

Dr MAURITS ANNE LIEFTINCK: A BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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A brief biographic outline and appreciation of odonatol. work (1922-1983) of M.A. LIEFTINCK, the first Honorary President of the International Odonatological Society (SIO), formerly Director of the Zoological Museum & Laboratory, Bogor, Indonesia and, later, Head of the so-called "neuropteroid" Department, Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, written on the occasion of his 80th birthday (born: Feb. 18, 1904: Amsterdam). The annotated checklist of taxa he has introduced in Odon., and his bibliography are published in *Odonatologica* 13 (1984): 21-50.

INTRODUCTION

"Wanted, co-operation concerning dragonfly distribution in The Netherlands". Through Lieftinck's appeal in the well-known Dutch monthly, *De Levende Natuur*, of May 1924, our first contact was made. A period of animated correspondence had come, and the exchange of small postal packages with dragonfly specimens followed. I myself, a 17-year old Grammar School pupil, lived in Berlicum, a small village in the province of North Brabant. Lieftinck, then a biology student in Amsterdam, was working hard on his "Odonata neerlandica", a theme initiated by the well-known botanist, Dr J. Heimans, his biology teacher at the Amsterdam Lyceum, who had himself published in *De Levende Natuur* an inspiring, attractively illustrated key for the recognition of Dutch dragonfly species. On an excursion to Oisterwijk, during late summer of 1918, it was Heimans who encouraged Lieftinck to "fill the gaps". His great knowledge and gift of persuasion were meat and drink to Lieftinck's mind and were to influence the course of his life profoundly.

Some years later, in June 1926, Lieftinck appeared unexpectedly at my home in

until a premature knock-out mitigated at least ardour for boxing. Meanwhile his vivid interest in nature, especially entomology, increased constantly. Already in 1919 he became a member of the Netherlands Entomological Society, and in 1921 he was among the founder-members of the Netherlands Youth Federation for Nature Study (NJN); he was promptly chosen as editor of its still existing periodical *Amoeba*, from its first issue (January 1922) until 1926.

This was also the period of his numerous field trips to the lakes of Naarden and Ankeveen, not far from Amsterdam, and to the brooks and peat-bog areas in the eastern and southeastern parts of The Netherlands. On some occasions we went together in search of rare dragonfly species in the remote districts of Brabant and Limburg, where we rediscovered *Aeshna subarctica* and studied its habits. These trips still remain as high-days in my memory.

After the publication of his "Odonata neerlandica" (1925-1926), Lieftinck wrote a number of interesting notes on local birds and insects, with an emphasis on the Odonata and aculeate Hymenoptera. In the meantime he started to publish on Odonata from the Netherlands East Indies and India.

IN THE NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES AND INDONESIA

Due to the worldwide economic crisis, the perspectives for an adequate research position in The Netherlands were not too promising in the late 1920s. It was, thus, a "glorious occasion" (as he put it in a letter to Dr F.F. Laidlaw, dated June 22, 1929), to accept the invitation for a position at the Buitenzorg Museum, Java. He left The Netherlands on 21 August 1929, leaving behind most of his collection, particularly the Dutch material, which he presented to the municipality of Amsterdam and which is still stored in the Amsterdam Museum. On September 16 of the same year, he assumed the position of Zoologist (Entomologist) at the Zoological Museum and Laboratory of the Botanic Gardens in Buitenzorg. He could not have found a better place on earth...

During the period 1931-1954 Lieftinck was Secretary and President of the East Indies branch of the Netherlands Entomological Society, and towards the end of this period, of the Entomological Society of Indonesia. During 1935-1936 he was in charge, ad interim, of the Laboratory of Marine Research in Batavia but at the same time kept his position at the Zoological Museum in Buitenzorg. During his first European leave, November 1937 - September 1938, he attended the VIIth International Congress of Entomology in Berlin as a delegate of the Dutch East Indies Government.

After returning to Java, on 28 February 1939, Lieftinck was appointed Head of the Buitenzorg Museum, a position which he held till March 1954.

