

Autobiographie

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Born at Amsterdam, 26 December 1901.

Profession : Teaching in municipal schools in Amsterdam, from 1922-1927 in elementary schools, thereafter in higher-grade school until retirement in 1967.

As a boy, I was especially interested in plants, but later on also in butterflies and moths which soon dominated. About 1930 two important collections of Dutch Lepidoptera were donated to the Amsterdam Zoological Museum. I undertook to combine them in my spare time with the material already present to form one large collection. But this was not the end. More collections followed and even now I am still busy looking after what has become a very large collection of Dutch Lepidoptera.

In the meantime I began to collect as much data as possible about the distribution of the Macrolepidoptera in the Netherlands, a subject which had been neglected behind. I visited not only the other museums, but also all private collectors. In this way I obtained an immense quantity of data

and this resulted in the Catalogue of the Dutch Macrolepidoptera, published from 1936-1953 in 11 instalments of together 929 pages. But when I had reached the end, so many new data were available that I had to start again and 16 supplements followed (1953-1970) with a total of 1266 pages.

In the meanwhile British lepidopterists had begun to collect data about migrating Lepidoptera. The publications of the results interested me strongly and I soon got the idea to start the same in the Netherlands. I succeeded in forming a group of collectors willing to make notes and send them to me and as a result the first Dutch report could be published in 1941. It was however, not a favourable time for such work. Travelling was very difficult during the German occupation and collecting at light was quite out of the question. But after the war circumstances soon improved enabling me to publish an extensive report of the wonderful results of the hot and dry summer 1947 with more than 200 *Pontia daplidice*, 6000 *Colias hyale*, 4000 *Colias crocea*, 3000 *Issoria lathonia* and 2000 *Macroglossum stellatarum*, figures which have never again been reached, let alone surpassed. From 1941, a report has been published every year, with No 44 appearing in 1984, with the results of 1983.

In 1948 I became sole editor of *Entomologische Berichten*, the monthly periodical edited by the Netherlands Entomological Society, destined for the publication of smaller articles. In 1976 an editorial staff of three, at present four, was formed, so that the responsibility is now more evenly distributed.

In addition to the Catalogue, I published a book on the migrant Lepidoptera observed in the Netherlands, all of them figured, so that they could easily be recognized (1956 ; 2nd enlarged edition of 151 pages in 1972) – and a check list of the Dutch Lepidoptera (1976). At present, a book on the Lepidoptera of Friesland is in press. I also produced the Dutch edition of HIGGINS & RILEY's Field Guide (1971, second edition 1980).

I have written approximatively 300 articles (excl. book reviews and short communications), some in French, German or English, but most in Dutch and these mainly in "Entomologische Berichten".