelago was in 1964, alongside the Duke of Edinburgh, on board the Royal Yacht *Britannia*. He became involved with CDF's work and when he retired, he joined the organization's executive council. In 1972 he assumed the role of CDF's Secretary-General, which he managed from his house in Essex.

In 1984, he handed over his position, and was awarded the Order of Merit by the Ecuadorean government. The CDF's library, at the very heart of the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) near Puerto Ayora (Santa Cruz Island), is named in his honor.

During his years in Galapagos, Corley Smith was very interested in the islands' history, and produced a number of texts both on the archipelago and the CDF — some of which were published in *Noticias de Galapagos*, CDF's official organ, which he edited himself.

However, some of them were not.

In 2018, as part of the tasks of reviewing the many unpublished manuscripts held in the "special collections" of the CDF library, a photocopied version, in poor condition, of a typewritten work of Corley's authorship was found. It was entitled *Galapagos: A manuscript*.

The text was clearly a draft: incomplete, full of typos and handwritten corrections, sometimes repetitive... Still, it was interesting and well structured; it somehow reflected the passion and interests of its author. Therefore, it was decided to scan and transcribe it. After contacting Corley's son, Peter, and his partner, Elizabeth Adams, both were delighted to accept the proposal to publish it. In fact, they had the original typed version of the manuscript, the basis for the photocopy. So, the text was reviewed jointly, and it was decided how best to disseminate it.

For a number of reasons that would be too long —and even too personal— to explain, Corley Smith had decided not to publish his manuscript. However, seen from a contemporary perspective (and from a purely librarian one), his words are more than valuable. They are those of a reference in the small universe of Galapagos

conservation; indeed, they are the experiences and ideas of one of the people who made such conservation possible. His prose is rich, and his historical narrative, compelling. He carefully selected some of the most salient milestones in local history and presented them with the dexterity of a skilled storyteller. In a world with an increasingly limited attention span, where stories are reduced to a sad handful of characters on social media, this kind of storytelling is as clever as it is charming.

Some minor corrections were made during the editing process. Otherwise, the text was left intact. A final chapter with an annotated bibliography was added, so that interested readers can continue their journey through the events surrounding the Enchanted Islands and the many documents that give an account of them.

May these pages encourage present and future generations to commit themselves to the recovery and preservation of the archipelago's history.

### **Catalogue**

Corley Smith, Gerard Thomas. *Galapagos*. [Book]. Santa Cruz : CDF, 2023. 346 pp. : n/ill. : 17 x 23 cm. DDC 900. Well preserved.

### **Indexation**

Subject categories: History of Galapagos | History of science

Keywords: Books

Time framework: 2023

**Publication**

01.10.2023

<https://galapagueana.darwinfoundation.org/en/activities/acti004a.html>





## Activities and projects | Oral history

### Orality's materials

In general terms, the spoken word has a much greater variability than the written one: the contents transmitted orally can change —and in fact do change, sometimes radically— from one moment or one situation to the next, even when they are uttered by the same person.

On the other hand, oral contents are fragile: their existence depends on the people who maintain and transmit them, and on their memories. All this can disappear in an instant: hence the famous phrases that point out that when the elders of oral societies die, entire libraries disappear with them.

This is why programs for the recovery and preservation of oral tradition have been developed, especially in those contexts where knowledge and memory usually travel through spoken channels, rather than through written media.

The most logical solution to preserve orality was, in the first place, to write down these contents and, when sound recording technologies appeared, to record them (on cylinders, discs, cassettes, etc.). In fact, such a solution is still preferred today:

recording the spoken testimonies (today, by using digital media) and transcribing them.

Such a procedure has, however, a number of minor drawbacks. On the one hand, the written (and printed) version of the spoken word does not always include or manage to capture all the oral variations within a testimony: from changes in volume to the diversity of tones and forms of pronunciation, silences (and their intentions), gestures accompanying speech, and a long etcetera. On the other hand, audio recordings, although they are appropriate media for collecting orality, lack context.

Video recordings, which include the vast majority of elements necessary to fully understand speech, have recently been preferred. And, at the same time, an effort is being made to ensure that oral memories are maintained, disseminated, and perpetuated through these same oral channels.

To achieve the latter, storytellers are encouraged to pass on their knowledge to others so that the chain of spoken knowledge is not interrupted and local linguistic forms are preserved. This involves the creation of "talking circles", the presentation of "living books" programs, and a wide range of complementary activities.

While the recording of testimonies is an excellent first step, especially from an archival and historical perspective, from a sociological perspective it is advisable to maintain oral channels. This is a proposal to be developed in the Galapagos Islands, an area where orality is so strong, and where so little attention has been paid to it.



## References

- Abrams, Lynn (2010). *An Oral History Theory*. London, New York: Routledge.
- Vansina, Jan M. (1985). *Oral Tradition as History*. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press.

## Publication

01.10.2023

<https://galapagueana.darwinfoundation.org/en/activities/acti004b.html>

# CORRIENTES

BOLETIN PARA LOS EDUCADORES DE GALAPAGOS  
Asociación Científica Charles Darwin

Educadores,

La necesidad de programas de educación ambiental se hace más palpable en Galápagos. La continua  
sociedad asentada cerca al parque nacional hace indispensable que cada persona que viva aquí  
de la importancia que tiene la protección de estas islas para que continúen siendo  
evolución de las especies.

