

## **Alexander Verrijn Stuart 1923 – 2004**



**Alexander Verrijn Stuart was “Alex” to his many non-Dutch friends and “Xander” to his many Dutch friends. Sadly, he passed away on 26 October four days after his 81st birthday and a few days after celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary. He had been active to the last and his death was as a result of a sudden heart attack.**

**Alex had begun his professional career with computers during his 18 years with Shell and spent six of those years in London and three in Iran. In 1969, he became the first Professor of Informatics at the University of Leiden, a post which he held until his retirement in 1991.**

**He was active in the International Federation for Information Processing on all possible levels. He served as Netherlands Representative to the IFIP General Assembly and chaired a Dutch bid (sadly unsuccessful) to hold the IFIP Congress in Amsterdam.**

**He was the Netherlands Representative to IFIP Technical Committee 8 (Information Systems) from its founding in 1976 until 1998 and served as Chair from 1977 to 1983. He was a major force in getting TC8 going and never missed a TC8 meeting while he was Dutch National Representative.**

**He was active in several of TC8’s Working Groups, particularly in WG8.1 (Design and Evaluation of Information Systems). He participated in two of WG8.1’s several Task Groups. The two in which he participated CRIS and FRISCO profited from his insight and enthusiasm. He was involved in the organization of numerous TC8 sponsored working conferences. He lectured widely on information systems related topics.**

**Those who were aware of his intensive involvement in IFIP might wonder if he had time and energy to participate to the same extent in his own country. However, he was the hard working secretary of the Royal Dutch Scientific Society from 1988 until his passing. He was also interested in chamber music as player and listener.**

**In addition to his intensive and energetic professional involvement, he participated in the gruelling Dutch sport of long distance skating, having completed the famous Eleven Towns Tour no less than five times between the ages of 17 and 63. He was well known in the Netherlands for his achievements in the less recognizably Dutch sport of mountain climbing. He lead the Dutch expeditions to Annapurna in 1977 and to Mount Everest in 1982.**

**He had many interests of which computing was only one. He pursued each with infectious energy, unbounded enthusiasm and inimitable efficiency. This theme**

**was repeated at his funeral in several eulogies by those who had known him in the different facets of his life. The funeral was attended by over 300 persons.**

**T. William Olle**