

In memoriam Gerrit Meinsma

On February 17, 2004 Gerrit Meinsma would have become 80 years of age, however he died quietly on November 11, 2003 in his home in the city of Haarlem. He was our oldest co-worker and retired in 1989. He had a strong historical interest and felt responsible for our historical collection just as for our library. Ever since his retirement he was still a regular visitor at our institute. He worked on a book about phonetics and phonetic instruments. Much of the text of that manuscript as well as many interesting illustrations were already available. In due time we will try to publish it in the best way possible. One of his early activities together with Louise Kaiser concerned the recordings of new polder inhabitants as part of the Zuiderzee project. He was involved in the training of logopedics students and, as a native of Fryslân, he had a strong interest in the phonetics of Frisian.



In memoriam Dick van Bergem



On March 2nd, 2004 we have buried Dick van Bergem on the beautifully located cemetery Zorgvlied along the river Amstel. He died at 47 years of age on February 24 and leaves behind his wife Gitta en three young children. Both Dick and Gitta studied Phonetic Sciences at our university and got their MA degree in 1986 and 1990, respectively. Dick then started in November 1987 his Ph.D project about 'The predictability of vowel reduction'. He defended his Ph.D thesis entitled 'Acoustic and lexical vowel reduction' on March 9, 1995, with Louis Pols as his promotor and Florian van Beinum as his supervisor and co-promotor. He also reported about this excellent and systematic study at various workshops and speech conferences and in the international journal *Speech Communication*. In subsequent years he worked as a lecturer and as a researcher both in Utrecht and in Nijmegen, but always continued to live in Amsterdam.