

The Dutch Association for Logic and Philosophy of the Exact Sciences
(De Nederlandse Vereniging voor Logica en Wijsbegeerte der Exacte Wetenschappen)

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I. Introduction: origins and aims

The Dutch Association for Logic and Philosophy of the Exact Sciences (henceforth referred to as 'VvL', using its Dutch abbreviation) was founded on 15 November 1947 by E.W. Beth, A. Heyting and A.G.M. van Melsen. Originally, the VvL was a sub-association of the Société Internationale de Logique et de Philosophie des Sciences (SILPS), founded in 1946 in Zürich following World War II. According to its statutes (which received royal recognition on 23 December 1954), the Association was to a) promote the study of logic and the philosophy of the exact sciences in The Netherlands and b) increase collaboration between scholars of logic, philosophers of the exact sciences and related fields in The Netherlands and abroad. The actions specified for this purpose included arranging regular scientific meetings, lectures, conferences and symposia; distributing and promoting periodicals and other suitable publications; and any other legal means. Thus, the Association was to both foster its academic discipline and build a scientific community.

There is no official history of the VvL, but van Ulsen (*E.W. Beth als Logicus*, 2000, Chapter 2) presents a useful summary of the main course of events in the 1950s and early 1960s, showing the actions and strategic motives of the founding fathers Beth and Heyting, often operating in conjunction with their international allies. The VvL served its main functions very actively. At its greatest extent, it commanded a membership of some 175 people from all walks of life, ranging from professionals to an interested general public. It organized many types of event, from frequent individual lectures in the 1950s to the mostly annual thematic days of the 1980s and 1990s. Topics became more focused on logic as time went by (a separate Dutch Association was founded in the 1970s for the philosophy of science), and membership became more dominantly professional – but meetings continue to reflect the broad interdisciplinary orientation of logic in The Netherlands. Through the decades, one sees contacts with philosophy, mathematics, and increasingly also computer science, linguistics, and occasional other encounters such as logic and law. In addition, over large periods, the VvL has maintained close contacts with congenial Dutch professional organizations. Moreover, internationally, it has served until today as one of the national voting participants in the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science, representing this country in the four-yearly congresses of Logic, Methodology, and Philosophy of Science.

Finally, the archive contains some documents reflecting broader social interests of successive boards, including practical and political aspects of education and dissemination.

II Preparation of this archive

This archive contains all VvL records that could be gathered from various locations in the country in the course of 2002/2003. There are some lacunae. E.g., despite the foundation in 1947, documents are not kept until 1950, and also, later decades are less well-documented than earlier ones – perhaps reflecting a change in organizational style, and communication technology (e-mail, internet webpage). The material that could be found has been arranged under a number of headings which reflect the above tasks of the VvL, as well as its internal procedures. A brief indication of their content is given under in Sections 1-9 below.

This archive was prepared by A.T. Blom. Material has been collected from the following sources: (a) archives current VvL secretary J. van Eijck, CWI Amsterdam and University of Utrecht, (b) archives current VvL treasurer E. Thijsse, Universiteit Tilburg, (c) archives past VvL president J. van Benthem, University of Amsterdam, (d) material deposited at the Institute for Logic, Language and Computation (ILLC), University of Amsterdam. The total material contained 57 centimetres, of which 31 centimetres remained after removal of numerous duplicates and other standard archival procedures.

III Bibliography

Paul van Ulsen, *E.W. Beth als Logicus*, 2000, dissertation DS-2000-04, Institute for Logic, Language and Computation (ILLC), University of Amsterdam, ISBN 90-5776-052-5.

Velthuys-Bechtold, P.J.M., *Inventory of the papers of Evert Willem Beth (1908-1964), philosopher, logician and mathematician*, 1995, Inventarisreeks van het Rijksarchief in Noord-Holland, ISSN 0972-7412, ISBN 90 74503 06 3.

IV Current coordinates of the VvL

Board as of 1 April 2003: prof.dr. J.J. Meyer (University of Utrecht), president; prof.dr. J. van Eijck (CWI Amsterdam & University of Utrecht), secretary; dr. E. Thijsse (Tilburg University), treasurer; prof.dr. E.C.W. Krabbe (University of Groningen), dr. L.C. Verbrugge (University of Groningen) and drs. B. ten Cate (University of Amsterdam), members.

