Dr Van Hecke first came to the attention of the CIBSE Heritage Group when, in the 1990’s, it acquired a set of original documents of the late Civil Engineer Wilson Weatherley Phipson, CE (1838-91). These documents include hand-written letters, enquiries, quotations, calculations, cost estimates and testimonials relating to Phipson’s profession as a consulting engineer specialising in heating and ventilation. There are a number of printed items including various early photo-copies, the latter in a very poor condition.

His father, Samuel, had occupied a prominent position in society having a circle of many famous and influential friends. However two banks, in which he had substantial investments, failed and Samuel moved his family to Brussels where living was cheaper and education not only cheaper but better. Wilson Phipson was between ten and eleven years of age when this happened. He was educated in Brussels and also in Paris. His later Application for Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers in London notes that he was a student at the Ecole Imperiale des Pontes et Chaussees in Paris where he was an external pupil for the years 1854-55-56.

Whilst in Brussels, Wilson Phipson was for a short time (2 years, 1857-58) the friend and pupil of Dr Van Hecke, “a gentleman who had discovered a new method for the heating and ventilating of hospitals, which had already given some very satisfactory results on the grounds of economy as well as efficiency.” When his studies at the French School of Engineering were completed he assisted Van Hecke in Paris where he warmed and ventilated the Hospitals Beaujon and Necker, and accompanied him to Bordeaux and to Holland, where similar work was carried out on some Government buildings.

About 1859, the Phipson family came to London and Wilson accompanied them with the object of introducing the Van Hecke system of heating and ventilation. He used the examples of Van Hecke’s continental installations when he first lobbied for work.
Hospital and feel confident, that should you adopt it no hospital in England will be able to compete with St. Thomas's for the purity and equal temperature of the wards, which result I will guarantee if desired.

Yours truly,

Your obedient servant

Wilson W. Phipps

The following is the list of the principal buildings named and indicated on this plan.

Hospitals Beaufort

- Reker
- Viesnet
- St. Anthon

Hospitals Croix Rouge

- de Ghaxte
- de Nielles
- de Brembeck
- de Amstadium

Vo Vo Vo

Houses of Parliament and State Library

Student Club

Parochial Schools

Model Prison

Vo Vo Vo

Mfls. Rothschild's Bank

National Provincial Bank of England

Rand Music Hall

Exchange Buildings

Orphanage

Masonic Hall and Club

Vo Vo Vo
HOSPITAL BEAUJON, PARIS
HOSPITAL NECKER, PARIS
HOSPITAL VESINET
HOSPITAL VESINET
HOSPITAL de NIVELLES, BELGIUM
STUDENT CLUB, LEYDEN, NETHERLANDS
MODEL PRISON, LYONS, FRANCE

![Image of a Model Prison in Lyons, France]