

III. PERSONAL NEWS

(continued from page 2315)

A list of 296 ecologists of various description but more or less connected with Malesia occurs in Wallaceana no. 3 (Oct. 1974), a supplement of 183 in no. 4 (April 1975). Editor Dr. J.I. Furtado, School of Biological Sciences, University of Malaya, Pantai Valley, Kuala Lumpur.

Please notify the Editor of the FMBulletin of any change in address, which he will be glad to communicate here.

Mr. A. G. A l p h o n s o, Deputy Commissioner of the Singapore Botanic Gardens (the directorship no longer exists) visited the World Orchid Congress in Frankfurt in 1975 and spent some time touring in Europe.

Dr. R. C. B a k h u i z e n v a n d e n B r i n k Jr will be 65 on 11 September 1976, and therefore have to retire from the Rijksherbarium staff. Later it may be even harder than it is now to estimate the share he took in the spadework for the Flora Malesiana. So I asked him for some data on his career; these he willingly gave. Son of the elder Bakhuizen who was on the staff of the Bogor Herbarium from 1917 to

1935, he grew up in botanical surroundings. At age 4, on excursion with his father, he discovered in the top of a tree S of Cianjur an unfamiliar orchid, which J.J. Smith acknowledged as a new species, *Bulbophyllum scotiifolium*. In his most receptive years he systematically memorized plant names from Koorders's *Exkursionsflora*, which further stimulated him to look for rare plants. He thoroughly investigated the flora of Bogor and found c. 1400 species in one sq.km, and collected, at age 9-14, a herbarium of 3820 numbers (see *Fl. Males.* i 1: 32). The first record for Java of *Tribulus cistoides* in 1922 at Tg. Priok, is his discovery. C.A. Backer took pleasure in the boy and presented him with a copy of Backer & van Slooten, *Geïllustreerd handboek der Javaanse theonkruiden*, in 1924.

In 1925 he was sent to Holland to attend grammar-school, but kept extending his botanical knowledge. He studied biology at Utrecht, where an interest in nomenclature was nourished by A.A. Pulle and J. Lanjouw. As a young student, he donated his herbarium to the university, which made headlines in the newspapers of 11 April 1936. He had an interest in pharmacy and chemistry and on completion of his study was offered a post by Professor H.G. Bungenberg de Jong, in medical chemistry at Leiden from October 1942 till October 1943; later they published two joint papers in *Proc. Kon. Ned. Acad. Wet.* C 50 (1947) and 51 (1948). In December 1943, when he had taken his Ph.D. degree on a thesis *The Melastomataceae of the Malay Archipelago, especially the Netherlands Indies*, he was appointed at the Rijksherbarium, where the Dutch emergency edition of C.A. Backer's *Flora of Java* was being prepared. Bakhuizen worked up a variety of families; for most of which Backer (who now lived in Holland) had made manuscripts, but Apocynaceae, Araceae, Asclepiadaceae, Palmae, and Rubiaceae were still largely to be done. When after the war collections began to come in at the Rijksherbarium, Bakhuizen had acquired a wide working knowledge of families and genera, and developed a liking for pre-identification of such plants, from Malesia and eventually also from SE. Asia, the Pacific and tropical Australia. As such work is done best with two persons, Van Steenis and he soon became partners in this crucial business. While Van Steenis did most of the specimen handling, examining, and label writing, Bakhuizen did most of the thinking and giving names, chasing for days in the herbarium to master the difficult leftovers. Gradually they learnt to name most genera in a matter of seconds. From this work resulted a long series of 'Miscellaneous Botanical Notes', mostly written by Van Steenis to which Bakhuizen contributed for a varying percentage, sometimes as junior author. Another result is the stencilled Family Diagnoses, giving main char-

acters (especially vegetative) and exceptions of about 80 large Malesian families, in Dutch.

Bakhuizen was also consulted on the Flora voor de Scholen van Indonesië (in his spare time), the Mountain Flora of Java, in fact most works which contained many names and descriptions. He prepared a new forthcoming edition of Ochse's Vegetables of the Dutch East Indies. He also dealt with many of the Latin translation problems the Rijksherbarium staff had to meet, and prepared or checked countless Latin diagnoses.