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1 Statutes and domestic regulations

The VvL was founded in 1947, it was officially recognized in 1954 by the Dutch Crown and it was renewed for an indefinite period in 1977. This part of the archive contains correspondence relating to these events, plus the actual statutes and notarial documents. Additionally, it contains the Association's domestic regulations. Finally, the records show the continued registration of the VvL with the Chamber of Commerce in Amsterdam.

2 Annual reports

The archive contains complete annual reports from 1950 until 2001, sometimes by year, sometimes covering longer periods. These provide a bird's eye's view of the Association's activities. An additional source of general information about aims and events is the current homepage (2003) maintained by the secretary J. van Eijck: <http://www.cwi.nl/jve/vv1>

3 Meetings, lectures, and symposia

The actual events organized by the Association fall into several categories. Scientific meetings include (a) annual meetings with a scientific and a domestic part, (b) dedicated lectures, (c) ad-hoc symposia and other events. Announcements, abstracts, and other documents pertaining to these events have been collected in this archive by decade. From the start, speakers included international leading lights like Tarski, Skolem, Quine, Lorenzen, Curry, or Montague, but also a great variety of Dutch scholars, including (in earlier years) representatives of various areas of philosophy, the general sciences, and the Catholic Church. The resulting set of topics shows a broad intellectual variety. Over time, the emphasis shifted from individual lectures to symposia, and the archive shows more sustained interdisciplinary connections through larger special focus events. In addition, the VvL organized satellite activities under its aegis, such as a running workshop on methodology in 1973.

4 Activities of the board

4.1 Composition of the board From the foundation of the Association in 1947 until 1953, the logician E.W. Beth was the first president of the VvL board, backed by Heyting, van Melsen and Meyer, the secretary. After 1953, successive presidents have been A. Heyting (1953-1958), E. Beth (1958-1964), H. Freudenthal (1964-1965), A. Heyting (1965-1970), G. Nuchelmans (1970-1971), D. van Dalen (1971-1972), J. de Iongh (1972-1978), J. van Benthem (1979-1984), D. de Jongh (1984-1989), A. Visser (1989-1996), J.J. Meyer (1996-present). The documents in the archive show, in particular, the close cooperation of presidents, secretaries, and treasurers.

4.2 Agendas and minutes These have been kept since 1952, with documentation becoming scarce and unsystematic since the 1970s. Documented activities of the board are the preparation of scientific events, issues of international representation, publications, political steps in higher education, and the convocation of annual meetings since 1952. Recurrent issues are vacancies in the board, membership fees, money (or rather, the lack of it), speakers and events, and VvL strategies at international meetings (see also Section 5). This required an amazing amount of internal communication. Earlier VvL board members wrote each other regular postcards and letters much as their successors have been writing e-mails in the nineties. More material on this is found in Sections 7.1 (correspondence with speakers) and 7.2 (internal correspondence).

4.3 Special actions Occasionally, the VvL board took part in special actions beyond its immediate charter, such as a commentary on the 'Hoger Onderwijswet' in 1953.

5 Contacts with other organizations

The Association has maintained official contacts with several related organizations (cf. e.g., the annual reports of 1954/55, 1966/67, 1971/72). These are mainly active in philosophy, reflecting Beth and Tarski's strategic move in the 1950s to ally logic with philosophical, rather than mathematical organizations. In addition, documents show informal contacts with professional organizations in other areas, through affiliations of individual VvL board members. Contacts have to do with joint events, but also occasional joint lobbying for common purposes. In particular, at a national level, the VvL has been a member of the Algemene Nederlandse Vereniging voor Wijsbegeerte since the 1950s and internationally, of the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science from the latter's inception in the 1950s. In particular, the VvL has been represented at all major four-yearly world congresses of the IUHPS' Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, where Dutch logicians and philosophers of science have served in many capacities.

The material has been divided under the following headings.