Charles Darwin a través de su Area de Educación Ambiental  
de educación formal y no formal a fin de que se  
agos. Nos mantenemos en permanente contacto  
que ellos cumplen en el archipiélago  
"Corrientes", una publicación  
erentes temas

Santa Cruz, Galápagos

No. 1

Sava

## Activities and projects | Social memory

### ***Corrientes*: an educational bulletin**

*Corrientes*, subtitled "Boletín para los educadores de Galápagos" ("Bulletin for Galapagos Educators"), was a publication produced by the Environmental Education area of the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS), with the support of the Galapagos National Park and the INNFA (National Institute for Children and the Family). It was created during Chantal Blanton's tenure as Director of the CDRS, written by Mao Ortuño, edited by Jennifer Sutherland, and illustrated by Sara Santacruz.

*Corrientes'* objective was to "support the work of teachers by providing basic information on different topics related to our environment". Each bulletin included basic information on Galapagos' natural and socio-cultural topics, as well as ideas for didactic activities, a motivational segment called "Did you know that...?", and several educational resources — maps, drawings, short readings, discussion questions, and bibliographic resources.

Initially, it was planned that the bulletin would be delivered to local teachers twice a year, accompanied by a survey to determine the scope of the publication and the needs of the public. The first issue was launched at the end of 1993, in a simple folder

designed to include all future issues. Unfortunately, as far as existing records tell, the bulletin only reached number 3, published in 1995.

*Corrientes* was part of a strong educational strategy led by the CDF in the Galapagos Islands since the late 1990s, which also included the publication of educational guides, the organization of the Renacer Club, work in the CEAs (Environmental Education Centers), and numerous educational and didactic proposals. All of them were oriented towards the knowledge and conservation of local biodiversity; however, they also placed an emphasis on the social and cultural reality of the islands. For conservation and environmental education are, above all, social processes.

### **Catalogue**

Aa.Vv. *Corrientes : Boletín para los educadores de Galápagos*. [Manuscript]. Santa Cruz, Galapagos : Aa.Vv., 1993. [N.d.] : b/w ill. : 29 cm. DDC 333.72. Regularly preserved.

### **Indexation**

Categorías temáticas: Conservation | Environmental education | History of CDF | History of Galapagos

Palabras-clave: Manuscripts

Marco temporal: 1993

### **Publication**

01.10.2023

<https://galapagueana.darwinfoundation.org/en/activities/acti004c.html>





## Activities and projects | (In)tangible heritage

### **The seismograph's cabin**

The layout of the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) includes a number of buildings, spaces and roads developed progressively over time, since the institution began to be built in 1960.

Some of them have been changing their functions and, therefore, their structures, which, in addition, have been enlarged and repaired to avoid the wear and tear of a humid climate and a coastal environment. Others, unfortunately, have disappeared or are in a state of advanced deterioration.

Such is the case of a small wooden cabin located at the edge of the road that leads from the main buildings of the Station to the tortoise breeding pens. Built with plank walls and a sheet metal roof, the rains and woodworms have taken their toll on its materials, and it appears to be in an advanced state of abandonment.

However, it was not always like this. A handful of photographs from the 1980s show it in good shape.

As with many other elements in the history of the CDF, finding information on the cabin has proven to be extremely difficult. It was necessary to resort both to very scattered fragments of documentation and to institutional oral tradition; the latter is sometimes confusing, because of the many conflicting versions that emerge on the same topic.

It appears that two similar cabins were built on an undetermined date, of which there are basic architectural sketches in the CDF Archive's collection of plans and blueprints. One of them was installed in the tortoise reserve that the CDF managed on the highlands of Santa Cruz Island in the 1980s; that cabin was used by researchers who wished to observe the reptiles up close, and appears, for example, in some of Linda Cayot's earliest images in Galapagos. The other was, as mentioned above, near the CDRS tortoise breeding pens in Puerto Ayora.

The latter appears to have served a number of functions. Some of the older CDF workers recall that the space was used to store food for the tortoises; others, that it served for some time as a storage area for various scientific materials. And, finally, most agree that the old CDF seismograph was installed there.

This seismograph —which deserves a text of its own, given the abundance of archival documents that record its eventful history, including seismograms— was one of the first scientific devices to be installed at the CDRS. According, again, to local oral tradition, the instrument changed location until, due to the numerous failures it



presented and the difficulty (and sometimes impossibility) of repairing them, it was abandoned.

Apparently, the cabin ended up being used as a shed for various materials until its use was discouraged due to its structural instability. Despite its poor condition, the building continues to be part of the tangible heritage of the CDRS, and its rehabilitation as a potential space for receiving visitors has been considered.

[The photograph that illustrates this text corresponds to a slide by Godfrey Merlen, without data, preserved in the CDF Archive].

**Publication**

01.10.2023

<https://galapagueana.darwinfoundation.org/en/activities/acti004d.html>



Fundación  
**Charles Darwin**  
Foundation  
GALAPAGOS