

OBITUARY

Pieter Groenhart (1894—1965)

Pieter Groenhart died on November 3, 1965 at Leiden at the age of seventy-one. With him our country lost the one cryptogamist who clung steadfastly to lichenology.

Groenhart was born on February 21, 1894 at Ilpendam, a small village just north of Amsterdam. In 1916 he became a teacher and was attached to several elementary schools in this country. In August 1926 he went to Java.

There he was first appointed to a temporary post in Batavia (now Djakarta) but he very soon left for Malang, in East Java, to become a teacher at the Agricultural School there (Nov. 1, 1926–Sept. 30, 1932). In 1932 he obtained leave of absence to study biology at the University of Utrecht (Oct. 1, 1932–July 1, 1935) and to acquire a working knowledge of lichens at the Rijksherbarium, Leiden (July 1935–May 1936).

When his leave expired he returned to his post at Malang (July 1, 1936–March 31, 1940). In 1940 he was transferred to a higher-grade Government school at Buitenzorg (now Bogor). Here, as far as time permitted, he was allowed to work one day a week at the Herbarium of the Botanical Garden in order to continue his lichenological studies.

But in March 1942 the Dutch East Indies were overrun by the Japanese and in June 1942 Groenhart, together with so many others, was imprisoned in an internment camp. During his internment he helped keep up the morale of his fellow-prisoners by giving lectures in elementary biology. Three years later, in August 1945, he was released, barely alive and with his eyesight damaged by avitaminosis, but with his spirit undaunted.

Commissioned to resume his lichenological studies, he returned to Holland and worked his way through the collections of Malesian lichens at the Rijksherbarium (March 1, 1946–Oct. 16, 1947). Considerations of a pecuniary nature, however, made it necessary for him to apply once again for a post in the Indies. He was appointed lichenologist at the Herbarium at Buitenzorg (Oct. 16, 1947–Aug. 31, 1951) and he managed to keep the position of "Botanist 1st Class at the Herbarium Bogoriense of the Kebun Raya Indonesia" under the new Indonesian regime (Sept. 1, 1951–Dec. 31, 1954). The last few years were extremely trying but he loved Java and when he was finally obliged to resign (Jan. 1, 1955) he left it with a bleeding heart.

He settled near Leiden and after his personal lichen collections, numbering about 8000, had been incorporated in the Rijksherbarium he set himself the task of sorting out and labelling his specimens.

Meanwhile he became interested in *Cryptothecia*, an intriguing genus in that the

species, instead of bearing recognizable fructifications, have solitary asci or agglomerations of asci scattered throughout the thallus. Groenhart decided to study the genus more closely and to revise the family of the Cryptotheciaceae. Financially he was supported by a grant from "The Netherlands Organisation for the Advancement of Pure Research (Z.W.O.)".

Although he was unable to complete the revision, the preliminary studies proved extremely illuminating in that they opened his eyes to the serious defects of a lichen taxonomy that fails to take modern concepts of mycology into account. This process, so easily recorded in a few words, entailed a thorough re-orientation in mycological literature, an undertaking that few at his age would have been able to cope with. If Groenhart's papers succeed in advancing his view in wider circles, not only lichenological but also mycological, his scientific mission will have been fully completed.

Groenhart organized the following expeditions. The first, in 1951, was to Ternate and Halmahera in the Moluccas, a trip that lasted four months. On the second, from May to July 1953, he collected lichens in the Padang Highlands, Sumatra, and on the Mentawai Islands. On his last trip, a very short one (Febr. 1-13, 1954), he collected lichens in Bantam, West Java.

