

# Changing perspectives: World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine, 1969-2019

Peter Koolmees

*Em. Prof. Dr. Peter A. Koolmees, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Descartes Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Sciences and Humanities, Utrecht University, the Netherlands  
PO Box 80175, NL – 3508 TD Utrecht, P.A.Koolmees@uu.nl*

## Summary

In 1964, the first Symposium on the History of Veterinary Medicine was held in Hanover, under the auspices of the German Veterinary Medical Association (DVG). Five years later these symposia obtained an international character since participants from other countries also participated. On that occasion the 'World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine' (WAHVM) was founded. In 1993 it was decided to revise the Constitution of the WAHVM and to transform the association into a federation of national societies concerned with the promotion and study of veterinary history.

WAHVM has put much efforts in attempts to make veterinary history a compulsory part of the veterinary curriculum worldwide. This recommendation was later indeed issued by the World Veterinary Association. However, in most countries this did not improve the modest position of veterinary history instruction in veterinary curricula. In some countries veterinary history lectures were given as part of medical or science history courses or as integral part of ethics, deontology, and human-animal relationships. The latter was stimulated by the growing popularity of animals in modern societies. As for research, more process was established. More and more individuals and research groups started various research programs. This included expert knowledge of veterinarians, historians, archaeologists, sociologists, linguists, etc. often in interdisciplinary research, and has resulted in an increasing scientific output.

Another significant development was the introduction of computers and the World Wide Web in the 1980s and 1990s. Digitalized scientific journals, archival sources and ancient manuscripts and books in databases became available in various libraries and on the Internet. Exchanging information was facilitated by electronic mail. WAHVM developed its own website to facilitate international exchange of information on publications, sources, congresses, museums and other activities. This all fits in the general goal of the WAHVM formulated in 1969: providing a platform for encouraging, promoting, and coordinating research and education in the history of veterinary medicine.

## Introduction

Writings about animal health care date from antiquity. Since then, various texts dealing with therapies and recipes, used particularly in equine medicine, survived the centuries. Writings not focused on the content, but which reflected on veterinary medicine in a broader context, date from the early modern time.<sup>1</sup> The Italian physician and anatomist Ingrassia (1510-1580), for instance described the history of veterinary medicine and used it to legitimize the art of animal healing as important discipline, even equal to human medicine. 'Veterinary medicine is essentially one and the same as the more noble human medicine, differing only in the dignity or nobility of its material'.<sup>2</sup> More papers and books dealing with the history of animal health care

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<sup>1</sup> M. F. Brumme & J. Schäffer, 'Die Entwicklung der Veterinärmedizinshistoriographie in Deutschland', *Argos* 8 (1993) 217-225.

<sup>2</sup> Giovanni Filippo Ingrassia, *Quod veterinaria medicina formaliter una, eademque cum nobiliore homine medicina sit, materiae duntaxat dignitate, seu nobilitate differens* (Venice 1568). Courtesy for translation: Prof. Arnoud Visser, Utrecht University. This work can be considered the earliest plea for what is coined today as the "One Health" approach.

were written to legitimize the veterinary sciences and veterinary profession in the following centuries. Particularly after 1762 when the first veterinary school was founded in Lyon, France, history was used in apologies for veterinary medicine and the need for veterinary education elsewhere.<sup>3</sup> At the 19<sup>th</sup> century veterinary schools students had to learn long lists of animal plagues as part of their training.<sup>4</sup> This tradition of apology continued until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the main goal of writing veterinary history still was to stress the legitimacy and the importance of the veterinary profession for society.<sup>5</sup>

It was also in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when a small field of scholarly veterinary history developed with chairs and institutes at veterinary schools, some handbooks, specific journals and literature; first in Germany and later elsewhere. In addition, societies for the history of veterinary medicine were established in various countries, while museum collections dedicated to this field were composed and presented. Meetings where veterinarians and other scholars - mainly historians and classicists - presented and discussed papers on the history of veterinary medicine were organized from the 1960s onwards, on a national and international level as well. In 1969, the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine (WAHVM) was established, offering a forum where knowledge exchange covering many aspects of the history of animal health took place since then. In 2019, the 50-year anniversary of the WAHVM was a fact, which offered an appropriate opportunity to evaluate the development of the field veterinary history. Within half a century significant changes in this field have occurred. The initial scope of the discipline was broadened from prehistoric animal healing including archeological research using DNA-techniques to the history of present-day concepts on human-animal relationships, animal welfare, animal ethics, globalization of animals and disease, the one health approach, and ecology. Next to veterinarians interested in the history of their discipline and profession, scholars from other disciplines studied the social history of veterinary medicine (in line with the social history of medicine), thereby turning the discipline truly multidisciplinary. New fields such as animal studies as a result of the so-called 'animal turn in history' enriched the original field of veterinary history.<sup>6</sup>

In this paper, an overview of the origin and development of the WAHVM will be examined. Attention will be paid to the institutional structure and changes, to its various activities over the years to promote the field of veterinary history, as well as to the changing perspectives of research and education within this field.

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<sup>3</sup> For instance Antonio Zanon, *Saggio di storia della medicina veterinaria* (Venice 1770).

<sup>4</sup> A well-known example of this tradition was published by Georg Fleming, *Animal plagues: their history, nature and prevention* (London 1871).

<sup>5</sup> Brumme & Schäffer 1993, 220-222.

<sup>6</sup> Susan D. Jones, *Valuing animals. Veterinarians and their patients in modern America* (Baltimore 2003) 201-204; Peter A. Koolmees, 'Trends in veterinary historiography', in: J. Schäffer & P. A. Koolmees (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 33rd international congress on the history of veterinary medicine* (Gießen 2003) 235-243; Harriett Ritvo, 'History and Animal Studies', *Society & Animals* 10 (2002) 403-406; Harriett Ritvo, 'On the animal turn', *Daedalus* 136 (2007) 118-122; Saurabh Mishra 'Veterinary history comes of age', *Social History of Medicine* 27 (2014) (Special online issue).

## Early initiatives in Denmark and Germany

In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century veterinary history was cultivated more intensively in Denmark and Germany than elsewhere in the world. In 1934 the first national veterinary history society worldwide - the *Dansk Veterinærhistorisk Samfund* [Danish Veterinary History Society] - was founded. Since then this society published a yearbook, mainly containing biographies next to other topics. The basis for veterinary medicine as an academic discipline was laid in Germany by Prof. Wilhelm Rieck (1893-1991). He had studied veterinary and human medicine and obtained PhD degrees in both fields. From 1920-1934 Rieck was head of the "Gesellschaft für Geschichte und Literatur der Veterinärmedizin" [Society for the History and Literature of Veterinary Medicine]. In 1931 he became private lecturer in veterinary history at the University of Berlin. In the period 1925-1945 he respectively edited *Veterinärhistorisches Jahrbuch* [Veterinary History Yearbook], *Veterinärhistorische Mitteilungen* [Veterinary Historical Communications], and *Beiträge zur Geschichte der Veterinärmedizin* [Contributions to the History of Veterinary Medicine]. On his initiative, the *Fachgruppe Geschichte der Deutschen Veterinärmedizinischen Gesellschaft* [History Section of the German Veterinary Medical Association] was founded in 1953. This Section consisted of only a few people while no section meeting were held. Between 1959-1985, Rieck served as president of this Section. Ernst-Heinrich Lochmann organized the first symposium of the Section in Hanover in July 1964. Because more and more foreign participants joined these meetings, the name was changed into "Welt-Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Veterinärmedizin" [World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine (WAHVM)] on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1969 during the 6th Symposium in Hanover. The WAHVM statutes described the following aim: 'to associate people who apply themselves to Veterinary History by doing research work of their own, and who also suggest, scientifically supervise, and promote respective thesis and other relevant works of members and nonmembers'. Its intention was 'to serve the international coordination of historical research of veterinary history'. In the following decade more symposia were held in different countries attracting more participants while the program was extended from one to two and later three days. The majority of the participants were no professional veterinary historians. Logically, Rieck became the first president and fulfilled this position until 1977. In that year this remarkable and amiable "Nestor of veterinary history" was elected Honorary President of the WAHVM for all his achievements and services to the field. Until he was 92 years old he participated in WAHVM congresses.<sup>7</sup>

