



On september 1st 1965 our honorary member, Professor Dr. V. J. KONINGSBERGER has retired as professor of botany at the State University of Utrecht, which function he fulfilled since 1934.

Professor KONINGSBERGER was a student at the same university. After getting his degree he went to the Experiment Station for Sugarcane cultivation (P.O.J.), Java, where he worked during 10 years.

In 1934 he was appointed to be the successor of his former teacher F. A. F. C. WENT. So he came back to Utrecht where he started his work under very difficult circumstances. The years of the world crisis had had a devastating influence on the university budget. After a gradual improvement World War II caused another hit. During those dark years he set an example to all his friends by his straightforward and reliable character.

After the war a gradual reorganisation of the work due to the increasing number of students took much of Professor Koningsberger's time. Beside that busy work he found enough energy to be on the board of many scientific institutions and societies, mostly as president of the board. The most important of these are: The Royal Institute for the Tropics, the Royal Academy of Sciences, T.N.O., Z.W.O., WOTRO and of course the Royal Botanical Society of the Netherlands.

Although all this sounds as if every minute of his life must have been filled with his work and extra functions, his friends realize very well that a still stronger point in Koningsberger's character lies in his capacity for personal contact. Students or members of the personnel who were in difficulties could always reckon on his help and support, even on his time.

We want to express our wish that Professor Koningsberger will be able to enjoy his more restful life after retirement as well as he enjoyed his very busy life.

R. VAN DER VEEN