

In Memoriam

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Prof. A.L. Vos (1919–2010)

It is with great regret that we announce the passing of a former chairman of the Editorial Board of *Neophilologus*, Professor A.L. Vos. Andries Vos died on 11 December 2009 at the age of 90 after a long illness. He read English at the University of Amsterdam and with private tutors, subsequently joining the staff of the English Department of the University after the war. He obtained his doctoral degree in Edinburgh in 1962 with the dissertation '*Tradition and Innovation in Petrus Montanus' 'The Art of Speech'* and in 1963 he was appointed Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Amsterdam, where he taught until his retirement in 1984 alongside Professors J. Swart and T.A. Birrell, both of whom had close links with our journal.

Andries Vos was a tall, striking man with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the English Language and Linguistics. Although his mastery of the history of the English Language was excellent, his real interest was in the development of the English sound system, on which he taught with great enthusiasm for many years. But outside his academic interests Vos had many others in which he showed great erudition. Music in particular was one of his passions and his knowledge of both classical music and jazz was legendary, which made it a joy to discuss them with him. Until deep into the night he could delight his company with variant takes of a Bix Beiderbecke solo and tell anecdotes with great gusto and exquisite humour.

In the University, Vos performed many functions in turbulent times. Student unrest resulted in changes in the way in which departments were run, so that professors were no longer automatically heads of department. He was one of the founders of the University's ground-breaking Department of Translation and always regretted the Faculty's decision in the 1980s to sacrifice this, the only fully-fledged university department of its kind in the Netherlands, to meet cuts in the university budget.

In 1967 he succeeded Professor P.N.U. Harting as chairman of the Editorial Board of *Neophilologus* and editor responsible for the English Language and Linguistics section. He was always an inspiring presence at our meetings. Together with many others we wish to express our warmest thanks for the services he rendered the Dutch academic world and *Neophilologus*. He will be sorely missed.