## The Lochmann era (1977-1993)

The second remarkable person who stood at the cradle of WAHVM and secured its continuation was Prof. Dr. Ernst-Heinrich Lochmann (1926-2013). He graduated from the Hanover Veterinary School in 1955, studied history in the period 1963-1967 and obtained his PhD habilitation in history of veterinary medicine in 1969. In 1964 he was appointed scientific assistant in the field veterinary history at the Hanover Veterinary School. Lochmann became full professor in veterinary history in 1987

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<sup>7</sup> Ernst-Heinrich Lochmann, 'Dipl.-Landwirt Professor Dr. med. vet. habil. Dr. med. Dr. med. vet. h. c. Wilhelm Rieck 95 Jahre', *Deutsche tierärztliche Wochenschrift* 95 (1988) 411-412; Idem, 'Formation and development of the WAHVM and the international symposia for the history of veterinary medicine'. Brochure (Hanover 1989).

leading his own institute and veterinary museum. In the period 1985-1992 he succeeded Rieck as President of the *Fachgruppe*. He also followed in the footsteps of Rieck as WAHVM President in 1977. In practice however, as secretary-treasurer, he had already organized the international congresses from 1969 onwards under the auspices of Rieck.<sup>8</sup>



**Fig. 1.** Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Rieck (1893-1991), first president of the WAHVM, 1969-1977.

**Fig. 2.** Prof. Dr. Ernst-Heinrich Lochmann (1926-2013), second President of the WAHVM, 1977-1993. Courtesy: Prof. Johann Schäffer.

Lochmann acted as WAHVM President until 1993. In that period the WAHVM board was a one-person job in essence, although Lochmann was surrounded by other officials. Lochmann always maintained a close relationship with the World Veterinary Association (WVA); in 1970 the WAHVM received observer status of the WVA, and became an associate member in 1976. From 1969 onwards, the WAHVM-President was supported by an Executive Board of Directors consisting of a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer. The function of vice-president was carried out for years by Dr. Hansjürg Joller (Switzerland) and Dr. Carl-Heinz Klatt (Finland), while Lochmann became secretary and Wolf Udo Presse and Werner Steinigeweg, both from Germany later performed the task of secretary-treasurer. In addition, an Extended Board of Directors was appointed in which the following members served for longer periods (in alphabetical order): Dr. Rudolf Böhm (Czechoslovakia), Prof. Dr. Ferruh Dinçer (Turkey), Prof. Eldisougi Mustafa (Sudan), Dr. Ivan Katić (Denmark), Dr. Osamu Katsuyama (Japan), Prof. Dr. Peter Knezevic (Austria) and Dr. G. de Sommain (Italy).<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Johann Schäffer, 'Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ernst-Heinrich Lochmann zum 80. Geburtstag', *TiHo-Anzeiger* 35 (2006) 3: 10.

<sup>9</sup> Brumme & Schäffer 1993, 222; E.-H. Lochmann, 'Das 16. Internationale Symposium der Welt-Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Veterinärmedizin: 21.-24. Mai 1980 in Bärau, Schweiz', *Berichte zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte* 3 (1980) 207-213; there 207-208.

Until the 1970s only a few national veterinary history societies were active; next to the *Dansk Veterinærhistorisk Samfund* (Denmark, 1934) and the German *Fachgruppe* (1953) the “Veterinary History Society” established in London in 1962, can be mentioned. In the USA a small group of veterinarians interested in history, particularly J. Fred Smithcors, started an informal working group 1959. Eventually this grew into the American Veterinary History Society, which was established in 1978 and since renamed American Veterinary Medical History Society. Because of this lack of societies Lochmann approached the WVA to promote veterinary history worldwide. He hoped that this association and its national members could play an important role in promoting education and research on veterinary history worldwide (see below). However, from the onset, the main activity of the WAHVM has been the organization of an annual - and from 2006 onwards a biennial - international congress. A format was chosen in which a national veterinary history society was responsible for organizing (and financing) the international congress. Often a centenary or other anniversary of a veterinary institute (school, association) was the occasion for such an event. Until 1993 Lochmann alone composed the scientific program, from that year onwards this was a mutual responsibility for the local scientific committee and the WAHVM board. Although the WAHVM officially allowed four different congress languages (German, English, French and Spanish), German was the predominant language used during the first twenty years.

6	1969	Hanover, Germany	26	1993	Utrecht, Netherlands
7	1970	Moosegg i.E., Switzerland	27	1994	Copenhagen, Denmark
8	1971	Nuremberg, Germany	28	1996	Vienna, Austria
9	1972	Vienna, Austria	29	1997	Cordoba, Spain
10	1973	Hanover, Germany	30	1998	Munich, Germany
11	1974	Copenhagen, Denmark	31	2000	Brno, Czech Republic
12	1975	Rapperswil, Switzerland	32	2001	Oslo, Norway
13	1976	Innsbruck, Austria	33	2002	Wittenberg, Germany*
14	1977	Regensburg, Germany	34	2003	Mexico City, Mexico
15	1978	Bremen, Germany	35	2004	Turin, Italy
16	1980	Bärau i.E., Switzerland	36	2005	Minneapolis, USA
17	1981	Helsinki, Finland	37	2006	León, Spain
18	1982	Vienna, Austria	38	2008	Engelberg, Switzerland
19	1984	Pula, Yugoslavia	39	2010	Antalya, Turkey
20	1985	Hanover, Germany	40	2012	Utrecht, Netherlands
21	1986	Székesfehérvár, Hungary	41	2014	London, United Kingdom
22	1988	Rheinfelden, Switzerland	42	2016	Vienna, Austria
23	1989	Skara, Sweden	43	2018	Bergen, Norway
24	1990	Karlsruhe, Germany	44	2020	Pretoria, South Africa
25	1992	Ankara, Turkey			

\*Cancelled due to flood.

**Table 1.** Number, year and location of WAHVM congresses in the period 1969-2020.

In Table 1 an overview of the WAHVM congresses in the period 1969-2020 is given. Most congresses were held in Germany (14), followed by Austria (5), Switzerland (5), Denmark (2), Netherlands (2) Norway, (2), Spain (2), Turkey (2), and once in Croatia, the Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the USA.<sup>10</sup> Congresses outside Europe were held in Mexico City

<sup>10</sup> Ernst-Heinrich Lochmann, ‘25 international symposia and congresses on the history of veterinary medicine 1964-1992’, origin and development, themes and trends’, *Argos* 8 (1993) 211-216.

(Mexico 2003), Minneapolis (USA 2005) and Pretoria (South Africa 2020). As can be noticed no WAHVM congresses were organized in the years 1979, 1983, 1987, 1991, 1995 and 1999. When the WAHVM became an associate member of the WVA in 1976, it was decided that every fourth year the WAHVM would organize its meeting within the framework of WVA-congresses. As a so-called “Specialist Association” the WAHVM was asked to organize the program for its own section sessions. Lochmann organized the history sessions of the WVA congresses in Moscow, USSR (1979), Perth, Australia (1983), Montreal, Canada (1987), and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (1991), while his successor Dr. Guus Mathijssen (Netherlands) was responsible for the history program in Yokohama, Japan (1995), and Lyon, France (1999). From 2003 onwards this scheme was abandoned.

