Notes RBG Edinb. 40(2):374 (1982)

BOOK REVIEW

A classic mycological collection. The cost of books, particularly science books, soars, but frequently even then one does not receive value for money. In contrast the present book* is certainly exceedingly good value, indeed one can only be amazed at how it was possible to offer such a production at such a low cost. The book is a collection of the works of the famous Italian mycologist G. Bresadola, and covers a 45 year period.

This publication follows 'hot on the heels' of the reprinting by the same 'Gruppe' of the classic *Die Blätterpilze* and it is undoubtedly a great service the group is performing. These volumes come at a time when agaricology is reaching a critical stage in its growth. Many young taxonomists are entering the science but their institutes lack the essential works by the mycological pioneers. Bresadola's collected works are essential to all researchers in the field and their reproduction has long been needed; the present publication will fill many a gap in library stock.

The reproduction of the original papers is clear and the accompanying coloured illustrations, so important in agaricology, are fairly faithful to the original. Included in the book are works not only on agarics and related groups but also micro-fungi, including taxa from all parts of the world. Taxonomic and floristic articles from the hands of this prolific writer are found in journals ranging from the *Transactions of the British Mycological Society* and *Mycologia*, to many classic continental periodicals. An index to the 71 articles is given at the end of the book, along with a full index of the species mentioned.

A few of the articles are of joint authorship with P. A. Saccardo and H. Sydow, and a few have useful handwritten alterations to species names, field data, etc., in Bresadola's hand.

At the end of the book an appendix gives 37 unedited coloured illustrations covering 94 named and two unnamed collections; most bear Bresadola's handwriting.

This is a most valuable book and congratulations should be offered to Bruno Cetto and his colleagues for making these articles, difficult to hunt down in libraries, universally available so that everyone can appreciate and share in the joy of Bresadola's contributions.

ROY WATLING

* Bresadola, G. *Omnio Bresadoliana Extracta*. 1055pp. In unum collecta, Gruppe Micologico 'G. Bresadola', c/o Museo Scienze Nationali Casella, Postale 393 — Trento, Italy; 20,000 lira.