

**LAUDATIO Prof. emer. Ir.  
Jan-Baptiste QUINTYN,  
hon. Director of the Museum of  
Science and Technology  
University of Ghent**

*F. Lox\**

Dear Professor Quintyn,

We are happy to be given the opportunity to express you our heartfelt and respectful gratitude in surroundings which are most familiar to you. We sincerely regret that Mrs. Quintyn, who so efficiently assisted you in the realization of this museum, could not be with us today.

In the footsteps of George Sarton, who inspired you so deeply, you endeavoured to grasp, in the evolution of sciences and technologies, the synergism of the various disciplines and to integrate this evolution in the culture of mankind in both its social and economical dimensions.

You were most devoted to bringing messages to your students, in particular with regard to the process of learning, which you based on the coupling of auditively and visually acquired knowledge and of experimentation. You most successfully bridged the birth of a discovery and the applications it brought about.

You discovered George Sarton in Ghent and following his example you produced, both as author and as editor, 53 issues of the journal "*Sartonia*", which bears witness to your broad culture and critical insight and

\* Ghent, February 13, 1987.

stands as a document bridging civilizations and discoveries. "*Sartonia*" has gained international recognition and strongly contributed to the fame of this museum. Similarly, your atlas of sciences is still regularly consulted by visitors as well as by extra muros applicants.

Your main work, however, is this museum itself, which was inaugurated 23 years ago by the late Rector J.J. Bouckaert, from whom I quote : "This museum is intended to put a common roof over the walls of our unavoidable compartmentalization of scientific disciplines. Its interdisciplinary character is evident from the display of instruments, objects, manuscripts, books and documents which span from surgery to optics, from biology to microscopy, from physics and chemistry to mathematics and technology. Its task is to have each discipline influenced by the others in order to provoke a chain reaction resulting in a harmonious mosaic of systems of thinking, in a bracing spirit of creativity and in a universal humanism."

You did reach the objectives set at that time and you put your personal accent on this house which is now better known as the "*Quintyn Museum*".

Allow me to include in our expression of gratitude your co-workers and personnel : Mr. Neyrinckx, Germain, Albert and Jackie, who assisted you with enthusiasm and dedication.

We thank you again most sincerely for great achievements and for your stimulating example. May this day be and remain for you a day of happiness.