Lochmann was not only involved in drawing up the main theme(s) and scientific programs of congresses, he also took care of the printing and mailing of correspondence and working materials from his institute in Hanover, as well as of public relations. Until 1989, the German Veterinary Medical Association covered a substantial share of these costs. The local organizers arranged congress venue, accommodation, a social program and excursions, and attracted sponsors. During the 25 WAHVM symposia and congresses a total of 634 lectures were announced in the programs; that equals about 25 per congress. During each congress, on average, speakers originated from 10 different countries. About one third of all the papers presented concerned biographies. All 25 congresses were held in Europe. About one third of the participants came from outside Europe, but they delivered only 6 % of the lectures. Of course, financial aspects also explains a lower participation of non-Europeans. The period 1969-1993 witnessed an increase of publications and lectures about the history of veterinary medicine, a steady increase in participation in national and international congresses, and the establishment of 16 national societies for the history of veterinary medicine (table 2). In various veterinary colleges veterinary history instruction was included in the curriculum, while in a few of those colleges chairs and institutes in the field were established.<sup>11</sup>

1	<i>Argentina 1997</i>	12	<i>France 1988</i>	23	<i>South Africa 1995</i>
2	<i>Australia 1991</i>	13	<i>Germany 1953</i>	24	<i>South Korea 2009</i>
3	<i>Austria 2001</i>	14	<i>Hungary 1976</i>	25	<i>Spain 1996</i>
4	<i>Brazil 2008</i>	15	<i>Italy 1990</i>	26	<i>Sweden 1975</i>
5	<i>Bulgaria</i>	16	<i>India</i>	27	<i>Switzerland 1990</i>
6	<i>China 2005</i>	17	<i>Japan 1972</i>	28	<i>Turkey 2005</i>
7	<i>Cuba</i>	18	<i>Mexico 1987</i>	29	<i>UK 1962</i>
8	<i>Czech Republic</i>	19	<i>Netherlands 1989</i>	30	<i>#USA 1978</i>
9	<i>Denmark 1934</i>	20	<i>Norway 1994</i>	31	<i>Venezuela 2003</i>
10	<i>Egypt 1988</i>	21	<i>Poland</i>		
11	<i>Finland 1978</i>	22	<i>Portugal</i>		

**Table 2.** List of national veterinary history associations with their founding year. WAHVM members in italics; # member in the period 2000-2015. Although this Society is not an active WAHVM member anymore, the United States is well represented by many individual WAHVM members. As far as we know, 31 national societies for the history of veterinary medicine are active today, of which 14 are paying WAHVM members. In some countries veterinary history is part of a broader medical or science history society. Source: Minutes General Assembly WAHVM; A. Mathijssen, ‘Veterinaire geschiedenis via internet’, *Argos* 32 (2005) 79-83.

<sup>11</sup> Ibidem, 212-216; Brumme & Schäffer 1993, 222-223.

Lochmann became emeritus professor in 1991 and was succeeded by Prof. Dr. Johann Schäffer, also as President of the History Section of the German Veterinary Medical Association. During the 26<sup>th</sup> WAHVM congress in Utrecht in 1993, Lochmann stepped down as President and was elected WAHVM Honorary president. An international issue of *Argos* (number 8) with papers only in English and German, published on the occasion of the WAHVM congress in Utrecht, was dedicated to him. He will be remembered as a Nestor with great organizational abilities who played an important role in the institutionalization of the field veterinary history on a national and international level.

## **Restructuring of the WAHVM**

Around 1990 a number of changes occurred by which the WAHVM and the field veterinary history was influenced. In 1989, communism collapsed, offering the opportunity for participation in international congresses by scholars from the former Eastern Bloc. During the 24<sup>th</sup> WAHVM congress in Karlsruhe in September 1990 about 20 veterinarians from Eastern Europe participated. The field veterinary history itself was changing. Similarly to the development of the social history of medicine, new approaches and methodologies were applied by an increasing number of non-veterinarians studying the history of veterinary medicine. The growing number of national societies for veterinary history called for a restructuring of the WAHVM and for a more scientific and closer programmatic international cooperation in research and education.

These changes and needs were acknowledged by a group of young scholars from Germany and the Netherlands who met in Zaberfeld, a small German village. This so-called “Zaberfelder Kreis” discussed possibilities to improve the position of the field veterinary history and its professionals on a national and international level. The need for closer cooperation between scholars studying veterinary history worldwide was felt, particularly compared to the scientific developments taking place within the social history of medicine. First an inventory of current activities in the field should be made among WAHVM members and affiliated organizations. The group drew up proposals to stimulate international collaboration, with comparative research questions, programs and projects in which both amateur and professional veterinary historians can work together in Working Groups on certain themes. To this goal funding organizations such as the Wellcome Trust (London) should be approached, while WAHVM members should pay an annual fee to support initiatives. They tried to increase the scientific level of the field and the congresses (inviting specialist keynote speakers offering a broader context of veterinary history, organization of Workshops on specific topics), and also by reinforcing *Historia Medicinæ Veterinariæ*, the only international double referee journal on veterinary history. The WAHVM congresses should get a truly international character, doing justice to the name “World Association”, in order to improve mutual communication and collaboration between members worldwide. Up till then none of the congresses had been held outside Europe, while the vast majority of the lectures were presented in German, some in English and only a few in other languages. This had led to complaints from non-German speaking younger scholars from other countries. The proposals made by the Zaberfeld Kreis were discussed during the General Assembly. A committee was

appointed to develop their proposals to be discussed in the next congress in Ankara in 1992.<sup>12</sup>

The 25<sup>th</sup> WAHVM congress in Ankara was part of an extensive and grand intentional veterinary congress with several participating international veterinary organizations, celebrations and excursions on the occasion of 150 years of veterinary education in Turkey. The congress was led by Ferruh Dinçer, at that time dean of the Ankara veterinary faculty. During the General Assembly the proposals made by the Zaberfelder group were adopted and included as action points in the agenda of the WAHVM board. Another important step was the proposal by August Mathijssen and Peter Koolmees to restructure the WAHVM into an umbrella organization of national veterinary history associations. On May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1992 Mathijssen developed this proposal into a resolution in which the WAHVM Board was asked by the General Assembly to implement four action points. These were:

1. to invite the national societies for the history of veterinary medicine to join the WAHVM;
2. to organize a meeting with the presidents of these associations or their representatives before the next annual meeting in order to discuss with them the reshaping of the WAHVM into a federation of the national societies;
3. to propose to the members, in advance of the next general meeting, names of candidates for the presidency, the secretariat and the function of treasurer;
4. to nominate a scientific committee in order to assist in the programming of the congresses to be held.

