

SUMMARY

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With this special Succulenta issue we celebrate our centennial jubilee; our cactus and succulent society was established in 1919. Consequently, other than in our normal two-monthly issue, you will find articles full of memories covering this 100 year period, articles about people that played an important role in promoting the popularity of succulent plants, articles about people that fulfilled major functions in the organization of Succulenta, articles about all kinds of activities for our members and articles about all kinds of developments concerning the cultivation of our plants.

Naturally, our present president Frans Mommers leads things off with a short introduction. The first 5 years, 1919-1924, are covered by Peter Knippels. On June 16, 1919, encouraged by some people from the plant lovers club 'Floralia', the Dutch succulent plant society named 'Succulenta' was raised. By the end of 1919, 116 members were recorded.

Theo Heijnsdijk put some people from those early days in the spotlight: G.D. Duursma, secretary from 1919 until 1927, J.J. Verbeek Wolthuys, president from 1921 till 1926, and J.M. van den Houten, treasurer from 1920 till 1931. Duursma was also editor of the journal 'Succulenta' from 1927 until 1947.

Peter Knippels deals with the second world war period. In 1940, Albert Buining was elected president. In the cold winters of 1941 and 1942 many plants were lost due to shortage of fuel. In 1943 publication of the journal 'Succulenta' came to an temporary end.

Theo Heijnsdijk describes the worth of miss J.J.E. van den Thoorn for our society. In 1934 she followed up miss Mia Karsten as secretary. From 1932 she ganged the distribution of seeds.

The first years after the end of WW two are covered by Peter Knippels. The first post-war 'Succulenta' appeared in 1947. From 1933 on, a second succulent plant club had existed in the Netherlands due to difference of opinion, but in 1946 both societies got together again. 1950 saw the birth of a yearly meeting of specialists, the 'grasheuvel-conferentie' (grasshill conference) in Amersfoort, an event which developed into an international meeting, later renamed 3LK ('drielandenkonferentie'). In 1952 there was another fusion, this time between Succulenta and the Flemish cactus lovers group named 'Pereskia'.

Theo Heijnsdijk outlines the life of Mia Karsten, another important Succulenta member who was secretary from 1927 till 1934. She was especially interested in the succulent flora of South Africa.

Another contribution by Theo Heijnsdijk is about the cultivation of succulent plants in black-painted tin cans, a craze that became popular in the early '60s, because the compost would stay warmer longer than in normal pottery and root damage during repotting would be much less. After 1967 almost everybody switched to plastic pots.

André van Zuijlen discusses the regional sections of Succulenta. The first was section Amsterdam, in 1924. The next one was section The Hague, a year later, followed by Rotterdam and Utrecht in 1926. In 1988 there were 34 regional sections. Unfortunately, after the turn of the century the number of regional sections declined to 21 at present.

Theo Heijnsdijk tells us about the library of Succulenta, which already started at the very beginning, in 1919. In 1932, the number of lended books reached its highest peak at 720.

Right now, there are 450 books in our library, under supervision of Mrs. Coby Keizer-Zinsmeester. Today, many books and articles are available as scanned versions.

Jack Schraets gives an overview of the so-called 'Clichéfonds', an institution to provide seeds to our members in order to finance the costs of clichés necessary to print photos in our journal. This initiative was already started in 1924 by treasurer J.M. van den Houten. Most important person was miss J.J.E. van den Thoorn, who took care of all the work from 1932 until 1948. In the 1970s (our most successful period), about 25 % of our members (over 1000 people) bought seeds from the 'Clichéfonds'.

Another institution set up by J.M. van den Houten was a system to provide cuttings and superfluous plant material to junior members. In 1969, this initiative was taken up by O.C.

van Soldt, under the title 'ruilen zonder huilen' (swapping without crying). In 1976, 228 people asked for a plant list and 72 plant-containing packages were sent. In 2007 this institution was ended.

Theo Heijnsdijk describes the history of the 'diatheek', a collection of slides piled up by members, to be used at meetings of regional sections. Some efforts to set up a system like this were already taken in 1927 but the official start took place in 1972. In 1984 the collection comprised 2500 slides. In 2004 the 'diatheek' was stopped.

Peter Knippels reports about the celebration of 75 year existence of Succulenta in the Leiden hortus in 1994. The ambassador of South Africa was also present.

Theo Heijnsdijk deals with the fight against pests through the years. Most pesticides commonly used in the past were dangerous and persistent (DDT, parathion, temik) and therefore no longer available. Instead, biological pest control is becoming more and more important.

One of our most respected presidents was Albert Buining. Lothar Diers describes his life and importance for our society. After 1966, he undertook many expeditions to the cactus habitats of South America, Brazil in particular. He described many new species and wrote a monography on the Brazilian genus *Discocactus*.

Peter Knippels tells us about the Succulenta stand at the 1992 'floriade' in Zoetermeer, a large floral exhibition held every 10 years. 3,3 Million visitors were recorded.

Ton Pullen is remembered by Jack Schraets. Ton was member of honor, wrote numerous articles for Succulenta, and was member of our editorial board during many years. His finest work was a booklet with tips how to cultivate succulent plants, especially meant for junior plant lovers.

Wim Alsemgeest looks back at his 55 year membership of Succulenta.

On the back page, Tom Twijnstra deals with the first plant depicted in the very first 'Succulenta': *Notocactus ottonis*.

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