Nomenclaturally, even after Merrill's work, there was much left to be done in Malesia when in 1950 the Flora Malesiana was founded, and Bakhuizen naturally found a task. He dug deeply into validation problems, read much in Adanson, the *Amoenitates Academicæ* and other Linnaeana, in Dennstedt, and the other authors of the crucial decades after 1753. Over a period of ten years, he regularly, at home, studied Pritzel's *Thesaurus* (preferably the first edition of 1851), trying to commit all of the c. 100,000 references to memory, in combination with the expanding corpus of Dates of Publication. In 1953 he was appointed member of the IAPT Committee on Spermatophytes, till 1975. Nomenclature is by tradition an emotion-laden affair, and things were not always easy. In an outburst of rage he checked Flora Malesiana volume 4 against all the original publications. What followed was a considerable number of *Corrigenda* in that volume, and since that time, standards of documentation have been at the high level that nowadays is considered natural.

In this respect, he made good Backer's indifference to nomenclature. Not much needs be said on their Flora of Java because it is so well known. Far less obvious, and hence here more interesting, is his work on the Rubiaceae. Notorious for its size and chaotic state, this family, which in Java alone appeared to have 75 genera (incl. 11 only cultivated ones), promised much work and, for the first years, little fame. Bakhuizen found the genera exceedingly difficult to define, often having to reach far beyond Java, which challenged his stubbornness. He began examining the small group of the Vanguiereae which Robijns had revised for Africa, and gradually went further, shaping the stones for a new subdivision of the family. When at Aarhus as a guest-professor, he prepared a survey of the genera of Rubiaceae in Thailand, with a view on Malesia as well; this MS is now in the press with the Thai Forester. When W. Meijer in North Borneo had problems in the Naucleaeae, Bakhuizen undertook to revise this exceedingly difficult group.

Bakhuizen also discovered C.E. Ridsdale, who on a visit to the Rijksherbarium had stayed in his house and whose interest in Rubiaceae appeared to be as fanatical as his own. He pro-

posed Ridsdale as B.A. Krukoff botanist and so a cooperation developed, in which knowledge on Rubiaceae was shared to a maximum extent so as to enable Ridsdale to carry on the work. This naturally suited Bakhuizen's helpfulness, which has so much determined his career, surrounded as he always has been by men of initiative and vision who could and did use his knowledge effectively and loyally.

Similarly, he likes to coach students who come to work up a Malesian genus for 9 or 12 months, and showed several the ropes of herbarium botany. I wonder what they thought of him: an unassuming man, very kind, who rides a ladies' bicycle, does not care to impress others but is glad if nonetheless this happens, never operates a typewriter, is fond of cigars, collects French novels, and on request almost mumblingly divulges the most exquisite bits of botanical knowledge. He sometimes starts things for others to finish, or more often finishes things begun by others. It is easy to be mistaken by his scientific modesty, and a lack of deserved esteem he may feel for years afterwards, but things can always be put straight with him.

What he has done for the Flora Malesiana, unobtrusively and unselfishly, is really beyond estimate. For thirty years he sat at the right hand of the General Editor, answering questions and responding to requests, and always went to great length to do it well, this being his point d'honneur. So we wish him good health and hope that he will continue to give us the benefit of his learning. He is really indispensable.

Dr. M. M. J. v a n B a l g o o y came back to Leiden in August 1975 after a year as senior lecturer at the new Ke-bangsaan University at Kuala Lumpur. This had been established a few years before in order to have a Malay language university. There are several faculties; in science emphasis lies on the applied branches. Experience and books were still scant, staff is enthusiastic but stays often for a short period. Salary was the same as in 1970, the year of founding, though prices have doubled in the meantime. Funds were not lacking, however, and there was much opportunity for field work. Two trips were made to the Langkawi Islands, with much undisturbed vegetation. In the centre of Pulau Langgun a lake was found, an exception on limestone. Also to Taman Negara a trip was made. A dam is there under construction to support a lake which will drown c. 160 sq.km of the park area. It is one of the frequent assaults on nature reserves which the Malayan Nature Society tries to fend off, sometimes with success.

There are four classes of citizens in Malaya: the Bumi Putra, islamics of true Malay extraction; Naturalized for-

eigners like Chinese and Indians; Orang Asli, natives of rural areas; and Expatriates. Conservation laws do not apply to Orang Asli, presumably because a number of them have to make their living off the primary forest. So a person who wants to trade in butterflies or birds or reptiles can get around the law by contacting the Orang Asli, which works very satisfactorily except to the butterflies, birds and reptiles.

The University Kebangsaan has a Herbarium of c. 3000 numbers mostly collected during field trips, and run by Mr. Kassim R e j a b, an experienced collector formerly at Singapore. Duplicates are present and might be made available, but packing may be difficult.

Van Balgooy investigated the viability of seeds eaten by bulbuls, and found that in Cordia cylindristachya (Borag. from South America) germination is better if eaten by the bird than if not.

He collected about 750 numbers, to be distributed by the Rijksherbarium, where the material has already been sent by him.

He also prevented the biology department to reduce its courses in taxonomy, lest the example be followed of the Science University of Penang where taxonomy has been completely removed from the curriculum.

He derived much pleasure from his membership of the Malay Nature Society, participated in its many excursions, and found many friends there, although too few people of true Malay origin, who prefer to study nature indoors.

Dr. W. L. C h e w (= Chew Wee Lek) has left the Sydney Herbarium to take up an appointment with IUCN, 1110 Morges, Switzerland. He is in charge of the 'Asia Desk', which covers all of (sub)tropical Asia, Malesia, and Australia. He will receive information and coordinate the conservation efforts of IUCN for the region. Bad for the Urticaceae of Malesia he was revising, good for the other plants. We wish him fortitude in his fight for the forests. The Urticaceae, being second-growth plants to a large extent, will probably survive anyway.

Mr. M. J. E. C o o d e at Kew gave up work on the Mascarenes Flora, to take another position in the same Herbarium, with Mr. R.D. Meikle.

Mr. Paciente A. C o r d e r o Jr of the Manila Herbarium hopes to take a Ph.D. in algology at Kyoto University, Japan, in March 1976.

On 12 January 1976 Professor E. J. H. C o r n e r reached the age of 70. His book *The Life of Plants* (1964) was reviewed on page 1152-4; *The Natural History of Palms* on page 1439-41. With the small genera of the Moraceae ready for the press,

only *Ficus* still needs some updating; then his huge account of this family for the Flora Malesiana can be printed.

He studied natural sciences at Cambridge, where he was influenced by the teaching of A.H. Church, and took up an interest in fungi; his papers on *Discomycetes* in *Trans. Brit. Mycol. Soc.* (1929-31) are still by mycologists acknowledged as fundamental work. In 1929 he was appointed at the Singapore Botanic Garden and commissioned to write a book on the woody plants of Malaya. The result, *The Wayside Trees of Malaya* (1940, with on the cover one of his famous botanical monkeys), was packed with original data. It shows already his fascination with *Ficus*, for its sheer size and complexity, and as a key genus to evolution in the tropical world (page 1000-1004), a work branching out in the investigations of the Leiden zoologist J.T. Wiebes on the fig wasps (page 912-913). Meanwhile he kept his interest in fungi, and produced *A Monograph of Clavaria and Allied Genera*, 740 p. (1950). This book is based on a very great amount of microscopical work, in which he discovered the importance of hypha structure; he also found a relation between the size of basidia and cystidia and the number of spores in them (*New Phytologist* 46 and 47), demonstrating that 'looking small' and 'thinking big' can be united in one botanist. After two years as a UNESCO consultant to set up biological research in the rain forests of South America, he became lecturer and later professor of tropical botany at Cambridge.