5.1 ANVW (Algemene Nederlandse Vereniging voor Wijsbegeerte)

5.2 ISvW (Internationale School voor Wijsbegeerte)

5.3 Other Dutch organizations (Genootschap voor Wetenschappelijke Filosofie, etc.)

5.4 IUHPS (International Union of History and Philosophy of Science)

5.5 Other international organizations (Association for Symbolic Logic, etc.)

6 Membership

This section contains membership lists as far as available. Numbers have fluctuated between 60 (1947), 123 (1956), 129 (1966), 174 (1977), 194 (1985), and 145 (1996). Most known Dutch logicians, and philosophers of science are found in these lists, as well as students, and dedicated members of the general public. Also, the VvL appointed at least five honorary members in the course of its history: E.W. Beth and G. Mannoury in 1953 (see Inventory, 3.1.1 and 7.3), C.B.C. Beth-Pastoor, H. Freudenthal and A. Heyting in 1977 (see Inventory, 4.2.2 and 9). Occasionally, the board solicited opinions of its constituency via questionnaires. The material has been arranged under the following headings.

6.1 Membership lists

6.2 Questionnaires Two general questionnaires were sent out: in 1962 and 1970.

7 Correspondence

The correspondence of the Association has been divided into four categories:

7.1 Correspondence with scientific speakers

This documents the broad scientific range of the VvL over the years.

7.2 Internal correspondence of the board

This documents the lively activity mentioned in Section 4.

7.3 Correspondence with members

This mainly concerns joining or leaving the VvL, or financial delinquency. Occasional further topics arise, such as the right of non-university members to present their own work.

7.4 Further correspondence

8 Finance

The VvL has always operated on a tight budget. This section collects the general financial reports that could be found in the archive, which only cover parts of the total period. General subsidies for the Association are scarce. Membership fees started with Dfl 2,50, rising to Dfl 3,50 in 1952. (Students kept paying Dfl 2, 50.) In 1975, annual fees had already risen to Dfl 7,50. By 1998, VvL members paid Dfl 25,00: ten times as much as when the VvL started. As of 2002, membership dues are € 15 for ordinary members and € 10 for students.

9 Varia

This Section collects a few items that did not fit the above categories, such as obituaries, and newspapers items with some relevance to the VvL.

**The Dutch Association For Logic and Philosophy of the Exact Sciences
(De Nederlandse Vereniging voor Logica en Wijsbegeerte der Exacte Wetenschappen)**

Inventory

- 1 Statutes and domestic regulations**
 - 1.1 Statutes, 1954 and domestic regulations, 1955. 1 folder.
 - 1.2 Renewal of the statutes, 1979. 1 folder.
 - 1.3 Related documents, 1947, 1953-1955, 1978, 1979. 1 folder.
 - 1.4 Chamber of Commerce, 1979, 1989, 1990, 1993, 1995, 1996, 2002. 1 folder.
 - 1.5 Mission statement, 2000. 1 folder.
- 2 Annual reports**
 - 2.1 Annual reports on scientific activities, 1953-1992. 1 folder.
 - 2.2 Related documents, 1955, 1957-1959. 1 folder.
- 3 Meetings, lectures and symposia**
 - 3.1.1 Convocates, agendas, minutes, abstracts, 1950-1959. 1 folder.
 - 3.1.2 Convocates, agendas, minutes, abstracts, 1960-1969. 1 folder.
 - 3.1.3 Convocates, agendas, minutes, abstracts, 1970-1979. 1 folder.
 - 3.1.4 Programs, agendas, minutes, abstracts, 1980-1984, 1988, 1989. 1 folder.
 - 3.1.5 Programs, agendas, minutes, abstracts, 1990, 1992, 1996-1999, 2001-2003. 1 folder.
 - 3.2 Other activities, 1971-1974. 1 folder.
- 4 Activities of the board**
 - 4.1 Composition, 1947, 1957, 1965, 1966, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1977, 1978, 1992, 2001, 2003. 1 folder.
 - 4.2.1 Agendas and minutes, 1952-1965. 1 folder.
 - 4.2.2 Agendas and minutes, 1966-1975, 1977, 1985, 1999, 2000, 2002. 1 folder.
 - 4.3 Special actions, 1952, 1953. 1 folder.
- 5 Contacts with other organizations**
 - 5.1 ANVW (Algemene Nederlandse Vereniging voor Wijsbegeerte), 1952-1955, 1958, 1968, 1971-1974, 1976, 1994. 1 folder.