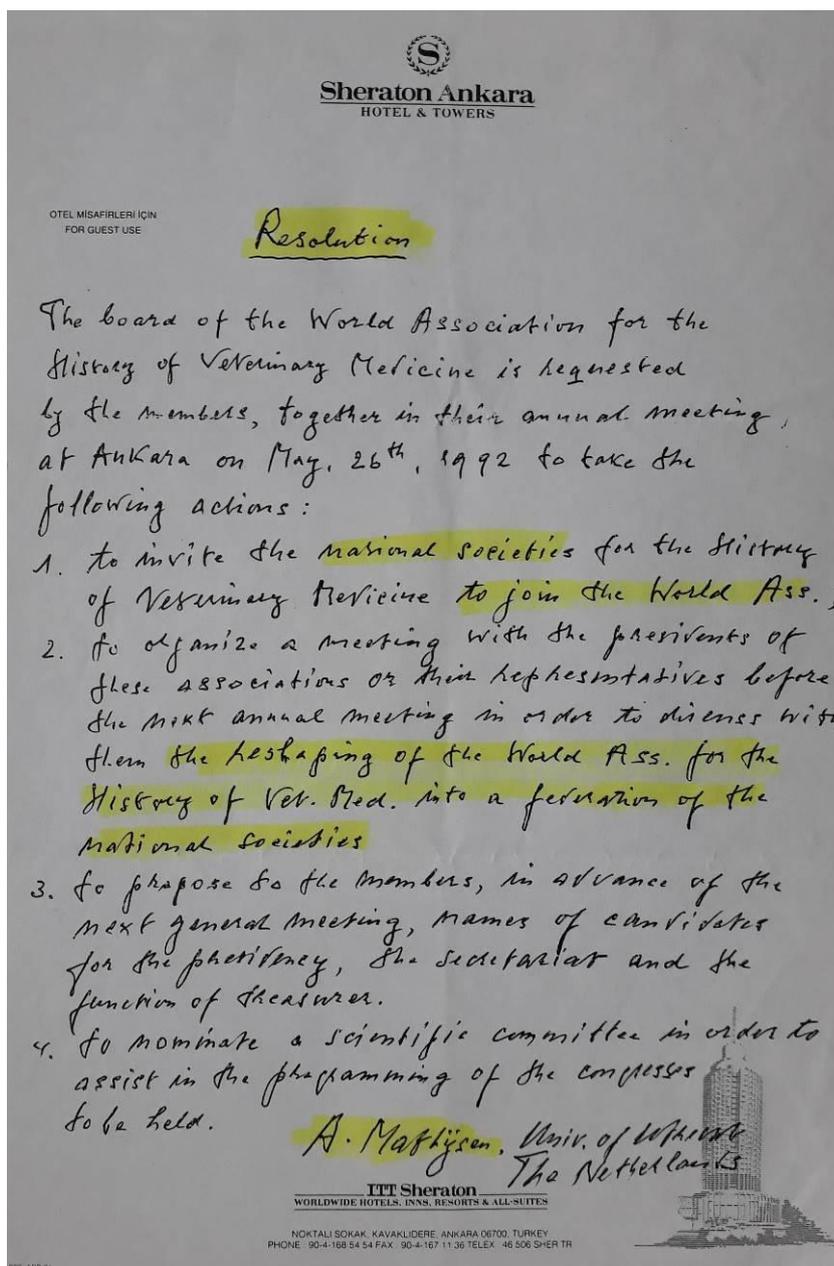
At first Lochmann was reluctant towards the proposed restructuring, but finally agreed to collaborate in a smooth transition during the 26<sup>th</sup> WAHVM congress in Amersfoort/Utrecht, the Netherlands in May 1993. In the General Assembly it was decided to transform the association into a federation of national societies concerned with the promotion and study of veterinary history. A new Constitution had to be designed with provisions for membership categories and their representation. In addition, a proposal for membership fees had to be drafted. These tasks were committed to the care of the new board consisting of Dr. Guus Mathijssen, Netherlands (president), Prof. Bob Dunlop, USA (vice-president), Dr. Paul Leeflang, Netherlands (secretary-treasurer), and as extended board members: Dr. Rainer Grimm (Germany), Dr. Osamu Katsuyama (Japan), Prof. Peter Knezevic Austria), and Prof. Martí Pumerola (Spain).<sup>13</sup> August Herman Hubert Marie (Guus) Mathijssen (1930-2017) studied biology in Amsterdam and completed a postgraduate training to become scientific librarian at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University in 1967. He displayed a considerable interest in veterinary history which is also shown by the spectacular growth of the historical book collection in the faculty library. Due to his incredible memory, his impressive knowledge of veterinary history, his command of foreign languages and his profound erudition he was often considered a “walking encyclopedia”. During his career he had published more than 70 papers on

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<sup>12</sup> P. A. Koolmees, ‘Het 24ste International Symposium on the History of Veterinary Medicine, gehouden te Karlsruhe (B.R.D.) van 4 t/m 8 september 1990, *Argos* 3 (1990) 67; Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the WAHVM, Karlsruhe 1990; Johann Schäffer, ‘Berufliche und fachliche Perspektiven in der Geschichte der Veterinärmedizin. Vorschläge zur Verbesserung der beruflichen und fachlichen Situation. Treffen von Nachwuchswissenschaftlern am 3.9.1990 in Zaberfeld (BRD)’. Participants were Martin Brumme (Berlin), Klaus-Dietrich Fischer (Mainz), Bernhard Hofschulte (Karlsruhe), Peter Koolmees (Utrecht), and Johann Schäffer (Munich).

<sup>13</sup> The composition of the WAHVM board in the period 1993-2020 is listed in Appendix I.

veterinary history. With much interest, energy and enthusiasm he fulfilled the position of WAHVM president from June 1993 to September 2000.<sup>14</sup>



**Fig. 3.** Resolution with action points aimed at restructuring the WAHVM, drawn up by August Mathijsen on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1992 in Ankara.

As part of the restructuring of the WVA, annual subscription rates were set for national societies at 5 US \$ per member, 20 \$ for individual members, 200 \$ for veterinary schools and associations and 50 \$ for veterinary museums. In order to alleviate the task of the Organizing Committee, it was decided that congress fees could be levied, in a manner that WAHVM-members payed a reduced price. Another important decision was made to the congress language, which became English only.

<sup>14</sup> Peter Koolmees, 'Laudatio Drs. Guus Mathijsen', *WAHVM-Newsletter* (2002) 1: 20-23; Idem, 'In verscheidene opzichten bijzonder', *Argos* 41 (2009) 4-5; Engbert Oldenkamp & Hein Schrama, 'In memoriam drs. Guus Mathijsen (1930-2017)', *Argos* 56 (2017) 240.

The main activity of the board remained organizing the annual congresses in close collaboration with the local organizing committee. The General Assembly became involved in the choice of the congress theme(s) and the approval of the countries, cities and congress venues where the congresses were organized.<sup>15</sup> As a result more national societies became WAHVM member. In table 3 an overview of the WAHVM membership is given. After a rapid growth, the number of paying National Societies stabilized at about 14. This in spite of the fact that WAHVM had approached all 31 known national veterinary history societies, or History Divisions of national Veterinary Medical Associations. Some societies claimed that they were unable to pay membership, or failed to do so after some years. On the other hand, societies with more than 200 members wanted lower rates per member, particularly after the economic crisis of 2008. Some of these societies downgraded their membership for WAHVM payment to number of “active members”. In 2012 a new system of staggered annual fees was adopted to maintain a solid WAHVM economy: 50 active members or fewer: 4 € per member; 51 to 100 active members: 3 € per member; more than 100 active members: 2 Euro per member.

Year	National Societies	Number of members Represented	Individual paying members / From (x) different countries	Associate members / Institutions
1994	5	621	26 (15)	3
1998	8	857	41 (16)	7
2002	11	1,069	41 (23)	5
2006	14	920	56 (24)	9
2010	14	1,033	67 (23)	12
2014	16	931	47 (17)	5
2018	14	837	17 (7)	3

**Table 3.** Membership of the WAHVM in the period 1994-2020. Source: Minutes of General Assembly.

In table 4 the number of participants, their country and presentations in the period 1988-2020 is listed. The figure for participants include that of the accompanying persons, which varied between 6-25. The number of participants was rather stable as well as the number of countries they come from. Over the years, a nucleus of regular participants arose, causing many international friendships. Together with the social events built into the programs, these friendships contributed to a special and relaxed atmosphere. The number of persons participating in each of these 22 congresses was 93 on average. During each congress, on average 38 lectures were presented; the number had increased from 33 in the period 1988-2001 to 42 in the years 2003-2020. The amount of countries represented was 18 on average, proving the true international character of the WAHVM congresses.

The new Constitution and further proposals for the functioning of the WAHVM were adopted in 1994 during the 27<sup>th</sup> congress in Copenhagen. From 1996 onwards invited speakers started the WAHVM congresses with keynote lectures introducing the main topics. For about eight years these speakers were financed by the History of Medicine Program from the Wellcome Trust (London). At the General Assembly of 1997 in Córdoba it was decided to establish a Liaison Committee, instead of the

<sup>15</sup> Brumme & Schäffer 1993, 223; August Mathijsen, ‘Addendum on the period 1993-2001 of the congresses on the history of veterinary medicine’, in: Ferruh Dinçer (Ed), *Veterinary Medicine: Historical Approaches* (Ankara 2002) 77- 81, there 77-78.

Extended Board, with a representative of each of the member societies, plus one member to represent the personal members. This became effective after the General Assembly in Munich in September 1998.<sup>16</sup> However, the aim of the WAHVM remained to strongly promote global collaboration between veterinary historians by facilitating interaction and providing a forum for exchange of knowledge, expertise, and research findings. Step by step annual work plans arising from the new programmatic approach were started.<sup>17</sup> To this goal various working groups were installed. An overview of their activities is given below.

