



**Dr. Simon Jan van Ooststroom**  
**Photograph Ruth van Crevel, 1972**

### IN MEMORIAM Dr. S.J. VAN OOSTSTROOM

On 28 September 1982 Dr. S.J. van Ooststroom died at the age of 76. He retired in 1971 from his office as senior botanist at the Rijksherbarium, the institute where he worked for 37 years.

Simon van Ooststroom's main botanical interest was the vascular flora of the Netherlands, including the adventitious and more or less naturalized members. The most authoritative flora of our country, known as Heukels–Van Ooststroom, was revised and edited by him for many years. Also in *Flora Neerlandica* he treated several families, many of them in collaboration with Th.J. Reichgelt. Numerous smaller papers bear witness of his knowledge of the Dutch flora, especially also the adventitious species. This makes it understandable that Dutch botanists, layman or professional, usually came to Simon with their identification problems.

Another lifelong interest of him has been the family *Convolvulaceae*. After his appointment at Leiden he paid special attention to the Malesian area as witnessed by his treatment of the family in *Flora Malesiana* (in collaboration with R.D. Hoogland), but he also wrote several papers regarding other parts of the globe.

As a third field of interest history must be mentioned: Heraldics and the history of Leiden were two topics in which his historical interest could find an outlet, but he also wrote several papers on old herbarium collections and old botanical drawings.

At the occasion of Van Ooststroom's retirement, short biographies were published by Van Steenis (*Blumea* 19, 1971, 1–2) and by Maas Geesteranus (*Gorteria* 5, 1971, 97–101, in Dutch, accompanied, p. 101–115, by a bibliography by Vogelenzang). In these papers his importance for the Rijksherbarium and his scientific accomplishments are well covered, so there is no need to repeat this all. An additional bibliography, covering the years after his retirement, will be published in *Gorteria*, together with a more elaborate 'In memoriam' than here presented.

After his retirement he saw two editions of his *Flora* through the press but he decided to leave the 20th edition, which will be published in 1983, to younger colleagues. Until 1979 he was also still active in the preparation, together with his successor J. Mennema, of the annual list of new records of rare species for the Netherlands which is published in *Gorteria*, the journal on Dutch flora and vegetation which he founded in 1961. Some other studies were performed, e.g. on *Crataegus* and *Polygonum aviculare*, but on the whole his plans for doing a lot of work after his retirement were frustrated by his declining health and by sad events in his personal life.

His many friends will remember him as a kind man who was always willing to share his extensive knowledge.

C. Kalkman