

**Fearnside, P.M. 2015. That Glorious Forest:
Exploring the Plants and their
Indigenous Uses in Amazonia. By.
Ghilleen T. Prance (New York Botanical
Garden Press, Bronx, New York). NYBG
Press website.**

<https://www.nybgpress.org/Promotions/Reviews/ForewordGloriousForest.pdf>

Review of:

That Glorious Forest: Exploring the Plants and their Indigenous Uses in Amazonia. By Ghilleen T. Prance (New York Botanical Garden Press, Bronx, New York).

In reading of a lifetime of explorations in the widest variety of Amazonian ecosystems one can't help but become aware of both the tremendous geographical scope of Ghilleen Prance's work and of his sustained commitment to it. Prance has made extraordinary contributions to improving knowledge of Amazonia, to training generations of Amazonian researchers and to helping tell the rest of Brazil and the rest of the world about the importance of this great region.

Readers of this book can't escape gaining a gut impression of some of Amazonia's features that they probably already know on an intellectual level: the vastness of the region, its diversity and its vulnerability. One also sees some of the region's human inhabitants whose friendliness and helpfulness have often been critical to Prance's journeys. People living in remote parts of Amazonia rely on ingenuity and strength in the face of hardships that are beyond the imagination of many a soft urban dweller.

As the book recounts Prance's travels to remote places beginning in the mid-1960s, those of us who have seen some of the same places today will find the book a constant reminder of the pace and scale of change. Some of those remote places aren't so remote any more, but others are much as Prance found them. The book serves as a healthy reminder of how many places have had both their natural ecosystems and their traditional human cultures destroyed, and how many more are now the focus of plans that will presumably lead to similar destruction if the pattern of development remains unchanged.

Philip M. Fearnside

National Institute for Research in Amazonia (INPA)

Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil