

V. HERBARIA, GARDENS, ORGANIZATIONS

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Herbarium, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKMB) — 25,569 accessions are computerized on Dbase 3/Foxpro; about 12,000 more are expected to be added in 1995.

An **International Meeting** sponsored by the Wye College, University of London, the Linnean Society of London, and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, will be held on 25–29 March, 1996. Papers are invited in all areas of bamboo study – taxonomy, anatomy, physiology, tissue culture, genetics, ecology, etc. Those intending to contribute to this meeting should contact the Organizing Secretary indicating the topic they wish to present: Dr. G.P. Chapman, Wye college, Ashford (Kent) TN25 5AH, UK.

MONOCOTS II and the Third International Symposium on **Grass Systematics and Evolution** — To be held 'over the week beginning 28 September, 1998' at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. Papers and posters will cover the classification of monocots and of particular groups such as grasses and orchids, while an interest has already been expressed on aroids and sedges:

Systematics	Macromolecular studies
Morphology and anatomy	Biochemical diversity
Development and evolutionary processes	Biogeography
Reproductive biology	

It is planned to publish the Proceedings. The Southern spring is a good time to see the wild monocots of Australia; field trips will be specified in the 2nd Circular to be received from Mrs. Karen Wilson, MONOCOTS II, Royal Botanic Gardens, Mrs. Macquaries Road, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia. Tel. 61-2-231.8111, Fax 61-2-251.7231, e-mail: karen@rbgsyd.gov.au.

The first shipment of the **Philippine Plant Inventory** duplicate specimens (c. 23,760 plants) have arrived at BRIT in March, 1995. Sets will be sent at least to A, K, L, US. PNH is sending duplicates to BO, CAHP, KEP.

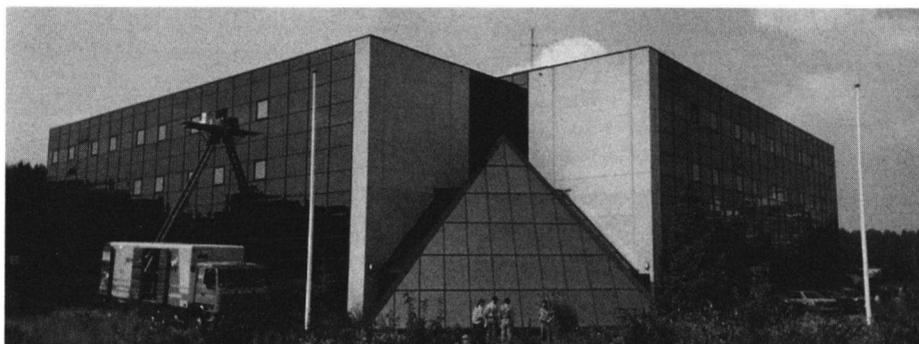
Development of a **Rain forest Interpretation Centre** was planned at the Arboretum site at Sepilok, Sabah, with financial support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) of Germany. Principal coordinators for this project are R. C. Ong (Head of Research), J. Tangah (Conservation), C.V. Chak (Research Support), A. Y. C. Chung (Entomology), and A. Berhaman and K.M. Wong (Botany, SAN). The Centre was expected to have been completed by early 1995.

Rijksherbarium moves to Van Steenis building

Between August and November 1995 the collections and herbarium staff of the Rijksherbarium/Hortus Botanicus have moved from their old premises at Schelpenkade 6 and Rapenburg 70-74 to the 'Van Steenis gebouw'. Large-scale removals are not new for the Rijksherbarium: as recently as 1963 we moved from the Nonnensteeg to the Schelpenkade buildings, a renovated industrial estate; in 1986 the collections of Phanerogams and associated research groups moved to the former University Library on the Rapenburg and now in 1995 the entire herbarium staff and collections are again united in the Van Steenis building. The only minus point of this move is the greater distance between the Botanic Garden and Herbarium.

The Van Steenis building is situated next to the Bioscience Park at about 15 minutes walking distance from the main railway station of Leiden, away from the city centre. It was originally built for a computer firm 'Infotheek' that went bankrupt, and was rebuilt to suit the requirements of a large herbarium by the Leiden University. Apart from the office building shown in the picture there is a larger building behind it with two huge halls for collection storage, rooms for collection management and cryptogamic botany staff, and laboratories. Although our institute is the main inhabitant, the building also offers space for the Centre of Environmental Studies (in the top floor of the office building), the administrative unit of the Biological and Environmental Departments of Leiden University, and teaching facilities for the undergraduate Biology programme. The new address is Einsteinweg 2, POB 9514, NL-2300 RA Leiden. Phone +31 71 5273515, Fax +31 71 5273511, e-mail: surname[e.g. Veldkamp or Roos]@rulrhb.LeidenUniv.nl

We hope that Mrs. Van Steenis will carry out the official opening ceremony of the building, whose inhabitants will hold Van Steenis's legacy of Malesian and Dutch Botany and concern for Nature Conservation in high esteem. — P. Baas.



Frontal view of the Van Steenis building during the move.
Photograph by courtesy of Alison Church (Harvard University).