The Durian Theory (*Ann. Bot. n.s.* 13) of 1949, repeatedly extended and affirmed in his subsequent works, has been disputed but still is the only comprehensive theory about origin and development of the tropical plant world as a whole. As is well-known, it derives thin small-leaved branches from thick large-leaved ones, and accepts durian-like fruits, with large, arillate, bright-coloured seeds as primitive. Co-evolution of plants and animals is by him asserted as essential for an understanding of how tropical ecosystems developed; his concept 'transference of function' cuts through the commonly accepted homologies and analogies. He has been champion of the view that more about botanical diversity can be learnt in the tropical rain forests than in the temperate laboratories. As a Fellow of the Royal Society he organized large expeditions, two to Mount Kinabalu, and one to the Solomons, which all resulted in impressive reports. His c. 120 publications now cover over 3000 pages; together they form the most revolutionary contribution to botany of this century.

He hates bureaucracy, giving the example himself: as far as I know, he never even bothered to have a secretary. Outspoken and impatient with people whom he does not think up to his standards, he felt disappointed that no successor in his Chair of Tropical Botany has been named at Cambridge that now

"has fallen back on that provincial outlook which bored me so much as an undergraduate". He grew a number of excellent pupils: P.S. Ashton, Chew Wee Lek, J. Dransfield, D.G. Frodin, miss F.M. Jarrett, E. Soepadmo, and T.C. Whitmore took their Ph.D. degree with him, and all have made their mark on Malaysian botany.

In his unconventional and colourful style, he can say much in a few words, and indeed my wife once said that Corner was the only botanist whom she enjoyed listening to while he was talking science. With his address on Conservation to the Leningrad Botanical Congress he is reported to have brought the house down. All this makes me longing for his forthcoming book, on the Seeds of Dicotyledons, convinced that it will be grand in scope, and original in facts and ideas. And we hope that much more work will follow. Good health!

Dr. J. Dransfield of Kew spent July-August 1975 in Malaya to study rattans, on which he will work during the next few years, in collaboration with Mr. N. Manokaran of Kepong.

Mr. R. Geesink has been appointed on 1 January 1976 on the Rijksherbarium staff, in the vacancy of Dr. C. F. van Beusekom, after the university had finally agreed to fill it. He succeeded Dr. R.C. Bakhuizen van den Brink as a member of the Flora of Thailand editorial board.

Mr. Gregory G. Hamballi of the Bogor Herbarium staff left on 30 August 1975 to attend the M.Sc. Course in Birmingham, U.K. for a year, where Mrs. Ninik Soetjipto already is. His address: 52 Oakfield Road.

Dr. Paul Hiepkotter at the B-Herbarium has been promoted to the function of Kustos (= curator) with the title of (chairless) Professor.

The celebration of Dr. R. E. Holttum's 80th birthday (see page 2477-2500) took place at Kew on 30 July 1975, during a long spell of hot weather. So the octogenarian orchidologist, pteridologist, zingiberologist, and bambusologist wore a flamboyant red shirt from Singapore, and was evidently the best-dressed person for the occasion. In the Jodrell Laboratory some 80 persons gathered, among them a delegation of 4 from Leiden. All were given a pamphlet containing a number of brief articles about Dr. Holttum, which will be printed in the Biological Journal of the Linnean Society. Waving it to keep cool and sipping a glass of sherry they admired the painted portrait already on display, and the Holttum chair, with cushions embroidered by his wife, who has long been active in decorating cushions for the pews in the Church of St. Anne (often with botanical motifs, like a

Rafflesia arnoldii in memory of R o b e r t B r o w n). Mr. J.P.M. Brenan, keeper of the Herbarium where Holttum has been working since his retirement from his professorship at Singapore in 1954, held a brief and very appreciating speech, and presented him with a picture of the Holttumara orchid, of which also a bunch had been placed on the table. Dr. C.G.G.J. van Steenis then came forward with a box containing a living *Platycerium holttumii*, recently described from Thailand, and a document to commemorate the occasion. Messages were read, one of them from the Singapore Garden Society which donated \$ 2000 for an annual R.E.Holttum prize for botanical research. Mr. Gunnar Seidenfaden on behalf of the SE. Asian Orchid Society handed him a medal in gold with his portrait on it. Miss I. Manton, president of the Linnean Society under whose auspices the event took place, gave him a copy of the British Fern Gazette vol. 11 number 2-3 with papers in his honour, and the portrait already mentioned, which will be given a place in the building of the Linnean Society. Dr. Holttum made a heartfelt reply of thanks. An informal dinner followed in the restaurant in the Kew Gardens, in an excellent atmosphere of esteem and friendship.

