

## II. OBITUARIES AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

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

R.E.G. Pichi Sermolli & C.G.G.J. van Steenis, Dedication, Fl. Males. I, 9 (1983) (6)-(44), 3 portr.

Full biographical account of this versatile explorer in Sarawak, West New Guinea and Central Sumatra, and palm taxonomist, prolific writer in Italian whose work at Florence has been traced in detail, with bibliography, lists of published letters, list of maps prepared by him (several in New Guinea), biographical papers and travel accounts (also in Ethiopia), and some works about his plant collections. His considerable zoological collections are mentioned in passing.

H e n d e r s o n, M. R. (1899-x.1982)

Fl. Males. I, 1 (1950) 225-226, phot.; R.E. Holttum, Gard. Bull. Sing. 35 (1983) 235-236, phot.

It is with sincere regret that we announce the death of this veteran of Malayan botany, who initiated me in tropical field work in a joint trip to the Anambas Islands (S. China Sea) in 1928. Originally he was in the Museum's Department, Federal Malay States (1921-1924) and then became Curator of the Herbarium in the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, onwards of 1924. With an interruption during the war when he was by order evacuated to South Africa, he served the Botanic Gardens, since 1948 as assistant director and finally as director, retiring in 1954. He had an immense field knowledge and published many reports on local floras (Cameron Highlands, P. Tioman, Kuala Lumpur, the limestone hills of Malaya, etc.) and compiled a comprehensive monograph on the genus *Eugenia* in Malaya. To Malaysians he is best remembered by his most useful 2-volume work 'Malayan Wild Flowers'. To scientific botanists his very numerous, excellently annotated collections are a blessing. We will kindly remember the generous helpfulness of this very kind, reticent colleague.—Van Steenis.

( Mr. H.M. Burkill (Kew) wrote a paper commemorating Mr. Henderson and at the same time giving particulars on the 'vacillation of Government policy

towards botanical research' before the war. The paper is too long for this Bulletin but may hopefully be published elsewhere. A manuscript is kept in the Rijksherbarium library.— C.K. )

J a c o b s, Marius (19.xii.1929-28.iv.1983)

It is with great chagrin that I have to venture on a brief personal narrative of the life and work of Marius Jacobs, with whom I was in close contact over three decades, and to whom I — and so many others — are so much indebted. From his youth Marius was obviously attracted by plants, for in spite of a difficult time he had after being obliged to leave grammar school through financial circumstances, he managed to attend an agricultural college for three years, followed by a few months voluntary assistance at the Rijksherbarium in 1949. He could then enroll as a student at the University of Leiden for the state degree KIV (biology). He took an active part in students life. After obtaining his degree he was temporarily attached to the Flora Malesiana Foundation, working on various small botanical subjects, pending taking up a post in Herbarium Bogoriense, for three years, from January 1954.

During this three years' stay at Bogor he pursued taxonomic studies, amongst others on Capparis, later the subject of his thesis, but above all he became acquainted with tropical vegetation on various expeditions in Java, Sumatra and North Borneo, praising the mentorship of Dr. Kostermans. This stay in the tropics laid the definite basis for his devotion to tropical plant life and the necessity and virtue of conservation. From February 1959 he joined the Flora Malesiana staff, working out the taxonomy of Salicaceae, Malpighiaceae, Capparidaceae, Juglandaceae, and finally Violaceae. He also worked on the variability of the tree genus *Pometia* (Sapindaceae), his paper becoming a classic in exposing the masses of 'paper species' described from the tropics. All the work he performed was well-considered, meticulous unto detail, and complete, and has stood the test of time, due to the exemplary devotion and care in all he did, whether it was a taxonomical problem, the making of the itinerary of A.F.G. Kerr in Siam, an inventory of abbreviations in Identification Lists, the setting up of experiments for explaining domatia in plants, selecting the equipment and preparation for an expedition—especially that to Persia—or filling the co-editorship of *Flora Malesiana Bulletin* from n. 17 (1962) onwards, not worrying too much about the distinction between major and minor issues. All things he found interesting and of good purpose in the fields he would support, often at the expense of his own time, and this led frequently to great help to colleagues whose work was causing frustration. In some way he felt attracted to defend lame ducks and was challenged by lost or controversial cases. Resourceful as he was, he could often make clever suggestions and find ways and means, amongst others for opening later the possibility of publishing the *Mountain Flora of Java*.