- 5.2 ISvW (Internationale School voor Wijsbegeerte), 1953, 1956, 1957, 1969-1971, 1974-1977, 1983. 1 folder.
- 5.3 Other Dutch organizations (Genootschap voor Wetenschappelijke Filosofie, 1953, 1957, 1959, 1960, 1962, 1966-1968, 1974; Amsterdamse Vereniging voor Wijsbegeerte, 1960; Wijsgerige Vereniging Thomas van Aquino, 1971; Belgisch-Nederlands Logica Colloquium, 1987; Nederlandse Vereniging voor Kunstmatige Intelligentie, 1992). 1 folder
- 5.4.1 The International Union of History and Philosophy of Science (I.U.H.P.S.), Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, 1947, 1950, 1951, 1953, 1954, 1957-1967, 1969-1973, 1975, 1977-1979. 1 folder.
- 5.4.2 The International Union of History and Philosophy of Science (I.U.H.P.S.), Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, 1984-1989, 1991-1993, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2002. 1 folder.
- 5.5 Other international organizations (Association for Symbolic Logic, 1951, 1953; Société Belge de Logique et de Philosophie des Sciences, 1950-1952; Association Française pour l'Avancement des Sciences, 1953; Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de Philosophie, 1953, 1954, 1957, 1958, 1960, 1961; le Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines à l'Unesco, 1954.). 1 folder.
- 6 Membership**
- 6.1.1 Membership lists, 1947, 1951, 1953, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-1966, 1969. 1 folder
- 6.1.2 Membership lists, 1970, 1973, 1974, 1977-1979. 1 folder.
- 6.1.3 Membership lists, 1984, 1985, 1988-1996, 1998. 1 folder.
- 6.2 Questionnaires, 1962, 1970. 1 folder.
- 7 Correspondence**
- 7.1.1 Correspondence with speakers, 1950-1955. 1 folder.
- 7.1.2 Correspondence with speakers, 1956-1959. 1 folder.
- 7.1.3 Correspondence with speakers, 1960-1962, 1967-1969. 1 folder.
- 7.1.4 Correspondence with speakers, 1970, 1971, 1974, 1975, 1977-1979. 1 folder.
- 7.1.5 Correspondence with speakers, 1980-1984, 1986-1988. 1 folder.
- The material under 7.1.1 to 7.1.5 has been arranged chronologically by name. See APPENDIX.*
- 7.2.1 Internal correspondence, 1950-1952. 1 folder.

- 7.2.2 Internal correspondence, 1953. 1 folder.
- 7.2.3 Internal correspondence, 1954. 1 folder.
- 7.2.4 Internal correspondence, 1955, 1956. 1 folder.
- 7.2.5 Internal correspondence, 1957-1959. 1 folder.
- 7.2.6 Internal correspondence, 1960, 1961. 1 folder.
- 7.2.7 Internal correspondence, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1966, 1968, 1969. 1 folder.
- 7.2.8 Internal correspondence, 1970-1984, 1990, 1993. 1 folder.
- 7.3 Correspondence with members, 1950-1956, 1958, 1959, 1964-1973, 1975, 1977, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1989, 1995, 2003 1 folder.
- 7.4.1 Further correspondence, 1950-1959. 1 folder.
- 7.4.2 Further correspondence, 1961, 1962, 1965-1967, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1978-1982, 1987, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1996. 1 folder.
- 8 Finance**
- 8.1 Annual reports on finance, 1951/52, 1966/67, 1970, 1971, 1973/74, 1974/75, 1977/78, 1978/79, 1979/81, 1981/83, 1992/95, 1996-2002. 1 folder.
- 9 Varia**
- 9.1 - *Het Hoger Onderwijs op de Helling*, 1950.
 - *Memorandum van de werkgroep ad hoc van het V.W.O. en wetenschappelijke staf te Leiden, betreffende het rapport van de Commissie voor Hoger-Onderwijswetgeving*, 1951.
 - Beth, E.W., *De Betekenis van de Wijsbegeerte der Exacte Wetenschappen als Universitair Studievak en als Terrein van Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek*, 1953.
 - Notarial act of the foundation of the *Colloquium Constructiviteit in de Wiskunde*, 1956.
 - Statements of two honorary members: C.P.C. Beth-Pastoor and A. Heyting, 1977.
 - Obituaries.
 - Further documents. 1 folder

