

## DR. ABILIO FERNANDES

Dr. Abilio Fernandes, internationally recognized authority on the taxonomy and cytology of the genus *Narcissus*, died in his native Portugal on October 7, 1994. In 1963, the American Daffodil Society presented its Gold Medal to him in recognition of his contribution to the understanding of the genus and origin of the species through detailed chromosome studies of numerous species and their variants.

Over the years, he published widely in English, French and Portuguese. In the English-speaking world, he is perhaps best known for his "Keys to the Identification of Native and Naturalized Taxa of the Genus *Narcissus* L." published in the 1968 *Daffodil and Tulip Yearbook* of the Royal Horticultural Society. His monumental 1975 treatise "L'Evolution Chez Le Genre *Narcissus*" appearing in *Anal. Inst. Bot. Cavanilles* explains logical interrelationships among the species based on cytological studies. Even though a number of new species and many new interspecific hybrids have been described in recent years, these two pioneering works are still of great significance today.

Perhaps one of the greatest pleasures Dr. Fernandes received during his lifetime was the naming of a newly-discovered species in his honor in 1947. His name remains with us forever in *N. fernandesii*, a yellow multi-headed species of the Iberian peninsula which is a favorite parent for those involved in hybridizing miniature daffodils.