

II. OBITUARIES AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

*All biographical materials will be highly welcome at the
Rijksherbarium library, c/o Dr. M. Jacobs*

B e c c a r i, Odoardo (1843-1920)

H.E. Moore Jr, Odoardo Beccari (1843-1920). *Principes* 25 (1981) 29-35, portr. His trips and bibliography on palms.

E v e r i s t, S. L. (1913-1981)

On 21 October, 1981, Dr. Selwyn L. Everist, past director of the Queensland Herbarium, died in hospital in Brisbane, after a period of intermittent ill health. He commenced work at the Herbarium in 1930 and graduated from Queensland University with a B.Sc. in 1936. Following the retirement of Mr. W.D. Francis in 1954, he became Government Botanist, a position which was later changed to Director, Botany Branch and the Queensland Herbarium, Department of Primary Industries. He retired in 1976 (see *Flora Malesiana Bulletin* 30, 2745-2746). He was awarded an honorary Ph.D. on

the basis of written work. Dr. Everist will be best remembered for his work in the field of economic botany. He published numerous articles on weeds and poisonous plants and his book Poisonous Plants of Australia will remain the definitive text in its field for many decades. He received a copy of the second edition of his book just one day before he died. The considerable addition of material following the first edition is testimony to his activity in 'retirement'. He was a good herbarium administrator, though he most enjoyed working in the field. He was always willing to provide assistance to herbarium botanists throughout Australia and overseas and he was very supportive of the Flora Malesiana project.—R.W. Johnson.

F u r t a d o, C. X. (1897-1980)

A.G. Alphonso, Caetano Xavier Furtado, 1897-1980. Gard. Bull. Sing. 33 (1980) 301-302, portr.

K a m, Y. K. (died 1981)

A considerable loss to Malesian botany was the death of Dr. Y.K. Kam (Kam Yee Kiew) of the Science University, Penang, Malaysia; unexpected and premature, cutting off a rich research potential. Dr. Kam obtained her B.Sc. and M.Sc. at the University of Malaya (1967 and 1969) and her doctorate at the University of British Columbia. She published several important papers in anatomy and morphology, which showed a highly able and profound mentality coupled with excellent judgment and a talent for meticulous laboratory techniques. In recent years Dr. Kam had been working on the Zingiberaceae, and had spent a sabbatical leave at Edinburgh with Rosemary Smith, also working closely with B.L. Burtt and, at Penang, her colleague, Dr. Reno Beltran (in cytology). A large program focussing on the Zingiberaceae had been started. Apart from her talent and skill Dr. Kam was both dedicated and enthusiastic and a delightful personality. There are so few like her, of her calibre, and her passing away is a serious blow to botany in Malaysia. (It is hoped that some of her work presently in manuscript can be prepared for publication). A bibliography of her work is to be prepared also.—B.C. Stone.

K o s t e r m a n s, A. J. G. H. (born 1906)

Kostermans seventy-five is the title of a paper by M. Jacobs, Reinwardtia 10 (1982) 9-20 + portr. To page 10, top, note that the Director of the Rijksherbarium found it in this form too long for the FMBulletin, not for publication elsewhere.

Not mentioned in the above paper is, that after his return to Bogor, Kostermans entered the service of BIOTROP, Box 17, Bogor, as a botanist, working as hard as ever. We wish him well!

L i n n a e u s, C.

M.N. Karavaev & I.A. Gubanov, Reliquiae of Karl Linné in the herbarium of the Moscow University. Bull. Moscow Soc. Nat. 86(3) (1981) 79-85, 3 fig. In Russian. Account of 30 sheets of a herbarium which were used by Linnæus in his Species Plantarum and other works; 24 flowering plants; 2 ferns; 3 mosses; 4 algae. Their evaluation.

Manuel, Monte G. (died 1981)

Dr. Manuel left the University of Malaya in April 1981 and accepted a post at the University of Nairobi in Kenya. There he was stricken by a sudden heart attack and died much too early at the age of 34. Tributes and biographies will be appearing in various journals, especially in *The Bryologist*. Dr. Manuel's post has been filled by a keen young Malaysian, Dr. Haji Mohamed. Dr. Manuel fortunately left a completed manuscript entitled A Generic Moss Flora of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore and this has now been published by the National Museums, Kuala Lumpur, in their journal (*Federation Museums' Journal*, new series, vol. 26, part 2, 1981). The publication was seen through the press by Dr. B.C. Stone and Dr. Haji Mohamed. Some extra copies are available to bryologists, who should write to them; institutions may obtain copies from the Museum itself. The work is a unique contribution to Malaysian botany and will undoubtedly see much service in the University here (and perhaps elsewhere) in the Malaysian region. In Manuel's meticulous style, it will quite probably become a 'classic'.

