

## Editorial

### The Jan H. Stock Valedictory Issue



Professor Jan H. Stock at the age of 59 (photo: Louis A. van der Laan, spring 1990).

Professor Jan H. Stock, an inspiring zoologist of international fame (born 22 February 1931), will retire from the University of Amsterdam at the end of this year. It is his wish to settle in his beloved island Curaçao in the Netherlands Antilles and there to continue his taxonomic and zoogeographic researches, especially on Crustacea and Pycnogonida. So, we may expect many more "Amsterdam Expeditions to the West Indian Islands" reports in the years to come, either by Jan Stock himself, or by others, based on material collected by him.

Meanwhile, the editorial board of *Bijdragen tot de Dierkunde* will lose a most remarkable and energetic editor. Jan Stock has led our editorial board for 23 years in a very dynamic way. When he took over the editorship from his predecessor, Professor H. Engel, in 1968, the journal was a sedate, beautifully printed elite periodical appearing only once a year. As early as 1970, he made it appear biannually with a more attrac-

tive cover. During his editorship the total number of pages published per year grew considerably, resulting in the recent decision (1989) to publish *Bijdragen* quarterly. He stimulated the editorial activities and maintained contacts with the authors in an easy, uncomplicated way. As for its contents, *Bijdragen tot de Dierkunde* means *Contributions to Zoology*; it was Jan's adage that articles for *Bijdragen* should always contribute something new to zoology — he saw to it that they did.

Jan Stock has been the scientific leader of the Institute of Taxonomic Zoology (Zoölogisch Museum) ever since his installation as Professor Ordinarius in systematic and geographic zoology on 1 September 1968. On the occasion of his farewell, not only *Bijdragen tot de Dierkunde*, but also our two museum journals *Beaufortia* and *Bulletin Zoölogisch Museum Universiteit van Amsterdam* will publish commemorative issues, together matching the Professor Max Weber 70th anniversary issue of *Bijdragen* (vol. 22, issued 1922). The total number of contributed papers amounts to 60. An extensive biography by Steven Weinberg and Willy van Zijl will be published in *Bulletin Zoölogisch Museum*. The same article will include the lengthy bibliography of Stock's scientific oeuvre, containing 448 titles up to 1990 — proving that he is a very prolific author indeed.

The remaining articles will be divided equally between *Beaufortia* and *Bijdragen*. As usual, the contents of *Beaufortia* will be predominantly taxonomical, whereas the present J.H. Stock issue of *Bijdragen* includes roughly the following major themes: evolution, phylogeny, zoogeography, genetics, ethology, developmental biology, history of zoology, and taxonomy. The animal groups concerned are as varied as one might expect from an all-round zoological journal. However, the (often stygobiontic) creepy crawlies — Stock's favourite amphipods, parasitic copepods, pycnogonids, etc. — are predominating of course.

We thank Professor S. van der Spoel for acting as coordinating guest editor for this special issue.

F.F.J.M.P.