Year	Location	Participants	Countries	Presentations	Posters
1988	Rheinfelden	79	10	22	-
1989	Skara (Sweden)	65	14	26	-
1990	Karlsruhe (Germany)	102	14	29	-
1992	Ankara (Turkey)	52	12	30	-
1993	Utrecht (Netherlands)	92	20	43	-
1994	Copenhagen (Denmark)	105	22	33	
1996	Vienna (Austria)	106	22	45	5
1997	Córdoba (Spain)	109	19	42	
1998	Munich (Germany)	88	18	30	
2000	Brno (Czech Republic)	124	23	33	34
2001	Oslo (Norway)	118	23	28	16
2003	Mexico City (Mexico)	98	14	43	26
2004	Turin (Italy)	110	17	62	25
2005	Minneapolis (USA)	56	12	22	11
2006	León (Spain)	154	25	83	26
2008	Engelberg (Switzerland)	85	23	37	12
2010	Antalya (Turkey)	102	17	37	21
2012	Utrecht (Netherlands)	110	22	42	18
2014	London (United Kingdom)	130	24	65	14
2016	Vienna (Austria)	46	18	21	14
2018	Bergen (Norway)	66	20	27	18
2020	Pretoria (South Africa)	45	10	25	5

**Table 4.** Number of participants, presentations and participating countries. Source: Minutes from General Assemblies 1989-2020; Jan Berns, Floor Haalboom, Peter Koolmees, Guus Mathijssen, or Jons Straatman, 'Reports from WAHVM congresses' [in Dutch] in: *Argos* 1 (1989) – 60 (2018); A. Mathijssen, 'Addendum on the period 1993-2001 of the congresses on the history of veterinary medicine', in: Ferruh Dinçer (Ed), *Veterinary Medicine: Historical Approaches* (Ankara 2002) 81.

## WAHVM Working Groups

### International Dictionary of Veterinary Biography

In 1997 the working group "International Dictionary of Veterinary Biography" was established with the aim to publish a modern supplement of the well-known *Biografisch-literarisches Lexicon der Thierärzte aller Zeiten und Länder* (Stuttgart 1863), composed by G. W. Schrader and E. Hering.<sup>18</sup> As format for the biographies a choice was made for the *Dictionary of American Medical Biography* by M. Kaufman

<sup>16</sup> A. Mathijssen, 'Het 27<sup>ste</sup> Internationale congres over de geschiedenis van de diergeneeskunde, gehouden te Kopenhagen van 21-24 augustus 1994', *Argos* 11 (1994) 28-29; Idem, Reports (in Dutch) from the 28th congress in Vienna in *Argos* 15 (1996) 203-204; the 29th congress in Córdoba in *Argos* 17 (1997) 291-292; and the 30th congress in Munich in *Argos* 19 (1998) 399-402.

<sup>17</sup> See for instance: Paul Leeflang, 'Workplan 1998-1999', *WAHVM Newsletter* (1997) 2: 6.

<sup>18</sup> Online available at: [https://reader.digitale-sammlungen.de/de/fs1/object/display/bsb10252433\\_00001.html](https://reader.digitale-sammlungen.de/de/fs1/object/display/bsb10252433_00001.html)

et al. (Westport 1984-). The Working Group consisted of Ivan Katić (Denmark), L. Moreno F. Caparros (Spain), Rainer Grimm (Germany) and Georges Theves (Luxemburg). The most active contributors were veterinary librarians Dr. Ivan Katić (Copenhagen) and Guus Mathijssen (Utrecht). The two became close friends and they formed a couple that has worked hard for decades to promote the study of veterinary history. They played an important role in the WAHVM board as well as in their national veterinary history societies, and as longtime editors of *Historia Medicinae Veterinariae* and *Argos*. Of course for them as librarians they tried to make as many written veterinary sources as possible accessible for many users. They themselves added many papers and reports to the expanding veterinary history literature. In 1998 they had obtained about 1000 names of suggested persons from 20 different countries to be included in the dictionary. Biographies from a number of persons were already published in national veterinary (history) journals. However, writing and/or translating these and new biographies into proper English with all the required personal data was much more time-consuming. Next to the difficulty of applying certain selection criteria, another problem was that many biographies were written in an uncritical and hagiographic style. To cope with that an editorial board had to be established to check the data provided, and the uniformity of the contributions. In 2002 150 biographies from 19 countries were ready; in 2008 about 400 biographies from 36 countries were sent in. By 2012 the figure was 425; however disagreement arose over the question how many biographies should be collected before they could be published. A publisher was hard to find, hence online publishing on a website was considered. In 2014 it was decided to put the collected biographies in the WAHVM website.<sup>19</sup>

#### Retrospective Veterinary Bibliography (VetHistDatabase)

The WAHVM work plan also included the composition of a digital retrospective veterinary bibliography. To this goal Guus Mathijssen collected, organized and edited thousands titles of publications on veterinary history worldwide. That was a major task he took upon him after his retirement in 1995. Only in Germany and France alone more than 600, respectively 300 veterinary dissertations were published. The first version of the database, available on a CD ROM, was presented during the congress at Munich in 1998. During the 32<sup>nd</sup> congress in Oslo in 2001, Guus Mathijssen presented the second version of the CD-ROM "Bibliography of the Biography and History of Veterinary Medicine". He had translated all titles of papers published in various languages into English and wished it would encourage the study of veterinary history within an international context. In 2003 the VetHistdatabase contained 14,462 references on books, dissertations, and periodical articles published between the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the year 2000. For the first time the literature on veterinary history was brought together retrospectively in one fully indexed database; an achievement after many years of hard work. In 2004 this database could be purchased from "Euroscience", Bilthoven, Netherlands. Mathijssen calculated that per annum about 250 publications on veterinary history appeared. In 2006 the database was linked to the WAHVM website. Two years later the database

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<sup>19</sup> Peter Koolmees, 'Verslag van het 38<sup>ste</sup> congres van de WAHVM', *Argos* 39 (2008) 442-445; idem, 'Verslag van het 40<sup>ste</sup> congres van de WAHVM', *Argos* 47 (2012) 246-247; A.H.M.M. Mathijssen, 'Available sources of veterinary biographies useful in compiling contributions for an international Dictionary of Veterinary Biography (IDVB)', *Historia Medicinae Veterinariae* 26 (2001) 107-114; Minutes General Assembly WAHVM London 2014.

contained 15,150 publications on veterinary history, of which 3,332 dealt with biographies.<sup>20</sup>

Another database with more than 400 papers on veterinary history was published by the Library of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry in Stockholm.<sup>21</sup> However, in the second decade of the 21st century the value of such databases became partly obsolete by unforeseen developments, such as the fast process of releasing digitalized journals and the huge information explosion on the Internet. Search engines like Google, PubMed, Scopus, etcetera enabled retrieving information on publications dealing with veterinary history.

Next to an increase in publications on veterinary history in regular veterinary journals, particularly when anniversaries of veterinary schools or other institutes were celebrated, the number of specific journals on veterinary history has increased from the 1970s onwards. An overview is given below.