Black pages were formed by the World War years when the Dutch East Indies were occupied by the Japanese military forces. As a suspect prisoner of war he was first jailed in Buitenzorg (Dec. 1942 - Apr. 1943), and subsequently

interned in the POW camps of Buitenzorg, Tjimahi and Batavia (Apr. 1943 - Jan. 1946). It is a miracle that he survived this horrible time; the physical atrocities inflicted lasting damage to his health. Quite some time after the liberation he went on recuperation leave to Holland (Dec. 1946 - Sept. 1947), to recover from the war-time physical and psychological hardships. However, he would not have been Maus Lieftinck if he had not used this leave period to visit



Figs 5-10. In the Netherlands East Indies and Indonesia: (5) In Genova, embarking for Java (August 21, 1929); (6) Members of the Swedish-Netherlands Expedition to the Western New Guinea and Misool; Dr Lieftinck is the third from left, in the front row, next to the ornithologist Dr S. Bergman (Sorong, W. New Guinea, September 1948); (7) President Soekarno, Indira Gandhi and Pandit Nehru (hardly visible behind Mrs Gandhi), with Dr Lieftinck during their visit to the Bogor Museum (1949); - (8) Receiving a present, on the occasion of his retirement from the Bogor Museum (March, 1954); (9-10) Arrival at Amsterdam Airport, upon return from a recent collecting trip to Celebes (1982). (Courtesy of Dr M.A. Lieftinck).

musea and other institutions in Belgium, Italy, Sweden, France and England, examining type material of Indo-Australian Odonata and solitary bees.

Back in Buitenzorg, now properly named Bogor, many duties were awaiting him again. He continued to serve as Editor of *Treubia* (1934-1959, honorary editor since 1959), secretary of the Royal Netherlands East Indies Society of Natural Sciences (Natuurkundige Vereeniging), and editor of the semi-popular monthly *De Tropische Natuur* (1935-1942). He also organized and distributed the enormous invertebrate collections from New Guinea to specialists abroad, and conducted the manuscripts to be published outside the U.S.A., all under the general title, *Results of the 3rd Archbold Expedition to Netherlands New Guinea 1938-1939*. On April 24, 1948 Lieftinck became a Corresponding Member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, Amsterdam; and on 5 July, 1950 received the same membership of the Swiss Nature Society (Naturforschende Gesellschaft) in Basel.



Fig. 11. Staff of the Bogor Museum, in the post World War period, during Lieftinck's directorship. Dr Lieftinck is the fourth from the left in the front row (with a tie). — (Courtesy of L.J.M. Butot, Bilthoven).

Before the war and out of duty, Lieftinck most of all enjoyed his holiday field trips all over West Java, as well as two longer vacations spent in little explored southern Sumatra (1935 and 1940), — happenings which I know would stick to his memory as highlights in his career. The excursions in Java, frequently in company with the coleopterist F.C. Drescher and the all-round naturalist Edward Jacobson, became unforgettable experiences in later years. I remember that the same could be said about his adventures in the Lampongs of South Sumatra, — a region never before visited by an entomologist of profession! — especially when relying on his narration of climbing Mt Tanggamus and camping

out on its summit, accompanied by his friend and lycaenid specialist L.J. Toxopeus. Despite hot dampness, sand flies, and fiercely sucking leeches, they followed almost impenetrable forest tracks en route to the top. Recalling those days to memory, he told me about the discovery of that scarlet little libellulid dragonfly, *Lyriothemis salva*, and the abundance of snow-white bumblebees (*Bombus senex*), visiting flowers of many kind, all assembled in the depths of an idyllic old crater-marsh, at the bottom beside the summit's slope (cf. 1935 d, 1940 h), events that caused ever so many moments of surprise and delight.

