

VAN HEIJENOORT

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Jean van Heijenoort was a cosmopolite. He was utterly Parisian despite his Dutch name, and was gifted at languages if we abstract from his ubiquitous French accent. He translated copiously from German and Russian, and was at home in Spanish owing to his many years in Mexico. He was a stickler for niceties in French, as I learned when he helped me on my French lectures.

He was a man of selfless devotion – to revolution in his early years, as we know from his selfless memoir of his colorful years with Trotsky, and to scholarship in his later years, as we know from his work on the current project of the Gödel papers and from his monumental source book *From Frege to Gödel*. The latter was a contribution to mathematical logic that was perhaps second only, as editorial contributions go, to what Alonzo Church contributed in molding the *Journal of Symbolic Logic*.

He lived his last years in a great triangular orbit. One vertex was Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he had a wing of what was once Charles Sanders Peirce's home, and a retreat in the Harvard Library. A second vertex was his home town, Paris. The third was his house in the mountainous little state of Morales, in central Mexico. There it was that his life, so adventurous in its early phase and so placid later, came to its violent end. In his quiet way he was a familiar figure at logic and philosophy meetings in Boston and Cambridge, where he is sorely missed.

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