Perhaps I may add to the list of plants named in his honour (page 2483) that two pteridologists have named a son after Dr. Richard Eric Holttum: Dr. D.B. Lellinger at Washington, and Mr. Michael G. Price at Los Baños.

Dr. R. D. H o o g l a n d of ANU, Canberra, roamed from February to June 1975 along the Herbaria of Bogor, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Kepong, Bangkok, Calcutta, Dehra Dun, and Shillong, studying *Saurauia*, and hunting for material in the field in Java, Malaya, India, and Flores. For finalizing the Cunoniaceae for Flora Malesiana he has been granted a fellowship for a visit to Leiden in the course of 1976.

Dr. A. K a n i s of the CANB Herbarium in August 1975 became a liaison officer at Kew, for one year.

Dr. A. J. K o s t e r m a n s hopes to celebrate his 70th birthday on 1 July 1976, probably at the Rijksherbarium, Leiden. He has worked well over 40 years in the Lauraceae, on which he defended his Ph.D. thesis on 20 January 1936. Proficiat!

Mr. Domingo A. M a d u l i d of the Manila Herbarium arrived in Reading, England, in September 1975 to take an M.Sc. on a British Council fellowship.

Dr. J. K. M a h e s h w a r i is Acting Director of the Botanical Survey of India, now housed in the Botanic Garden, Shibpore, Howrah, Calcutta. He attended the IUCN Meeting at Kinshasa, September 1975, the MAB Meeting on Ecology of de-

ciduous forest systems of S. Asia in October 1975 at Varanasi, and one for Environmental planning of the Flora Wing of the Indian Board for Wildlife at Shillong.

Mr. Peter J. M a r t i n, a VSO volunteer from Britain, came to Kuching for work in the (sub)montane forests of Sarawak, phenology, and development of a botanical garden.

Mr. J. F. M a x w e l l, now with FAO, Maliwan Mansion, Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 2, Thailand, has become editor of the Tiger Paper. From this address, he keeps a fervid interest in Thai floristics, and has prepared a long memo on Utricularia.

Mrs. Andree Norma M i l l a r was on the honours list of 1974 and was nominated O.B.E., in recognition of service in the fields of horticulture and botany. She was formerly at the Lae Botanic Gardens, and is now Curator of the University Garden of Papua New Guinea Gardens, Port Moresby. Our congratulations with this distinction.

Dr. Francis N g of Kepong was appointed editor of the Malaysian Forester in January 1975; he had held the post already from 1965 to 1967. In July 1975, Dr. Ng was succeeded as President of the Malayan Nature Society by Mr. Moh. K h a n, Chief game warden of Malaya.

Dr. H. P. N o o t e b o o m will be transferred on 1 October 1976 from the Laboratory for Experimental Plant Systematics, Leiden, to fill the vacancy of Dr. R.C. Bakhuizen van den Brink at the Rijksherbarium. For data and portrait see Fl. Males. 18: lxxi, and Thesis Leiden.

Mr. C. P h e n g k l a i of the BKF-Herbarium worked at the Rijksherbarium from May to December 1975, on Diospyros, 55 spp., Elaeocarpaceae, 19 spp., Hamamelidaceae, 3 spp., Nyssaceae, 1 sp., all for the Flora of Thailand. He will now take up the Tiliaceae.

Our belated congratulations go to Manila, where Dr. E. Q u i s u m b i n g, a pupil of E.B. Copeland and E.D. Merrill's successor as director of the Philippine National Herbarium, in November 1975 celebrated his 80th birthday. For many years he was the pivot of Philippine botany, and it was a delight to know his exuberant personality. We wish him good health.

Dr. A. S. R a o became Deputy Director of the Northern Circle at Dehra Dun, of the Botanical Survey of India.

