



INTERIM NEWS & COMMENT

February, 2009

Dr. Phyllis H. Larsen, reporter

President-elect and Program Chair Dr. Howard Erickson has efficiently arranged the following experimental program at Kansas State University in early June, as well as an abbreviated half-day morning program during the AVMA Convention at Seattle in mid-July.

Program at Kansas State, June 9, 2009

American Veterinary Medical History Society Session, 71st Annual Conference for Veterinarians, Kansas State University, June 9, 2009

- 8:00 a.m. Welcome: Howard Erickson, President-Elect and Program Chair, AVMHS
- 8:00 a.m. Shining Light on Foreign Animal Diseases: The Story of Plum Island by *Alphina Ho* (KSU 2010).
- 8:20 a.m. Out with the new, in with the old; the history of enhancing wound healing by *Nathalie Baldwin* (KSU 2011).
- 8:40 a.m. History of Veterinary Anatomy by *Walter Cash*, KSU
- 9:10 a.m. Embracing the Equine Profession: Dr. Olive Kendrick Britt (1917-2006) by *Lesley Gentry*, Beloit, Kansas.
- 9:40 a.m. 150 Years of Kansas Beef by *Justin Kastner*, KSU
- 10:10 a.m. Break
- 10:40 p.m. Nebraska Veterinary History by *Leo Lemonds*, Hastings, Nebraska
- 11:10 a.m. History of Veterinary Medical Education in Missouri by *Robert McClure*, Columbia, Missouri.
- 11:40 a.m. History of the AVMA Auxiliary by *Maxine Caley*, Manhattan, Kansas
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. The Presidents' Pets and the Eisenhower Veterinarians by *Ronnie Elmore*, KSU.

- 2:30 p.m. The Kansas City Veterinary College (1891-1918) by *Howard Erickson*, KSU
- 3:00 p.m. Tour of Leasure, Burt, Dykstra, Coles, Mosier, and Trotter Halls and the RV Christian Track by *Ronnie Elmore and Howard Erickson*.

Registration is open to all AMVHS members. For information about registration, lodging, travel, and other details, contact Marcina Ritter at 785-532-4020 or VMCE@vet.k-state.edu



Leasure Hall, Kansas State University, was named for Dr. E.E. Leasure who joined the faculty in 1926 and became Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1948. (Courtesy of K-State)

AVMHS at Seattle, July 13, 2009

Charlie Powell, Public Information Officer, College of Veterinary Medicine, Washington State University, will be telling us about the "History of Veterinary Medicine in Washington" after our annual business meeting. He wrote the time line that is on the WSU web site and edited the centennial history for the college of veterinary medicine at WSU.

Please contact Howard Erickson at 785-532-4541 or Erickson@vet.ksu.edu for more information.

To attend this session at a hotel yet to be assigned, all should be registered for the AVMA Convention for which early rates end on **April 14, 2009**. To register, go to <http://www.avmaconvention.org> or call 1-800-974-3084.

Members in the News

The Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD) honored **Sidney Ewing** at its 89th Annual Meeting held in Chicago in December, 2008. CRWAD has a long-standing tradition of dedicating annual meetings to Life Members who have made outstanding contributions to the organization and animal disease research.

Raffaele Roncalli gave a presentation on “The Dog in Japanese Art and History” at the Japan Society in New York City on December 15, 2008.

Phil Teigen retired from the National Library of Medicine on December 31, 2008, after twenty four years as Deputy Chief of the History of Medicine Division. Before moving to Bethesda, he was the Osler Librarian at McGill University, Montreal. His recent article, *Legislating Fear and the Public Health in Gilded Age Massachusetts*, (*J. Hist. Med.* 2007, 62:141-170) won the 2008 Stanley W. Jackson Prize as the best article published during the preceding three years.

Wanted: McKillip Veterinary College History

Peter S. Weber, Executive Director of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA) (peter@isvma.org) is seeking class photos and any other items related to the McKillip Veterinary College in operation in Chicago from 1892 to 1920 or any of its graduates, including Dr. T.M. Doram, the first African-American DVM graduate in U.S. in 1899, and first American woman veterinarian, Dr. Mignon Nicholson, in 1903. These materials will be added to the “The Dr. Walter E. Zuschlag/ISVMA Veterinary Heritage Collection and Information Commons”. This “museum” was dedicated in 2007 at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices

How old is that practice? From early days of the horse doctor in America, veterinary practices have contributed a great deal to the health of animals and the communities they have served. To recognize and honor practices of all types that have been in continuous operation for 50 years or more, AVMHS recently established a *Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices*. A description of this

new *Registry* along with application form and about ten practices currently enrolled are now available at <http://www.cvm.missouri.edu/avmhs/heritage.html> The earliest known practice so far dates from 1844 in Detroit, MI, but many more are yet to be “discovered.”

