

DR. M. A. DONK, HIS LIFE AND WORK

R. A. MAAS GEESTERANUS
Rijksherbarium, Leiden

(With Plate 16)

With the death of Dr. M. A. Donk on 2 September 1972 the mycological world has lost one of its great personalities.

Born on 14 August 1908 at Situbondo, Java, of Dutch parents, Donk went to a secondary school at The Hague and entered the University of Utrecht in 1927. He received his doctor's degree on 7 July 1933.

Donk, who had become interested in fungi as a schoolboy, joined the Dutch Mycological Society in 1925, was in close contact with the French mycologist H. Bourdot, and published his first scientific paper before his twentieth birthday.

After having been a teacher from 1934 to 1940 in the then Dutch East Indies, Donk was appointed Mycologist at the Herbarium of the Botanic Gardens at Buitenzorg, Java (now Herbarium Bogoriense) in 1941. Japanese internment camps followed from 1942 to 1945, a period which was capped by further catastrophe: on emerging from the camp he found that his three manuscript copies of an unpublished mycological text-book had vanished. To recover from the shock he seriously considered dropping mycology and becoming a pteridologist.

From 1947 to 1955 he held the post of Head of the Herbarium Bogoriense, and was appointed Professor (Extraordinarius) of Botany in 1952 at the University of Indonesia at Bandung.

On his return to Holland in 1956 Donk became Head of the Mycological Department of the Rijksherbarium. He started by lecturing to graduate students, but on more than one occasion he refused to accept a professorship in order to devote all his time to mycology proper. His scientific output amounts to more than 2300 pages.

In 1954 Donk was elected Corresponding Member and in 1962 Full Member of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences, while from 1964 to 1969 he was Secretary of the Biological Section of this Society.

From 1969 to 1970 Donk spent a year in the U.S.A. (Beltsville, Chapel Hill, Knoxville, New York, Pelston, Syracuse, Tucson) as a National Science Foundation Visiting Professor.

Donk bequeathed his personal mycological herbarium and famous card-index to the Rijksherbarium, which also acquired part of his library.

Although he became more and more interested in broad relationships rather than species, Donk had an extraordinary knowledge of many groups of fungi. In this he was undoubtedly helped by the versatility of his mind and his phenomenal memory. His juridical leanings and acute intellect inevitably prompted him to

express his opinion on nomenclatural matters. Small wonder therefore that demands were made on his services from many sides: he was Secretary of the Committee for Fungi and Lichens as well as a Member of the General Committee of the Nomenclatural Section, acting in this capacity during several International Botanical Congresses; during the Xth International Botanical Congress, Edinburgh (29 July—12 August 1963) he was Chairman of the Symposium on 'Criteria for classification in the Higher Basidiomycetes'; he was President of the Third European Mycological Congress, Glasgow (1-7 September 1963); from 1963 to 1966 he was a Member of the Advisory Board for Biological Sciences of the 'Netherlands Organization for the Advancement of Pure Research (Z.W.O.)'; in 1964 he became Chairman of the International Commission for the European Mycological Congresses, IUBS; in the same year he was elected Honorary Member of the British Mycological Society; from 1966 until his death he was a Member of the Board of Trustees of the 'Centraal-bureau voor Schimmelcultures', Baarn; he was an Invited Participant in the 'L. R. Hesler Symposium' held in 1968 at Knoxville, Tennessee; in 1971 he was Chairman of a Symposium on Heterobasidiomycetes at the First International Mycological Congress, Exeter.

Apart from the numbered publications listed below, there are several others, to which Dr. F. A. Stafleu kindly drew my attention. These were published in *Taxon* **3**: 25, 68, 75. 1954; **9**: 56-57, 267-268. 1960; **12**: 37-38. 1963; **13**: 178-180. 1964. Finally the generic name *Flagelloscypha* Donk was published apud Singer in *Lilloa* **22**: 312. 1951 ["1949"].

Donk maintained a detailed registry of his publications. It is inconceivable that he should have forgotten about those in *Taxon* or about the book reviews published from time to time in *Persoonia*. He simply did not put them on the same level with those enumerated below.

