

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORY OF BOTANICAL SCIENCE.

Although this journal is more particularly destined to contain the results of taxonomical and geographical studies, it may sometimes provide accomodation for subjects of a different, though kindred nature. The more so, when an item is concerned, which is, in some way or another, closely allied to the editing institution.

The apparently long-forgotten XVth Century MS., rediscovered in the library of the Rijksherbarium, is therefore a worthy subject for a series of papers under the general title proposed above. It has been carefully transposed into modern type, as may appear from the quotations given. Both the entire rewritten MS. and the original may be consulted in the Rijksherbarium and I avail myself of this opportunity to request the interest and, if possible, the cooperation of anyone, who may know something to solve the problem of its origin.

As has been mentioned in the introduction, the first 35 pages as well as the title are wanting. It may be suggested, that this part is preserved in some other library, though it not necessarily needs to be dealing with the same subject. Anyhow, we would be greatly obliged, if we could be informed as to the lacking part.

The MS. was shown to Prof. H. P. BLOK, MS. keeper of the University Library (cf. text below), to Dr. F. W. T. HUNGER, the well-known connoisseur of herbals and botanical MSS. and to Dr. P. C. MOLHUYSEN, director of the "Koninklijke Bibliotheek" at The Hague. Neither of these gentlemen could identify the MS. with any book known to them. I am pleased to tender them my best thanks for the kind interest they took in the matter.

The MS. collection of the University Library of Leiden does not contain anything which could be considered as the part wanting. However, it is possible that the MS. hails from the collection of VOSSIUS, the greater part of which is preserved at Leiden, being originally a private collection of Queen Christina of Sweden (cf. Catalogue of the so-called MSS. Chymici Vossiani, by GRONOVIVS, 1716, p. 359 s. s.).

Any information on the matter will therefore be greatly appreciated.

It may be added that Dr. LITJEHARMS and Dr. VAN OOSTSTROOM intend to deliver some more contributions to the series started herewith. The Rijksherbarium owns some old herbaria, which deserve to be more universally known, such as a herbarium, ascribed to BOERHAAVE, the magnificent herbarium of BAUWOLFF ( $\pm$  1575), the Ceylon herbarium of P. HERMANN, the *Plantae rariores Borussiacae et Cassubicae* of BREYNE and a herbarium presumably also collected by BREYNE in the neighbourhood of Danzig.

The Editor of "Blumea".