Recognition of older practices was first proposed by AVMHS President Gary Vroegindewey at the Washington DC business meeting in 2007. When a number of old, continuous practices were featured in *DVM Newsmagazine* articles in February, May and October 2008, the timing seemed right to initiate a *Registry*.

Members who are aware of practices in their area which might qualify are encouraged either to contact the owners and promote participation in our *Registry* or suggest names so that personal invitations can be extended by President Al Moore at 281-852-2395 or vetal@aol.com



Clio, the Muse of History

History and Clinical Practice

In a recent article in *Academic Medicine*, Daniel K. Sokol calls for “at least a modicum of medical history” for physicians. He believes that history helps students “develop the wisdom and moral virtues necessary for good doctoring.” In particular, he holds that it helps to know the history of clinical practice, something that tends to be lacking in medical history journals.

So, I looked at the most recent ten years of *Veterinary Heritage*. With the exception of Kenneth Haas’s series,

“Animal Therapy Over the Ages,” only a few articles, or parts of articles, have given our readers any sense of what veterinarians in the past have actually done to treat patients.

A book titled, *Clio in the Clinic: History in Clinical Practice*, edited by Jacalyn Duffin does exactly that for human medicine. Dr. Duffin, a hematologist and teacher of history to medical students in Canada, has assembled a remarkable collection of twenty-three essays in which clinician-historians show how medical history “can inform clinical practice, from aiding diagnosis to providing struggling physicians with comfort, courage, and inspiration from the experiences of their predecessors.” Each author relates personal involvement with history and how Clio has influenced their practice of medicine.

It seems to me that some valuable bits of clinical memoir in our journal or on our Web site could fit well with registering Heritage Veterinary Practices. Clearly such essays would be primary sources for an historical study, but would historians find such essays suitable as veterinary history articles in our journal.

I’d be happy to make space for your replies in future columns of *News and Comment*. Please send them to me at PHL9@cornell.edu.

References:

Sokol DK. Perspective: Should we amputate medical history? *Academic Medicine*. 2008 Dec;83(12):1162-4.

Duffin, Jacalyn, editor. *Clio in the Clinic: History in Medical Practice*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. 334 pgs. ISBN: 0195161270 (cloth) ; 0195161289 (paper : alk. paper)

AVMA Booth on Heritage Practices

This year our booth will likely feature the Society’s new Heritage Veterinary Practice initiative, and provide a way for exhibit visitors to register practices in operation at least 50 years. Webmaster Robert McClure has already posted information on our Web site. Members interested in this project are especially encouraged to volunteer to help staff the booth during the convention.

Other Meetings

The Veterinary History Society (U.K.)

The 39th Annual General Meeting was held at Belgravia House in London on November 26, 2008. They are preparing to publish a book titled, *20th Century Veterinary Lives*. It will celebrate the lives and work of

more than 40 deceased British veterinarians who have made significant contributions over the last 100 years (<http://www.veterinaryhistorysociety.org.uk/lives.htm>). An index to all issues of *Veterinary History* from July 1973 to 2008 is also available on their Web site. A spring meeting will take place on May 13, 2009 at a National Trust garden with “a hint of Darwin in the Midlands.”

2008 Veterinary History Colloquium in Cuba

Sponsored by the Asociación Consejo Científico Veterinario de Cuba, Dr. Walfrido Lopez Gonzalez (walfrido.lopez@infomed.sld.cu) reports that the **1er Coloquio Internacional sobre la Medicina Veterinaria en el Mundo y en especial en Iberoamerica “Ildefonso Pérez Viguera in Memoriam”** was held at Filial Pinar Del Río, Cuba on December 2-4, 2008. This congress featured sessions and presented papers on “Historia de la Medicina Veterinaria en General,” Historia de Asociaciones Veterinarias,” and “Historia de Escuelas Veterinarias.”

ASOCIACIÓN CONSEJO CIENTÍFICO VETERINARIO DE CUBA
FILIAL PINAR DEL RÍO

**1er Coloquio Internacional
sobre la
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“Ildefonso Pérez Viguera
in Memoriam”**

- Historia de la Medicina Veterinaria en General.
- Historia de Asociaciones Veterinarias.
- Historia de Escuelas Veterinarias.
- Hechos relevantes ocurridos en los diferentes países relacionados con la Medicina Veterinaria.
- Descubrimiento e Investigaciones que han marcado hitos en las Ciencias Veterinarias.
- Figuras importantes de la Medicina Veterinaria.
- Otros.