On duty, he accompanied many scientists from abroad interested in various aspects of tropical insect life. Later, during four months in 1948, he was leader of the Netherlands-Indies party of the Swedish-Dutch ornithological expedition to West New Guinea (the "Bergman Expedition"), an excellent occasion to him to visit that fascinating continent himself, as he had only organized, not participated in, the pre-war Archbold expedition! As he had become more and more absorbed in working out life-history studies of dragonflies, he whole-heartedly welcomed that occasion to explore the interior of the "Vogelkop" of West New Guinea — terra incognita as to Odonata! — as well as to visit some islands to the west of it, in particular the island of Misool. Shortly afterwards, Lieftinck also spent some time in the south Moluccan islands Ambon and Saparua, studying their odonate faunas.

In 1949 he was a delegate of the Netherlands-Indies' Government to the VIIth Pacific Science Congress in New Zealand, and on his way to Auckland, spent a few happy days in the national park near Sydney, collecting and observing several of the endemic Odonata occurring there. In September-October 1950, he went to Malaya and Sarawak (in Borneo), to advise and reorganize the Sarawak Museum insect collections in Kuching, and to have discussions with the Director of the Raffles Museum in Singapore. In 1951 he attended the IXth International Congress of Entomology in Amsterdam and was a delegate of the Indonesian Republic to the Pacific Science Congress in Manila (Nov. 1953), in charge of the sections "Museums in Pacific Research" and "Terrestrial Faunas of the Inner Pacific". In the same year he was sent by the Indonesian government to south Borneo, to accompany a German botanist professor, on which occasion important dragonfly discoveries were made.

SUBJECTS AND SCOPE OF RESEARCH REFLECTED IN PUBLICATIONS

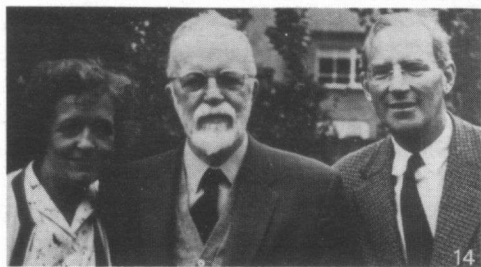
By the end of 1983 the number of Lieftinck's publications exceeds the 300 mark. The first 40 appeared during his student years in Amsterdam, his "Odonata neerlandica" being the most important one. Supplemental notes were published by himself before his departure to the East Indies, and also in later years. After a short series of articles on tropical Asiatic odonate species, written when he was

still in Amsterdam, a great number of papers on the fauna of the Sundaic Archipelago followed after his settlement in Buitenzorg.

This work was suddenly brought to a standstill by the Japanese invasion, early in 1942. A few manuscripts, already in "last-minute" proof print, appeared soon afterwards in *Treubia*, during the very first months of enemy occupation. It contains his article on the Anisoptera of the 3rd Archbold New Guinea Expedition. In that publication two subspecies of the libellulid genus *Rhyothemis* were described and photographed, both named in honour of members of the Royal family, — items at that time perhaps considered somewhat risky but which, of course, remained entirely unnoticed. A second (and last) wartime volume of *Treubia* has a queer bibliographic history. Lieftinck informed me that, one morning early in 1943, he was summoned out of jail, taken up by a motorized soldier and carried off to the Museum. Once arrived at the spot, he was ordered to uncover a bundle of hidden *Treubia* manuscripts. These had received the editor's imprimatur before the Japanese invasion and were carefully stored away. As hardly anything could be kept secret in those days, somehow the fact transpired and only he could help. This having been done, the victim was picked up and, as fate would have it, promptly put back into his prison cell. Anyway, the manuscripts were soon given into printer's hands and published under supervision of the "Military Administration Department". The volume was edited by the Japanese Department of Agriculture, under the general title, *Hortus Botanicus Bogoriensis, Java*, and subtitled "*Classified Zoological Report, Vol. I, No. 1, Dobutu gaku-iho (Treubia), I-1 2604*". These data have to be recorded, because a few copies were distributed in Indonesia and even posted overseas. Shortly after the liberation, one year later, the decision was made to have the original issue adapted to normal standards. After it had been stripped of its cover pages, summaries, etc., all copies were indexed, rebound and provided with a correction slip to the proper contributions, totalling 8 unchanged articles on various zoological subjects, all written in English. This slightly modified issue was put into circulation towards the end of 1946, under the title "*Treubia hors série*", with the original date of issue viz. May 29, 1944.