- *Årbok. Norske Veterinærhistorisk Selskap*, Oslo, 1996-
- *Argos, Bulletin van het Veterinair Historisch Genootschap*, Utrecht, 1989-
- *Australian Veterinary History Society Record*, Camden, NSW, 1991-...
- *Bulletin de la Société Française d'Histoire de la Médecine et des Sciences Vétérinaires*, Paris, 2003-
- *Dansk veterinærhistorisk årbog*, Skive, 1934-
- *Historia Medicinae Veterinariae*, Copenhagen, 1976-2014
- *History of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science*, Beijing, 2003-
- *Japanese Journal of Veterinary History*, Tokyo, 1972-
- *Veterinary Heritage, Organ of the American Veterinary Medical History Society*, 1982-
- *Veterinärhistoriska museet Skara meddelande*, Skara, 1985-...
- *Veterinary History, Bulletin of the Veterinary History Society*, London, 1973-

### WAHVM Website

With the opening of the digital era new possibilities for knowledge exchange all over the world opened. It enabled WAHVM-board to communicate in an easier and more sufficient way with members all over the world. In doing so, WAHVM increasingly proceeded as a real 'World' Association. A significant development in electronic communication, science and society was the introduction of computers, e-mail and Internet in the 1980s and 1990s. Digitalized scientific journals, archival sources and ancient manuscripts and books in databases became available in various libraries and on the Internet. Exchanging information was facilitated by electronic mail. In 1997 a working group consisting of John Broberg (UK), Peter Koolmees and Jan Berns (Netherlands) was established to explore the possibilities for a communication network and the development of a homepage. One year later the WAHVM had developed its own website to facilitate international exchange of information on publications, sources, congresses, museums, teaching materials, and other activities. On September 10<sup>th</sup> 1998 during the 30<sup>th</sup> congress in Munich the WAHVM website, hosted by the Utrecht Veterinary Faculty Library, was proudly launched by the president Guus Mathijssen. It provided general information on the association, announcements of congresses, activities from national societies, and minutes from

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<sup>20</sup> Peter Koolmees, 'Verslag van het 32<sup>ste</sup> congres van de WAHVM', *Argos* 25 (2001) 233-234.

<sup>21</sup> Anna Backman, *Litteratur om veterinärmedicinshistoria i Kungl. Skogs- och lantbruksakademiens bibliotek* (Stockholm 2014).

meetings. Under the heading “resources” information was given on veterinary history journals, including the contents of issues from *Historia Medicinae Veterinariae*, a list of national veterinary history associations, a list of veterinary museums, and a bibliographical database of 1,600 books and dissertations on veterinary history.<sup>22</sup> The website was housed respectively in Utrecht (1998-2008), Minnesota (2008-2014), and London (2014-present). In 2018 a Twitter account was opened (#wahvm2018) by which members exchange information.

### Veterinary Museums

One of the means of spreading knowledge on the history of veterinary medicine is exhibiting veterinary legacy collections in museums. The impressions from veterinary collections often remain in the public’s memories as an significant experience. Curators and exhibition and preservation specialists cooperate to show the fascinating history of animal healing and welfare enriched with interesting narratives. The WAHVM has always considered veterinary collections and exhibitions as a very important part of studying and promoting veterinary history, from artifacts excavated at archeological sites from antiquity (iron twister), to present-day instruments and techniques (3-D titanium implant in a dog skull). During WAHVM congresses many papers on museum collections have been presented. These involved specific artifacts, preservation techniques (paper, photographs, metal, wax, gypsum, fabric, textiles, wet and dry organic material, stuffed animals, sustainability by plastination) registration systems (for instance digitalization), collection criteria, opportunities to open up a museological infrastructure, to involve the collections in history instruction, and to make the collections accessible for the broad public. Attention was also paid to the special skills that are required to manage, register, and conserve academic heritage in a professional way, according to national and international standards.<sup>23</sup>

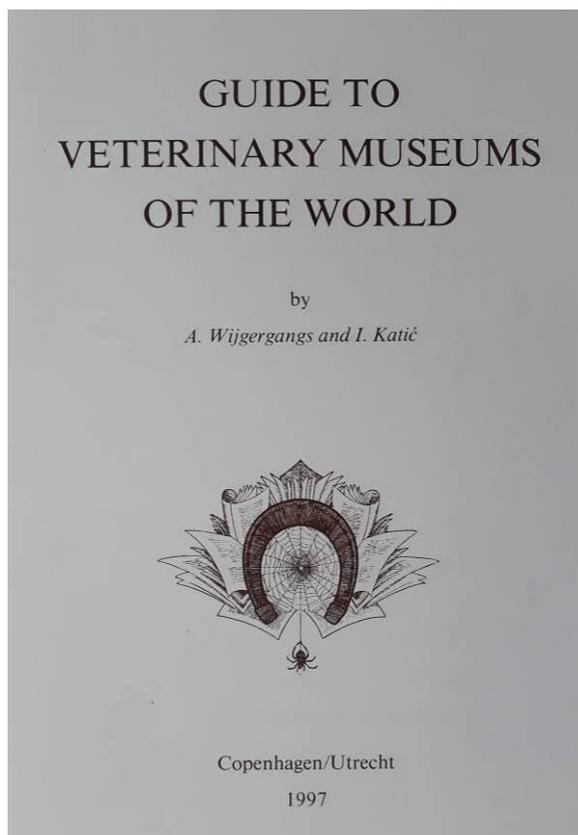
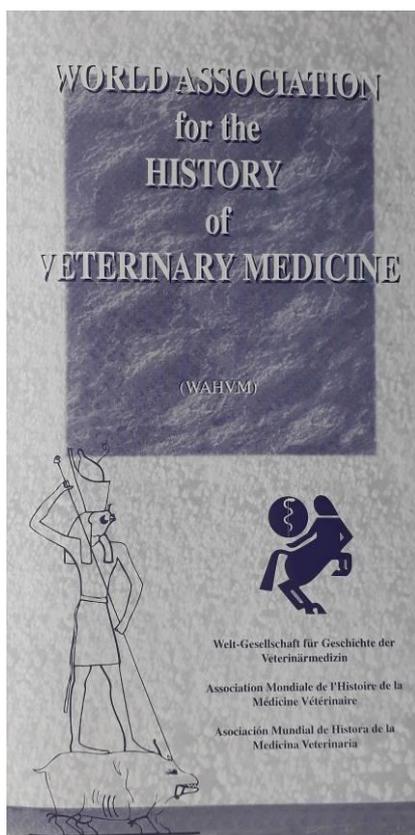
During the last decades veterinary history collections have benefitted from the increasing interest of the history of science and technology, as well as from the popularity of animals within society.<sup>24</sup> Often, this was based on the old museological principle “plenty is beautiful”, but in the 21<sup>st</sup> century various museums developed exhibitions including the history of veterinary history as part of the broader history of human-animal relationships and animal welfare. Finally, objects from veterinary collections are also used to explain the historical context of actual societal debates on dilemma’s in our treatment of animals (for instance laboratory animal science, killing animals, animals used for entertainment, zoo animals, breeding with pets with hereditary defects, etcetera). Thereby, the veterinary cultural legacy does not only represent the tangible contact with the past, but could also serve to look at the future.

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<sup>22</sup> A.H.H.M. (Guus) Mathijssen, ‘The veterinary librarian as keeper of the veterinary documentary heritage’, in: Suzanne Bakker (ed), *Libraries without limits. Changing needs – changing roles* (Dordrecht 1999) 146-152.

<sup>23</sup> Statutes of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) (Vienna, 2007); Hildegard Viereg, *Museumswissenschaften. Eine Einführung* (Paderborn 2006) 21-24.

<sup>24</sup> Patrick J. Boylan, ‘Universities and museums: past, present and future’, *Museum Management and Curatorship* 18 (1999) 43-56; Peter A. Koolmees ‘Over koetjes en kalfjes? De collectie diergeneeskunde van het Universiteitsmuseum Utrecht’, *Gewina* 30 (2007) 162-174.



**Fig. 4.** New leaflet of the WAHVM designed in 1998.

**Fig. 5.** Cover of the *Guide to Veterinary Museums of the World* (Copenhagen / Utrecht 1997) composed by Toon Wijgangers and Ivan Katić.

