

## Contributor Profiles:

### D.J. Smeenk



Derk Jan Smeenk was born on the third of October, 1919, in the village of Gorssel, in the eastern part of the Netherlands. He was the second son of a farmer.

He attended secondary school in Deventer, where his mathematics instructor was Dr. Oene Bottema, who became his mentor. In 1938 he began his studies of mathematics and physics at the universities of Utrecht and Leiden, respectively. His studies were interrupted by the Second World War, but he finished them in 1948.

From 1946 to 1949, Smeenk was employed at the Technical University of Delft, but then he decided to pursue a career in secondary education.

Eventually, in 1961, he became the headmaster of a secondary school in Zaltbommel, a position which he held until his retirement in 1981. During his period as headmaster, he renewed his studies, and in 1973 he obtained his doctorate degree under the supervision of Bottema, who had in the meantime been appointed as Professor at the Technical University of Delft.

In addition, Smeenk has devoted considerable time to his church and community. For example, he was involved for ten years in the restoration of the Sint-Maarten church of Zaltbommel, one of the most important medieval churches of the Netherlands. He wrote a book about the church and was honoured by his municipality for doing so.

He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Zaltbommel for more than 30 years. For his dedication to the principles and ideals of the rotarians, he was appointed to be a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Walsrode, Germany.

In 1948, Smeenk married Tine Zeevat. They have three children and three grandchildren.

Over the years, Smeenk has had a number of hobbies, which include gardening, photography, and historical research. Indeed, he has published more than twenty articles about persons and affairs of historical significance in the Zaltbommel area in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Since his retirement, Smeenk has found more time to pursue his passion for geometry. His name first appeared in the pages of *Crux Mathematicorum* in 1982, and has been appearing regularly ever since. We sincerely hope that Smeenk will continue to share his interesting problems with the rest of the world through the pages of *CRUX with MAYHEM*.

In this issue, Smeenk has proposed problem 3175.