
Contents

1	Prelude: Heredity, Sex, and Species: The Greek View	1
	Heredity Counter Generation	2
	The Mutiny of Reason	4
	Change or No Change?	6
	Plato's Myth	8
	Aristotle and His Inventory of Reality	9
	The Hylomorphic Doctrine	14
	Aristotle's Theory of Change	16
	Aristotle's Concept of Animal Reproduction	20
	The Kinds of Animal	21
	The Origin of the Semen	22
	The Quest for the Female Semen	25
	The Origin of a New Individual	27
	Embryonic Development	27
	Generation in Plants	28
	Spontaneous Generation	29
	Aristotle's Theory of Inheritance	31
	Aristotle's Species Concept	36
	Where Modern Genetics Meets Old Aristotle	39
	How Does Mendel Fit into All This?	41
	References and Notes	42
2	Silesia and Moravia: Mendel's Tortured Homeland	45
	Geographia Mendeliana	46
	The Birth of the Land	48
	Prehistoric Moravia/Silesia	50
	The Language Tree of Europe	52
	The Path to Modern Europe	54
	The Ascension of the Slavs	58
	Western Slavs' Search for New Homeland	59
	Lands of the Czech Crown	60
	Lužice (Lusacia)	60
	Slezsko (Silesia)	61

Morava (Moravia)	62
Čechy (Bohemia)	64
A Kingdom Granted and a Kingdom Stolen	65
Islets of German-Speaking People in the Czech Lands	68
Origin of Mendel's Genes	72
References and Notes	73
3 The First Decade: The Childhood of a Farmer's Son	75
Kravařsko	76
The Odry Domain	80
Hynčice and Veselí	86
Ancestors	90
The Surname	102
Parents	103
Teachers and Philanthropists	109
Farmstead No. 58	116
Johann Mendel Is Born	121
The Sisters and Other Relatives	125
The State of the Empire	127
A Day at Home with the Mendels	129
A Year of the Natural Cycle on Anton Mendel's Farm	132
A Year in a Village	137
The Birth of a Naturalist	147
A Momentous Decision	148
Inevitability and Serendipity: Part 1	149
Postscript: Mendel's Nationality	150
References and Notes	152
4 Johann Mendel's <i>Lehrjahre</i>: The Second Decade	157
Lipník nad Bečvou	159
The Empire's Schools	164
The <i>Prämiant</i>	169
Opava	170
Olomouc	176
Inevitability and Serendipity: Part 2	185
References and Notes	187
5 The Third Decade: The Vow	191
The City on Two Rivers	191
The Augustinians	198
The Abbey of St. Thomas at Staré Brno	200
The Novice Gregor Mendel	212
Abbot Cyril Franz von Napp (1792–1867): Scholar, Diplomat, and Moravian Patriot	216
The St. Thomas Quartet and the Other Augustinians	223
Philosophy and Linguistics at the St. Thomas Abbey	227

Music at the St. Thomas Abbey	232
Natural Sciences at the St. Thomas Abbey	238
Plant and Animal Breeding in Moravia and at the St. Thomas Abbey	242
An Overgrown Path	249
The Road to Priesthood	252
The Troubled Shepherd of Souls	256
The Patient Mendel	257
Inevitability and Serendipity: Part 3	260
References and Notes	261
6 Into the Fourth Decade: The Failed Professor	267
The Year of Revolutions	268
Time Jerked the Curtain: And the World Had Changed!	269
Calm Spring and Hot Summer in Prague	272
1848 in Brno	275
Revolution Knocks at the Gate of the St. Thomas Abbey	277
The Revolt of the Friars	280
The Bach Decade of Darkness	285
The Birth and Death of Kakanian	286
The Bishop's Throne in Brno	287
An Apostolic Visitation	291
Napp's Dilemma	297
Znojmo: One Year in Haven	298
Preparing for an Examination	303
Jacta Alea Est!	305
The Examiners	306
The Essays	309
Behind Locked Doors	313
Viva Voce	318
Substitute Teacher at Brno's Technical Institute	320
Rushing to Vienna	322
The Imperial-Royal Capital and Residence: Vienna	323
The University of Vienna	327
Getting Settled at Vienna	332
Student of Physics	336
Natural History at the University of Vienna	341
Student of Botany	343
The Lackadaisical Student of Zoology	350
Student of Chemistry	352
Student of Paleontology and Mathematics	355
Membership in a Society and the First Publications	356
Private Life in Vienna	358

Visit in Hynčice	360
Failed Examination: Act Two	361
Substitute Teacher at the <i>Oberrealschule</i>	366
What Had Mendel Learned in Vienna?	370
References and Notes	371
Index	383