
Dear Reader,

in this special edition of the *Roczniki Humanistyczne* journal, we mark a milestone in the world of Dutch language studies: the 90th birthday of the eminent JOS WILMOTS. It is an honour to dedicate this issue to the rich career and influence of a distinguished scholar who left his mark on the study of the Dutch language and Flemish and Dutch culture *extra muros*, that is, outside the Netherlands and Belgium.

As a Netherlandist, Jos Wilmots spent decades dedicated to research, teaching and publishing. His in-depth knowledge and insight have not only inspired his colleagues, but also guided generations of students on their journey of discovery through the Dutch language. He was the driving force behind the summer course *Zomercursus Nederlandse Taal en Cultuur*, which has been organized on behalf of the Flemish Community since 1971 and has since grown to become a household name among students of Dutch language studies abroad.

His work has opened doors to new perspectives and helped enrich our understanding of the complexity and beauty of language and culture. Professor Jos Wilmots' many guest lectures at Central European institutions have contributed significantly to the success of Dutch Studies in the region. As a Slavist and Eastern European expert, I cannot stress enough my appreciation for this.

In honor of Jos Wilmots' 90th birthday, we share in this issue a number of contributions and reflections from colleagues and admirers. The thickness of this magazine suggests that there are many of these. We take a moment to look back at the field's journey and Jos Wilmots' great influence.

As a representative of the Flemish government, my congratulations go out to Jos Wilmots, a true pioneer of Dutch studies. I thank him for his invaluable contributions to the development of the studies and the wider cultural community. May this journal issue be a tribute to his work and an inspiration to us all.

And as they say in Polish: **100 lat!**

Thomas Castrel
General Representative of the Government of Flanders
to Poland and the Baltic States