



Professor Dr. E. van Slogteren receives the American Daffodil Society's first Gold Medal from Willis H. Wheeler.



# First Gold Medal of the American Daffodil Society Awarded Prof. Dr. E. van Slogteren of the Netherlands

WILLIS H. WHEELER, Arlington, Virginia  
*Second Vice President, American Daffodil Society*

**D**URING the regular sessions of the fourth annual meeting of the American Daffodil Society, held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the latter part of April, 1959, the Board of Directors voted to award the Society's first gold medal to Prof. Dr. E. van Slogteren, formerly Director of the famed Laboratorium voor Bloembollenonderzoek at Lisse in the Netherlands. Since I was planning to be in that country during the same summer I was instructed to make the presentation of the medal.

When informed of the award the officials of the Associated Bulb Growers of Holland cooperated in making arrangements for the ceremony which took place on the afternoon of July 30, 1959. At that time a good representative group of bulb growers and exporters met in the beautiful auditorium of the Laboratorium to enjoy a social time which was followed by the presentation. The statement made at that time follows:

"This afternoon we are privileged to gather here to do honor to one of your countrymen, a scientist of world-renown in the fields of plant pathology and bulb research. For long years he labored in these laboratories. At first his facilities were small, but not his accomplishments. And as the years passed and his fame grew, those who recognized what he was doing for the horticulture and agriculture of the Netherlands saw to it that more laboratories were provided, until now this magnificent group of buildings here in Lisse stand as a memorial to his years of accomplishment.

"Today this institution is known throughout the world by plant scientists for what it has done under the leadership of



Professor Dr. E. van Slogteren, and I am sure a continuing number of accomplishments of significance will continue to appear under the guidance of its new director, Dr. van der Want.

“Outstanding among the contributions to the horticultural success of this nation are the things Prof. van Slogteren has done for the daffodil and the genus *Narcissus*. In the earlier years of this century the bulb and stem nematode threatened the daffodil cultures of this and other lands. The professor met this challenge and today the hot water treatment of daffodil bulbs is a standard procedure that gives us Dutch daffodils free of eelworm and certain other pests.

“Later the professor and his staff turned their attention to other disease problems of the daffodil. For many years certain daffodils showed abnormalities of the leaves and flowers believed to be caused by virus infections. Various phytopathologists in several countries worked on this problem without definite success, but in the 1940’s Professor van Slogteren and his laboratory gave us the answer. He was able to demonstrate by long and patient work that the diseases were caused by certain viruses, and he showed that they were aphid-transmitted. With this knowledge the bulb growers were better able to take the necessary steps to eliminate the trouble.

“In view of these and other accomplishments the Board of Directors of The American Daffodil Society, at the fourth annual meeting of the society, held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in April of the present year, named Professor Dr. E. van Slogteren as the first recipient of its gold medal. Under the terms of the award this medal shall be given no more frequently than once a year in recognition of accomplishments of a pre-eminent nature in the advancement of daffodil culture. Professor, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I present to you, my esteemed friend, this gold medal of The American Daffodil Society, to be added to the many other richly deserved awards you have received through the years.”

Professor van Slogteren responded to express his appreciation for this recognition of his work with the genus *Narcissus*, and added that he was especially grateful that he had been chosen as the first recipient of the Society’s Gold Medal.