The following list of publications bears witness to the magnitude of his mycological work. This list is followed by a number of papers, mainly from authors abroad, collected in this Memorial Number as a lasting tribute.¹

The publications of M. A. Donk

Mycological (and related) publications.

1928

1. De geslachten *Cantharellus*, *Craterellus* en *Dictyolus* in Nederland. In *Meded. Ned. mycol. Ver.* **16-17**: 163-183.

1930

2. Nederlandse Basidiomyceten I. In *Ned. kruidk. Arch.* **1930**: 65-84.

¹ Although a certain uniformity in the arrangement of the diverse papers is essential, the authors have been given considerable freedom. They have also been left free in their choice between the use of μ or μm .

1931

3. Revisie van de Nederlandse Heterobasidiomycetae (uitgez. Uredinales en Ustilaginales) en Homobasidiomycetae-Aphylophoraceae. Deel I. *In* Meded. Ned. mycol. Ver. **18-20**: 65-200. (Reprinted, together with No. 4, in *Bibliotheca mycologica* **21**, 1969.)

1933

4. Revision der niederländischen Homobasidiomycetae-Aphylophoraceae II. *In* Meded. Ned. mycol. Ver. **22**. (Reprinted, together with No. 3, in *Bibliotheca mycologica* **21**, 1969.)

1941

5. Nomina generica conservanda and confusa for Basidiomycetes (Fungi). *In* Bull. bot. Gdns, Buitenz. III **17**: 155-197.

1948

6. Notes on Malesian fungi. I. *In* Bull. bot. Gdns, Buitenz. III **17**: 473-482.
7. Non-mycological.

1949

8. New and revised nomina generica conservanda proposed for Basidiomycetes (Fungi). *In* Bull. bot. Gdns, Buitenz. III **18**: 83-168.
9. *Gyromitra* F. versus *Gyrocephalus* Pers. (Fungi: Helvellaceae). *In* Bull. bot. Gdns, Buitenz. III **18**: 169-170.
10-11. Non-mycological.
12. Nomenclatural notes on generic names of agarics (Fungi: Agaricales). *In* Bull. bot. Gdns, Buitenz. III **18**: 271-402.

1950

13. Summary of proposals. An annotated compilation of proposed nomina generica and nomina confusa relating to Hymenomycetes (Fungi), compiled from previous publications (Mimeographed).

1951

14. The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes—I. "Cyphellaceae." *In* *Reinwardtia* **1**: 199-220.

1952

15. On generic type species indicated by misapplied names. *In* *Reinwardtia* **1**: 483-486.
16. Notes on Malesian fungi—II. On the genera *Auricularia*, *Hirneola*, and *Laschia*. *In* *Reinwardtia* **1**: 487-500.
17. The status of the generic name *Oxydontia* L. W. Miller ("Hydnaceae"). *In* *Mycologia* **44**: 262-263.

1953

18. Proposal for conservation of *Calocera* (Fr.) Fr. vs. *Corynoides* S. F. Gray (Mimeographed).
19. Proposal for conservation of *Lachnocladium* Lév. and *Ramaria* (Fr.) Bonord. (Mimeographed).

1954

20. Non-mycological.
21. Notes on resupinate Hymenomycetes—I. On *Pellicularia* Cooke. *In Reinwardtia* 2: 425-434.
22. The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes—II. Hymenolichenes. *In Reinwardtia* 2: 435-440.
23. The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes—III. "Clavariaceae." *In Reinwardtia* 2: 441-493.
24. On Staude's new generic names for agarics. *In Reinwardtia* 2: 495-498.
25. A note on sterigmata in general. *In Bothalia* 6: 301-302.