The period 1962-1965 was busy, he preparing himself for academic degrees, with the doctor's degree awarded in 1965.

In later years he pursued his taxonomic work, but remained keen on field work, with expeditions to Luzon, South Sumatra, New Guinea, and East Celebes, gradually coming under the spell of nature conservation which

he found more important. This superseded his personal taxonomical research, which soon came to a standstill. Though a conservationist myself — show me any tropical botanist who is not! — I never approved of this sine qua non decision and would have preferred a more harmonious output; Jacobs confined his share in promoting taxonomical work to supervising work of students and in assisting other collaborators with arranging MSS and initiation of new projects.

Soon Marius became a member of the Netherlands Commission for International Nature Protection and was instrumental in the exploration of the Leuser complex in North Sumatra. With one of his students he compiled a large, selected, well annotated "Conservation Literature on Indonesia", a bibliography especially aiming to disclose the work done in earlier times but hidden in a large number of periodicals and pamphlets in Dutch. In those capacities he was also one of the principal advisers to the World Wild Life Fund in the Netherlands. He was the Secretary of the Ecology and Development Group of the Netherlands Commission, which persuaded the Dutch Government to apply ecological considerations in their overseas development policy. When the Netherlands government established an official advisory committee on Ecology and Development this task was completed and Marius Jacobs handed over the Secretaryship at a meeting on 21 April, during which he was struck by a fatal heart attack.

His involvement in nature conservation in the tropics led to his assisting ecological explorators in Indonesia and educating students by colloquia and courses, in order to raise interest in youngsters. When he was, some fifteen years ago, still chiefly involved in taxonomy, he passed to me a huge MS for perusal, intended as a 'Manual' or Introduction to Taxonomy, for students. It appeared far too bulky for publication. Later, when he was chiefly involved in conservation, he felt he had to prepare a similar educative 'Manual' in this field by working out a students' course he gave on all aspects of rain-forests in the tropics resulting in a book "The Tropical Rainforest - a first introduction" (1981), as yet only in Dutch. And this brings us to his great talent of inspiring other people, for which he had a singular capacity, both by his witty and matter of fact way of writing and his great ability for lecturing. As such he was a scientific public relations officer of the highest standing.

Thusfar I have touched only on his motivation for biological science, plant taxonomy, his ambitions and his interest, in which only glimpses of his versatile personality came to the fore. From his student years Marius viewed life as an adventure for a lone individual, to digest experience and contacts and as a challenge to his development, to spread his wings by his own power, probably himself curious to what this would lead and what hidden capacities he had in store. He preferred to work alone, in his own nightworker time-schedule; all he wrote was in a stylish way. He did not fit into teamwork. As his friend, Mr. Van Peype, said during the memorial service at Warmond, Marius viewed life as a play on the theatre Earth, in which all persons fulfilled a role.

For quite some years Marius was a member of the editorial committee of the LUB, a University newsletter, which he peppered with witty, not sel-

dom opinionated, and often provocative comments on all sorts of subjects, his contributions being for many the only readable matter in this dull weekly. His interest was also in biography on which he first embarked in a slightly arrogant view of "Linnaeus — the Man and his Work" (1957). He was fascinated by personalities and history and enjoyed learning personal details and anecdotes from old times at Bogor. He confided to me that he regretted that so much of such information, revealing personalities, got lost, and was never put on record. In this respect he made good and compiled, after many sessions, a book on the life and work of his former teacher, my predecessor, Professor Lam, which, it is hoped, will be published by Rodopi, Amsterdam, this year. This interest in history is part of the distinct  $\alpha$ -facet in his interests. He was for example well versed in the philosophy of Descartes on which he once gave me an unprepared private tutorial. It appeared also in a lecture he gave before the staff on the role of plants in antique Roman art and culture. It is less well known that his interest in the life and thinkings of man and the structure of society led him to write many essays outside the biological field, some very substantial. He was also a member of the fraternity of free-masons and was heavily interested in the psychological works of Professor Van den Berg at Leiden, whose works on 'metabletica' he greatly admired and avidly propagated. Always questioning what he was doing, and trying to dig into the sources of motivation, he pondered also on conservation and recently, in one of his last writings, he developed a conservation philosophy under the title "Spirits of Bali", see page 3920 of this Bulletin.