In 1994 the WAHVM Working Group “Veterinary Museums” was established with the aim to facilitate cooperation between veterinary collections worldwide. Initiators were Ivan Katić, and Toon Wijgangers (Netherlands). Johann Schäffer volunteered to review the scientific value of the collections. This group started with making an inventory of existing veterinary collections, which was published in 1997. They listed and described 43 veterinary museums in 26 countries. Many museums contain veterinary anatomical and pathological artifacts which originate from study collections of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Next to independent museums dedicated only to veterinary medicine, some veterinary collections are integrated in Agricultural museums (for instance in Sofia, Bulgaria and in Ciechanowic, Poland), Horse or Science Museums, while others focus on specific disciplines such as for instance in anatomy with specimen on comparative anatomy and medicine (for instance the astonishing wax models in Musée Fragonard d’Alfort, Paris established 1902), pathology, artificial insemination and reproduction (in Hamar in Norway), animal husbandry, and military veterinary history (in Madrid, Spain). Some veterinary museums were opened in the 1940s (Stara Zagora, Bulgaria), 1950s (Sofia, Bulgaria; Utrecht, Netherlands), and 1960s (Brno, Czech Republic; Kazan, Russia; Des Moines, USA; Oslo, Norway). But particularly the 1970s witnessed the opening of veterinary museums, about 15 worldwide.<sup>25</sup> Not all museums survive due to

<sup>25</sup> A. Wijgangers & Ivan Katić, *Guide to Veterinary Museums of the World* (Copenhagen/Utrecht 1997), also published as *Historia Medicinae Veterinariae* 21 (1996) 1-4: 1-77.

financial problems or changing priorities, and some veterinary collections were even lost. On the other hand however, new veterinary museums, for instance in the Argentina, Uruguay and the USA<sup>26</sup>, opened their doors for the public.

Both the number of museums and the interest in science history have grown worldwide. In the wake of this development public interest in veterinary heritage, particularly the health and welfare of animals, has grown as well. As a result of the changing social context in which veterinary medicine is practiced, new perspectives on the representation of veterinary medicine and veterinarians are opened. New presentation technologies such as video weblog and virtual museums are available to reach the public. A regular re-orientation on collecting criteria and on the importance and use of veterinary collections with regard to the general public and research and education will remain necessary. For many veterinary collections a challenge lies in obtaining sufficient support from society and benefactors, and, in the future, for upcoming generations to value these collections. The WAHVM continues to stimulate the cooperation between people in charge of historical collections, and by its congresses offers the opportunity to meet regularly to exchange views and experiences. On the WAHVM website (<https://www.wahvm.co.uk>) links to a number of veterinary collections are listed under the heading "Resources".

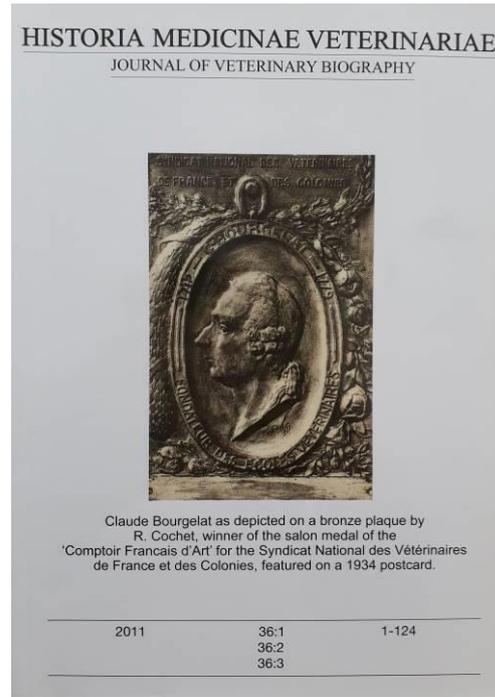
### Historia Medicinae Veterinariae

In many ways Ivan Katić was a great promotor of veterinary history during his career as librarian of the Copenhagen Agricultural-Veterinary school. He co-organized the WAHVM congresses in Copenhagen in 1974 and 1994, and established the journal *Historia Medicinae Veterinariae* (HMV). This journal, which he partly supported at his own expense, was published in the period 1976-2014, contained contributions from authors around the world in various languages. As very amiable person with great communication skills he succeeded in surrounding himself with an international editing board covering the various language areas. During the congress in 1994 in Copenhagen a closer cooperation between HMV and the WAHVM was agreed upon. WAHVM-members obtained a discount for subscription of the journal. Within the Danish tradition, Katić published numerous biographies of persons of veterinary interest. Therefore, as subtitle of HMV he later added "Journal of Veterinary Biography". However, due to Ivan's connections with the Slavic speaking countries (his native country was Croatia) and the Scandinavian countries, he published many papers on the veterinary connections within and between these two worlds.<sup>27</sup> After 30 years Ivan stepped down as editor. Dr. Georges Theves (Luxembourg) who has functioned as co-editor for French publications, took over the task of producer and distributor of HMV, because tax rates were much lower in Luxembourg. Since 2008 the administrative and logistic work dealing with the journal moved to Dr. Peter Paulsen and Dr. Christa Mache (Austria) while distributing took place from the Veterinary University of Vienna. Unfortunately, HMV was no longer published after 2014.

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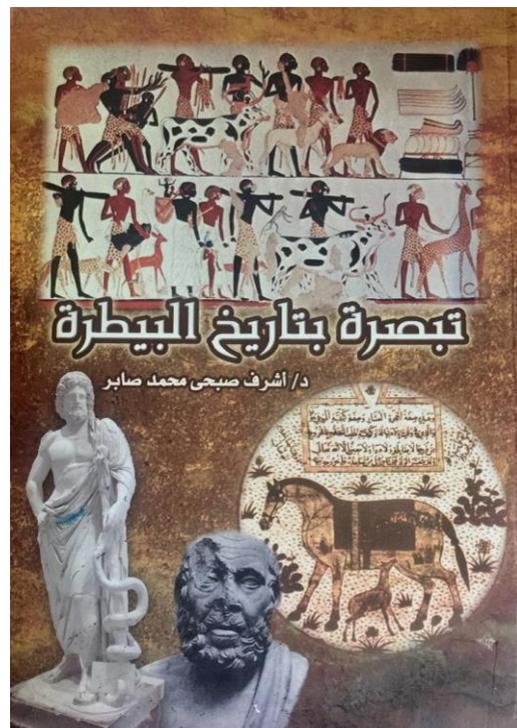
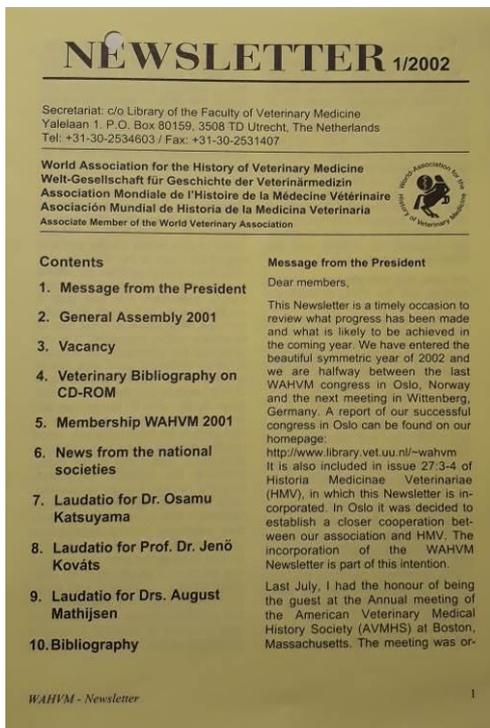
<sup>26</sup> In 2005 the USA counted 19 veterinary history collections. Peter Koolmees, 'Impressie van veterinaire musea in de Verenigde Staten', *Argos* 35 (2006) 232-239.

<sup>27</sup> Ivan Katić, 'The start and the first 25 years of "*Historia Medicinae Veterinariae*", in: Ferruh Dinçer (Ed), *Veterinary Medicine: Historical Approaches* (Ankara 2002) 83-87.



**Fig. 6.** Dr. Ivan Katić (1930-2018), research-librarian of the Royal Danish Agricultural and Veterinary University, Copenhagen, Denmark. Courtesy: Ivan Katić junior.

**Fig. 7.** Title page of *Historia Medicinæ Veterinariæ* 36 (2011) 1-3: 1-124.



**Fig. 8.** Title page of WAHVM-Newsletter 1 (2002) incorporated in HVM.

**Fig 9.** Title page of the first modern book on the history of veterinary medicine in the Arabic World written by Prof Ashraf Saber, *A brief History of Veterinary Medicine* (Sadat City, Egypt 2006).

