

Sherwin Alexis Hall and the Veterinary History Society

1928-2014

Sherwin was the Honorary President of the Veterinary History Society – he virtually created, and maintained, this Society for many years. From the time that he qualified from London in 1953 he explored the history of the veterinary profession in this country: we have files full of letters and carbon copies of his correspondence, to veterinary schools, libraries, County Record Offices – asking about archives, memories and evidence of veterinary happenings in different parts of the country, and abroad.

The impetus for starting some sort of veterinary history club came after the well-received paper he submitted to the Medical History Society on the Great Cattle Plague of 1865. This gave rise to the letter to *The Veterinary Record* asking for support for such a club or society.

Sherwin and Jack Barber-Lomax set up the inaugural meeting of the VHS in 1962, and this was extremely well attended. From then on Sherwin continuously fed the young Society with his ideas and energy: he gave talks, wrote papers and articles, and organised Society visits or junkets all around the country – this as well as his very full-time employment as a Veterinary Investigation Officer.

His interest and authority in veterinary history was acknowledged when he was awarded his Diploma in History of Medicine by the Society of Apothecaries.

He was of course the Society's first Secretary, and held that post until 1994, apart from his two-year Chairmanship 1974/6 – that is over 30 years in office. As well as energising and steering the Society throughout these years - presenting papers at meetings, searching for sponsorship for the Bulletin, writing for *Veterinary History* - he set up the Society's first website. And in 2005 he was elected Honorary Life President of the Society.

We greatly regret the loss of our genial President, and will remember with affection our enthusiastic, kindly and erudite friend, with his floppy hair and his neat bow-ties. Members of the Society extend their sympathy to Jenny and their children Tim, Clare and Melanie.

The Society will publish a memoir in the next issue of *Veterinary History*.