1955

26. The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes—IV. Boletaceae. *In Reinwardtia* 3: 275-313.

1956

27. Notes on resupinate Hymenomycetes—II. The tulasnelloid fungi. *In Reinwardtia* 3: 363-379.
28. The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes—V. "Hydnaceae." *In Taxon* 5: 69-80, 95-115.
29. The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes—VI. Brachybasidiaceae, Cryptobasidiaceae, Exobasidiaceae. *In Reinwardtia* 4: 113-118.
30. Notes on resupinate Hymenomycetes—III. *In Fungus* 26: 3-24.

1957

31. The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes—VII. "Thelephoraceae." *In Taxon* 6: 17-28, 68-85, 106-123.
32. Typification and later starting-points. *In Taxon* 6: 245-256.
33. Notes on resupinate Hymenomycetes—IV. *In Fungus* 27: 1-29.

1958

34. Typification of the name *Hydnum* (Fungi). *In Taxon* 7: 96-97.
35. The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes—VIII. Auriculariaceae, Septobasidiaceae, Tremellaceae, Dacrymycetaceae. *In Taxon* 7: 164-178, 193-207, 236-250.
36. Notes on the basidium. *In Blumea*, Suppl. 4: 96-105.

37. The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes—IX. "Meruliaceae" and *Cantharellus* s. str. *In Fungus* 28: 7-15.
38. Notes on resupinate Hymenomycetes—V. *In Fungus* 28: 16-36.

1959

39. Notes on 'Cyphellaceae'—I. *In Persoonia* 1: 25-110.

1960

40. The generic names proposed for Polyporaceae [= The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes—X]. *In Persoonia* 1: 173-302. (Reprinted in *Bibliotheca mycologica* 11, 1968.)
41. Nomenclature of conventional systems. *In Taxon* 9: 103-104.
42. On nomina anamorphosium—I. *In Taxon* 9: 171-174.
43. *Tylospora* nom. nov. *In Taxon* 9: 220.

1961

44. The citation of authors of revalidated names. *In Taxon* 10: 66-69.
45. Four new families of Hymenomycetes. *In Persoonia* 1: 405-407.

1962

46. The generic names proposed for Polyporaceae. Additions and corrections [= The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes—XIV]. *In Persoonia* 2: 201-210.
47. Notes on the basidium—II. *In Persoonia* 2: 211-216.
48. Notes on resupinate Hymenomycetes—VI. *In Persoonia* 2: 217-238.
49. The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes—XII. Deuteromycetes. *In Taxon* 11: 75-104.
50. Confusion. *In Taxon* 11: 120-122.
51. On Secretan's fungus names. *In Taxon* 11: 170-173.
52. The generic names proposed for Agaricaceae [= The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes—XI]. *In Beih. Nova Hedwigia* 5.

1962

53. On nomina anamorphosium—II. *In Taxon* 11: 243-245.
54. Notes on 'Cyphellaceae'—II. *In Persoonia* 2: 331-348.

1963

55. The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes—XIII. Additions and corrections to parts I-IX, XII. *In Taxon* 12: 113-123, 153-168.
56. *Claviceps* L. Tul. (1853) not illegitimate. *In Taxon* 12: 264-266.
57. Proposals for conservation of some names of fungi—I. *Monilia* 'Bon.' (Deuteromycetes). *In Taxon* 12: 266-271.

58. Introductory note. From N. Patouillard, *Essai taxonomique sur les familles et les genres des Hyménomycètes*. Reprint-edition.
59. Bibliographical note. From L. Quélet, *Les champignons du Jura et des Vosges*. Reprint-edition [It should be noted that Dr. Donk indicated 1963 as the year of publication of this note. The publishers recently assured me that 1964 as mentioned in their reprint-edition was an error].
60. The riddle of the Sphinx. *In Taxon* **12**: 309–314.
61. A conspectus of the nomenclatural status of names. *In Taxon* **12**: 314–319.
62. On superfluous names. *In Taxon* **12**: 319–329.
63. On the status of later homonyms. *In Taxon* **12**: 329–332.