The numerous publications produced besides his editorial work and many other time-consuming duties, is but a sublimation of what Lieftinck really has achieved. The fine camera lucida drawings illustrating his articles were made all by himself. Although he was assisted by a local draftsman (he mentions the Sundanese artist, Raden Goesti Abdoelkadir), who in addition to beautiful pictures of whole insects and odonate larvae, also perfected a collection of sublime water-colour paintings of many dragonfly species, only few of the latter having been used in publications owing to the high reproduction costs.

Not only the number, also the quality of his works is astonishing. Lieftinck's descriptions, for the most part written in perfect English, occasionally in German or French, give evidence of his painstaking observations on the specimens under



Figs 12-18. With various odonatologists: (12) Collecting *Aeshna viridis* larvae at Berlicum, The Netherlands (May 6, 1928) (Photo Dr D.C. Geijskes); (13) The odonatologists during a field trip in the framework of the VIIth International Congress of Entomology, Berlin, 1938; standing (from left to right): Dr Erich Schmidt, Dr Douglas St. Quentin and Dr Cesare Nielsen; (14) At his home in

consideration. He has redescribed and figured many older types and often completed species descriptions by providing information and figures of previously unknown allotypes. In this way hundreds of pages were published by him describing the odonate fauna of the Sunda Islands and New Guinea. A very important handlist of Malaysian Odonata summarizes his efforts during a stay of 25 years in the tropical Sundaic area.

In addition to his systematic work, Lieftinck repeatedly kept us informed about his field observations. With great patience he photographed the courtship of rare dragonflies, while his biological notes on a variety of unusual methods of oviposition in Zygoptera, or of those adapted to stream-life in the tropical rain forest, contain facts of great interest. A second example concerns his curiosity of rearing strange-looking dragonfly larvae and bringing them up to emergence. Many gomphid and corduliid larvae (especially those of *Macromia*) he collected himself by handling leaf-plaited rice baskets used as a sieve. In that way live specimens often provided evidence on many undescribed features of known as well as of new species. In his descriptions he always had an open eye for ethological and phylogenetic aspects.

Lieftinck is not a man of partiality: he did not pay attention only to Odonata, but also to many other aspects of insect life in Indonesia. He wrote a very important paper on the curiously specialised members of *Leptopanorpa* (Mecoptera), which he observed in the Javanese mountains. Next to dragonflies solitary bees, like Anthophoridae and Carpenter-bees, still have his vivid interest, as is apparent from his prominent taxonomic publications on these groups. Small details like the oöthecae of little mantids also fascinated him, as well as various stream-dwelling insects (e.g. Ephemeroptera, gyrrinid and other aquatic beetles), cave-dwelling Hemiptera, etc. He often communicated his observations at meetings of entomological societies.

During his POW-camp time, when any field work was virtually impossible, Lieftinck nevertheless had some adventurous experiences.

To the delight of his fellow captives, he once attended to the life of an extraordinary wingless female of a rare lampyrid beetle, his main purpose being to become acquainted with its much smaller (probably unknown) winged male. His specimen was found in an abandoned rubber-tree garden; it was placed in a small cage with rotten leaves and kept alive for many days. The insect in question was of huge size and adorned with two lateral rows of 6 brightly luminous

Oegstgeest nr Leiden, Dr and Mrs. Lieftinck with Prof. Dr E.M. Walker (December, 1956); — (15) Collecting *Macromia splendens*, Dépt. Lot, France (July, 1965) (Photo Dr B. Kiauta); — (16) At the gate of the Leiden Museum, with Dr S. Asahina (August, 1968) (Photo Dr B. Kiauta); — (17) Coenagrion armatum collecting trip to the Naardermeer, The Netherlands (summer 1970), with (left to right) Dr Janny M. van Brink and Dr & Mrs H.J. Dumont (Dr D.C. Geijskes not in the picture) (Photo Dr B. Kiauta); — (18) With Dr T.C. Maa (centre) and Dr J.C. Lien (right), during the 1976 Taiwan trip. — (Figs 13, 14, and 18 courtesy of Dr M.A. Lieftinck).

thoraco-abdominal spots emitting strong, uninterrupted, pure yellow lights. The little cage was placed on purpose upon a bench about halfway down the narrow gangway leading to the lavatories, at some distance from the interior. In complete darkness, the lights actually served as a safe guide to the passing men on their frequent nightly walks to their goal and back again to their berths.

