On 18-19 October 2002, the De Wulf-Mansion Centre for Ancient and Medieval Philosophy of the University of Leuven (Belgium) and the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Natural Philosophy of the University of Nijmegen (The Netherlands) organized an international workshop entitled “Around the Aristoteles Latinus. Recent Studies on the Reception of the Physical Works in the Middle Ages” at Leuven’s Institute of Philosophy. The occasion for its organization was the retirement of Jozef Brams. This special fascicle, which collects some of the lectures given on this occasion, was planned as a special gift. Unexpectedly, for all of us, Jozef Brams has died before he could receive it. On October 23, he passed away, more quickly, despite his illness, than anyone had foreseen. Between the first and the second set of proofs, this fascicle has thus turned into a commemorative issue. We are grief-stricken and already miss our colleague, teacher, and friend. I will not here recall the details of Professor Brams’ career and scholarship, since others have done so before.¹ May it suffice here to stress his role during the past decades in the Aristoteles Latinus, the international research project sponsored by the International Union of Academies, of which the administrative Centre has been transferred to Leuven in 1973. While it has been argued that by this transfer, the Aristoteles Latinus found its natural place, one may just as well argue that Jozef Brams, the researcher, found his natural place in the Aristoteles Latinus.

Ever since Jozef Brams became the secretary of the project in 1980 and its director in 2001, he has always been coordinating the editions of medieval Greek-Latin translations of Aristotle that are prepared by scholars of various nationalities. As an editor he published—together with F. Bossier—the twelfth-century translation of the Physics by James of Venice, and until his premature death, he was working on the edition of the translatio nova of the same text and finishing the edition of James of Venice’s translation of De anima—the latter edition having been left unfinished after

the tragic and even more untimely death of Jos Decorte. He has moreover been involved in several research projects by means of which he sought not only to assure the progress of the *Aristoteles Latinus* project, but also to stimulate the research of young scholars. In all these activities Jozef Brams has given proof of enormous erudition and of meticulous care and preciseness, and his importance as the person in charge of the *Aristoteles Latinus* cannot be overestimated.

In his own research and publications Jozef Brams has paid special attention to the reception of Aristotle’s natural philosophy in the Middle Ages. This emphasis, in combination with his strong ties with the *Aristoteles Latinus*, has inspired the choice of the workshop’s theme. During the meeting twelve scholars presented a paper on an aspect of the reception of Aristotle’s physical works in the Middle Ages: P. Beullens, F. Bossier, C. Burnett, P. De Leemans, S. Donati, M. Dunne, G. Galle, J. Hamesse, H. Thijssen, C. Trifogli, A. van Oppenraay, and G. Vuillemin-Diem. They dealt with miscellaneous subjects, covering Greek-Latin and Arabic-Latin translations of, and commentaries on, a broad range of texts (*Physica*, *De caelo*, *Historia animalium*, and others), which they submitted to historical and doctrinal analysis not only from a medieval but also from a Renaissance point of view. The present issue of *Early Science and Medicine* contains six papers that are all related to this workshop and convey an impression of these different approaches. Summaries of the papers as well as a survey of the future projects of the *Aristoteles Latinus* may be found in the general report that has appeared in the *Bulletin de Philosophie Médievale.*

In the name of the organizing committee, my thanks go first of all the scholars, listed above, who presented a paper during the workshop, and also to the other participants at the workshop, many of whom came to Leuven in order to pay honour not only to a colleague but also to a friend. The organization of the workshop would not have been possible without the multifaceted support of the *Center for Medieval and Renaissance Natural Philosophy* (University of Nijmegen) and its director J.M.M.H. Thijssen, the *Hoger Instituut voor Wijsbegeerte* (University of Leuven) and its dean A. Van de Putte, the *De Wulf-Mansion Centre* (University of Leuven) and its director C. Steel, and the *Fund for Scientific Research-Flanders.*