Scanning part of his written work, which I hope will some time be compiled into a bibliography, shows the breadth of his interests, and witnesses the panorama of his many-sided gifted personality, zealous, inventive, resourceful, provocative, but also sensitive to criticism and rather convinced of the correctness of his opinion, ambitious for good causes but rather inflexible, always ready to help, a man full of original ideas from whom much could be expected.

For those who had the privilege of knowing him well his death comes as a great personal loss. For international conservation of nature and of tropical rain-forests in particular his disappearance makes a gap that will prove to be hard to fill. Flora Malesiana lost with him one of its earliest and ardent collaborators and supporters. — C.G.G.J. van Steenis.

Encik K i a h bin Haji Mohamed Salleh . (1902-1982)  
Fl. Males. I, 1 (1950) 280 and I, 8 (1974) 1v; Holttum, Gard. Bull. Sing. 35 (1983) 227-229, phot.

Kiah was a most devoted plant collector. Appointed at the Singapore Botanic Gardens in 1920, he served till end 1957. He had a great knowledge of plants, taught by the famous Moh. Nur; he accompanied the senior members of the Gardens on exploration trips. Several plants have been named after him.

K r u k o f f, Boris Alexander (20.vii.1898-19.i.1983)  
Fl. Males. I, 1 (1950) 301-302; Brittonia 35 (1983) 102. — The first time that I came into contact with Dr. Krukoff was in the early thirties, when Herbarium Bogoriense was offered a set of duplicates of tree specimens he had collected in the years 1930-1932 in the Huta Padang district (Asahan, Eastcoast Residency of N. Sumatra), when he was in the employ of the Continental Plantation Co., mainly concerned with rubber plantations. We were supposed to identify the material, which proved difficult at that time, and still is, I am afraid.

The first time I met him in the flesh was at the New York Botanical Garden which Mrs. van Steenis and I visited from 24 till 28 January 1947, during our mission to the New England herbaria to consult rare literature and archives — amongst them the Barnhardt card index — for the Cyclopaedia of Collectors, to consult the herbaria, and above all, to seek cooperation from the institutes and, if possible, attract collaboration from specialists for the Flora Malesiana work. We were invited to an informal lunch in the Herbarium which was attended by the director, Dr. Robbins, the emeritus keeper, Dr. Gleason, Dr. Allan, Dr. Camp, Dr. Krukoff, Dr. Maguire, and Dr. Moldenke. I was allowed to give an account of the set-up, scope and prospects of the project Flora Malesiana, which was new to all these neotropically oriented botanists. The project was, it must be admitted, still in a completely embryonic stage; nothing had then be published.

In 1969 and 1970 Dr. Krukoff came to the Rijksherbarium on brief, hurried visits to consult our collections of Erythrina, Menispermaceae and Strychnos, his main subjects of research; during these visits I assisted him personally. The latter visit was followed by a completely unexpected letter from Krukoff, dated 26 April 1971, in which he expressed a wish to donate a substantial sum to the Flora Malesiana effort, an action which he wanted to accomplish before my retirement as director of the Rijksherbarium in 1972. He announced that he would visit Leiden a fortnight later, during which time the Fund should be legally arranged administratively by notarial act, merely waiting his signature.

When he had signed the Deed of Gift at that memorable visit, he alluded to the lunch party in New York end January 1948, and he told me that, after we had left, the staff had discussed my Flora Malesiana planning and had agreed that — in the blunt way he could express himself, with a twinkle in his eyes — I was a "crazy Dutchman". We had a good laugh over his revealing this secret. He said that he had watched our progress in later years with great attention and interest and had decided that the lunch party had come to a completely erroneous conclusion and had seriously underestimated the drive of the "crazy Dutchman". He had got, in recent years, great sympathy and admiration for the Flora Malesiana effort, and found it worthy of support to speed it up. Having become a wealthy man, thanks to the shrewd financial insight of Mrs. Krukoff, he felt able to pursue his hobby in promoting monographic studies in tropical plant taxonomy to which he himself was devoted. For this purpose he wanted to set up a "B.A. Krukoff Fund for Research in Malesian Botany" to which one or more "Krukoff botanists" could be attracted, preferably experienced pensioned specialists who would yield the best results for

the least money. While on an expedition in Brazil he had heard a rumour that Dr. Kostermans was in trouble in Indonesia and might be a serious candidate, as a specialist on the Lauraceae. Dr. Krukoff stated that the Fund was solely for financing research; not a penny was to be spent on administration, travel or such items.

