

Beste Dick,

Few people would expect that we are linked by an important concept in mathematical logic: the Kleene-Mostowski hierarchy. In fact, you got your PhD with Kleene and me with Mostowski.

We met first I believe in 1975, so more than half of my life ago. I remember well you visiting us with your children in our sou-terrain on Binenkant 42, where I lived from 1975 till 1978. You worked then at the University of Amsterdam. In 1977 I started to work at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam and never expected that eventually, through a ten years long detour via Rotterdam and Paris, I would become your colleague at the UvA.

At the UvA I could better appreciate your working style. You have been always composed and quiet, never lost a temper (which at the UvA is quite an achievement) and you have always kept a low profile, without imposing yourself at others. This made you a most pleasant and easy person to interact with. The last word I would use to describe you would be "arrogant".

Outside the UvA, in a rather unexpected way, I also profitted from your attitude. As a member of a bicycle association the precise name of which, alas, I do not recall, you were fighting for many good things for Amsterdam. Thanks to you some bridges for cyclists were built. One of them, next to Artis, over the Entrepotdok, I have often used.

It is difficult for me get used to the fact that you are retiring now. You project a youthful image and not that of an oldish professor. I hope that the retirement will not change your life style. I wish you all the best and regret very much that I won't be present once the "Liber amicorum" will be handed to you.

Dick, alle beste!

Krzysztof
Singapore, 9 June 2004