

Hortus botanicus Groningen

The Old Hortus

On 22 June 1626 pharmacist and botanist Hendrick Munting (1583-1658), also a medical student at the University, bought an area of 1420 m² in the Grote Rozenstraat in Groningen and started to lay out his thirty times forty meters botanic garden. He extended the area by renting neighbouring gardens and later bought a second piece of land almost twice as big as the original garden. He introduced many indigenous, subtropical and tropical plants, probably from his many travels in his youth and by using his many acquaintances abroad. One example is the *Arundo indica*, a bamboo-like plant indigenous to the Caribbean, which was sent to him by Monsieur Robin in Paris, the son of one of Munting's friends.

After sixteen years he asked the University for support in 1642 as the costs had risen, but mainly because he wanted to share the garden with others. Its value was quickly realised by the academic community and the University started to subsidise the garden the same year. A catalogue was published in 1646 called "Hortus and a medicinal treasure". He donated the garden to the University and it remained in its possession until 1967 when all the plants were moved to the new *Hortus Haren*, which had been laid out in the domain belonging to 't Huis de Wolf.

Until the end of the 19th century the area around the garden kept its mainly rural character with kitchen gardens, dairies and greenery, including the Hortus Botanicus. When the University wished to bring all the humanities departments under the same roof in the mid-1960s it was clear that they would need to encroach upon the Hortus area. The Groningen municipality developed a plan for the whole area known as the *Hortusbuurt*, the Hortus neighbourhood, which included



Oude Hortus, in: SP-Groningen, December 2007

protecting what remained of the Hortus as an ecological 'stepping stone' between the northern public gardens and the New Churchyard (*Nieuwe Kerkhof*), thus becoming an integral part of ecological structures outlined for the area as a little green city oasis. The advanced age of the trees and variation of plant life with large numbers of agriophytes, among them some that are rare and protected. There is also evidence of the protected stone marten and there are signs that the area houses some protected types of bats. The legal framework for the area has included the garden as part of the city's ecological structure regulations and in respect the laws regarding flora and fauna.

The nucleus of the university was clustered around buildings on the Broerstraat and there was very little expansion outside this centre for most of the 19th century. There was, however, also a Botanical Garden in the Grote Rozenstraat, a small teaching hospital with eight beds in the 'Groene Weeshuis' and a Chemical Laboratory based in a summer house in the Prinsenhof. The Hortus is open to the public from Groote Rozenstraat and Groote Kruisstraat.

't Huis De Wolf

The Dutch State bought the manor house from the family in 1917 and the grounds were dedicated to the new botanic garden of the University of Groningen. Work on the garden started in 1929-30 and the manor house itself, originally rented out separately, later became the seat of the Institute of Genetics, the Polemological Institute and the study centre for traffic surveys. At the start of the 1990s the University sold the building to a private person who has managed to reinstate as much as possible of the original interior.



Hortus Haren

The Hortus Haren covers twenty hectares and is situated north of the village of Haren about six kilometers south-east of Groningen. The garden is managed by the 'Stichting Behoud Groene Hortus de Hortus in Haren'.

The Garden is divided into a number of important areas: the Herb Garden, an Arboretum, a Pinetum, the Orchard, heather and grass areas, the Chinese Garden, the English Garden, the Floriade Garden, the Glasshouses, the Celtic Garden, nutrient-low pools, the Rock Garden, thematic gardens, permaculture garden and the beehive house (below).



The Pinetum



Winter in the Chinese garden

In the park there is also an aviary managed by the foundation to help the parrots (*Stichting Papegaaiehulp*), where different types of parrots are taken care of. The Chinese Garden is laid out in the traditional Chinese garden design, and there is also a Chinese restaurant.



The Herb Garden has been named after Henricus Munting, the founder of the old Hortus.



Autumn in the garden



Spring in the garden

Hortus Haren Holland

Kerklaan 34
9751 NN Haren

Tel.: +31(0) 50 537 00 53
Fax: +31(0)50 537 12 23

E-mail: info@hortusharen.nl
<http://www.hortusharen.nl/>

The garden is closed from 1st of January until 1st
of April



Crocus