

HUGO RUDOLPH KRUYT  
1882-1959

Kruijt, better known as Kruyt, was born on 3 June 1882 in Amsterdam, where his father owned a bookstore. He attended the HBS at Amersfoort and passed the university admission examination in 1901. He studied chemistry in Amsterdam with H.W. Bakhuis Roozeboom, J.D. van der Waals, J.J. van Laar, and F.M. Jaeger. As a student Kruyt showed both Christian and Socialist inclinations. Even before passing his doctoral examination in 1906, Kruyt had become assistant to Bakhuis Roozeboom, but after Bakhuis Roozeboom's death, in February 1907, Kruyt went to Utrecht, where E.J. Cohen was professor of chemistry. In March 1907 Kruyt married Maria Frederika Paris, with whom he had two sons and four daughters. In June 1908 Kruyt took his degree with a dissertation on *De dynamische allotropie der zwavel* (The dynamical allotropy of Sulfur). He became *privat-dozent* at Utrecht and, in 1910-1911, temporary lecturer in Groningen. In 1912 he became lecturer in 'fasenleer' (phase theory) at Utrecht, in 1916 professor extraordinarius, and in 1921 professor ordinarius of physical chemistry, also at Utrecht. In 1922 Kruyt was elected member of the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In the Utrecht laboratory Kruyt founded a separate department of colloid science. For students he wrote an introduction to the field, *Inleiding tot de fysische chemie, de kolloïdchemie in het bijzonder* (1924). With some of these students he summarized his research in *Colloids. A textbook* (1927). After the Second World War he published *Colloid Science* (1949-1952).

But Kruyt was not only active as a teacher and researcher. He ardently promoted closer ties between the university and society. When he was chosen as chairman of the Dutch Chemical Association in 1918 he tried to incorporate representatives of the chemical industry in the Association. After a journey through the United States Kruyt in a much discussed brochure *Hooge School en Maatschappij* (University and Society, 1933) advocated the introduction of some elements of the American university system in the Netherlands. In the 1920's he also was member of a committee that prepared the way for a national organization for applied science (Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek, TNO) and in the 1930s he became president of this organization. His international standing was recog-

nized in his election as vice-president and president of the Union Internationale de Chimie Pure et Appliquée (1928-1934 and 1947-1951). He was also vice-president and president of the International Council of Scientific Unions (1937-1945, 1945-1946). In 1940, at the beginning of the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, Kruyt, as rector magnificus of Utrecht University, acted very cautiously in order to keep the university open without collaborating with the Germans.

In 1946 Kruyt resigned his chair at Utrecht in order to become full time chairman of TNO, a position from which he resigned in 1953. After the foundation of UNESCO Kruyt was for some years president of the Dutch UNESCO-committee (1947-1957). He died on 31 August 1959.

#### *Primary works*

*Poggendorff*, vol. 5, 685-686; vol. 6, 1416; vol. 7B, 2628-2630. A list of Kruyt's publications can also be found in *Chemisch weekblad* 30 (1933) 451-459, 42 (1946) 250-254, 54 (1958) 322-333. *De dynamische allotropie der zwavel* (Dissertation, Utrecht, 1908); *De algemene theorie en de bijzondere ervaring* (Inaugural lecture, Utrecht, 1916); 'Samenwerking van wetenschap en industrie', *Chemisch weekblad* 15 (1918) 418-426; *Inleiding tot de fysische chemie, de kolloïdchemie in het bijzonder. Voor biologen en medici* (Amsterdam: Paris, 1924); *Colloids. A textbook* (New York: Wiley, 1927); *Hooge school en Maatschappij* (Amsterdam: Paris, 1931); 'Afscheidsrede', *Chemisch weekblad* 42 (1946) 264-270; *Colloid science*, 2 vols (New York etc.: Elsevier, 1949-1952).

#### *Secondary sources*

E.J. Cohen et al., in: *Chemisch weekblad* 30 (1933) 414-459; J.Th.G. Overbeek, in: *Chemisch weekblad* 42 (1946) 246-254, 54 (1958) 321-324; H.J.C. Tendeloo, in: *Chemisch weekblad* 55 (1959) 569-571; K. van Berkel, 'Amerikanisering van de Nederlandse universiteit? De chemicus H.R. Kruyt over hogeschool en maatschappij (1931)', *TGGNWT* 12 (1989) 198-225; G.J. Somsen, 'Hooge school en maatschappij. H.R. Kruyt en het ideaal van wetenschap voor de samenleving', *Gewina* 17 (1994) 162-176; S. van Walsum, 'Ook al voelt men zich gewond'. *De Utrechtse universiteit tijdens de Duitse bezetting 1940-1945*

(Utrecht, 1995); G.J. Somsen, "*Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek en Algemeen Belang*". *De Chemie van H.R. Kruyt (1882-1959)* (Delft: Delft University Press, 1998).

H.A.M. Snelders, in: *BWN*, vol. 1, 327-328.

[K.v.B.]