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The mathematics teachers journal Euclides in the Netherlands in change, 1945-1976

**Abstract :**

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The mathematics teachers journal Euclides in the Netherlands in change, 1945 - 1976. Martinus van Hoorn Before 1940, in the Netherlands two associations for mathematics teachers existed, both for teachers at pre-university secondary schools. Also a teachers journal existed, named Euclides, appearing at a commercial base. Editor- in-chief of Euclides was Pieter Wijdenes (Opperdoes 1871 – Amsterdam 1971), who was a very succesful author of schoolbooks. The educational situation was very stable. The mathematics being taught might be called old-fashioned. There was no calculus in the curriculae, and no strong movement was working for major changes. Wijdenes seemed to be satisfied with this. He was a dominating person, who disliked any larger influence of the teachers associations. Of course, this could not all last to eternity. After WW II circumstances changed. Wijdenes stepped back, and in 1955 the lead was taken over by Johan Wansink (Aalten 1894 – Arnhem 1985), who was teacher and schoolprincipal. He could take this role because the associations of teachers had been getting a more prominent role. This was generated by the commercial publisher of the journal, who wanted a safer financial base. Wansink was very

active. He presided a committee building a new curriculum including some calculus. Wansink also presided the largest of the two teachers associations. In either case occurring, Wansink consulted the teachers. He got the undisputed leader of the mathematics teachers. Due to him, Euclides got the one medium for programmatic and didactical surveys. Wansink stepped back from his position as editor-in-chief in 1968. Just in that year the Dutch secondary education had been totally reorganized. Simultaneously, the mathematics curriculum was renewed again, strongly influenced by the New Math movement. The two associations integrated in 1972, and the new association accepted membership of teachers working in all schooltypes at secondary level, included extended elementary and vocational schools. Euclides' new editor-in-chief was Gerrit Krooshof (Deventer 1909 – Groningen 1980), who succeeded in transforming the journal to an adequate medium for so many more teachers. He also gave much space to contributions discussing new didactical methods. Krooshof was known as a teacher and schoolbook author. He seemed to have a natural talent for challenging pupils. When he stepped back (1976), Euclides was transformed to a journal really suitable for the much larger group of members of the one teacher association occurring at that time. There are no publications about the journal Euclides after 1945. Therefore, the lecture will give new knowledge and insights. In the lecture, the transformation of Euclides and the role of Wansink and Krooshof will be observed more deeply. Of course, the programme and system changes will be taken into account. Besides the temporary New Math, more calculus and less classical geometry were long term programme changes being many times discussed in the journal Euclides. Literature: Fred Goffree, Martinus van Hoorn, Bert Zwaneveld (eds.), *Honderd jaar wiskundeonderwijs* (Leusden 2000), passim. Martinus van Hoorn, 'Euclides en de hbs vóór de Tweede Wereldoorlog', *Euclides* 83 (2007-2008), part I, 286-291; part II, 326-331; part III, 366-371. Harm Jan Smid, 'Johan Wansink and his role in Dutch mathematics education', *Proceedings*