

# Dr. Geoffrey Alton Craig Herklots

## The Hong Kong Rotarian Botanist

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Dr. Geoffrey Alton Craig Herklots (香樂思) (1902 – 14 January 1986), was British botanist, ornithologist, and author who made significant contributions to the understanding of the natural history and agriculture of Hong Kong and the Caribbean. He was an Active Member of Hong Kong Rotary Club (香港扶輪社) in the 1930-40s holding the Classification “Education – Science” when he was Reader in Biology of the University of Hong Kong (香港大學) from 1928 until 1941. During this time, he was a key figure in local natural history circles, notably as an editor of 《The Hong Kong Naturalist》 journal.

Herklots was captured when the British Crown Colony Hong Kong surrendered to the Imperial Japan during the Pacific War (1941–1945), and he was held as a Prisoner of War at Stanley Camp (赤柱拘留營). His expertise in agriculture proved vital in the camp, where he organized vegetable cultivation using locally produced compost to help sustain the internees. After the War was over he returned to London and joined the Colonial Service. From 1953 to 1960 he was Principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad, The Caribbean.

Herklots’ legacy is commemorated in the names of several species, including the orchid “*Eria herklotsii* Crib”, the longfin catshark “*Apristurus herklotsi*”, and the genus of fish “*Herklotsichthys*”. He passed away on 14 January 1986.

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