

INTRODUCTION TO THE JUBILEE VOLUME

Our 150th anniversary is commemorated in a rather modest way and it is not our intention to make it an important international event. However, we decided to dedicate part of Blumea to the jubilee, not only in order to bring our anniversary to the attention of our colleagues abroad, but also in order to bring the historiography of our institute more or less up to date.

The last time the history of the Rijksherbarium was written, was on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its residence in Leiden. The conservator W. A. Goddijn then published a rather lengthy paper in Dutch and a short summary in French, in the Mededeelingen van 's Rijks Herbarium, nr. 62a/b, 1931. Since that time there have been spectacular changes in the work and position of the institute and in fact the Rijksherbarium of 1979 is not at all like the Rijksherbarium in 1930. It seemed not superfluous, therefore, to publish a new historical survey.

A jubilee is a good opportunity to present historical surveys but it is also a very good opportunity to evaluate the present and to look into the future. Therefore the present state of affairs, and the future as far as can be extrapolated from it, figures heavily in many of the essays of the present volume.

That Dr. P. Smit was willing to act as co-editor for this jubilee volume, was a great relief for me. His critical remarks to the manuscripts have without any doubt increased the quality of the essays and the authors have valued them very much.

Mrs. S. D. Peletier-Bridgwater and dr. P. Baas are acknowledged for their linguistic advices.

Looking back, I think that generally speaking the Rijksherbarium has done a good job. I hope that this will also emerge from the contents of this volume. I trust that we will continue to be useful for systematic botany, pure and applied, scientific and popular, in many different fields.

C. Kalkman, director



C. L. Blume (1796–1862)
Director 1829–1862
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