1964

64. On nomina anamorphosium—III. *In Taxon* **13**: 14–17.
65. On some old species of Dacrymycetaceae. *In Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (C)* **67**: 85–102.
66. Nomina conservanda proposita. I. Proposals in fungi (Deuteromycetes, Pyrenomycetes, Hymenomycetes). *In Regnum veg.* **34**: 7–43.
67. A conspectus of the families of Aphyllophorales. *In Persoonia* **3**: 199–324.
68. [Index to] The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes I–IX, XII, XIII. Weinheim.

1965

69. The mycological publications of K. B. Boedijn. *In Persoonia* **3**: 325–330.
70. Veelvoudige overeenkomsten bij Hymenomyceten. *In Versl. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (Afd. Natuurk.)* **74**: 24–32.

1966

71. A reassessment of the Cyphellaceae. *In Acta bot. neerl.* **15**: 95–101.
72. *Cicinnobolus* Bary (Fungi, Sphaeropsidales). *In Taxon* **15**: 149–151.
73. *Osteina*, a new genus of Polyporaceae. *In Schweiz. Z. Pilzk.* **44**: 83–87.
74. Check list of European hymenomycetous Heterobasidiae. *In Persoonia* **4**: 145–335.
75. Notes on European polypores—I. *In Persoonia* **4**: 337–343.

1967

76. Notes on European polypores—II. Notes on *Poria*. *In Persoonia* **5**: 47–130.

1968

77. On *Cristella*. *In Taxon* **17**: 277–278.
78. Report of the Committee for fungi and lichens 1964–1969. *In Taxon* **17**: 578–581.

1969

79. Notes on European polypores—III. Notes on species with stalked fruitbody. *In Persoonia* 5: 237–263.
80. Notes on *Cantharellus* sect. *Leptocantharellus*. *In Persoonia* 5: 265–284.
81. Introductory note. From M. J. Berkeley, *Decades of fungi*. Reprint-edition.
82. Notes on European polypores—IV. On some species of *Ganoderma*. *In Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (C)* 72: 273–282.
83. On the typification of *Hexagonia* Pollini per Fr. *In Taxon* 18: 663–666 [= Notes on European polypores—V].

1971

84. *Paulliticium curiosum*, presumably an imperfect state. *In Gorteria* 5: 134–136.
85. Notes on European polypores—VI. *In Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (C)* 74: 1–24.
86. Notes on European polypores—VII. *In Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (C)* 74: 25–41.
87. Progress in the study of the classification of the Higher Basidiomycetes. *In Evolution in the Higher Basidiomycetes. An international Symposium* (Ed. R. H. Petersen) 3–25.
88. Multiple convergence in the polyporaceous fungi. *In Evolution in the Higher Basidiomycetes. An international Symposium* (Ed. R. H. Petersen) 393–420.
89. Notes on European polypores—VIII. *In Persoonia* 6: 201–218.
90. Notes on European polypores—IX. On some species of Hymenochaetaceae. *In Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (C)* 74: 405–421.

1972

91. Notes on European polypores—X. *In Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (C)* 75: 165–178.
92. Notes on European polypores—XI. On some species of *Tyromyces*. *In Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (C)* 75: 287–304.
93. The Heterobasidiomycetes: a reconnaissance—I. A restricted emendation. *In Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (C)* 75: 365–375.
94. The Heterobasidiomycetes: a reconnaissance—II. Some problems connected with the restricted emendation. *In Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (C)* 75: 376–390.

1973

95. The Heterobasidiomycetes—III. How to recognize a Basidiomycete. *In Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (C)*.
96. The Heterobasidiomycetes—IV. *In Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (C)* 76: 109–125.
97. The Heterobasidiomycetes—V. *In Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (C)* 76: 126–140.
98. Maratti's generic names for fungi. *In Taxon*.
99. *Racodium* Pers. not a genus of Lichens. *In Taxon*.
100. Notes on European polypores—XII. *In Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (C)*.
101. Check list of European polypores.

1974

102. Check list of European hymenomycetous Heterobasidiae. Supplement and corrections. *In* *Persoonia* **7** (4).

Non-mycological publications.

