



IN MEMORIAM J. TH. HENRARD

Dr. Jan Theodoor Henrard, former curator of the *Gramineae* at the Rijksherbarium, died at Leiden 28 August 1974, in his 93rd year.

Among the staff-members of the Rijksherbarium there are only a few left who have known Dr. Henrard, as he retired in 1946 on reaching the age of 65. They will remember him as an enthusiastic taxonomist with a great love for the variation of living nature. He was always busy analyzing the often very slight differential characters of importance in the family to which he devoted a great part of his life, the Grasses.

He was also interested in floristics in general, however, having an excellent knowledge of the flora of the Netherlands, but also of other parts of western and southern Europe. We have made many an excursion, either together or with students. He especially liked the latter as he was born a teacher, and his enthusiasm was ever stimulating.

Henrard was born at Maastricht, 16 October 1881. After school, he studied pharmacy at Groningen University. His own preference was for biology, from which study he was dissuaded as the prospects seemed not very good. Hence he became a chemist, at first in Gorinchem, later on in The Hague. His latter residence was not far from Leiden, and thanks to his great knowledge of the Dutch flora he came soon in contact with the Rijksherbarium. This contact developed into an appointment as a part-time assistant in 1916, followed by a full-time curatorship in 1921. From that time on he could devote himself fully to the work he loved so much.

In 1946, on the occasion of his retirement, the 3rd Supplement to *Blumea* was dedicated to him; this included a biography by W. A. Goddijn (p. 4—6) and a bibliography compiled by H. J. van der Hee (p. 6—9). The latter shows that from 1911 to 1921 he was mainly engaged with the Dutch flora, including the adventives. In 1921 appeared the first of a series of papers on *Gramineae*, culminating in two big monographs, in 1929 his thesis on *Aristida*, in 1950 the only botanical publication that has to be added to his bibliography: 'Monograph of the genus *Digitaria*', Leiden, xxi+999 pp.

After his retirement he could not execute his further plans in botany because of his bad sight: he lost his right eye in 1940 in a traffic-accident, later on the other one was also damaged. However, he could still go on for some time with work in his second field of interest, malacology; in the course of many years, he had assembled a very rich collection of mollusks, and he was one of the founders and for some years the president of the 'Nederlandse Malacologische Vereniging' (Dutch Malacological Society).

Though handicapped in his later years by his bad sight and his deafness, Henrard could look back on a well-spent and happy life as a man and as a scientist.

S. J. VAN OOSTSTROOM