VIII. HERBARIA, GARDENS, ORGANISATIONS

(continued from page 3908)

Harvard (A). A survey of the new administrative and curatorial organisation is given in Taxon 32 (1983) 704.

Herbarium Pacificum (BISH). Since the renovation the collections have been placed in a specially designed compactor system for more easy access. There is now 43.7% more collection storage space while working space has increased by 51%. Hereby the gifts of algae (± 68,000 specimens) and mosses (± 22,000) finally could be incorporated. A backlog of 20,000 specimens was mounted. The renovation was made possible with ca. US$ 337,000 provided by the NSF.

Herbarium of Groningen/Haren, The Netherlands (GRO). For economical reasons this collection has been broken up. The non-Dutch seed plants are now in L, with the exception of the African ones which have gone to WAG, the European specimens have been retained.

Rijksherbarium, Leiden, The Netherlands (L). There has been a long-time discussion about the future administrative position and actual locality of the Rijksherbarium. In the early 1960's it was relocated from the Nonnensteeg to an old wool factory at the Schelpenkade and promises were made for the building of a new herbarium with more adequate facilities 'soon'. Of course nothing came of it. Early March 1983 the Administration of the Leiden University rather suddenly had news, partly good, partly bad. The good part was that we had to move very soon from this decrepit, dilapidated fire hazard of a warren, the bad part was that we would move instead to the decrepit, dilapidated, ± equally hazardous warren of the old University Library. This has recently been vacated but is a protected edifice so that it cannot be demolished for a new building site. As it is too small, moreover, to house the whole staff and collections, the cryptogamists, morphologists and their laboratories, collections and libraries will return to the Old Herbarium in the Nonnensteeg with part of the adjacent Botany Department. The way of the policy makers is reminiscent of cockroach races: stop or run no matter what direction. Preliminary plans had to be handed by the end of March, definitive ones by the end of April .... 1984!, of course, for the fund to pay for the restructuring of the Library had to be claimed before May 1st. The new locations will have space for an accretion of perhaps 20 years. What will happen afterwards is of little concern to the administrators who have to deal with ad hoc solutions to placate the Ministry of Education and will not be here then anymore, anyway. It is too early at the writing of this to foresee what is going to happen exactly. It cannot be said that we are jumping with joy.

Herbarium, Botany Division, Papua New Guinea (LAE). This institute was in dire straits last year but fortunately is running again not at least due to the many expressions of concern and support sent to the Prime Minister and other Ministers. Mr. E.E. Henty, Assistant Director, wrote that several staff members have been lost, but maintenance is not affected although field work and advisory activities will be curtailed. This is obviously a clear example of what concerted action on behalf of an important systematic resource can do (see also Sohmer, APS Newsletter 1, 1984). According to rumour Mr. Henty will retire at the end of this year; let us hope that an equally dedicated successor will be found as soon as possible to maintain the presence and well-being of this small but very important institute.

The new building for the New South Wales Herbarium, Sydney (NSW). Dr. B. Briggs writes: Those who visited the hopelessly overcrowded old herbarium building with its high banks of shelves and with botanists hidden away in narrow corridors and corners may be surprised at the change of scene. The modern airy building with rooms for staff and banks of red plastic specimen boxes is very different though an effort is made to pre-empt visual discord between old and new as seen from the outside.

The building occupies three floors, is air-conditioned with separate systems for the herbarium and offices and provides about twice the specimen storage space of the old building (c. 52,000 boxes instead of 22,500). Laboratory space and a scanning electron microscope are in-

cluded. Compactor storage is used only for part of the library and in store rooms.

The great majority of the specimens are unmounted and despite efforts to get staff for this much will remain unmounted for many years. As a result it has been necessary to retain a box system which indeed has advantages of its own. After much consideration the decision was to change to plastic boxes since these give a somewhat better protection in the situation relying on sprinklers for fire control. Naphthalene is still used as an insect repellent but the plastic is expected to retain the vapour within the box much better than the old cardboard boxes.

Commemorative naming of the buildings has been adopted with the new herbarium building named after Robert Brown. The others are named after former Directors. The old herbarium is the R.H. Anderson Building while the former Director's residence which accommodates the Garden Maintenance and Landscaping Sections is named after Allan Cunningham. Within the buildings again botanists no longer living but who have been concerned with Australian botany and who have worked or visited Sydney are commemorated: Ernst Betche, J.D. Hooker, Joyce Vickery and W.W. Watts for segments of the herbarium; the argumentative George Caley for the Seminar Room and Daniel Solander for the Library. J.H. Maiden is commemorated by the Lecture Theater and Charles Moore by the Visitor Centre both in the Anderson Building.

Since moving in there has been a great effort on the part of the botanists and technical officers to remedy the curation backlog of the years when there was no room even to put away new accessions in many groups. Much of the backlog has been incorporated and the remainder placed in sequence after the relevant family or genus. Australian and exotic collections have been partly integrated and transfer of the whole herbarium to the new boxes (with new box labels) has made good progress. There is still much work of this type to do but it is a pleasure to see the new order spreading through the specimen collections.

At the time of the move the step was taken of adopting Dahlgren's system (1980) (but with some modifications) in the arrangement of the families. This system will not be the last word either by Dahlgren or by others and any linear sequence is an inadequate representation of a multitude of evolutionary assemblages. However, botanists have mostly found that a change to the new family sequence has been worthwhile.

Meanwhile the old building has been renovated and is very thoroughly in use. The Library has become the Visitor Centre with a small bookshop for Garden visitors. Horticultural Botany, the Clerical Office, Extension and Education occupy other areas. One thing has not been changed: the Director's Office remains in the old building and has been restored to its former size and style.

