

A History of Innovation

50 Years of the EWI Studieverzameling

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On Thursday the 28th of November, our EWI-Studieverzameling exists for exactly 50 years. A memorable day and a lovely opportunity to highlight the history of this special collection. This will be done by publishing a one-time-only edition of a magazine in full color; a jubilee magazine that contains the history of existence, special moments in history, and aspects of the collection described by volunteers.



A selection of illustrations (250 photos) gives an impression of what can be found in the Studieverzameling and which projects were worked on. Naturally, the 50-year-birthday of the Studieverzameling will be a festive moment in time, accompanied by an exhibition about "Projectmiddelen in het Onderwijs" (Project equipment used in education). The exhibition will be displayed in the lower building of EWI.

The opening of the faculty Electrical Engineering, on the Kanaalweg in 1905, was also celebrated with a four-day-long exhibition. History repeated itself when in 1969, when the faculty moved into a new building, on the Mekelweg. To celebrate this move, another exhibition was organized in the then almost empty basement. Collected items were displayed – mainly electron tubes and lecture models. This exhibition grew into the Studieverzameling as we know it now.

The basement in the lower building on the Mekelweg seemed an excellent location to continue with collecting objects related to technical subjects, which were sometimes used as demo materials for lectures. The professor of Electrical Engineering and 'build master' at the time, prof. dr. ir. R.M.M. Oberman has paved the way for creating an Electrical Engineering collection, which is not very different from what we have now. 'Ver-

zamelen oke, mits het maar elektrisch is' (Collecting is fine, as long as it is electrical) was his credo. Oberman and his team have made great efforts realizing the new building, which this year has also reached its 50th year of existence.

Now, fifty years along the road, we as managers of the Studieverzameling still have our hands full. At this moment, we have a group of volunteers who manage the location. Most of them are specialists and have worked at the TU Delft in the past. Every Monday, from 10:00 until 22:30, you can encounter this enthusiastic group of people in the basement of the lower building of EWI.

Their expertise from the past is extremely valuable. They are capable of maintaining the heritage, in order to give students new insights in the turbulence of the fields related to Electrical Engineering, Mathematics, and Computer Science. Visitors can observe the 'movement' which is deliberately shown in the showcasing of our objects, coming from the short but rich Electrical Engineering history.

The Studieverzameling knows a lot of interested and enthusiastic visitors: first-year students are quickly introduced to our Studieverzameling and are offered a short tour, traditionally organized by the ETV. Not that long ago, the Studieverzameling obtained national

recognition by being broadcast on television on the NPO-rubriek EenVandaag, who visited Delft with their camera crew.

There are still challenges which await us, such as maintaining the Studieverzameling in the future and to showcase the exhibitions to a broader audience. In the preface of our Jubilee Magazine, our dean prof. dr. John Schmitz wrote: "Talking about the future. We have a couple of turbulent years behind us regarding the housing of the EWI-faculty. This was the same story for the Studieverzameling. But this gave it a positive twist, by introducing the thought of how we will continue with the Studieverzameling".

Next to a steering group, three workgroups have been set up, in which three activities will be set up, such as making an inventory and digitalizing the collection, but also describing the Dutch Electrical Engineering history (in the form of a Canon, which will be posted online) and lastly, there will be worked on improving our contacts and partnerships within the TU Delft, and outside of the university. We would like to see national relationships rise in the future.

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