

PROFESSOR J. HENNIPMAN AND PROFESSOR J. TINBERGEN
RETIRE FROM THE BOARD OF EDITORS

Changes in the board of editors of *De Economist* are exceptional occurrences which usually pass without special attention paid in these columns. Attentive readers may notice such changes by comparing the sets of names on the covers of consecutive issues of our journal. This time an exception must be made as two prominent members have chosen to retire from the board of editors. Professor P. Hennipman and Professor J. Tinbergen served the board for a long period and it is of course no coincidence that on earlier occasions their work was praised here in editorial notes.

Professor Hennipman joined the board in 1946 and immediately became managing editor, a task he fulfilled for almost 27 years “with a prodigious devotion and a scrupulousness which has become well-nigh proverbial” – as Professor P.B. Kreukniet characterized his work on the occasion of the changing of the guard in 1973 (*De Economist*, 121, nr. 2, 1973). Shortly afterwards, Hennipman became chairman of the board, which he remained until the present.

As a token of appreciation on the part of the board of editors a special issue of *De Economist* appeared in 1981 to celebrate Hennipman’s association with the journal for more than thirty-five years. In the leading article Dr. J. Zijlstra gave, in his own unparalleled manner, a convincing rendition of Hennipman as an economist, as a colleague and as our chairman (*De Economist*, 129, nr. 1, 1981). I cannot resist the temptation to quote at some length what Zijlstra had to say on Hennipman as chairman of the board: “His calm, his ability to see things in relative terms and especially his wisdom characterize his way of chairing a meeting. Again and again his prodigious knowledge not only of economics, but of numerous other subjects as well, comes to light. He has been called modest on more than one occasion. And justly so. To my mind, his is a genuine modesty, which can only spring from two sources. In the first place it is an innate quality. When one is not endowed with it, one cannot acquire it. But in itself that is not enough: modesty can either wither away or come to full bloom. Hennipman’s modesty is in full flower thanks to his fundamentally scientific attitude to life or, to use a phrase coined by F. de Vries, his scientific bent of

mind” (*ibid*, p. 6). Indeed, meeting Professor Hennipman is always an enriching and resonant experience, something to remember with gratitude.

Professor Tinbergen joined the board of editors in 1946. During his very long stay on the board Tinbergen preferred to work mainly behind the scenes, and with the dedication and the expertise which is characteristic of his entire, incredibly fruitful work. Despite his full schedule Tinbergen managed to deliver his referee reports almost by return post. A colleague once expressed his astonishment and admiration at the same time by saying: “it looks as if he is waiting for the papers on which his opinion is being asked.”

On occasion of the first Nobel Prize in Economics granted to Professor Tinbergen (together with Professor R. Frish) in 1969, the board of editors commemorated Tinbergen’s close relation with *De Economist* and cherished the hope of a long-lasting cooperation in the years ahead. Now that this period has come to an end, it may be appropriate to repeat what was said in that editorial congratulation: “For him the main result of the awarded distinction will not be that his name will be mentioned with even more respect than before, but that it may contribute to a stimulation of economic research, to a further dissemination of understanding its meaning and results and to an extension of its influence on changes for the better” (*De Economist*, 117, nr. 6, 1969). Needless to say, our journal greatly benefitted from the efforts and presence of such an eminent scholar.

Th. van de Klundert