

J.G.J. Kuiper - 90 years

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Johannes (Hans) Gijsbertus Jacobus Kuiper was born on September 3, 1914 in the village Tynaarlo (Drenthe). He was the second child in a family with 6 children. His father, Klaas Kuiper was a minister. In 1917 the family left for Java in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). In 1921 Hans returned to the Netherlands for his school education, which he got in a very formal protestant boarding school in Utrecht. From 1927 to 1933 he studied at the protestant Gymnasium in Utrecht where he was interested in natural history and the art of drawing. His mother Helena Kuiper-van Schuylenburgh sent him shells from Indonesia regularly, which stimulated his interest in malacology. Also during holidays at his grandparents' house he collected molluscs and his main interest were already the smaller ones. Due to the fact that his father passed away in 1933, there was no possibility for a university study and he accepted every job he could get in this difficult period of economic world crisis. During a trip around the world on a commercial ship in 1936/37 his intention was to go to the Dutch East Indies and follow his older brother to find a job on a rubber plantation. Unfortunately, he did not succeed in getting a job overseas, so after several months he was back in the Netherlands.

In 1938 he made a malacological excursion to Corse, followed one year later by a trip to Dalmatia, Bosnia and Croatia. In September 1939, with the beginning of World War II, his diplomatic career started. It was not the best time to go to Germany and after a severe winter he went in May 1940 with 'diplomatic mail' to The Hague. One day after his arrival, the German army crossed the Dutch border and a return to Berlin became impossible.

In 1940 he married Annie Geefhuysen. Unfortunately, when she gave birth to their first child, his wife died. After the war he remarried Jo Wefers Bettink and two more daughters and one son were born.

Next to his own collecting trips he corresponded with a lot of colleagues all over the world and received material to identify from nearly all natural history museums. Of particular interest were several trips to the Pyrenees, the Alps, Cyrenaika (=Libia; with Carel van Regteren Altena and Rolf Brandt), Iceland and North America.

During all these years he collected mainly land- and freshwaternmolluscs, which collection (over 12.000 samples) was donated to the Zoölogisch Museum Amsterdam (ZMA) in 1983. In 1994 his Sphaeriidae-collection (over 13.000 samples) was transported from

Paris to the ZMA. A few groups under study are still in Paris. His collection of reprints was donated to the library of the Nederlandse Malacologische Vereniging (NMV) and his impressive collection of malacological books, journals and letters will be donated to the ZMA.

In 1941 he started with three note books. In the first one he documented all information about every *Pisidium* specimen he studied. In the second book he noted the specimens of *Pisidium* in his collection and in the third he wrote about the correspondence related to his *Pisidium* research. Altogether up to now 13.700 pages bound in 33 volumes with information and about 6000 drawings.

During 65 years he examined nearly 1.5 million specimens. In about 350 publications his identifications are reported and he published over 300 articles himself (see Moolenbeek et al., 2004).

The longest time in his diplomatic carrier he worked in Paris at the Dutch Embassy. He retired in 1979 but stayed in Paris and continued his *Pisidium* research.

The 'Universiteit van Amsterdam' bestowed him on January 9, 1984 the title 'Doctor honoris causa', an unique event for a malacologist. In addition Hans Kuiper is honorary scientist at the 'Zoölogisch Museum Amsterdam' and honorary member of the NMV.

In a special meeting on October, 3rd 2004 at the ZMA, the NMV celebrated its 70th anniversary and also the 90th birthday of Hans Kuiper and his 70 years of membership.

This present supplement of Basteria, edited by a special 'gelegenheidsredactie', written by colleagues and friends is dedicated to Dr Kuiper as a tribute to the science of malacology.

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