Nedi (Bogor, 12 or 13.v.1913 - Bogor, 7.viii.1981)

Although he had only two years of primary school and never published anything, Pak Nedi was known the world over. Everybody who had plants to identify at the Herbarium Bogoriense turned to him, and as he always succeeded, he was truly indispensable. His memory for plants was proverbial. With his lean body full of energy, he went on naming plants after his retirement, on Saturdays and Sundays as well. He died of a heart attack.

He came from a family with ancient ties to the Herbarium; he was a grandson or grand-nephew of Sapei who worked there for a long time and also was famous among botanists for his gifts of identification; see *pages 2514-2516*. Sapei taught Nedi the characters of plants; there was an involvement of the European staff in this, but it was not essential. Nedi began work in the Herbarium at 15, in August 1928; in November 1934 he was officially appointed as 'mantri', and in 1952 reached the highest level open to him, the rank of 'sinder' (from the Dutch word for overseer). At the end of 1969 he was pensioned. To supplement his meager income thereafter, he made his identifications 'free lance'.

This work was done without the aid of publications, purely from memory, in the herbarium, climbing the bamboo ladder to the tins and making comparisons until a matching specimen was found. It was the kind of 'refined botanical detective work' described on *page 2518* as was also practiced by F.H. Hildebrand, but with less literacy; in fact, Nedi was just able to write down a botanical name, for which he had his own determinavit labels, and understanding his pronunciation of plant names took some training. But he was right in a surprising number of cases. One of his latest discoveries was unearthing among *Memecylon* spp. a sterile specimen of *Dactylocladus* (Crypteroniaceae), the first record of this genus in New Guinea; *Fl. Males. i 8* (1977) 201b.

Adroit and effective, he was excellent in the field, too; he accompanied me to East Java in 1957. As written in *Flora Malesiana i 1* (1950) 381-382, with a good portr., *5* (1958) 73, *8* (1974) 69, he collected in

the Moluccas in 1937, in Borneo in 1955, in New Guinea in 1967. Also in private life he was quite a fellow. In *Pewartia* LBN no. 101: 1 (1981) it is reported that during the Indonesian struggle for independence just after World War II, Nedi hoisted the red-white flag on the Herbarium building. Married in 1931, he fathered 10 children, and after the death of his wife in 1976, he married in 1979 Anah, then 18, and fathered another 2 children. They lived in a bamboo house in Bogor with hardly any furniture. The burial was simple; enveloped in a white cloth he was laid to rest under tall shady culms of bamboo, with Kostermans and Gregory Hambali attending for the institute to which he had given so much during 53 years of brain-racking work.

Abarema nediana Kostermans (Mimosaceae) was named in his honour. The field workers whom he helped with inexhaustible enthusiasm and his immense amount of practical knowledge, and who seldom bothered even to check Nedi's names, will appreciate his work for a long time to come; so will herbarium taxonomists who fully realize his value.

Thanks are due to Messrs. Kartawinata, Kostermans, Nooteboom, and Van Steenis, for information. — M.J.

P o l a k, Betje (1901-1980)

A.J. Havinga & J. Muller, In memoriam Betje Polak (1901-1980), pioneer of peat research in the Netherlands and in the tropics. *Acta Bot. Neerl.* 30 (1981) 337-343, portr., bibliogr. See *page 3546*.

S h a w, Herbert Kenneth Airy (born 7.iv.1902)

We are glad to extend congratulations to Mr. Shaw, whose 80th birthday was celebrated at Kew recently. The 'Airy', his mother's maiden name, is used only in botanical and entomological publications; it was never attached legally (with a hyphen) to his surname.

He was born in Woodbridge, Suffolk, England, as the son of a master at the local grammar school. At 19, he entered Corpus Christi College in Cambridge, taking up classics, but in 1923 switched to botany. Of his teachers, Gilbert-Carter (systematics) influenced him most; he also kept up a correspondence with Claridge Druce of Oxford. In July 1925 he left the university and obtained a junior post at Kew shortly thereafter. He worked in several departments, making friends with N.Y. Sandwith, E.W.B.M. Milne-Redhead (who later married his sister; he himself remained a bachelor), also V.S. Summerhayes and C.E. Hubbard. He also was in rather close contact with T.A. Sprague, on matters of taxonomy, early botanical literature, nomenclature, and Latin. "Sprague's mannerisms," Mr. Shaw wrote in a 4-page account of his life kindly prepared on my request, "provided an endless source of merriment, especially for Sandwith and myself. Sandwith was an irrepressible mimic, and Milne-Redhead and I were often in near hysterics watching him 'take off' Sprague in some absurdity or other."

