IN MEMORIAM ANTHONY HULSEWÉ (1910–1993)

BY

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On 16 December 1993, the nestor of Dutch sinology passed away at Romont, Switzerland, where he had settled down with his second wife, Ms. M. Wazniewska after his retirement from the Chair of Chinese Language and Literature at Leiden University in 1975. He died from a heart attack at the age of eighty-four. It was the sudden conclusion of a life of devoted, hard-working scholarship which he has sustained to the very end, witness his monumental study Remnants of Qin Law which was published in 1985, and a constant production of articles and book reviews, the last of which has been published in a recent issue of T'oung Pao. But apart from his scholarly output he also remained part of the sinological scene in a less formal way, by maintaining an extensive correspondence with colleagues and former students. In his mountain retreat he remained deeply interested in whatever happened in the field, always intellectually alert, and always ready to let others profit from his experience and erudition. Such personal and scholarly contacts in writing to some extent compensated the physical handicap of a deafness that increased over the years and made oral communication extremely difficult.

Anthony François Paulus Hulsewé was born of Dutch parents in 1910 in Berlin, where he also received part of his primary education; it may well be that those early years spent in a nurturing bilingual environment laid the basis for his later remarkable fluency in no less than six languages. After having returned to the Netherlands and on completion of his secondary education (1927) he landed into Sinology in a way that was characteristic of pre-war Dutch Oriental studies and their relation with colonial administration in the Netherlands East Indies. Since the late nineteenth century the government had come to realize that some expertise was needed to handle the affairs of the large Chinese minority in the Indies, and in the 'twenties government scholarships were offered for the study of, inter alia, Chinese and Japanese for that purpose. After having passed the competitive examination, Hulsewé