

THE RIJKSHERBARIUM, 150 YEARS OLD

On March 29 and 30, 1979, the Rijksherbarium at Leiden commemorated in a modest way its foundation by King William I, 150 years ago.

On the first day of the celebration a large company, including several distinguished foreign botanists, gathered in the old central building of the University for a festive meeting during which a number of speakers dwelt upon past, present and future of the Rijksherbarium as well as on its role in botany.

On the second day a symposium was held on the future of plant taxonomic research in the Netherlands and an exposition was opened which gave an attractive survey of collections of and work at the Rijksherbarium. Another exhibition of botanical illustrations from the vaults of the Rijksherbarium opened its doors a few weeks later, followed in mid-summer by an exhibition on the relation between plants and animals, organized in co-operation with the Museum of Natural History at Leiden, in the Leiden Botanical Garden.

Also in print, ample attention has been given to the Rijksherbarium jubilee. A profusely illustrated fascicle of the University journal TCHAF, titled '150 Jaar Rijksherbarium', has been widely distributed among the workers of the Leiden University. A part of *Blumea* Volume 25 Part 1 has been transformed into a jubilee volume, edited by C. Kalkman and P. Smit, entitled 'Rijksherbarium 1829-1979', containing a series of English papers on the history of the Rijksherbarium, its collections and its activities, among which a contribution by J. van Brummelen (pp. 83-87) on mycology and lichenology at the Rijksherbarium.

For those subscribers of *Persoonia* who do not receive *Blumea* and did not receive the jubilee volume as a gift, a limited number of copies is still available.*

* To be requested from: Mr. L. Vogelenzang, Librarian of the Rijksherbarium, Schelpenkade 6, Leiden.