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Del 2 al 4 de
Diciembre
del
2008

World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine (WAHVM)

For more information about the 39th biennial congress to be held in Antalya, Turkey in 2010, contact Lesley Ann Gentry, AVMHS Liaison, at lgentry@nckcn.com

The Veterinary Chronicle

The first issue of the newsletter of the American Museum of Veterinary Medicine appeared in the fall of 2008. Among other news it reported that “about 259 books and veterinary antiques from the collection of the late Dr. Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence” had been donated to the AMVM by her husband, the Rev. Dr. Robert P. Lawrence. Betty Lawrence was twice president of our Society, and arranged for critical funds to help AVMHS celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2003. Bob Lawrence also is remembered for the lively skill which he auctioned books and other items at that special annual meeting in Denver and again in Philadelphia.

To find out more about events, exhibits, and other activities at the museum in Birdsboro (Reading), PA, go to <http://www.amvm.org/> Of particular interest are the new hi-def video demonstrations by Richard Detwiler that can be viewed online at <http://www.evhs.org/hidef.htm>

Manuscripts for Veterinary Heritage

Debbie Tacium, guest editor for the May 2009 issue, has most of the content in hand. However, articles for our journal are too often in short supply. If you have given a paper at an annual meeting, please rummage it out of your files and email it to Debbie directly at dtacium@sympatico.ca or put a copy in surface mail to the Secretary-Treasurer. It will reach appropriate hands, so members who can't get to those grand events will have a chance to know the history that you presented orally.

Submissions for the 2009 Smithcors Student History Essay Contest must be postmarked by **April 1, 2009**. Contact Russ Currier at ruscourrier@yahoo.com for more details. Encourage student writers!!!

Web Sites of Interest

Contagion: Historical Views of Diseases and Epidemics (<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/contagion/>)

This digital collection of over 500,000 pages from books, serials, pamphlets, manuscripts, and incunabula provides historical resources for the study of disease, epidemics and epidemiology in general. It is organized around significant “episodes” of contagious disease.

The MacKinney Collection of Medieval Medical Illustrations <http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/mackinney/>

This photographic collection contains thousands of medieval illustrations on medical topics. Loren C. MacKinney (1891-1963) assembled these illustrations throughout his long career as a medical historian.

New Books

Deblasio, Donna M., Charles F. Ganzert, David H. Mould and Stephen H. Paschen. *Catching Stories: A Practical Guide to Oral History*. Athens, OH: Swallow Press, 2009. 232 pgs. ISBN: 978-0-8040-111-7 (cloth) ; 978-0-8040-117-4 (paper). “...is a clear and comprehensive introduction for those with little or no experience in planning or implementing oral history projects”.

Beran, George W. and Bisha, Bledar. *Veterinary Medical Education 1872-2007 : 135 years of progress*. Ames, IA: Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, 2008. 87 pgs.

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Send news, comments, suggestions for the next *News & Comment* to: Dr. Phyllis H. Larsen, 1675 Ellis Hollow Road, Ithaca, NY 14850, or phone/fax 607-539-6181, email PHL9@cornell.edu or to the Secretary/Treasurer at skw2@cornell.edu, fax: 607- 253-3080 or phone: 607-253-3499.

Contents for Recent Veterinary History Journal Issues

Copies of articles may be obtained through interlibrary loan services provided by your local college or public library, or from the AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer if unavailable from other sources.

Historia Medicinae Veterinariae. v.33; no.2, 2008 41-80

Biographies: Anders Peter Louis Bahr ; Matthias Johannes Christiansen ; Jorgen Gert Espersen ; Carl Weinholt Friis ; Andeas Frederik Folger ; Simon Paulli ; Nicolai Thorvald Munk Plum ; Niels Ole Rasbech ; Hans Peter Riemann ; Jorgen Jorgensen Schmidt ; Daniel Ulrich Thomsen ; Erik Viborg...44-69.

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Additional Journal Articles Related to Veterinary History

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Lewis JM. A slice of history: if these walls could talk... *DVM Newsmagazine* 2008 Feb:18-19

Lewis JM. Preserving the past: 4th-generation modern hospital grew from modest start. *DVM Newsmagazine* 2008 Oct:32,34.

Looking back: AAHA celebrates 75 years. DVM Newsmagazine. 2008 May:2S.

Rapson DJ, Hill MG, Beran GW. Archaeology of an early 20th century carcass disposal pit, division of veterinary medicine, Iowa State College. Plains Anthropologist. 2007;52:373-end.

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