



LEO J. ELDERS
STICHTING

Leo J. Elders Stichting

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Newsletter N° 1 (Spring 2024)

In this first Newsletter of the Leo J. Elders Foundation, we would like to inform you of our past, current and future activities.

Mission

The Leo J. Elders Foundation, founded on August 20, 2020, seeks to preserve and promote the work of the Dutch Thomist philosopher and theologian Leo J. Elders s.v.d.

The Foundation advances its mission through editing and publishing his unpublished writings as well through supporting research and publications which are conducive to the promotion of the scientific and spiritual value of his work. The Foundation wants to achieve this mission close consultation with the Diocese of Haarlem-Amsterdam.

Board and Advisory Board

The Board consists of Dr. J. Vijgen (chair), Dr. J. Verburgt (secretary), G. de Jong (treasurer) and Prof. A. Elders (board member).

The Advisory Board consists of H. Exc. J. Hendriks (Bishop of Haarlem-Amsterdam), Bruno Couillaud (IPC, Paris), Cajetan Cuddy O.P. (Dominican House of Studies, Washington D.C.), Dr. Lambert Hendriks (Major Seminary Rolduc), Prof. Dr. Carlos Augusto Casanova Guerra (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), Matthew Levering (University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein), Elisabeth Reinhardt (Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona) and Piotr Roszak (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torún).

Reading Aristotle with Thomas Aquinas

A first, tangible result of our activities was published in the Spring of 2023 by The Catholic University of America Press. *Reading Aristotle with Thomas Aquinas* <https://www.cuapress.org/9780813235790/reading-aristotle-with-thomas-aquinas/> is the revised and expanded English original of which an earlier version was published in French in 2015.

On February 27, 2023 the first copy was presented to His Excellency Jan Hendriks, bishop of Haarlem-Amsterdam and member of the advisory board.

Leo Elders on Joseph Gredt

The *Elementa philosophiae aristotelico-thomisticae* by Joseph Gredt O.S.B. (1863-1940), which first appeared in two volumes in 1899 and was last published in its 13th edition in 1962, had a decisive influence on the intellectual development of father Leo Elders. It is therefore fitting and providential that posthumously his critical review of the work has been published in a volume edited by the Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas on influential Thomist works of the 20th century.

Leo Elders Junior Scholar Award

The Leo Elders Junior Scholar Award seeks to reward and encourage young scholarship on St. Thomas Aquinas in the spirit of the work of Leo Elders. In 2023 the Foundation has hosted its first Junior Scholar Essay Contest. The author of a single-authored winning paper will receive a \$750 award. The winning essay will be published in the English Edition of *Nova et Vetera* and specially designated in the journal as winner of the contest.

The first recipient of the Award is Mr. Elliot T. Polsky, PhD candidate at the Center for Thomistic Studies (University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX) for his submission “Why Are Accidents Included under Being per se?”. The article is a meticulously researched and methodologically well-crafted analysis of a passage in Book V of Aristotle’s *Metaphysics* on the nature of accidents. The jury also praised Mr. Polsky’s ability to clarify apparent discrepancies in the various texts as well to show the relevance of this topic for other parts of St. Thomas’s *metaphysics*.

In the future we will be looking at ways to include French and Spanish submissions.

Dutch Summer School on Thomas Aquinas

The Foundation financially supported the ‘Stichting Ludus Quaerens’, <https://ludensquaerens.nl/> which organizes summer schools in the Netherlands and Belgium in which texts of St. Thomas are read and discussed.

Philosophy manuals in Dutch

We are seeking a new and revised edition of Dutch originals of the four manuals father Elders wrote (*metaphysics*, *natural theology*, *natural philosophy*, *ethics*) and which were translated in many languages. There are at least two reasons. First, the books are no longer available while there is a need for such manuals in the Dutch language. Second, and equally important, the copies of the author which he used for several decades, show a large number of revisions, corrections and additions which now can be inserted into a new edition.

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The project is a considerable one given the fact that there is no digital edition of the manuals on metaphysics and natural theology. Hence, these works require a considerable amount of editing, apart from the insertion of new elements.

The volume on metaphysics is nearly ready to go to the publisher. Publisher Betsaida has agreed to publish the volumes.

Website

The website, besides news and information, contains a steadily growing list of his articles in pdf-format.

Dear friends of the Leo Elders Foundation,

Your gifts support these efforts directly by allowing this initiatives to take place. Thank you very much in advance.

Jörgen Vijgen (chair)

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