



UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Mr. Chancellor:

Dr. Pierre Dansereau has noted that his main research interest is "the comparative structure and function of vegetation in tropical to arctic climates". To this end he has carried out studies and field work in over 23 countries and in Baffin Island, the Magdalen Islands, the Cape Peninsula, Montreal district and other parts of Quebec, and has visited over fifteen development projects from the Yukon to Newfoundland. At his time, with a closed environment, we should say "Pierre Dansereau's life continues to take its total form".

Born in Montreal, in 1911, he attended "Jesuit" College Notre Marie, with one year at Collège du Sacre-Coeur, Saultoy. In 1931 he received a B.A. degree at the Université de Montréal.

As an member of the Royal Canadian Navy, I can assure this audience that he now made a decision which undoubtedly was responsible for his subsequent success. He "signed on" as a sailor and surveyor's assistant aboard H.M.S. Acadia and travelled to Halifax, Britain and later, again "signed on" as a sailor aboard H.M.S. Wes, I, Toronto, and voyaged through the Frensham Canal to Victoria, British Columbia.

In 1934 after studying agronomy, he received a B.Sc. Agr. degree from the Université de Montréal and, in 1939, he received a D.Sc. degree from the Université de Guelph, and was appointed Botanist at the National Botanical Garden.

In 1940 he became Assistant Director of Technical Services, National Botanical Garden and Assistant Professor of the Institut Botanique, Université de Montréal. In 1942 he became Assistant Professor at the Institut de Biologie at the Université de Montréal and worked in genetic biology for the Biological Bureau of the Quebec Game and Fisheries Department. From 1942 to 1947 he lectured at Macdonald College. He was founder and the first Director of the Service de Biogéographie, established at the Université de Montréal by the Quebec Provincial Government.

From 1947 to 1948 he held a Research Fellowship from the Brazilian Government for ecological studies on the rivers and fauna of Brazil, and was appointed Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Sciences, Université de Montréal.

In 1950, he was Chief Botanist of the Baffin Expedition in Baffin Island, organized by the Arctic Institute of North America. He was appointed, Assistant Professor of Botany at the University of Michigan, becoming Associate Professor in 1952. In 1955, he was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Science and Director of the Institut Botanique at the Université de Montréal.

In 1961 he was appointed Adjunct Professor of Botany at Columbia and Institute of Ecology at the New York Botanical Garden. In 1967 and 1968 he was Visiting Scholar at the Cornell University of Botany, holding the Thomas Alva Edison Chair. In 1968 he was appointed Professor of Ecology, Institute of Systems, Faculty of Environmental Design, Université de Montréal. In 1971, Dr. Dansereau was appointed Professor at Université de Québec and Executive Director of the Centre des Recherches Écologiques de Montréal. He is now a Visiting Professor at the University of Waterloo.

Dr. Dansereau is an outstanding example of the adage that, if you want something done, pick a busy man. He has served as an officer or member of at least 25 national and international societies.

He is a member of the Science Council of Canada and is Chairman of its Programme on Urban Development.

He is author or co-author of numerous scientific articles, and two books, Biogeography, an Ecological Perspective, and "Conservation and Evolution". He was Editor of The Ecological Review and Consulting Editor to Conservation and Plant Ecology for the McGraw Hill Encyclopedia of Science. Dr. Dansereau should have the title "Research Grant (Dames & Moore Foundation)" for, since 1969, he has received 12 grants for research and field studies from 11 research, research, foundations and societies.

Dr. Dansereau has been the recipient of many honours and awards. Some of these are an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, 1943; Honorary Doctoral Degree from the University of Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Université de Sherbrooke, Université de Moncton, St. George Williams University and the University of Waterloo; Comptroller of the Order of Canada, 1968.

Mr. Chancellor:

In the name of the Senate of the University of Guelph, I request you to confer the Degree of Doctor of Science (honoris causa) on Pierre Dansereau, a man who has been patient and slow things.

UQAM

Texte d'allocution présentant Pierre Dansereau, récipiendaire d'un doctorat honorifique en sciences de la University of Guelph - 1973

Fonds d'archives Pierre-Dansereau
Université du Québec à Montréal. Service des archives et de gestion des documents
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