

Review of
**I. H. ANELLIS, *VAN HEIJENOORT – LOGIC AND
ITS HISTORY IN THE WORK AND WRITINGS OF
JEAN VAN HEIJENOORT***

Ames, Iowa : Modern Logic Publishing, 1994
xiv + 341pp. ISBN 1-884905-01-3 (hardbound) ISBN 1-884905-00-5 (paper)

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1. INTRODUCTION

Jean van Heijenoort (hereafter JvH) is mainly known among logicians as the editor of *From Frege to Gödel* (hereafter FtG). Most logicians have also heard about his peculiar life which has contributed to turning him into a legendary personage. This aspect became well known after Anita Feferman's popular biography appeared [4].

The book under review is about JvH's work and contains very few spicy details about JvH's personal life. Even the first two chapters (Ch. 1 Curriculum Vitae, Ch. 2 Van Heijenoort at Brandeis) about JvH's life are written only from the perspective of his logical work.

The book includes not only a description of JvH's work in history of logic (Ch. 3 Van Heijenoort as historian of logic) and a philosophical appraisal of foundational issues (Ch. 4 Philosophy and foundations of mathematics) but also a comprehensive exposition of JvH's researches in logic (Ch. 5 Van Heijenoort as logician - Contributions to proof theory), most often ignored, especially because they have not been published. Anellis, who was one of JvH's few PhD students (JvH "supervised only four doctoral theses" [p. 83]), had access to JvH's archives (the book contains a table of contents of JvH's archives as well as a complete bibliography of JvH's works in logic).

Moreover, Anellis's book in fact does not reduce to a book about JvH. There are, together with some critical comments about JvH's vision of history of modern logic, a lot of side remarks on the subject. Therefore, it is highly valuable for anyone who is interested in the history of modern logic.