During World War II, part of the Herbarium was evacuated to places in the country safer from air attack than Kew, and Mr. Shaw went to live in Gloucester till the end of the war to curate the material. This involved naming specimens from North Borneo, and with this, his interest in Euphorbiaceae began. After his return to Kew, he was put in charge of the Indo-Malesian section of the Herbarium, and was also nominally respon-

sible for the Index Kewensis. But he did not like it at Kew as before. "In 1950 I was sent to attend the International Botanical Congress in Stockholm and had to attend all the nomenclature sessions, which I found quite deadly." Differences of opinion with Dr. J. Hutchinson developed, for instance over the Sphenocleaceae (which he wrote up in Fl. Males. i 4: 27-28. 1948), and on his 50th birthday he sent in his resignation as a civil servant. On account of this, A.A. Bullock wrote an informative paper, with nice portrait, in Taxon 1 (1952) 133-134. A later portrait is in Fl. Males. i 4 (1949) cxxviii.

The other line of his life, which he pursued henceforth, dated from 1923, when he joined the Inter-Collegiate Christian Union of Cambridge, which had a profound influence on his life and led to many friendships. For years, he resided in several Christian guest-houses, including Forest Hill in SE. London, where he went to edit a Christian journal and other literature.

In 1958, Sir George Taylor approached him about a return to Kew under auspices of the Bentham-Moxon Trust, to prepare a new edition of Willis's Dictionary of all generic names. Reluctantly he accepted; the work had no direct connection with his previous work at Kew, although he obviously was qualified. It occupied him for 6 years, during which he studied the limits of many plant families, and established quite a number of new families himself. Another edition was soon called for; it appeared in 1973. It is a marvel of accuracy and completeness.

Back in the Kew orbit, he resumed his studies on Euphorbiaceae of Indo-Malesia and Australia at genus and species level. He published accounts for Thailand, then for Borneo (see *page 2637*), then for New Guinea, then for Australia (see *pages 3616-3617*), then for Sumatra (see Bibliography, this issue). While the Kew Bulletin was the main channel for his publications — which together cover a wide taxonomic spectrum — he wrote in several other journals. In the Author Catalogue of the Royal Botanic Gardens Library / Kew, England 1 (1974), there are c. 79 items listed, not complete, however (e.g. his account of *Pisonia* in Kew Bull. 7: 87-97. 1952, and Thymelaeaceae-Gonystyloideae in Fl. Males. i 4: 349-361. 1953, are wanting).

His glossy bald head, with the very kind blue eyes behind his spectacles, is a veritable dome of knowledge. His life-long love for entomology resulted in a large number of papers in The Entomologist's Monthly Magazine and others. He learned Russian and translated several works from that language into English, also wrote an appreciation of Komarov (Proc. Linn. Soc. 162: 114-116. 1950). He apparently also knew enough Portuguese to summarize a work on the vegetation of Angola into English (J. Ecol. 35: 23-48. 1947). Unselfishly, he is always ready to help in the identification of Malesian plants. Not before 1974 did he see the tropical plant world in the fresh state, when on the invitation of B.P. Hyland, he made a trip to N. Queensland; he went again in 1976.

Perhaps he is a bit too modest, certainly in proportion to what he has contributed to the Malesian botanical endeavour. We are happy to have him in our midst, very regularly in the Kew Herbarium. — M.J.

Steinberg, C. H.

Professor Carlo H. Steinberg, Conservator of the Florence Herbarium, died at Fiesole on 16 March 1981.

Vermulen, Pieter (1899-1981)

Orchidologist who mainly worked on temperate taxa, and in 1956 collected in Sumatra, Java and Bali (Fl. Males. i 5: 94-95. 1958), died at Heiloo on 25 November.

Vickery, Joyce Winifred (1908-1979)

Australian agrostologist; see *page 3373*. Obituary by Alma T. Lee in *Telopea* 2 (1980) 1-9, incl. bibliogr. + portr. The issue was dedicated to her memory; see L.A.S. Johnson's appreciation on p. i-ii.

Wallich, N.

R. de Candolle & A. Radcliffe-Smith, Nathaniel Wallich, MD, PhD, FRS, FLS, FRGS, (1786-1854) and the Herbarium of the Honourable East India Company, and their relation to the de Candolles of Geneva and the Great Prodromus. *Bot. J. Linn. Soc.* 83 (1981) 325-348, portr. Historical details about Wallich's work and collections.

Westermann, Jan Hugo (i.vi.1907-10.v.1981)

On the European side of the WWF involvement in Indonesia, Westermann was the pivot. Main steps were the establishment of the Netherlands Gunung Leuser Committee (1970), the Tripartite Agreement (between the Indonesian Conservation Service PPA, WWF Netherlands Appeal, and WWF Headquarters in Switzerland, 1975), and subsequent agreements, with an Advisory Committee chaired by himself. His efforts in conservation in Indonesia date from 1936, however. His death (at Hilversum) was expected, but he remained active to the last. Now, one year later, the magnitude of this loss becomes apparent to the full.