Dr. B. R o l l e t, plant ecologist, known a.o. for his work on the vegetation of Cambodia (page 2459), has been appointed as UNESCO representative for ecology in SE. Asia. Address: UNESCO, P.O. Box 273/JKT, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Dr. R. M. d e l R o s a r i o, of the Manila Herbarium, and now part-time professor in botany at U.P., is expected in April 1976 for a stay at the Rijksherbarium, to work on mosses with Dr. A. Touw.

Dr. M. S c h m i d has left ORSTOM at New Caledonia, and is now working at the Paris Herbarium on the flora of that island.

Dr. H. O. S l e u m e r, vigorously working up the Flacourtiaceae of the New World, celebrated 21 February 1976 his 70th birthday. He is the most productive taxonomist of the Rijksherbarium (see *Blumea* 19: 199-205 + portr. 1971) and intends to remain so for a long time to come. Effective 1 January 1976 he was appointed B.A. Krukoff curator for Neotropical botany, to revise the New World Flacourtiaceae. He will continue to live at Leiden, and work part-time there, part-time in American Herbaria.

Dr. Tem S m i t i n a n d has become a professor of botany at Kasetsart University, Bangkok. Fortunately, he keeps working at the BKF-Herbarium.

Miss S o e j a t m i Soenarko completed her work in Reading, U.K. on *Cymbopogon*, took her Ph.D. and returned to Bogor. There she is continuing her work on grasses, including bamboos. See Progress.

On 31 October 1976, Dr. C. G. G. J. v a n S t e e n i s will be 75, but to him, age has never meant much. May this be so for ever!

Dr. B. C. S t o n e spent most of 1975 on leave from the University of Malaya; he resumed work as usual from 1 November 1975. During leave he attended the XII International Botanical Congress and visited many herbaria in the United States, Canada, and Europe, working toward the goal of completing taxonomic study of the Pandanaceae. Considerable time was spent in Leiden and important collections at Berlin (the pre-war material of the family is intact) proved of great value.

Dr. I. G. M. T a n t r a completed his stay at Aberdeen by submitting his Ph.D. Thesis on *Sterculia*, then came to Leiden where Dr. C.G.G.J. van Steenis worked with him to prepare a MS on the genus for publication in *Reinwardtia*. In March 1976 he returned to Bogor, to become botanist in the Forest Experiment Station at Bogor.

Mr. John S. W o m e r s l e y, 55, left the Lae Herbarium in November 1975. Following the peaceful independence of Papua New Guinea on 16 September 1975, it looked as if he could stay on a contract basis, being entitled to retirement

already. But after returning from a world trip to attend the Leningrad congress and to visit a number of botanical institutes, he learnt that he could not get an extension after mid-1976, and regretfully decided to leave now.

This marks a turning point in an outstanding career, which after an education in Adelaide began in June 1946 with his appointment as Forest Botanist at Lae. He adroitly and energetically built up the Lae Herbarium, trying constantly to enhance its prestige, devoted to technical detail and suspicious of anything that might undermine the authority he had acquired under the rules he knew so well. He could be extremely rude but also very nice and generous, just as he chose, all in the interest of his policy. In Port Moresby he would buy a bagful of oranges for distribution among the personnel at Lae, who otherwise had no access to such good quality.

Botanical exploration for the Forest Department was conceived by him in the broadest sense, whereby he strengthened, we think, botany as well as forestry. He conducted an impressive program of collecting, and gave active support to others who came to visit high mountains and other places of less direct commercial interest. He invited specialists like D.H. Nicolson and B.C. Stone to work in aroids and pandans respectively, with great success. Through exchange of material he acquired a marvellous representation of the New Guinea flora. Some of his staff stayed long, others did not; the present publication program of the Lae Herbarium came into being quite recently. Mr. Womersley's knowledge of the botany of eastern New Guinea is far greater than he published, and we hope that he now will commit more of it to paper. He has settled near his married daughter in Adelaide, S. Australia 5041, where his initial address is 43 Carlisle Road, Westbourne Park. We wish him a happy and fruitful continuation. With him gone, Lae will never be the same again.