In that same camp he happened to come across a fecundated specimen of the common libellulid *Potamarcha congener*, whose eggs he assembled because its early stages had remained unknown to him. As all eggs taken from this female hatched, the offspring was carefully nursed, first fed on minute pond-water animals, followed by mosquito larvae, etc. Several of these dragonfly larvae successfully moulted, but only few survived in their inconvenient confine: only a single full-grown specimen

reached maturity. Shortly afterwards, on a railway transport to another camp (at Tjimahi), this unique specimen was taken along with him and happened to keep alive in a moistened tin; immediately upon arrival it was released into a water-containing vessel and after a few days it finally transformed. To his delight a perfect female emerged, which was liberated in an open space of the compound. In the Tjimahi POW camp several other well-known biologists became united (e.g. the ornithologist G.J. Broekhuysen and L. Kalshoven), each in his own way seeking objects of interest to hold out as long as possible. During that last tense period of patience and high-pitched expectations, many caterpillars and numerous other insects were painted and raised to maturity, Lieftinck's share in these activities being modest and restricted to observing and collecting flower-visiting bees, as also to his discovery of aquatic helodid beetle larvae and imagines in water-containing tree-holes, on the biology of which he made careful notes. Specimens of all these insects could be preserved and are still available for study in the Leiden museum.

His principal subject were and remain the Odonata. His outstanding studies on the dragonfly fauna of the Sundaic Archipelago may seem to have left few species in this tropical region undescribed. Of course, this is misleading, as one



Fig. 19. Camping in Oisterwijk, during a Post-Congress Tour, organized by Dr Lieftinck for the odonatologists, participating in the IXth International Congress of Entomology, Amsterdam, August, 1951. From left to right: Cynthia Longfield, Kees Lems and M.A. Lieftinck (not visible: Dr P.S. Corbet and Leon S. Wolfe [of the "*Uropetala* lame"])). — (Courtesy of Prof. Dr P.S. Corbet, Dundee).

His principal subject were and remain the Odonata. His outstanding studies on the dragonfly fauna of the Sundaic Archipelago may seem to have left few species in this tropical region undescribed. Of course, this is misleading, as one

should realize that the regional fauna is inexhaustible, as was demonstrated by a local gardener at the Bogor Botanic Gardens, bringing in a dragonfly picked up from the ground only few hundred meters from the Laboratory. The specimen proved to be a new species of *Macromia*! This incident occurred shortly before Lieftinck was leaving Indonesia in 1954.

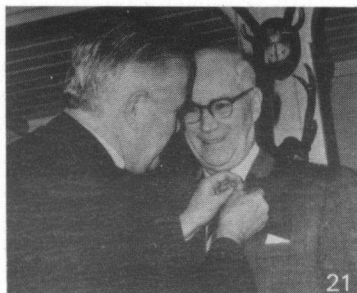
An excellent work is formed by his series of reports on the odonate fauna of New Guinea, dealing with over 600 species. Although it is of course unbelievable that such a large landmass, covered in the lowlands by tropical rain forest and beset in the centre with snow mountains, could have been in any way completely explored, very few of such areas in the tropics were equally thoroughly investigated in search of dragonflies. Much help was given to Lieftinck by expert collectors like W. Stüber and L.J. Toxopeus, who took pleasure in collecting lots of dragonflies in almost impenetrable locations, knowing that he would make the best possible use of their material.

