

LAUDATIO ADRIAAN VERHULST

*Marcel De Boodt**

Born in Ghent on 9 november 1929, Verhulst studied history at the state University specialising in the "Flemish Medieval social and economical past". He obtained his PhD in 1956 with a thesis on the S'.Bavon Abbey and its properties during the Middle-Ages. The promotor was the wellknown historian Prof. F.L. Ganshof

When nominated Professor at his Alma Mater in 1966, Verhulst was and still is in charge of the social and economical history in the Middle Ages and of historical geography. He also was appointed as part-time docent in 1983 at the Free University Brussels in charge of the "Economical history of the Middle Ages". His scientific and honorary activities are important. To cite only a few; director of the Royal Commission for history of Belgium; corresponding member of the Royal academy for science, letters and fine art of Belgium; and president and honorary president of the "Willems foundation" president of the board of trustees of the Belgian Radio and Television (BRT).

Numerous are the books he wrote reflecting his main fields of interest. Five are written in his mother tongue dealing with specific aspects of social and agrarian history in Flanders or in Belgium as a whole. Two are written in French-dealing with the financial institutions during the Middle Ages in Flanders and one is written in English on medieval Finance.

Prof. A. Verhulst is not only a well known authority on the financial, social and agrarian history of our country, but also abroad. His engagement in the cultural activities of his region and in Brussels are highly appreciated. No better authority could be found to lecture and occupy the Sarton chair to speak about : The agrarian revolution, a myth or reality ?

* woensdag 27 januari 1988, 15.00 uur. Landbouwfaculteit.