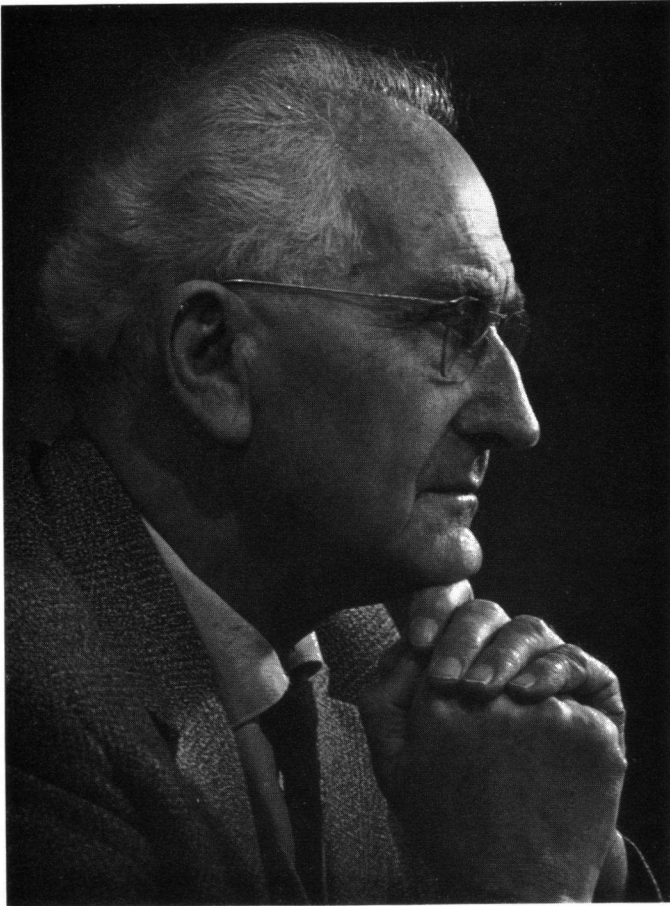
Groenhart will be remembered by his pupils of the Agricultural School for his outstanding qualities as a teacher and by his colleagues for his kindly disposition and equanimity but also for his dogged determination.

R. A. Maas Geesteranus

THE CRYPTOGAMIC PUBLICATIONS OF P. GROENHART

1. Beiträge zur Kenntnis der javanischen Flechten I-III. *In* Ned. kruidk. Arch. **46**: 690-784, 7 figs. 1936.
2. Beischrift [a postscript to E. BACHMANN's paper entitled "Eine neue *Moriola* aus Java"]. *In* Blumea **2**: 26-30. 1936.
3. Eenige Cryptotheciaceae van Java. *In* Natuurk. Tijdschr. Ned.-Ind. **98**: 304-310, [3] pls. [with separate "Toelichting"]. 1938.
4. *Badhamia capsulifera* (Bull.) Berk. *In* Ned. kruidk. Arch. **49**: 453-456, [1] pl. 1939.
5. Hoe en waaraan zijn korstmossen te herkennen?—I. *In* Trop. Nat. **29**: 191-195, 3 figs. 1940.
6. Hoe en waaraan zijn korstmossen te herkennen?—II. *In* Trop. Nat. **30**: 138-140. 1941.
7. Malaysian lichens. I. *In* Bull. bot. Gdns, Buitenzorg, ser. 3, **17**: 198-203, 2 figs. 1941.
8. *Oropogon loxensis* Th. Fr. *In* Trop. Nat. **30**: 144-145, 1 fig. 1941.
9. Malaysian lichens—II. *In* Reinwardtia **1**: 33-39, 2 figs. 1950.
10. Malaysian lichens—III. *In* Reinwardtia **1**: 197-198, 1 fig. 1951.
11. Malaysian lichens—IV. *In* Reinwardtia **2**: 385-402, 4 figs. 1954.
12. Two new Malaysian lichens. *In* Blumea, Suppl. **4**: 107-112, 3 figs. 1958.

13. *Aglaothecium* Groenh., a new lichen genus from Malaysia. *In* *Persoonia* **2**: 349-353, 7 figs. 1962.
14. Studies in ascostromatic lichen-fungi—I. The problem of Ascohymeniales and Ascoloculares. *In* *Persoonia* **4**: 1-7. 1965.
15. Studies in ascostromatic lichen-fungi—II. Types of ascostromata. *In* *Persoonia* **4**: 9-13. 1965.



MR. P. GROENHART