As a sequel to his work on New Guinea, Lieftinck studied the odonate faunas of several archipelagoes in the Pacific and that of northern Australia. The zoogeographical relationships of these with those of the Asian and Australian mainland were also considered. Of numerous Pacific odonate taxa he described and figured the larvae as well.

His professional involvements in Pacific research include the earlier membership of the Pacific Science Association, with Standing Committees mentioned already before, and the one on Pacific Entomology (1958-1961). He left Indonesia on March 10, 1954, but still remained actively associated with the "Micronesia Project" sponsored by the B.P. Bishop Museum (Honolulu), the United States National Museum, Washington, and the institutes of the Australian Pacific Mandated Territories (from 1952 on). He also served on the Editorial Board of *Nova Guinea*, published in Leiden (1955-1966). To his (and other's) deep regret, the continuation of that fine scientific journal had to be ended by lack of funds and interest in the former Dutch part of the continent, not long after it was "bartered away" to Indonesia, as Lieftinck put it.

THE LEIDEN YEARS

On July 1, 1954 Lieftinck was appointed Curator at the Museum of Natural History in Leiden, under the direction of Professor Dr H. Boschma. His first job was to reorganize the Museum's odonate collection and to incorporate the whole of his own material into it, a collection which he had presented to that institute on the same occasion. As Lieftinck had exchanged many specimens with specialists all over the world, an entirely new collection could now be built up. In it the Anisoptera and the larger Zygoptera are represented by carefully selected series of "set" specimens, in a separate part of the museum. Papered duplicates, together with many types of the smaller Zygoptera, were all preserved and systematically



Figs 20-24. In the Leiden Museum: (20) Inspecting the Bornean *Tetracanthagyna* material (1959); from left to right: Prof. Dr J. van der Vecht, Mrs M.E. Walsh, M.A. Liefstinck, Dr. A. Diakonoff; – (21-23) During the ceremonies on the occasion of Dr Liefstinck's retirement: (21) Receiving the Order of an Officer of Oranje-Nassau, handed over by the Burgomaster of Oegstgeest, (22) During the Director's address, with Mrs Liefstinck, (23) With Dr A. Diakonoff; – (24) with Dr B.M. Thistleton, one of the numerous guests in the Odonate Department (1982). – (Figs 20-23 courtesy of Dr M.A. Liefstinck; Fig. 24 courtesy of Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden).

arranged in standard boxes in another section. It was he who invited me to come from Surinam to the Leiden museum, in September 1965, to help him with my material of Neotropical Odonata and with my own acquaintance with that fauna. The Leiden world collection of Odonata now consists of at least one hundred thousand specimens, referable to approximately 3500 species, exclusive of numerous taxa still to be described and named. During these years we both continued our research on Indo-Australian and Guyanean Odonata, and on several other insect orders. In addition, Lieftinck was intrigued by the late A. Bilek's discovery of *Coenagrion hylas* in Europe (Bavaria) in 1964, and produced special articles on this and the other European species, *Macromia splendens*, including the larva of this corduliid (1965). His sound contributions to the knowledge of the African fauna are laid down in some papers on Zygoptera of Madagascar (1963, 1965) and on Anisoptera of parts of Kantanga and Zambia (1966), while his survey of the odonate fauna of Morocco (1966) still remains the key-stone of north African odonatology.

