***This Volume
Is Affectionately
Dedicated
to the Late***

VICTOR VAN STRAELEN

distinguished international scientist, vigorous conservationist, diplomat, and chief architect of the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galápagos Islands. As a faithful servant of the government of Belgium for almost half a century, he worked diligently for the establishment of the national parks of the Congo and the protection of natural communities throughout the world. The Galápagos attracted his undivided attention from 1959 until the time of his death, five years later, and during this brief period he saw the establishment of the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galápagos and its formal dedication on January 21, 1964. For his indefatigable efforts in this New World undertaking, the Government of Ecuador made him a Commander of the Order of Merit and enacted legislation that does much to assure the future of nature protection in the Galápagos.

Victor Van Straelen died in Brussels on February 29, 1964, a few days before the conclusion of the Galápagos International Scientific Project, of which he was one of the most distinguished participants. His deep love of Nature, his understanding of the feelings and aspirations of his fellow man, and his enthusiasm for the endeavors of youth live on in the hearts and minds of the many persons who were fortunate to come to know his powerful personality. The members of the 1964 expedition count among their most memorable experiences the many pleasant hours of discussion with this friend and unforgettable leader of men.