

LAUDATIO Dr. P. DE WIN

Dr. Paul De Win was born in Mechelen on the 28th of December, 1952. He became a candidate of laws after two years' study (1971-73) at the UFSIA (Antwerp) and licenciate of laws after three years' study at the UIA (Antwerp), in 1976. In 1977, again at the UFSIA, he became a candidate of history and accomplished his historical studies at the University of Gent where he became a licentiate of history in 1979 on a thesis on the nobility in the duchy of Brabant in the fifteenth century, in particular the period from 1470 to 1482.

On 1 October 1980 he was appointed assistant to Prof. Dr. J. Van Rompaey at the Seminar of legal history. On the 18th of October 1989, P. De Win became a doctor of laws of the University of Gent with a dissertation *De Schandstraffen in België van de Middeleeuwen tot de 19e eeuw. Een rechtshistorische en rechtsarcheologische studie* (Ignominious punishments in Belgium from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century. A study in legal history and legal archeology).

As you can see, Paul De Win devoted himself to the study of the nobility and to legal archaeology. Besides these main fields, he participated in the activities of Prof. L.T. Maes' (1977-1978) study group "Crime in Antwerp in the eighteenth century" and collaborated in the Belgian-Dutch project "The Great Council of Mechelen" under the direction of Prof. Dr. Th. de Smidt and Prof. Dr. J. Van Rompaey. With the latter he launched a legal archeological project *Inventaris van het Rechtshistorisch patrimonium van België* (Inventory of the legal-historical patrimony of Belgium); partial inventories have been completed and published. He currently co-ordinates the *Rechtshistorische bibliografie van België* (Bibliography of Belgian legal history), a project of the *Comité Rechtsgeschiedenis* (Committee for legal history) sponsored by the Royal Academy of Sciences of Belgium (Koninklijke Academie voor Wetenschappen, Letteren en Schone Kunsten van België).

De Win organized a congress and has published fifty odd articles. Four books are in the press (two as author, two as editor).

He holds memberships of several learned societies, e.g. the *Belgisch-Nederlandse studiekring voor Rechtsgeschiedenis*, the *Comité voor Rechtsgeschiedenis*, the *Société d'histoire du droit et des institutions des pays flamands, picards et wallons*, and the *Vlaamse juristenvereniging*.

De Win left the University of Gent in September 1990 and in January 1991 was appointed on the staff of the prementioned Academy as editor on the publications of the National Biographic Dictionary (Nationaal Biografisch Woordenboek).

In 1990, the Royal Belgian Academy of sciences proclaimed De Win laureate and in 1991 he was awarded the Sarton memorial medal.

D. Lambrecht

