

DAY 2 OPENING REMARKS: WELCOME TO THE 'SENAATZAAL' ROOM

WIM KRAMER: Good morning. We are gathered today for the remainder of our Invited Addresses in the 'Senaatzaal' Senate room in the University of Utrecht's main building. This building and the interior of the Senate Room are exactly as it was in the summer of 1953 as the First International Conference of Parapsychological Studies was convened. The paintings of many generations of Utrecht academicians that soberly oversaw those proceedings will bear witness to our efforts once again.

Both the City of Utrecht and the University are closely connected to the history of Dutch parapsychology. Not only via the 1953 conference but also the Parapsychologisch Instituut (Parapsychological Institute) at the Springweg that was headed for almost thirty years by Professor Tenhaeff and is headed today by Professor Gerding, as well as the famed Parapsychological Laboratory of the University headed by Professor Johnson and Dr Schouten that existed from 1971 until 1989. The history of parapsychology at Utrecht University dates back to the early 1920s when Dr Roels was promoted to be the first professor in The Netherlands with a Chair in experimental psychology. Professor Roels was interested in parapsychology and was one of the founding board members of the Dutch Society for Psychical Research. Although he wrote no formal articles, he allowed—indeed encouraged—his students to study parapsychological phenomena, including, happily, Tenhaeff. Many PhDs with a parapsychological component have been awarded in this room: Tenhaeff in 1933 on aspects of telepathy; Brink in 1958 on the value of information based on paranormal sources within Dutch criminal law; Schouten in 1973 on the 'standard method'; Houtkooper in 1983 on observational theories; Boerenkamp in 1988 on paranormal impressions of psychics; and Attevelt in 1988 on research into paranormal healing. The list continues, as will hopefully the dedication of those interested in parapsychology. It gives me great pleasure to share with you now some actual film footage that was taken at the 1953 meeting as provided by Parapsychology Foundation.

LISETTE COLY: I trust you have all enjoyed viewing the film clip and thank you Wim for putting this wonderful location into its proper historical setting, which is of great interest to those of us who are

attempting today to follow the path of parapsychological inquiry that has been so well trodden here in Utrecht.

This is a fitting moment to acknowledge two individuals who sat in these same halls and participated in the 1953 conference. We are very proud to recognize both Dr William G. Roll and Prof. Donald J. West, who are well known to students of parapsychology as veterans of the first Utrecht conference and who have continued their life-long pursuit attempting to find answers to the mysteries raised by psychic functioning. It is wonderful to have them both with us once again some 55 years later and we thank them for their dedication and contribution to the field.