

IN MEMORIAM G. J. DE JONCHEERE (1909-1989)

On 8 January 1989 Gerardus Johannes de Joncheere died at the age of 79. He was an honorary staff member of the Fern section at the Rijksherbarium from 1974 to 1988, but his interest in Ferns dated already from before World War II. He always told that the purchase in 1939 of Backer & Posthumus, Fern Flora of Java, had started him, more or less by accident, on this group. In the course of time he acquired a sound knowledge of Ferns and after he had retired from his position as a director of a shipping-company, he still further developed his scientific interest.

At the Rijksherbarium he became accepted as a knowledgeable colleague, although he did not publish much in the line of original research. He played, however, an important role in the identification of incoming Ferns and in reorganising the Ferns in the herbarium.

He celebrated his 70th birthday during an expedition to Sulawesi, Indonesia, in 1979 and it is gratifying that an account of a number of novelties collected by him during that expedition was published a month before he died, still in time for him to see it.



G. J. de Joncheere
(Photograph J.F. Veldkamp, June 1988)

De Joncheere revised the Fern chapters in the well-known Flora of the Netherlands in 1983 and as a consequence his name and expertise became known outside pteridological circles. This led to the award of the Silver Carnation, a Dutch decoration given to people of extraordinary cultural merits outside their profession. His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard personally presented the decoration in the Royal Palace at Amsterdam in 1985. At the Rijksherbarium we all considered that as a well-earned distinction.

When De Joncheere felt that his declining health made it impossible for him to continue his pteridological work, he resigned as an honorary staff member and we said farewell on 3 June 1988. At that occasion I expressed our gratitude for his efforts in favour of pteridology and our institute.

As so many others in the world, we are glad to have known him and to have enjoyed his charming personality.

C. Kalkman

Bibliography of G.J. de Joncheere

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Eponymy:

- Asplenium* × *joncheerei* D.E. Meyer, hybr. nov. — *Willdenowia* 2 (3), 1960: 332.
- Davallia dejoncheerei* Hovenkamp, spec. nov. — *Blumea* 33 (2), 1988: 408.

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