I had listened to his brief outline — in a discussion one had just to listen to Krukoff, not to speak — in utter surprise and one can imagine my feelings of elation about such a thing happening, something of which I had never even dreamt.

Flora Malesiana is greatly indebted to this most sympathetic benefactor of systematic tropical botany, whose generous, inspiring, unsolicited, disinterested support for unearthing the secrets of his beloved tropics will ever be remembered. He was averse to publicity; he even strongly forbade us to take a photograph of him. However, if he felt that money was misused, he could be rude, as unfortunately happened during his last visit to Leiden in 1982 when he was unreasonable to me. A rough diamond.

I felt that I should put my personal contacts with him on record. It was a unique experience: the only millionaire I have ever met, and then one with a similar love for tropical plant life, our *métier*.

Born in Kasan, Russia, on 20 July 1898, he arrived in the United States in 1923 after naval service. He graduated from Syracuse University in forestry in 1928 and spent most of his professional career with Merck and Co. (now Merck, Sharp, and Dohme) where he was concerned with plants as sources of various drugs, including anaesthetics, anti-malarials, anthelmintics, and cortisone. Between 1928 and 1955 he led numerous botanical exploration expeditions to South America, Africa, and Sumatra. The principal aim of these explorations was the discovery of potentially useful plants. About 11,000 numbers and over 100,000 sheets were collected, together with about 4000 wood samples. Aside from his work with Merck, he carried out extensive research in systematic botany, often in collaboration with others. His concentration was on the American species of *Strychnos*, of which he described 25 new species, the *Menispermaceae*, of which he described four genera and 11 species, and *Erythrina*, of which he described 28 species. He was the author or co-author of about 70 publications, and organized a series of four symposia on *Erythrina*, the results of which were published in various journals. In 1928 he began a long association with the New York Botanical Garden, serving as honorary curator from 1940 to 1948 and again since 1970. In 1970 he received a Distinguished Service Award from the New York Botanical Garden, and the Henry Shaw Medal from the Missouri Botanical Garden was awarded to him in 1981. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from the City University of New York in 1981. The Krukoff Curatorship of Amazonian Botany at New York and the Krukoff Curatorship of African Botany at Missouri were also endowed by him.

(The above paragraph was taken from *Herbarium News*, published by the Missouri Botanical Garden.)

Dr. Krukoff never wanted to talk about his early days. He said: "That is a forgotten past." I have heard that he left very large personal files

and that it is decided that a comprehensive biography will be written by Mr. L. Landrum at New York. It should be fascinating reading. — C.G.G.J. van Steenis.

K u s n o t o, Setyodiwiriyo (1911-1981)

M.A. Rifai, In Memoriam Prof. Ir. Kusnoto Setyodiwiriyo. Reinwardtia 10 (1982) 1-4, portr.

A brief biography of our dear friend Kusnoto, the first Indonesian director of the Botanic Gardens at Bogor, now Lembaga Biologi Nasional, who was the key person in establishing Foundation Flora Malesiana in 1950 which enabled the progress of the project Flora Malesiana. We cherished his sympathy and dedication, and we will honour his memory in promoting this big undertaking.

L ū t j e h a r m s, Wilhelm Jan (1907-3.ii.1983)

Fl. Males. I, 1 (1950) 332-333. O.A.M. Lewis, Vakbl. Biol. 63 (1983) 172, portr., in Dutch.