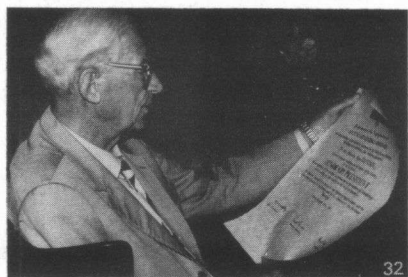
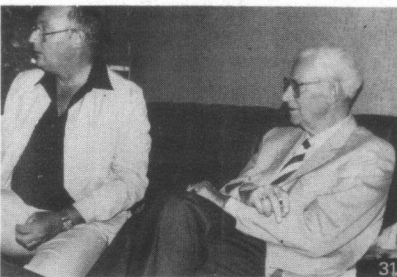
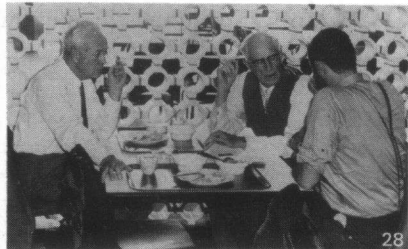
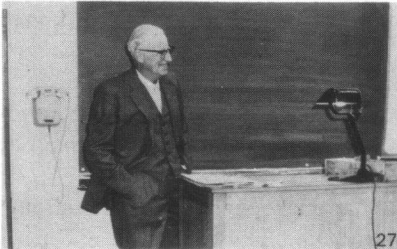
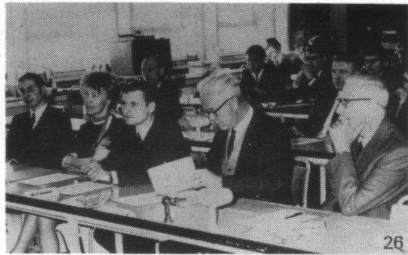
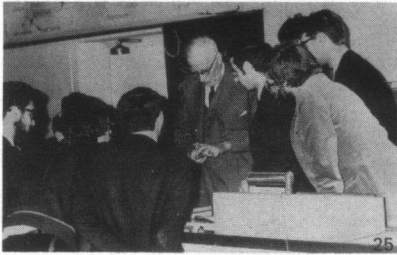
In 1960 Lieftinck attended the XIth International Congress of Entomology in Vienna as a delegate of the Dutch Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Social Welfare; in 1968 he participated in the XIIth International Congress of Entomology in Moscow and visited the Zoological Institutes in Moscow and Leningrad.

During a nine weeks' sojourn in the Malay Peninsula, February - April 1963, Lieftinck instructed and advised his companion, Professor J.I. Furtado, then a student of the Zoology Department at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, who was preparing a PhD dissertation on the Malayan Odonata, with special emphasis on various features of the peninsular fauna.

Upon the retirement of Professor Boschma, Lieftinck was invited to accept certain University positions and main responsibilities at the zoological institutes in Amsterdam and Leiden. These offers were declined as he preferred to continue his own research, unhampered by administration duties inevitably involved with such positions.

FORMAL NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITIONS

His exceptional scientific productivity, his activities as editor of scientific periodicals and as President of several scientific societies, and, not least, his cooperation with foreign scientists and participation in international scientific expeditions have earned Maurits Lieftinck many high awards. On November 24, 1950 he received the degree of Doctor honoris causa at the University of Basel, Switzerland. In 1963 he was elected a Member of Honour of the Société royale belge d'Entomologie, in 1968 of the Società degli Amici del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Genova, Italy; in September 1971, at the charter meeting in Gent, of the Societas Internationalis Odonatologica; in 1972, of the Netherlands



Figs 25-32. Participating in various SIO activities: (25-26) First Colloquium of Dutch Dragonfly Workers, Utrecht (March 7, 1970): (25) Demonstrating dragonfly material, (26) From left to right, front row: Dr H. Kaiser, Dr J.M. van Brink, Dr E. Schmidt, Dr D.C. Geijskes, Dr M.A. Liefstinck;

(27-28) First European Symposium of Odonatology and Charter Meeting of the International Odonatological Society, SIO (Gent, October 22-23, 1971): (27) Delivering a paper, (28) A quick lunch during the sessions, with Dr D.C. Geijskes and Dr B. Kiauta; (29-30) Second International Symposium of Odonatology, Karlsruhe (September 20-23, 1973): (29) In conversation with the Director of the Karlsruhe Natural History Museum, Dr E. Jürg, (30) With Dr S. Asahina and

Entomological Society. At the VIth International Symposium of Odonatology, held in Chur, Switzerland, in 1981, he was elected Honorary President of the Societas Internationalis Odonatologica. When in March 1969 he retired from his office at the Leiden Museum, Lieftinck was appointed Officer in the Order of Oranje-Nassau.

