



Fig. 1: The new greenhouse provides a lot of space for the Euphorbia collection of the Botanic Garden Meise

Members' meeting in Meise

by Rikus van Veldhuisen

On Saturday, the 4th of June a meeting of Belgian and Dutch members of the International Euphorbia Society was held in the 'Nationale Plantentuin' in Meise, Belgium. We had three good reasons to organise this day.

Of course, the first reason is that it is nice to spend time with people who share the same passion as you and to do that in the best place you can imagine; in our case it is to meet in one of the best collections in the world housed in the Botanic Garden Meise. It is a great place that some of our members already know from our Conventions held in the past. 24 *Euphorbia*-enthusiasts attended the meeting and I got the impression they all enjoyed it very much. The plants of the collection were put under a close inspection, wish lists were written for those species needed to enter one's own collection and contacts were made.

The second reason to invite the members of the Society to the conservation collection, that usually is not open to the public, is to show them the new housing of the plants. The 'Nationale Plantentuin' has made some big investments in new greenhouses. These greenhouses provide a fully automatically controlled climate with many sections for plants demanding their specific climatic conditions. Also there are parts to put newly acquired plants into quarantine. In short, the greenhouses are really 'State of the Art' and I must congratulate Thomas and his team on how neat and tidy all this is and how plants are thriving

in their new home.

The third reason is that the management of the Botanic Garden Meise felt that the acquisition of the *Euphorbia*-collection of Jaap Keijzer deserved a special tribute. Thomas Cammaerts welcomed the participants at the beginning of the day. In his speech he centred his attention on Jaap Keijzer and recalled his special relationship with him, whom he had visited for the first time as a small boy. Since then, Jaap has been his great role model and Thomas decided he, too, wanted to have such a collection one day. I noticed right then that today the plants in Meise are staged in exactly the same way as Jaap used to have them. Also Jaap's generous way of sharing plants and his skills of growing and propagating euphorbias were recorded. A sign board with names of contributors to the Meise collection was revealed with Jaap's name put on top.

On this occasion the Board Committee wanted to take the opportunity by honouring both Jaap, and also his wife Corrie, by appointing them both as Honorary Members of the International Euphorbia Society. Corrie always stayed in the background, but it was she who started the hobby, did a lot of work in the collection and also no plant entered or left the collection without approval of Corrie. Deservedly they are both honoured.

After a talk by your Chairman about his last trip to Africa, Jaap and Corrie received a piece of art in ceramics made by the artist Marine Coutelas from Paris. Needless to say, of course, a *Euphorbia*.

Impressions from the the Botanic Garden



meeting in Meise