Sarawak Museum, Kuching (SAR). To commemorate the Museum's 100th Anniversary, the 'Year of Heritage' and the 20th year of Independence, the Sarawak Museum Journal issued a Special Issue (nr. 3) in August 1983. This contains interesting historical data amongst others by Lucas Chin et al. on the development of the Museum, by the Earl of Cranbrook on the history of zoology in Sarawak, by W.G. Solheim II on archaeological re-

search while the former Curator, Edward Banks, provided his reminiscences. Other contributions relate to preservation of the heritage by Lucas Chin and setting up a conservation laboratory to treat and preserve its huge collections. Many other papers deal with subjects in the fields of political and social sciences. An interesting book, 299 pp., and profusely illustrated, and as all other volumes at the very cheap price of Mal$ 10. — C.G.G.J. van Steenis.

Tokyo (TI). The main building of the Botanical Gardens, University of Tokyo, is now under complete repair. A renewed building will open in June 1984. The arrangement of plants and vegetation in the Gardens is expected to be modified according to a new system.

UPNG Herbarium, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (UPNG). The new building should have been finished by May 1984 replacing the one destroyed by fire some years ago. The total surface will be c. 210 m^2, the herbarium itself some 108 m^2 without columns and cut off by fire walls and doors.

Herbarium of the Technical University in Delft, the Netherlands (no abbrev.). Now deposited in L. The collections consisted mainly of European plants (e.g. isotypes of several of S e n n e n 's optimistic species the names of which have not always been recorded by the Index Kewensis!) but also some Malesian ones, e.g. those of Ms. K l e i n h o o n t e (cf. Fl. Mal. I, 1, 1950, 283).

Herbarium University of Technology, Lae, Papua New Guinea (no abbrev.). A new teaching herbarium has been completed in December 1983 for the Forestry Department. The building consists of a large teaching room for 20 students plus 3 compactors units for the specimens. Attached are two rooms with dehumidifiers, a mounting room and a room for a future SEM. Along the building is a shade house of 80 m^2 to raise material for teaching and research. There will be three sections: a collection to teach the names of forest trees, a general collection for educational purposes and the fern collection assembled by the curator, Dr. R. J. J o h n s. A wood collection will also be preserved, identification of wood samples will be done by J. M. S i m a g a who has extensive experience in this field. All collections will be duplicated in the National Herbarium (LAE). Collectors are requested not to send any material, these must be lodged in LAE unless they have been collected specifically for teaching purposes (section 1, above).

Reprints of any publications on New Guinea plants would be most welcome; exchange publications on Papua New Guinea forest trees, ferns, fern allies and Monocotyledones are available. Address: The Herbarium, Department of Forestry, P.N.G. University of Technology, P.O. Private Bag, Lae, Papua New Guinea.

Herbarium, Centre ORSTOM, Papeete (no abbrev.). Since 1981 a botanical laboratory and herbarium have been created with the instruction to make exhaustive collections of the flora of French Polynesia laying the base for a flora of the territory.

National Herbarium of Vietnam (no abbrev.). Presently located in Ho Chi Minh City under the direction of Dr. Thai Van Trung. The various

recent collections of plants from Vietnam at present kept in various institutes (Institut forestier de Ha Nôi, Institut de Biologie, Universities, Institut des Plantes médicinales de Ha Nôi) must in principle be present also in the National Herbarium which will facilitate exchanges with interested foreign herbaria, especially P. Unfortunately no full address was given.

Pilbara Regional Herbarium, Karratha, W. Australia (no abbrev.). The Pilbara Regional Herbarium will be founded by the Karratha College, Karratha, W. Australia, about 1500 km N of Perth. It is expected to be opened by mid-1984. A lecturer in Biology with curatorial responsibility for the herbarium will be appointed by the College.

Overseeing the operation of the Herbarium is a management committee composed of representatives from the College, W.A. Herbarium, W.A. Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife, W.A. Forests Dept., W.A. National Parks Authority and the mining industry.

The herbarium itself will comprise a specimen storage room (capacity of 15,000 specimens) and a work room. Specimens will be fumigated using a deep freeze with additional periodic gas fumigations of both rooms (the air conditioning system to these rooms will be isolated from the rest of the College). Visitor facilities will include a microscope, a small reference library and access to a limited range of maps.

One of the main functions of the Pilbara Regional Herbarium will be to provide a readily accessible regional reference set of plants (separate from the main herbarium collection) to enable rapid identification of specimens by Pilbara flora workers.

The presence of a regional herbarium in Karratha should act as a stimulus for the continued collection of plants from the region. This function is of particular relevance in view of the proposed Flora of Pilbara project to be undertaken by the W.A. Herbarium. Although this volume is scheduled for completion in 1987 the project should be viewed as one of continuing improvement whereby deficiencies highlighted in the first edition should be redressed in subsequent editions by directional collecting activity (both taxonomically and geographically) in the interim. — B.R. Maslin.

Reorganisation of Forestry in Indonesia. In March 1983 the Directorate-General of Forestry was elevated to a higher level and became the Ministry of Forestry. Consequently the Directorate of Conservation and Wildlife Management was promoted to the level of Directorate-General and assumed a new name, Directorate-General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (Direktorat Jenderal Perlindungan Hutan dan Pelestarian Alam). Dr. Ir. Rubini Atmawidjaja, professor of Forestry at the Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) who was also at one time rector of Cendrawasih University, Jayapura, and cultural attaché at the Indonesian embassy in Bonn, West Germany, was appointed as the head of the Directorate-General. It now consists of the Directorate of National Parks and Recreational Forests (director: Ir. Sudjadi Hartono), the Directorate of Forest Protection (Ir. Sunarsan), the Directorate of Nature Conservation (Ir. Syafii Manan) and the Directorate of Conservation Planning (Ir. I. Rudjai).