

## I. EDITORIAL

The cover-photograph depicts a so-called golden chicken, which is the apical part of the trunk, without the leaves, of the tree fern Cibotium barametz (Cyatheaceae). It was made by Dr. O. K r a n e n d o n k, professor of Tropical Medicine of the Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, who had received it from one of his students, presumably from Sumatra, in September 1972. He kept it in a dish with some water in his living-room, where in January 1975 it was still in much the same shape as first. When I showed the pictures to Mr. E. H e n n i p m a n of the Rijksherbarium, he told me that he had seen the curious creatures offered for sale at the Sunday market at Bangkok in September 1965, and showed me a pamphlet in Thai and Chinese that was given to the buyer. The photographer of the Rijksherbarium, Mr. B. K. i e f t, printed a portion of the Thai text in the background, and Mr. T e m S m i t i n a n d, during his visit to Leiden, kindly translated the text into English, which reads thus:

"This plant is sacred. It should be kept in households for good omen. Besides great beauty it also brings great luck. If you are a merchant you will do good business; if you are lucky enough you can become a millionaire. The hair of this plant can be used for various remedies such as wounds caused by a knife, axe and nails, or even dog bites, and scurvy, placing the hair on; and in case of hemorrhage in women, boil the hair, and drink the decoction. If at childbirth the placenta comes out, cover the hair with a cloth and burn it, then let the woman inhale the smoke. If you got diarrhoea or coughing vomiting with blood, use an amount of hair and boil it in water, then drink the decoction. To prevent contagion from animals, such as pigs, dogs, cattle, fowl, steep the hair in water, and utter a wish before feeding the animals. Keeping the plant in the house will ward off witchcraft, and bring in charm and luck.

If you want to grow this plant, put it in the sand and then say a cantation in Pali: 'Kukusanto Namobudhaya'. This is the heart of the chicken. You have to give it five different kinds of food, depending on what you have. Keeping the plant in a revered place will help protect your family against danger. Having been planted for one month the plant should be sprayed or rubbed with liquor; in spraying, don't use the mouth, and then the hair will keep growing all the time, and it will become more sacred. When you have this plant in your house, if there will be any benefit, you will hear a crying noise. When you have heard this noise, you will get good luck, depending on what you have wished. Before using the plant as a remedy to illness, you have to make wishes every time. If a woman is difficult in labour you can

wish and place the hair of this plant in water and let the woman drink it. This will have good result, which has happened many times."

That the golden-brown hairs of the *Cibotium* are widely used as a styptic for bleeding wounds is well-known. Holttum makes a brief reference to this use in *Fl. Males. ii* 1 (1963) 166.

From a golden chicken to a golden *H o l t t u m* is but one step, since he is the author of the *Cyatheaceae* revision cited, and of so many other publications on ferns and monacots, that his 80th birthday on 20 July 1975 will be a reason for our warmest congratulations. We are fortunate enough to print his auto-biography, made on special request, in the present issue, as the nucleus of a special biographical section, to which also Mrs. M. J. v a n S t e e n i s - K r u s e m a n could be persuaded to contribute. She celebrated her 70th birthday on 8 November 1974, in modesty and fine health. Either of them has been from the beginning and still is a vital force in shaping and pushing the *Flora Malesiana* to its present state. Kindly and efficiently they have done enormous amounts of disinterested work for the benefit of the project. They deserve our deepest gratitude; we wish them a long, busy, and happy life!

There is reason to express the same when on 21 October 1975 the *Flora Malesiana* Foundation will be in existence for 25 years, with Professor Dr. C. G. G. J. v a n S t e e n i s at the helm as General Editor. But he considered that the enterprise by now may be strong enough to go on without a celebration, and he may even be abroad at the time.

Publication of the *Flora Malesiana* proceeded with Volume 7 part 3 (issued 4 July 1974), 318 pages containing the *Cyperaceae* (minus *Carex* and *Uncinia*), the magnum opus of Dr. J. H. K e r n, who suddenly died on 29 July, to our great regret. He is briefly commemorated under *Obituaries*. Volume 8 part 1 was issued 27 September 1974, 144 pages. It contains the *Hypericaceae* by Dr. N. K. B. R o b s o n, and also the 2nd and final Supplement to the *Cyclopaedia of Collectors*, by Mrs. M. J. v a n S t e e n i s - K r u s e m a n, with many photographs of typical field botanists, unfortunately blurred because of paper shortage, much to the chagrin of the General Editor.

A continuation of the 'Green Bible' is less necessary, since nowadays collectors produce clear enough labels to locate a collection. A pity it remains. The well-worn condition of this volume in almost any library is the best judgement on this piece of bibliographical scholarship. The two Supple-

ments reflect the amount of field work since 1950, which made the average density index of all Malesia shoot up from 33 collections per 100 sq.km to 44 by 1972. The task of record-keeping nonetheless remains a crucial one. From these records, the priorities in field exploration must be deduced; besides, they will give a key to the Herbaria where the material is to be deposited so that it can be used for study. From now onwards, everything will depend on the data on Exploration sent to the Flora Malesiana Bulletin. These data must include:

- Area visited
- Number of collections made
- Herbaria where material is sent
- Biographical data of each collector

Thanks very much already!

The new Indonesian spelling will be used in this Bulletin, except where the editor forgets to shed old habits. The rules are as follows:

O l d	N e w
dj (Djakarta)	j (Jakarta)
j (saja, njonja)	y (saya, nyonya)
tj (Tjilatjap)	c (Cilacap)
ch (chusus)	kh (khusus)

In the Flora Malesiana, where but very few place names will be affected by the new rules, things will remain as they were.

For scientific journals, the problem will be less easy to solve. Now that Celebes has been changed to Sulawesi, Ceylon to Sri Lanka, Formosa to Taiwan, Netherlands New Guinea to Irian Barat to Irian Jaya, it seems better to retain the older, often Latin-sounding names, in the interest of a constant, distinct, geographical nomenclature solely for scientific purposes, independent of political vicissitudes, as the name Malesia, for instance, already is.

My sincere thanks go to the many correspondents who, whether or not after a reminder, were kind enough to provide the Editor with raw materials. The welcome flood of news necessitated some selection and much condensation. Selection, too, was applied to the Bibliography. But if authors there look in vain for the proper mention of their important contribution to science, they may be assured that it went into the Flora Malesiana file all the same, which contains more than is published in the Bulletin. — M.J.