Hendrik Gerard Bungeberg de Jong, 1893-1977

De Jong, who from 1922 was entitled to call himself Bungeberg de Jong, was born on 27 May 1893 in The Hague, the son of a physician. He attended the HBS in The Hague and after an additional examination in Greek and Latin he was admitted to Leiden University to study biology (1913). After a year he moved to Utrecht, where soon, however, he decided to switch to chemistry: biology was not exact enough to his taste. In 1919 he passed the doctoral examination and the following year he became assistant to Hugo Rudolph Kruyt, who had introduced him to colloid science. In 1921 De Jong took his degree with a dissertation on *Het agarsol. Bijdrage tot de kennis van den emulsoiden toestand* (Contribution to the knowledge of Colloid State). In the same year he married Martina Antonetta van der Linden; they had one son and two daughters. In 1923 Bungeberg de Jong took a job at the Physics Lab of Philips in Eindhoven, but after only a year he moved to Breda, where he founded the research laboratory of the Hollandsche Kunstzijde Industrie (artificial silk industry). His research was mainly concerned with cellulose and viscose.

Even though he had published little as yet, on the recommendation of Kruyt Bungeberg de Jong was appointed to the chair of medical chemistry at Leiden in 1926. His inaugural lecture (26 January 1927) was entitled *De physisch-chemische gesteldheid der kolloide eiwitten en hare beteekenis voor het organisme* (The Physical Chemistry of Colloid Proteins and their Importance to the Organism). In his research, biological applications of colloid science took a central place. In the course of this research, he was able partially to separate colloid systems (which he called 'coacervation'). A survey of this research was published first in an article 'Die Koazervation und ihre Bedeutung für die Biologie'(1932) and later in his book *La coacervation et son importance en biologie* (1936). This line of research proved to be of vital importance to the study of membranes and living cells. Bungeberg de Jong however never lost sight of practical applications, for example copying paper without carbon.

Recognition for his fundamental scientific work came with his election as a member of the Dutch Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1942 (confirmed in 1946, when the Academy was Royal again). But it took a few more years before the importance of his work was

realized abroad. Most of his publications were of a very technical character and usually he did not accept foreign invitations. He did, however, write some fundamental chapters in the second volume of Hugo Kruyt's handbook *Colloid Science* (1949) and in 1956, together with his student and successor H. L. Booij, he wrote *Biocolloids and their interactions*. Bungeberg de Jong was most of all a researcher; teaching and administration were not to his liking.

In 1961 Bungeberg de Jong retired and moved to the small town of Oosterbeek near Arnhem. He withdrew completely from chemistry and devoted his time to botany. He died on 7 May 1977.

Primary works

Poggendorff, vol. 6, 369; vol. 7B, 645-650.

Secondary sources

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[K.v.B.]