Most obituaries so far (by P. Wagenaar Hummelinck in *Nieuwe West-Indische Gids* 55: 104-107, portr. 1981, and in *Sticusa Journaal* no. 77: 12. 16 July 1981; and by K.H. Voous in *Vogels* no. 4: 147, portr. 1981, all in Dutch) deal with his amazingly wide and fruitful work on the Dutch Antilles in the Caribbean. Yet his achievements with regard to Indonesia seem at least as grand in scope. Two brief articles (in *Panda* 14: 19. 1978 and 17: 83. 1981, both with portr.) commemorate his services for WWF Netherlands Appeal, of which he was a founder (1962) and Secretary (1972-77).

Born in Nieuw Loosdrecht, a village S of Amsterdam, as the third child in a family of 8 (father, C.J.W., was a newspaper editor, mother was E. le Cosquino de Bussy), he was educated in a style of economy, free thought, and responsibility. In 1924 he took up geology at Utrecht. In 1930 he visited the Caribbean islands and Suriname, and in 1932 took his Ph.D. on a thesis *The geology of Aruba*. A paper, earlier that year, on the immorality of the circus, was probably his first step into the field of conservation.

Employed by an oil company, he was sent to Indonesia in 1936, and was stationed in Sumatra, SE. Borneo, and W. New Guinea. In 1939 he went to work in Venezuela, and in 1943 moved to Australia to prepare himself for a function in the civil service after World War II. Indeed in 1945 he

joined Governor Van Mook as an aide in Indonesia, to help the government getting organized. In 1946 he left for Colombia, in the service of Shell, but in 1947 he gave up this promising career in oil for a poorly paid function at the Office Nationale pour la Protection de la Nature, the forerunner of IUCN, which was then at Amsterdam. In 1949 he became director of a small bureau to collect and divulge information about the Dutch Antilles, compiling two important works on these islands. From 1953 till his retirement in 1972 he held a high executive post in the Netherlands Organization for the Advancement of Pure Research (ZWO) and its branch for the tropics (WOTRO). Thereafter he spent all his time on conservation. His nomination as Officer of Oranje Nassau (1965) testifies to his qualities as an administrator.

He held many functions, and often for long periods. In addition to those already named, he sat on the International Council for Bird Preservation, in the society for conservation of the Wadden Sea, the Netherlands Commission for International Nature Protection, the Studiekring Suriname and Antilles, to name a few. To illustrate further his grasp, let me add that it was he who helped the small Canadian organization Greenpeace take a foothold in Europe, whence it expanded to earn its worldwide repute, that he helped establish the Dutch society for defense of the environment, and took a large part in the preparation and launching of the World Conservation Strategy in 1980, with a steering committee for the follow-up.

As a true 'depression man' he knew how to achieve great things with small means. A master in the art of formulation, with utmost economy of words, he operated with wonderful efficiency, in correspondence and conversation. A fast thinker, with excellent memory, he never lost patience nor time. His enormous knowledge and meticulous preparation of meetings made him the key person in many structures, part of these his own making. Thus of the G. Leuser Committee he was the chairman, secretary and treasurer combined, which naturally reduced the role of the other members. Highly diplomatically he listened to all possible people, whatever their nationality and intention, always giving them the benefit of the doubt. These factors made me feel superfluous in the Committee, and I resigned in October 1976. Our relations remained cordial, however.

A scholar to be respected, he wrote (anonymously) a very complete, extensively documented digest on the conservation situation in S. and E. Kalimantan (in 3 Jaren Indisch Natuurleven, p. 334-411, maps + fig. 136-153. 1939) and one for western New Guinea (Ned. Comm. Intern. Natuurbesch. Med. 13: 9-107 + 8 phot. + map. 1947), and an overview of conservation organization and legislation in Indonesia (in P. Honig & F. Verdoorn, ed., Science and scientists in the Netherlands Indies, p. 417-424, fig. 117-120. 1945).

While fully at home in the world of paper, he was fond of travelling and outdoor life. In Fl. Males. 1 1 (1950) 569-570 he is on record as having collected a few plants in SW. New Guinea. He kept up his geology throughout, but also was an excellent editor, who would painstakingly correct a text if asked to do so. There was an air of unobtrusiveness about him, which again was part of his intellectual and administrative

efficiency. He wanted no part of pomp or parade, after one meeting, he just quickly went off to the next. Yet he found plenty of time for reading, cultural events, and family life, and is said to have been an excellent grandfather. After the death of his first wife, M. Nugteren (they had two daughters) he married Loes J. van der Steen, biologist for the Antilles at Utrecht, to whom I am indebted for her kind cooperation to this paper. — M.J.

W i g h t, Robert

R.K. Basak, Robert Wight and his botanical studies in India. *Taxon* 30 (1981) 784-793. Brief obituary; full bibliography of Wight's works.