

The name of JAN P. BAKKER is well-known in physical geography, both in the Netherlands and beyond the Dutch frontiers: time and again BAKKER was invited to give lectures abroad and he received several honorary doctorates, honorary memberships and other distinctions. BAKKER earned this wide reputation by his original and important physical geographical work. His publications include studies on the geomorphology of mountainous areas like the Odenwald and the Morvan and on sedimentary regions like the Basin of Mainz and Barradeel (a Frisian district). He gave a great impulse to the mathematical approach of geomorphological problems and carried out pioneer work on granite weathering in the humid tropics and the behaviour of tropical rivers. He is a zealous propagandist for the use of physical geography as an applied science and the founder of the Physical-Geographical Laboratory at the University of Amsterdam. In addition he is the stimulating president of the Royal Netherlands Geographical Society.

Jan P. BAKKER will be celebrating his 60th birthday on 21th of July of this year. The editorial board of the Journal of the Geographical Society had the happy thought of dedicating the July-issue of 1966 to this jubilee and it was therefore a great pleasure to the undersigned, who were asked to contact possible collaborators, to find that colleagues from all over the world spontaneously availed themselves of this opportunity to congratulate their colleague by sending in their contributions for this issue.

The authors, the Royal Netherlands Geographical Society, and the Editorial Board want to express their great appreciation for the work performed by their friend JAN P. BAKKER in different fields of geography, wishing him not only a happy birthday, but also a long row of fruitful years with as great a scientific harvest as in previous years.

P. D. JUNGERIUS

A. J. WIGGERS

J. I. S. ZONNEVELD