1948

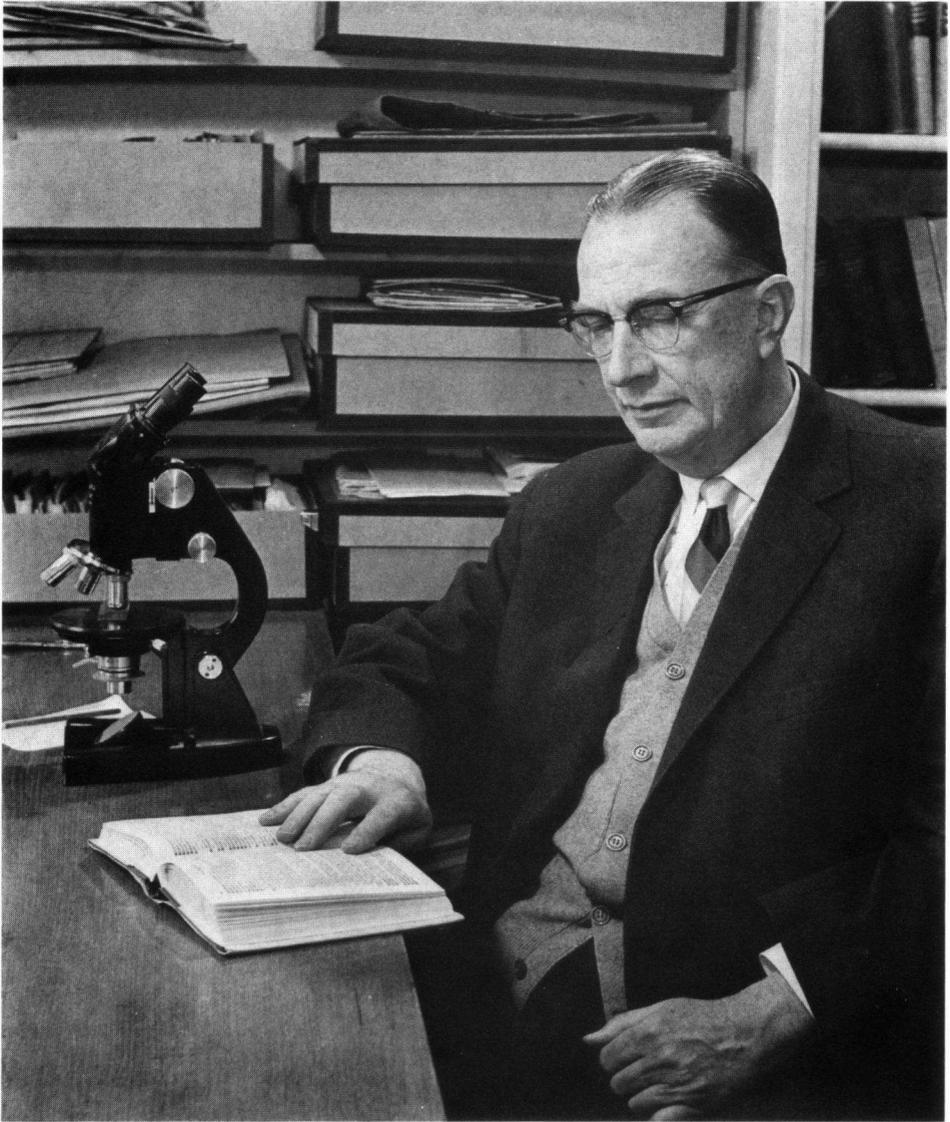
7. Genera Filicum (The Genera of Ferns) by E. B. Copeland (Review). *In* *Chronica Naturae* **104**: 281–282.

1949

10. Dr. O. Posthumus as a pteridologist. *In* memoriam. *In* Bull. bot. Gdns, Buitenz. III **18**: 171–177.
11. List of Dr. O. Posthumus' palaeontological publications. *In* Bull. bot. Gdns, Buitenz. III **18**: 178–180.

1954

20. Notes on Malesian ferns—I. On the genus *Lemmaphyllum* Presl. *In* *Reinwardtia* **2**: 403–410.



(Photo J. van Brummelen)

M. A. Donk

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