

BIOGRAPHY

Constance van Eeden was born in Delft, The Netherlands, on April 6, 1927. When she was seven the family moved to the town of Bergen op Zoom, where she completed her high-school studies, and spent the war years. A happy memory is the day when the town was liberated by the Canadian troops, on October 27, 1944.

She passed her *candidaats examen* in 1949 at the Universiteit van Amsterdam, and worked on her *doctoraal examen* and Ph.D. while being employed by the Mathematisch Centrum (now Centrum voor Wiskunde en Informatica (CWI)) in Amsterdam. She earned her Ph.D. *cum laude* in 1958 as one of the four Ph.D. students of David van Dantzig, whose centenary was celebrated in September 2000 in Amsterdam. For this occasion Constance compiled the van Dantzig scientific tree which comprises more than 350 names. Constance's branch (39 members) is included in this volume.

In 1960, Constance was invited to Michigan State University as Visiting Associate Professor and there she met her husband, the gifted statistician Charles Kraft, who died untimely in 1985. After a short stay at the University of Minnesota, Constance and Charles moved to Montréal in 1965, at the initiative of several people, mainly Jacques St-Pierre, Maurice L'Abbé and Anatole Joffe. Montréal was then put on the map as a center for academic statistics. After their arrival, the city started to be visited by world famous statisticians like Jerzy Neyman, Lucien Le Cam, János Hajek, Herbert Robbins and Hermann Chernoff, and bustled with scientific statistical events. In the Province of Québec, her contribution to the development of statistics was immense. In recognition of her merits, the Département de mathématiques et de statistique at the Université de Montréal established, in 1998, the "Prix Constance van Eeden" to be awarded to the best B.Sc. graduate in statistics or actuarial science. She is also Professeur émérite at Université de Montréal since 1989. She has held visiting positions at the University of Wisconsin and at the Université de Rennes. Since her retirement in 1989, she is Adjunct Professor at Université du Québec à Montréal and had the same title at the University of British Columbia until 1995 when she became an Honorary Professor at that same university. Each year she spends the fall term at UBC where on top of research she naturally plays the role which suits her best, that of the knowledgeable scientist good to have around!

Her career as a researcher spans over 50 years, with the years after retirement as active as ever. Her main co-authors are Charles Kraft and Jim Zidek. An important feature of her profile as a researcher is her ability and interest to cover the whole spectrum of a problem: in many projects she goes from a deep and careful analysis of its theoretical aspects, to answering the question on how the new method could be implemented and to eventually producing