

Dedication:
Norman Willison Simmonds
Plant Breeder, Teacher, Administrator

William Spoor

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Norman W. Simmonds's long and distinguished professional career has centered around three major crops, namely, bananas, potatoes, and sugar cane. Along the way, he has made additional substantial contributions in other crops, to plant breeding in general, to general taxonomy, economic botany, and tropical farming systems. In all these fields he has contributed creatively and provocatively. His output has been enormous, diverse, and profound.

CAREER

Norman Willison Simmonds was born in Bedford (England) on December 15, 1922. His father was a civil servant and his mother of Scottish (Perthshire) farming stock, the Willisons, from whom he takes his middle name. Norman attended Whitgift School in Croydon from 1934 to 1940 and from there won an Open Exhibition (scholarship) to Downing College, Cambridge. At school he was stimulated, as were so many budding botanists, by Cecil T. Prime, that notable teacher. While at Cambridge, he was much influenced by Professor D. G. Catcheside, who