It is no easy task to pay homage to a man like Eelco Huizinga. It would be as if he had already retired from the field of honour on which he has stood for so many years and this would be ridiculous. Eelco is still one of us, though we would prefer to see him more often than we actually do.

No wonder that all know him or know about him. He was Secretary General of the Collegium for twenty years. He was the man who called together the members of this international group of otorhinologists very shortly after the second world war and who was President of the First International Congress after the war of Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists in Amsterdam.

He, who had stood at the cradle of the Collegium ORL Amicitiae Sacrum in 1926, that had organized the first meeting between the antagonists of the first world war, was certainly the right man in the right place for a reconciliation after the second world war. Eelco Huizinga was and still is a peace-loving man. He hates discord and quarrels, a real representative of Amicitiae Sacrum, the slogan of his beloved Collegium.

Our friend has contributed much and valuable research work to the field of ORL. From interesting studies of the work of sword swallowers to experiments on the function of the otoliths, from description of the anatomy of the bronchial tubes to the surgery of the larynx. It is no wonder that he is an honorary member of a countless number of scientific societies; a member of the Royal Dutch Academy of Science, a bearer of ribbons of orders from various countries.

But does it really matter? The real thing in this great ear, nose and throat surgeon is something
quite different. He is certainly not a specialist at heart, he is a doctor with a broad mind and a large field of interest. Who knows more than Huizinga about our predecessors, the great otologists, rhinologists, and laryngologists of the first half of this century? He has known them, has met them, and has been their friend. He also remembers them and their work. It has been his task and his pleasure many, many times, to explain with a little smile and a touch of irony that Professor so-and-so had described already in 1912 the very interesting results that were being discussed. He has a most wonderful memory since he does not only read an infinite stream of books, he also remembers them. Ask him about history, his beloved France, the little streets of Paris, the small restaurants of the rive gauche, and he will tell you not only his own recollections but also what novelists had to tell about the subject.

When a professor in Groningen, he taught his students a lot more than ENT. Ear operations led him to the discussion of Sir William and thus of Oscar Wilde and woe were to the student who did not know about him, or any other important writer, statesman or pretty queen.

We, the editors of ORL, are extremely proud that Huizinga has given his energy and wisdom to this Journal, for such a long period. From 1948 till 1971 his name on the cover of Practica Otorhinolaryngologica indicated that he, together with his friend Luzius Rüedi, edited this Journal. We want to thank Eelco for all the work done for the Journal, but above all for the fact that he has been an honest doctor, a careful scientist, an enthusiastic orator, a good friend.

We wish him many more years in good health and happiness together with his inimitable spouse, the never ageing Madame Blokje.

L. B. W. Jongkees on behalf of the Editorial Board