APPENDIX

Correspondence with or about speakers, arranged chronologically by first appearance (years of further relevant correspondence indicated in brackets):

- 1950 Frank, Ph.
Laer, P.H. van
Tummers, J. (1951, 1952, 1954)
- 1951 Groot, A.D. de
Schmid, W.L.H.
Fraenkel, A. (1952)
Ridder, J.
- 1952 Freudenthal, H. (1977)
Jongh, D.K. de (1953, 1958, 1959)
Vermeulen, R. (1953, 1954, 1955)
Iongh, J.J. de (1953, 1960, 1961)
Nuchelmans, G.R.F.M. (1957, 1961, 1969)
Teensma, E. (1953, 1955, 1957, 1968, 1969, 1975)
- 1953 Berghuis, J.J.W. (S.J.) (1954)
Feys, R.
Rosendal, D.A. van
Quine, W.V.O.
Tamari, D.
Abbé, M. l'
Oppenheimer, J.
Melsen, A.G.M. van (1954)
Church, A.
Tarski, A. (1955)
- 1954 Rijk, L.M. de (1977)
Rosser, J.B.
Skolem, Th.
Ubbink, J.B.
Brouwer, L.E.J.
Hulst, H.C. van de
- 1955 Schoonbrood, P. Clem. (O.F.M.)
- 1956 Kazemier, B.H. (1957)
Bochenski, I.M.
Slooten, J. van (1960, 1962, 1963)
Mens Fiers Smeding, G.L.J. (1957)
Dopp, J.
Wiersma, W. (1957)
Brugmans, H.J.F.W.
- 1957 Mates, B.
Bouvère, K.L. de (1958)
Stutterheim, C.F.P.
Dantzig, D. van
Wapstra, A.H. (1958)
Glastra van Loon, J.F. (1958)
Kockelmans, A. (1958)
Popkin R.H. (1958)
- 1958 Weissmann, A.
Ladrière, M. (1959)
Haersolte, van R.A. Baron
- 1959 Bonné, E. (S.J.)
- 1960 Lorenzen, P.

Kooi, S. (1970)
 Berg, C.C. (1961)
 1961 Linsky, L.
 Wolvekamp, H.P.
 Doorman, S.J. (1979)
 1962 Froe, A. de
 Janssen, M.T.
 1967 Bakker, de J.W.
 Balk-Smit Duyzentkunst, F.
 Curry, H.B. (1968)
 Strasser, S.
 1968 Dullemeijer, P. (1970)
 1969 Velde, van der E.
 Staal, F.
 1970 Kamp, J.A.W. (1978, 1979)
 1971 Droste, F.
 Addis, L.
 Sergant, M.
 1974 Braakhuis, H.
 1975 Leeuwenberg, E.
 Rip, A.
 1977 Heyting, A. (1978)
 Dummett, M.A.E. (1979)
 1979 Löb, M.H.
 Geach, P.T.
 Long, P.
 Vries, de G.
 Hamminga, B.
 Roos, W.
 1980 Partee, B.
 Keenan, E.
 Wolf, M. T.
 1981 Perelman, Ch.
 Soeteman, A. (1982)
 Wild, de A.H. (1982)
 Brouwer, P.W. (1982)
 1982 Wesly, P.G.E.
 Fine, K.
 Hintikka, J.
 Lewis, D.
 Kuipers, Th.A.F.
 Balzer, W.
 Manders, K.
 Mulder, H.
 1983 Lambalgen, van M.
 Patzig, G.
 Hodges, W. (1984)
 Paris, J.B.
 1984 Fraassen, van B.
 1986 Krauwer, S.
 1987 Thomas, W.
 Müller, G.
 1988 Klop, J.W.