In Memoriam Luc Indestege

The editors of *Quaerendo* have been deeply shocked to hear of the sudden death, on 11 July, of Professor Luc Indestege, a member of our Advisory Board and a friend of our periodical since its inception.

The man whose passing we now mourn was born on 5 February 1901 in Zonhoven, near Hasselt. His early years were spent in the old county of Loon, situated in what are nowadays the Belgian and Dutch provinces of Limburg and of old a frontier region where two cultures, the Germanic and the Romance, meet. Indestege was at home in both of them, his stated preference being for the cultures of the Low Countries and Italy. He was equally familiar not only with different cultures but also with different branches of learning.

Indestege’s formal academic education was completed at the university of Louvain, where he studied philosophy and literature (Germanic and Italian philology) and law. For many years after this he taught at secondary schools in Liège, Antwerp and Ath, and finally at the Koninklijk Athenaeum in Brussels. In 1931 he was given a chair at the university of Padua as a visiting professor and put in charge of courses in the literature and culture of the Netherlands. This period in Italy, which lasted until 1956, was without doubt the high point of his career. Italy was his second homeland. He loved the country and the people. His inspiring teaching did much to make the literature of the Netherlands and Flanders known in Italy.

Back in his own country, he found new challenges waiting for him. He became a lecturer at the library, museum and archive school of Antwerp, where he taught the history of paper, printing and binding. He sat on numerous committees judging both literary and typographical work. For over 25 years he was a working member of the Koninklijke Vlaamsche Academie voor Taal- en Letterkunde (now the Koninklijke Academie voor Nederlandse Taal- en Letterkunde).

Indestege was at heart a poet. His first volume of verse, *Vale dicere*, appeared in 1932, his best known work, *Orpheus en Eurydice* in 1941. Can it be that the secret of his versatility in the world of learning lies in his poetry, in his poetic motivation? For this artist was also a man of science.

The subject of Indestege’s doctoral thesis was the Dutch poetess Henriette Roland Holst, with whom he had become acquainted when living in Bilthoven in 1923 and attending the lectures being given by De Vooys in Utrecht. Expressionist poetry lay close to his heart, but not as much, perhaps, as the romantic school as a European cultural phenomenon. With great love he