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Dahlia

Compositae
[*Asteraceae*]

Dahlia commemorates a Swedish botanist and physician, Dr. Anders Dahl (1751-1789) who was a pupil of Carolus Linnaeus, founder of the modern scientific nomenclature for plants and animals. At the end of 1769 he and his schoolfriends set up The Swedish Topographic Society in Skara for which between them they contributed reports on the natural history of the region, as well as its topography, geography, economy and historical monuments. In 1776 he became curator of the private natural museum and botanic garden of the Swedish naturalist, Baron Claus Alstroemer (1736-1794). Then in 1787 he began teaching botany and medicine at The Royal Academy of Turku (which became the University of Helsinki in 1809) and died in this appointment. Parts of his herbarium can be found at the University of Helsinki's Botanical Museum and at botanic gardens Edinburgh. His most important published work is held to be *Observationes botanicae circa systema vegetabilium divi a Linné*.