

In memoriam C. J. Ruijgh (1930-2004)



On April 16, 2004, Cornelis Jord Ruijgh died of a heart failure during a sunny afternoon walk in the Amsterdam Vondelpark. The academic world has lost in him an outstanding scholar in the field of Ancient Greek linguistics*.

Kees Ruijgh studied Classics at the University of Amsterdam from 1948 till 1953, then spent a year in Paris, where he studied Ancient Greek linguistics at the École pratique des hautes études. Back in Amsterdam, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Greek Philology. In those years, Mycenology was rapidly developing as a new branch of Greek linguistics, following the recent decipherment of Linear B (1952) by Michael Ventris. Kees Ruijgh has been a Mycenaean scholar from the start.

In 1957, he defended his doctoral thesis *L'élément achéen dans la langue épique*. In 1967 his *Études sur la grammaire et le vocabulaire du grec mycénien* was published, and four years later his magisterial *Autour de la épique*. It is a

* Photo taken and kindly provided by H. Smolenaars (Amsterdam).

standard joke to say that Ruijgh managed to write a book of over 1.000 pages about a two-letter word — but note the word ‘autour’ in the title! Kees Ruijgh was a prolific writer, who wrote not only *multa* but decidedly also *multum*: his observations on Greek, be it in the field of phonology, morphology, syntax, dialectology (including Mycenology), or Greek metre, are always worth reading, keen, lucid, and illuminating. The scholarly world has the blessing of a large selection of Ruijgh’s articles and reviews in the two volumes of *Scripta Minora ad Linguam Graecam Pertinentia* (I: 1991; II: 1996).

In 1957, Kees Ruijgh was honoured with the *Prix Zographos de l’Association des études grecs* (Paris), in 1964 with the *Michael Ventris Memorial Award* (Triopian Foundation of Chicago). From 1970 onwards, Kees Ruijgh has been a member of the Comité international permanent pour les études mycénien-nes (CIPEM), and from 1971 onwards, a member of the Royal Dutch Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Also on the covers of periodicals Ruijgh’s name can be found: for many years he devoted much of his time to the editing of *Mnemosyne*; furthermore, he was a member of the Editorial Board of *Minos*, and formerly a member of the Advisory Board of this periodical, TALANTA, (1967-1989).

Apart from being an eminent scholar, Kees Ruijgh was also a devoted and amiable teacher, always finding time to help and advise students and colleagues, and a sincere friend. Those who knew him will miss him.

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