RESTLESS RETIREMENT

In the spring of 1970, Lieftinck and his wife, Corry (Cornelia Maria van Veen), moved to a newly-built house in the countryside, in Rhenen, a small town in the

Province of Utrecht. Relieved from his formal duties in Leiden, he did not give up his scientific activities. On the contrary: more than 20 substantial papers published after his formal retirement bear witness to his never diminishing working power and productivity. He also continues identifying thousands of newly acquired dragonfly specimens from tropical Asia, the Pacific area, and other faunal regions. Whenever time permits, he may suddenly arrive at Leiden for making comparisons in the museum collections and to incorporate previously unidentified duplicates of species

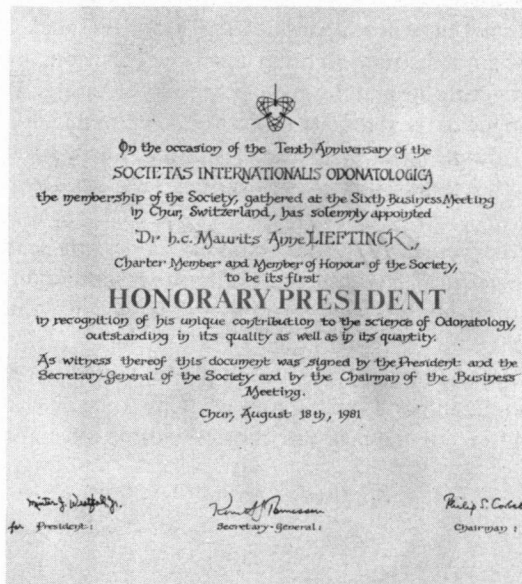


Fig. 33. Facsimile of the Diploma of the Honorary President of SIO.

received from institutions, correspondents and private collectors in The Netherlands as well as abroad. As is apparent from the Annual Reports of the Museum, Maus Lieftinck thus remains heart and soul of the institute's odonate department.

Dr M.J. Westfall; (31-32) Unable to attend the Sixth International Symposium of Odonatology (Chur), where Dr Lieftinck was elected Honorary President of the International Odonatological Society, he came to Kiautas home in Bilthoven, on September 19, 1981, to collect the "attributes" going with the presidency: (31) Dr J.-G. Pilon was also attending this small "private ceremony", (32) Reading the Diploma. (Figs 25-28 photo D. Smit; Figs 29-32 photo M. Kiauta; all courtesy of SIO Archives).

Relieved from administrative duties and time schedules of a Civil Servant, and keeping up with modern technical opportunities, Maus has developed new hobbies, and was able to pay more attention to his old ones. At various entomological meetings and odonatological symposia, in The Netherlands and elsewhere, he suddenly emerged as a gifted "producer", of entomological movies, based partly on his profound knowledge of the "actors" and their doings, partly on his legendary patience in the field. He now also found time for extended overseas research trips. In 1976, upon the invitation of his good friend, Professor T.C. Maa, the Lieftincks visited Taiwan, in 1978 the western Himalaya, and in 1982 he alone went to Indonesia, where good collecting was done in the interior of little-known SW central Celebes, assisted by a former Bogor assistant in zoology.

After the unexpected grave loss of his wife, in August 1980, Maus Lieftinck is trying hard to conquer sorrow and distress, fighting against disillusion, by concentrating on the study of dragonfly life and the many other gifts of nature. At the moment, an annotated catalogue of the Odonata of Taiwan, prepared jointly with the Chinese colleagues in Taiwan, Drs J.C. Lien en T.C. Maa, is scheduled to appear early in 1984, while other faunal surveys and various revisions are in course of preparation.

Although he has formally retired from the Editorial Board of *Odonatologica* in 1977, hardly an issue of this periodical has ever since appeared without his "informal" referee work and editorial advice. The present issue is by no means an exception to this "tradition".

All of us, his friends, collaborators, correspondents and pupils, united in the SIO "family", wish him to continue in good health, and we hope to be able to benefit from his knowledge and to enjoy the pleasure of his friendship for many more years.