

OBITUARY

ABRAHAM WILLEM KLOOS (1880-1952) was born at Wormerveer in Holland in 1880. He studied at the University of Delft, and qualified as an engineer. Later, he taught mathematics and mechanics at the Technical High School at Dordrecht where he became famous for his teaching ability. As a pioneer of technical instruction he wrote a number of handbooks which are still much in use.

He joined the Dutch Botanical Society in 1912 and from the first he was a field-botanist, chiefly interested in floristic and systematic botany. By means of numerous excursions and much study he acquired an extensive knowledge of the Dutch flora. His house became a botanical centre, where he cultivated every rare and critical plant he found. From 1924, he organised and led the annual excursions of the Society, and became Chairman of the floristic section. One of his hobbies was the study of adventive plants. He became a world-known authority and identified thousands of specimens for botanists and institutions all over the world and he amassed an enormous herbarium. In the meanwhile he was one of the principal collaborators of IVON, the institution for cartography of the Dutch flora, and at the 1950 Conference of the Botanical Society of the British Isles he gave a concise exposition of the Dutch method.

Kloos wrote numerous articles on critical genera and these appeared especially in *Nederlandsch Kruidkundig Archief*. His "Aanwinsten", in which he described and discussed hundreds of "new" plants and forms from 1914 to 1950 form a book of more than 600 pages when bound together with the index. A few days before his death he was still engaged in writing his "Aanwinsten" for 1951. He was a member of the editorial staff of the *Flora Neerlandica* and a collaborator in the *Illustrated Flora* of Heimans and Thysse.

He was an Honorary Member of the Royal Dutch Botanical Society and Doctor honoris causa (Dr.Ir.) of the University of Leiden.

After he had retired on pension he commenced the preparation of a monograph of the genus *Amaranthus* but, although he had identified the material of most of the herbaria of the world, and published some of the results, the work remained unfinished. He was an alert, kind-hearted man, always ready to assist others and gifted with a sharp eye for plants and with an extraordinary teaching-power. He was my friend and collaborator for more than forty years.

P. JANSSEN.

British botanists who had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Ir. A. W. Kloos, Jr., at our 1950 Conference will remember with gratitude his outstanding ability in imparting his knowledge to others. Both when expounding in the lecture hall the methods adopted in Holland for the

preparation of distribution maps, and when demonstrating the use of the recording cards at the Quendon field meeting, he succeeded in making every detail so clear that any language difficulties were completely overcome. His skill in finding, and determining without hesitation, the immature plants of the English countryside in early April made it obvious that his eye for plants was exceptionally keen.

In this country he was best known for his work on *Amaranthus* and on wool aliens. During his visit in 1950 he determined the *Amaranthus* material in various public and private herbaria, including confirmation of English identifications of *A. quitensis* Kunth which he had recently written up for the Low Countries. The pages of Probst's *Wolladventiflora Mitteleuropas* owe much to the records contributed by Kloos.

He was elected an Honorary Member of the Botanical Society of the British Isles at the Annual General Meeting on April 14, 1951, in recognition of his services to the Society and to the study of the European flora.

Kloos died at his home at Dordrecht on June 3, 1952, at the age of 72. To his widow, children and grandchildren, we send our deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

Other appreciations will be found in:—1952, *Acta Bot. Neerl.*, **1**, 484-488; 1952, *De Levende Natuur*, **55**, 138-139; 1952, *Blumea*, **7**, 303-304.

J. E. LOUSLEY.