

IX. BIBLIOTHECA BOGORIENSIS, ITS HISTORY AND PROSPECTS

History. In order to understand its present function, a short historical account is necessary.

Bibliotheca Bogoriensis is the oldest science library in Indonesia, established in 1842 at the proposal of J.K. Hasskarl, assistant hortulanus of the 's-Lands Plantentuin in Buitenzorg, West Java (now called Kebun Raya Indonesia Bogor). The very first 25 books were bought from Dr. Jacques Pierot, a botanist who was sent by the Dutch Government to China. Ever since many visiting botanists left or sold their book collection, the reason why Bibliotheca avails of fine old antiquarian books in the field of botany. Among the library's treasures are the reprint collection belonging to Melchior Treub with his own hand-written catalogue, as well as his correspondence, and all his awards received from many countries and scientific societies in the world.

The respective directors and scientific staff of the Botanic Gardens have always paid much attention to the development of the library, and its growth is inseparable from that of Bogor as a scientific centre. The librarians have always been assisted by a library committee, consisting of the Director of the Botanic Gardens ex officio and directors or members of institutes, so that the collection building was closely related to the research carried out in the institutes.

In 1887 the first printed catalogue was compiled by Professor Treub himself, containing titles of 1600 books and 105 journals. In 1905 Melchior Treub reorganized the institutes and the Department of Agriculture was born, the forerunner of the present Ministry of Agriculture.

With the development of applied research the collection of the Bibliotheca Bogoriensis reflected the same trend and many additions were acquired in the applied sciences.

While in 1850 the library was housed in the Herbarium, in 1898 Treub obtained private funds to build a separate library building, whereas part of the collection of the 'Natuurkundige Vereniging van Batavia' was moved to Buitenzorg (Bogor) as it had at that time become a centre for research in biology, chemistry, ethnography, and geology. This building is still in existence and in good condition.

In 1919 the first statutes were set up to regulate and define the tasks and duties of the head of the library, the library committee and the branch libraries.

Loan rules and reading room regulations were made which from time to time have been updated according to the needs felt in due course.

In 1934 the whole economic and statistical collection was

moved to Jakarta due to the change from the Department of Agriculture into a Department of Economic Affairs in Jakarta.

The second world war did not pass unnoticed. About 3000 books on east Indonesia, Australia and Polynesia were shipped off to Japan. On the other hand the building and the collection in itself were maintained well.

In 1948 the building was thoroughly repaired and galleries were added, especially for the growing periodicals collection which was rehabilitated with special funds from the government as well with UNESCO's assistance. Closer cooperation with the Bogor Agricultural University was required and special regulations were made for teaching staff and students. Also in this year the library was given its present name 'Bibliotheca Bogoriensis' which has been kept throughout the years although its official institutional name was frequently changed whenever there were reorganizations on ministerial level.

Until 1968 it remained a sub-institute under the supervision of the National Biological Institute but when the latter was officially transferred by the Department of Agriculture to the Indonesian Council of Sciences, it was decided that the Bibliotheca Bogoriensis would remain under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, based on the consideration that it served now a far larger clientele and institutes dealing with all aspects of agriculture.

Recent developments. Ever since there has been a trend to a more national-directed service. The library committee remained in a different form, no longer consisting of directors of institutes but representatives in subject fields whereas its statutes mentioned no longer specific institutes to be served but all instances related to biology, agriculture and related sciences.

Within the first five year plan (1969-1974) a new four-storey library building was erected from government funds, the first phase of a masterplan for three interconnected buildings, holding a one million volume collection with reading room capacity for 400 persons with a view to the growing number of research institutes as well of institutes of higher education in the field of biology and agriculture. Generous grants from the Netherlands, Belgium, West Germany, assistance from UNESCO, Foundations and private organizations abroad started to flow in.

New activities were initiated, especially in the field of documentation focussing on the bibliographical control of Indonesian materials or foreign articles dealing with Indonesian problems, again limited to our special subject

fields. A documentation division was officially added to its organization, now comprising a library, documentation and general services division.

In 1969 the Minister of Agriculture decreed that all offices and institutes under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture should send a copy of their publications published and unpublished to the Bibliotheca Bogoriensis, thereby giving Bibliotheca Bogoriensis an additional function of depository library for the Ministry's publications. This decree led to a steady flow of hitherto practically unknown and hidden material. A new publication program was then felt necessary to make the collection as much accessible as possible.

Reproduction service operates at Rp. 20 per $\frac{1}{2}$ folio page, Rp. 40 per folio page; for microfilm, at Rp. 25 per negative, plus postage. One US dollar equals about Rp. 500.

Some documentation work had been started in 1966 as a special service in the Agro-Economic Survey project dealing with mainly economic aspects, but since 1969 all aspects are dealt with.

A Bibliography of Indonesian Periodicals is now available at US\$ 3.50, postage included. Several other documentary publications, mostly on agricultural subjects, are also obtainable; a list of them is sent on request.

Bibliotheca Bogoriensis has also played its part in the dissemination of the Flora Malesiana. From the beginning onwards, 300 copies of each instalment have been sent to the Bibliotheca, which distributes them to all Indonesian institutions that have use for the Flora Malesiana.

The staff consists at present of 74, plus 20 extra's.

Prospects. At present the Government of Indonesia is preparing its Second Five Year Plan in which among others a national network of scientific documentation and information in various disciplines has been included. It is very gratifying, that the Bibliotheca plans have been accepted without alteration. Within this network Bibliotheca Bogoriensis has been appointed as the centre for the network in bio-agricultural documentation and information with the target of one unit in each province and some specialized units in accordance with its agro-climatological conditions such as special sugarcane or tobacco growing areas. The basis on which the network will operate is more decentralization according to location and deconcentration of subject areas, in view of the large geographical area which Indonesia occupies. That this network can only work with good communication systems, postal, air, sea, radio, is obvious.

UNESCO has given substantial aid by providing consultants for the planning of these centres, lecturers for courses and fellowships for overseas training. Considerable help was also received from the Netherlands (DITH, handled by the International Agraric Center at Wageningen), for the purchase of books, periodicals, reproduction equipment, and for fellowships.

The library now acquires in exchange and subscription about 2000 titles and has a collection of 300.000 volumes, a large reprint collection, and a growing microfiche and microfilm collection.

It is hoped that through this network Bibliotheca Bogoriensis can contribute more to biological and agricultural research and function as a channel for the flow, exchange and dissemination of information in and outside Indonesia.

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Jalan Juanda 20
Bogor, Indonesia

Mrs. P. Sahertian-Bakhoven

It comes as a shock to learn that Mrs. Sahertian will leave the Bibliotheca on 1 April 1974, to become Clearing House Manager of the SEAMEC BIOTROP at Bogor. She will be in charge of all library, documentation, editing, reproduction and distribution activities of that body, and of the public relations involved. Fortunately, she will remain consultant for the development program of the Bibliotheca. Her successor will be Mr. P. R a m l i, until his retirement next year.

It is hard to estimate what Mrs. Sahertian has done for science in and about Indonesia. On behalf of all botanists, the Editor of the Flora Malesiana Bulletin likes to thank her for her splendid services. Since 1952 she has been working for the Library. In unbroken faith and with supreme ability she has seen the Bibliotheca Bogoriensis through a period of incredible difficulty, from which it is now emerging in glory. It was a great moment to stand beside her upon the roof of the new building, next to the new Herbarium Bogoriense.

The Editor also invites all botanists to inscribe Bibliotheca Bogoriensis on the mailing list for their publications.