IN MEMORIAM LIPKE BIJDELEY HOLTHUIS

Fig. 1. Portrait of Lipke Bijdeley Holthuis painted on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Oil on canvas by Charles H.J.M. Fransen, 2001.

BY

CHARLES H.J.M. FRANSEN¹,⁴), SAMMY DE GRAVE²,⁵) and PETER K.L. NG³,⁶)
¹) NCB — Naturalis, P.O. Box 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands
²) Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PW, United Kingdom
³) Tropical Marine Science Institute and Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Kent Ridge, Singapore 119260, Republic of Singapore

⁴) Corresponding author; e-mail: charles.fransen@ncbnaturalis.nl
⁵) e-mail: sammy.degrave@oum.ox.ac.uk
⁶) e-mail: peterng@nus.edu.sg

© Koninklijke Brill NV, Leiden, 2010
Studies on Malacostraca: 1-75
EARLY YEARS

Lipke Bijdeley Holthuis was born in Probolinggo, East Java, Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia) on 21 April 1921. Both his parents were of Frisian descent. His father, Barnard Jan Holthuis (1881-1961), was a schoolteacher and became director of a training school for local civil servants in Probolinggo. His mother, Neeltje bij de Ley (1891-1976), before her marriage was also a schoolteacher. His first name ‘Lipke’ is Frisian and means Northern Lapwing or Peewit, *Vanellus vanellus* (Linnaeus, 1758), which is a common bird in the meadows of Friesland. His second name ‘Bijdeley’ was adopted to prevent his mothers’ surname ‘bij de Ley’ becoming extinct. He had one older sister, Antje Grietje (later Mrs. A.G. Kroonenberg-Holthuis), who became a neurologist and married an ophthalmologist with a practice in Goes in the province of Zeeland. He was very close to his sister and often visited her in Goes, particularly in later years; he became the fascinating travelling uncle to his nephews and nieces. Two of them actually became interested in science, inspired by the stories Lipke told about his adventures in exotic places (P.M. Kroonenberg, 2008; S.B. Kroonenberg, 2008).

The Holthuis family resided in East Java in Probolinggo until 1925, when they returned to the Netherlands for eight months leave. Upon returning to East Java the family moved further inland to the town of Madioen (now Madiun). Although Lipke never returned to the town of his birth, the impressions from his childhood remained vivid. Whenever a conversation touched upon Indonesia, he brightened and his conversation was laced with Malay words. The Holthuis family returned permanently to the Netherlands in 1928.

EDUCATION

After one year of primary school at Madioen, East Java (1927-1928), Lipke continued and completed his primary and secondary school years in The Hague, the Netherlands (1929-1937). During his school years he became a member of the Nederlandse Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie (NJN), in which Niko Tinbergen (Nobel Prize laureate) played a major role (Van Tol & Ng, 2008). Niko’s brother, Lukas, who was a gifted ornithologist and very popular field guide, was also active in the NJN. Lipke joined many excursions and became an enthusiastic bird watcher and ornithologist as well. During his later travels he always kept a diary with his bird observations (Vouous, 1995).