Lütjeharms was educated at Amsterdam University, but became assistant, later curator at the Rijksherbarium in Leiden, since 1929, where he also took his doctor's degree in 1936. His chief work was on lichenes and fungi. For the 'Buitenzorg Fund' he could make a voyage to Java. He travelled and collected in Java and Sumatra and made the first botanical reconnaissance of Enggano I. (off SW. Sumatra). Duplicates of his collections are in BO and L; his large mycological collection is in L too. Soon after his return he was appointed professor of botany in Bloemfontein (South Africa); later he became professor at the University of Kaapstad, where he died in the age of 76.

Affandi M a ' r u f (17.vii.1953-18.viii.1982)

Mr. Affandi Ma'ruf, technician at BO, drowned in the river near Sekundur, Sumatra in August 1982, during a field trip. He was much appreciated at LBN for his dedication. He joined several field trips in Java, Sumatra, and Kalimantan.

O o s t s t r o o m, Simon Jan van (2.i.1906-28.ix.1982)

Fl. Males. I, 5 (1958) cccviii; Blumea 19 (1971) 1-2; Gorteria 5 (1971) 101-115, in Dutch; Blumea 28 (1983) 229; Gorteria 11 (1983) 147-153, in Dutch.

Dr. van Ooststroom retired from the staff of the Rijksherbarium in 1971. He was an expert on the Dutch vascular flora but also on Convolvulaceae worldwide. He elaborated (in collaboration with R.D. Hoogland) this family for Flora Malesiana and in 1950 spent some months at Bogor, from where he collected c. 1650 numbers in West Java.

S a l v e r d a Jr, Zeno (1903-1982)

Fl. Males. I, 1 (1950) 458. — Former forest officer in the Netherlands Indies, who before World War II carried out a botanical reconnaissance and made a large collection in West New Guinea. After the war he settled at La Nucia, Prov. of Alicante, Spain, where he died end 1982.

V e r s t e e g h, Christiaan (5.viii.1913-10.iii.1983)

Fl. Males. I, 1 (1950) 543, phot.; I, 5 (1958) cccxxix; I, 8 (1974) c.

Chris was born at Batavia, Java, in 1913. He started his career with the Netherlands East Indies Forestry Service and soon reached the rank of 'bosarchitect'. In April 1937 he was stationed at the Forestry Research Institute at Bogor, where he acquired a vast knowledge of rain-forest trees both in the herbarium and in the field: Sumatra, Java, and Borneo. He was a pupil of F.H. Hildebrand who himself was from the school of F.H. Endert.

Because of his knowledge he was chosen to replace the forest officer E. Meijer Drees as a member of the Third Archbold Expedition 1938-1939 to New Guinea, the so-called Indisch-Amerikaansche Expeditie. Here he fell in love with New Guinea.

After the Netherlands East Indies became the independent Republic of Indonesia, Chris found a new working area in Netherlands New Guinea. In the Forestry Service the rank of Assistant Botanist was specially created for him. In 1952 he was stationed at Hollandia, where he started to build a forest herbarium; later this was transferred to Manokwari. On his many field trips he visited almost all corners of the territory and he became a source of information not only on the flora and vegetation, but also on the land and its people.

When West New Guinea was transferred to the UNTEA, he was dismissed and left for Holland on December 1st, 1962. He found a new position at the Department of Botany of the Agricultural University at Wageningen. His year-long interest in wood could here be deepened by studying wood anatomy, especially in relation to the habitats of the trees.

Chris Versteegh was a man with a kind nature, good-humoured, always helpful and willing to share his experience with others, and very modest. Although he wrote numerous internal reports, it was only at Wageningen that he could be persuaded to venture into publishing. However, then a cerebral hemorrhage struck and for the last thirteen years of his life he was lamed on one side, which put an end to his career. On the 10th of March 1983 he passed away. A good friend has gone.

His collections from Java, Sumatra and Borneo are in the bb-series (usually without citation of the collector), from the Indisch-Amerikaansche Expeditie in the series Brass & Versteegh, from West New Guinea in the BW-series. His publications are:

- An anatomical study of some woody plants of the mountain flora in the tropics (Indonesia). Acta Bot. Neerl. 17 (1968) 151-159.
- Key to the most important native trees of Irian Barat (Indonesia) based on field characters. Meded. Landbouwhoges. Wageningen 71-19 (1971) 63 pp.

W. Vink.