



The European Association of Chinese Studies (EACS)
and its history:
EACS Scholars in Memoriam - Anthony Hulsewé (1910-1993)

On 16 December 1993, the nestor of Dutch Sinology, Professor A.F.P. Hulsewé, passed away at Romont, Switzerland, where he had settled after his retirement from the Chair of Chinese Language and Literature at Leiden University. He suffered from a fatal heart attack at the age of eighty-four. It was the abrupt conclusion of a life of devoted, hardworking scholarship which he had sustained till the very end; to those among his disciples who had the privilege of knowing him well, it also means a great personal loss. For to them, Tony Hulsewé has not only been a respected teacher but also, in later years, a valued senior colleague and a dear friend.

Anthony Francois Paulus Hulsewé was born of Dutch parents in 1910 in Berlin, where he also received part of his primary education; it may well be that those early years spent in a nurturing bilingual environment laid the basis for his remarkable fluency in no less than six languages. On completion of his secondary education, he passed an examination organized by the Dutch Colonial Office. In that competitive examination leading to an appointment in the civil service of the Netherlands Indies, he performed exceptionally in one of the subjects 'East Asian Affairs', which led him to take up the study of Chinese at Leiden University in 1928. There, he received a thorough training in Classical Chinese from the renowned sinologist, Professor J.J.L. Duyvendak. In addition, he followed courses in Japanese and the Amoy dialect, the language spoken by most members of the Chinese minority in the Indies. After his 'Candidaats' Exam at Leiden (1931), he spent three years in Beijing and Kyoto, immersing himself in the study of Chinese and Japanese as well as keenly observing the colourful life in the 'old Peking'- of which he cherished so many dear memories - and in the less friendly environment of pre-war Japan.

Tony Hulsewé's career, as a colonial officer serving at the Bureau of East Asian Affairs in Batavia (present-day Jakarta) which began in 1935, was interrupted by the Japanese occupation - dark years which he spent in Singapore. In 1946, he and his family returned to the Netherlands where, to his delighted surprise, he was appointed a lecturer in Chinese; an appointment in which Duyvendak was instrumental.

For several years, he had been deeply interested in the early history of Chinese law, notably of the Tang period. Due to Duyvendak's endeavor to stimulate Han studies at Leiden, Hulsewé shifted his attention to that earlier and still less explored phase of Chinese legal history, which eventually culminated in his pioneering work, *Remnants of Han Law* (1955; his Ph.D. thesis). In 1956, Hulsewé became the successor to Duyvendak, who had passed away the previous year, as Professor of Chinese and Director of the Sinological Institute. For twenty years till his retirement in 1975, he fulfilled both functions in an exemplary manner.

It is impossible to do justice to Hulsewé's manifold achievements in these few lines. One of his most outstanding qualities was his modesty: he always claimed to be no more than a patient worker, a solid,

somewhat old-fashioned philologist. His colleagues knew better. With his passing, Western Sinology has lost one of its foremost scholars, and no doubt the most outstanding authority on early Chinese law.

To the very end, Tony Hulswé has remained active as a scholar: witness the monumental study *Remnants of Qin Law* which was published in 1985, and a spate of articles and reviews. But above all, he has remained a true friend and teacher, maintaining frequent contact through correspondence with his colleagues and former pupils. They will cherish his memory with respect and affection.

January 1994, Erik Zürcher