

IN MEMORIAM
MACHIEL A. JANSEN

Mach Jansen, a member of the Association and well known in European official statistics circles, died suddenly in October 1986 while on holiday.

Born in The Hague in 1919, Jansen studied at Rotterdam University. During the war, he worked in the Netherlands Price Administration. After the war, following a short period in Paris in the Secretariat of the OEEC, as it then was, he joined the secretariat of the UN Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva.

In the ECE, Jansen's talents were soon recognized, and when the Conference of European Statisticians was established in 1953, he was selected to join the very small team charged with building up and servicing the new venture. As the functions of the CES developed and expanded, so did Jansen's activities, and he rose steadily in the organisation, finally occupying the post of Deputy Director of the Statistical Division. In this post, his responsibilities extended to all the functions of the Division (including collating and analysing national data, publication of numerous statistical bulletins, etc.) but he himself worked substantially full-time on the affairs of the CES. Over the years, he made notable contributions to the development and international standardization of European official statistics in many fields. His main interest was in national accounting in the broad sense, and his particular speciality was in linking the SNA and MPS systems, in which he did pioneering work. Because of the restricted circulation and anonymity of secretariat papers, his work is not widely known, but statisticians of national offices are well aware of its value.

Jansen was invited to become a member of the IARIW in its very early years, and he served on the Editorial Board of the Review of Income and Wealth from 1968 through 1973. He was an active participant in the biennial conferences of the Association, and well known to the membership.

He was a gentle person with a lively sense of humour, direct in his dealings, liked by all. He was "Mach" to everyone (or "Mark" to those who could not manage the guttural). He and his wife Reggie were good hosts and frequently entertained visiting delegates in their home in France, just across the border from Geneva. He will be sadly missed by statisticians from many countries.

Barrie Davies
London, November 1986