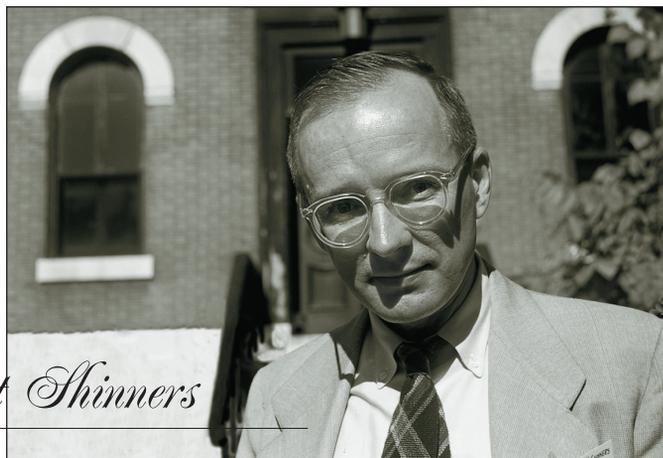


Lloyd Herbert Shinnners



LLOYD HERBERT SHINNERS (1918–1971) was born in Bluesky (population 16), near Waterhole in the Peace River country of northwestern Alberta, Canada, on September 22, 1918. He was the child of homesteaders who had come from Wisconsin apparently under the National Policy [of Building Up Canada]. At the age of five, his family returned to Wisconsin where he attended public schools in Milwaukee and graduated from Lincoln High School as valedictorian of his class. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and later transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Madison from which he graduated Phi Beta Kappa in June, 1940. He also received his M.S. (1941) and Ph.D. (1943—Grasses of Wisconsin) degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Shinnners came to Southern Methodist University in Dallas in 1945, became the Director of the Herbarium in 1949, and was on the faculty there until his death in 1971. Not only did he almost single-handedly develop the herbarium which today forms the core of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) collection, but he also created one of the best botanical libraries in the United States, did extensive field work, and published a total of 276 articles and a 514-page flora (Flook 1973). Under his supervision the SMU herbarium grew from ca. 20,000 to 340,000 specimens. His contributions to botanical nomenclature are also particularly impressive, totaling 558 new scientific names and combinations (Flook 1973). Among his most lasting achievements are the *Spring Flora of the Dallas-Fort Worth Area Texas* (Shinnners 1958a) and the journal, *Sida, Contributions to Botany*, which he founded in 1962 (Mahler 1973b). His *Spring Flora* was the first completed, original, technical book on Texas plants prepared by a resident of the state. It was extensively used by high schools, colleges, and universities as a textbook for classes, and is still in use today. Shinnners was also one of the organizers in 1953 of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists and was the first editor of its journal, *Southwestern Naturalist*. He was a tireless worker and an individual of varied intellectual pursuits ranging from poetry to linguistics, music, and a proficiency in seven languages. He once wrote “I sometimes feel too that all my passionate desire to be a scientist, compose music and to write philosophy at one and the same time are in some measure owing to the land I live in.” His love of America was reflected in his gift to the Fondren Library at SMU of many books on American history. To quote Rowell (1972), he was “... a ‘scholar’ in the truest sense of the word.” For synopses of Shinnners’ life see Correll (1971), Mahler (1971b), and Rowell (1972); for a guide to his botanical contributions see Flook (1973). Details given here about Shinnners’ life are from Correll (1971), Mahler (1971), Rowell (1972), and particularly from an extensive unpublished biographical manuscript by Ruth Ginsburg (1998), a BRIT archivist who has organized all of Shinnners’ correspondence and other papers. 🐾