During the congress in Oslo (2001) it was decided to establish a closer cooperation between the WAHVM and HVM again. As part of this intention, the *WAHVM Newsletter* was incorporated in HVM, in the so-called "Yellow Pages". From 1995 onwards the WAHVM Newsletter had become the means of communication for the WAHVM. Twice a year it appeared with a regular content including a message from the president, information about the board, national societies and membership, museums and collections, minutes from the General Assembly, and updates of selective current bibliography. From 2005 onwards such information was published on the WAHVM website, since more national societies had developed websites with links for announcements and information exchange.

### Veterinary Education and Curriculum Development

From the 1970s onwards, the WAHVM Board has put much efforts in promoting veterinary history instruction worldwide. It tried to encourage veterinary schools to include history instruction in their curricula. As mentioned above, Lochmann had approached the World Veterinary Association to point out the importance of veterinary history instruction. During the 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>th</sup> World Veterinary Congresses that were held in Thessaloniki (1975), Perth (1983) and Montreal (1987) respectively, the following resolutions were adopted and reaffirmed: "Realizing the importance of the history of veterinary medicine and allied sciences in understanding the present day veterinary science, the XX WVA Congress urges all veterinary schools to include the history of veterinary medicine in their curricula and to make adequate arrangements for teaching this important subject". "The XXII WVA Congress calls upon all concerned to establish museums of veterinary history in all countries so that veterinary culture may be collected, preserved, researched, and presented to the public world wide". "The XXIII WVA Congress is asking all Governments and veterinary educational institutions to establish institutes for the history of veterinary medicine and to provide them with the necessary budget for personnel and material to enable a world network of research and teaching of the History of Veterinary History to be created".<sup>28</sup> Unfortunately, the impact of these resolutions remained limited, except for developments in Germany, Egypt, Spain and Turkey. In Germany veterinary history courses were taught at all 5 faculties. In Egypt and Spain veterinary history is taught at three faculties, while in Turkey veterinary history became a compulsory subject of the veterinary curriculum. Not less than eight chairs embedded in Departments of Veterinary History and Deontology were created, such as the first one in Ankara led by Prof. Ferruh Dinçer.

In 1994 the WAHVH Working Group on Veterinary Education and Curriculum Development was established, led by Johann Schäffer. It followed up the 1983 WVA resolution to include the history of veterinary medicine as a (selective) topic in the curriculum of veterinary schools. An inventory of veterinary history instruction at veterinary colleges in North America was already published in 1990.<sup>29</sup> Schäffer extended a similar inventory to veterinary education institutes worldwide in 1997; the

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<sup>28</sup> Peter A. Koolmees, 'Letter on history instruction in veterinary curricula', *WAHVM Newsletter* (2001) 1: 6; Idem, 'The position of history instruction in veterinary curricula', in: F. Dinçer (Ed.) *Veterinary medicine: historical approaches* (Ankara 2002), 24-41; also published in *Historia Medicinae Veterinariae* 27 (2002) 24-41.

<sup>29</sup> John B. Mulder, 'A survey of veterinary medical history instruction in United States and Canadian schools', *Veterinary Heritage* 13 (1990) 2: 58-62. Prof Mulder presented this survey during the 24<sup>th</sup> WAHVM congress in Karlsruhe in 1990.

response was 44 %. The results were not encouraging. Despite the WVA resolutions veterinary history was only taught at about 27 veterinary colleges of the more than 250 worldwide. Except for Germany, Poland, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine, these involved optional courses. However, 37 colleges provided history instruction within the framework of other courses. Worldwide 48 veterinary colleges showed interest in adding a history course, but only 12 deans considered that it should be mandatory. Other deans claimed a lack of funding and / or an already overcrowded curriculum as reasons for not including a mandatory course on history.<sup>30</sup> Following the WVA resolutions on veterinary history instruction initiated by Lochmann, Guus Mathijssen wrote a request to the WVA Educational Committee to include the history of veterinary medicine in the list of basic veterinary disciplines in the veterinary curriculum. It was very disappointing to learn that during the WVA congress in Lyon in 1999 this Committee did not honor this request.<sup>31</sup>

The need for extending veterinary history instruction was repeated in the recommendations of the 31<sup>st</sup> WAHVM congress in Brno, Czech Republic in September 2000. The newly elected president Prof Peter Koolmees (Netherlands) followed another strategy to attain attention for history instruction among veterinary authorities. To that end, on behalf of the board, he sent letters to the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the National Examining Board of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), and the Committee on Veterinary Education and Development of the WVA. Pressure could be put on veterinary colleges to include history instruction in their curricula, when these organizations would require that as criterion during critical accreditation visits. It should be part of a broader question of how much attention faculties pay to the cultural and professional development of students and their veterinary legacy. We pointed out that a modern veterinarian has to be an academic with a broader knowledge of society. Moreover, adequate social, legal, ethical and communication skills are required. Veterinary history can play a significant role in this respect. The curriculum should not be limited to a veterinary-technical point of view. Society needs vets who are trained as scientists with an academic attitude. Courses in the history of veterinary medicine can provide a basis for practicing the required skills and attitude; for instance teaching veterinary history could provide a deeper insight into the changing man-animal relationship in different cultures.<sup>32</sup> The answers the board received from the WVA stated that the request would be discussed within these organizations. However, history instruction never became a standing agenda item in accreditation procedures, as for instance, veterinary ethics did. The latter fact offered opportunities in a number of veterinary colleges to include historical aspects of ethics such as history of philosophy, legislation, sociology, communication, and human-animal relationships.

In the meantime the WAHVM kept contact on this topic with the WVA. Peter Koolmees and Paul Leeflang met WVA-President Jim Edwards on different locations

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<sup>30</sup> Johann Schäffer, 'Teaching in "History of Veterinary Medicine" - results of a worldwide survey (1997-1998)', in: Johann Schäffer (Ed.), *Domestication of animals; Interaction between veterinary and medical sciences* (Gießen 1999) 217-238.

<sup>31</sup> Minutes of the WAHVM General Assembly, Bro 2000, point 14. *WAHVM-Newsletter* (2001) 1: 4.

<sup>32</sup> Peter Koolmees, 'Letter on history instruction in veterinary curricula', *WAHVM-Newsletter* (2001) 1: 6-7; Koolmees 2002, 32-35.

in 2001 and discussed with him the WAHVM's desire to pay more attention to the inclusion of teaching of humanities in general and veterinary history in particular in the veterinary curricula. The WVA Executive Committee noted this desire, but recognized that the debate on the content of veterinary curricula continued and that there was already a significant pressure, which precluded the inclusion of more material in the curriculum. The WVA admitted that its contribution to this matter had been rather limited during the last years. It was looking for more productive ways to increase its contribution in various areas.<sup>33</sup>

In view of this disappointing answer, and looking at the future of the WAHVM, the board concluded that it had to continue its efforts in stressing the importance of veterinary history instruction. The board asked the national veterinary history societies to send updates and any information on (changes in) veterinary history education. In some countries the topic obtained more attention, for instance in Argentina, Egypt, Estonia, Japan, Mexico and Venezuela. In Japan veterinary history became a mandatory part of the curriculum of all colleges in 2014. One of the complaints the WAHVM board was confronted with, was the lack of concise handbooks in English that could be used in veterinary history instruction. The existing ones were often not useful in teaching because they were outdated, too lengthy and too expensive for students, covered a limited language area or lacked a societal context, balance between periods and themes, international scope or historiographical methodology. In the meantime however, more books - and particularly papers - became available which could (partly) be used in veterinary history courses.<sup>34</sup> During 37<sup>th</sup> congress in León special attention was paid to veterinary history instruction. Initiatives were taken by some members to compose such a concise handbook to be used by students worldwide.<sup>35</sup> One of the first problems was to find a publisher. A few years ago one was found, and the handbook written by past presidents Susan Jones and Peter Koolmees is likely to appear in 2021.

## Entering the 21<sup>st</sup> century

In the period around the millennium year 2000 a new team took over the board positions. Prof. Peter A. Koolmees, BSc, MA, PhD (Netherlands)<sup>36</sup> took over the

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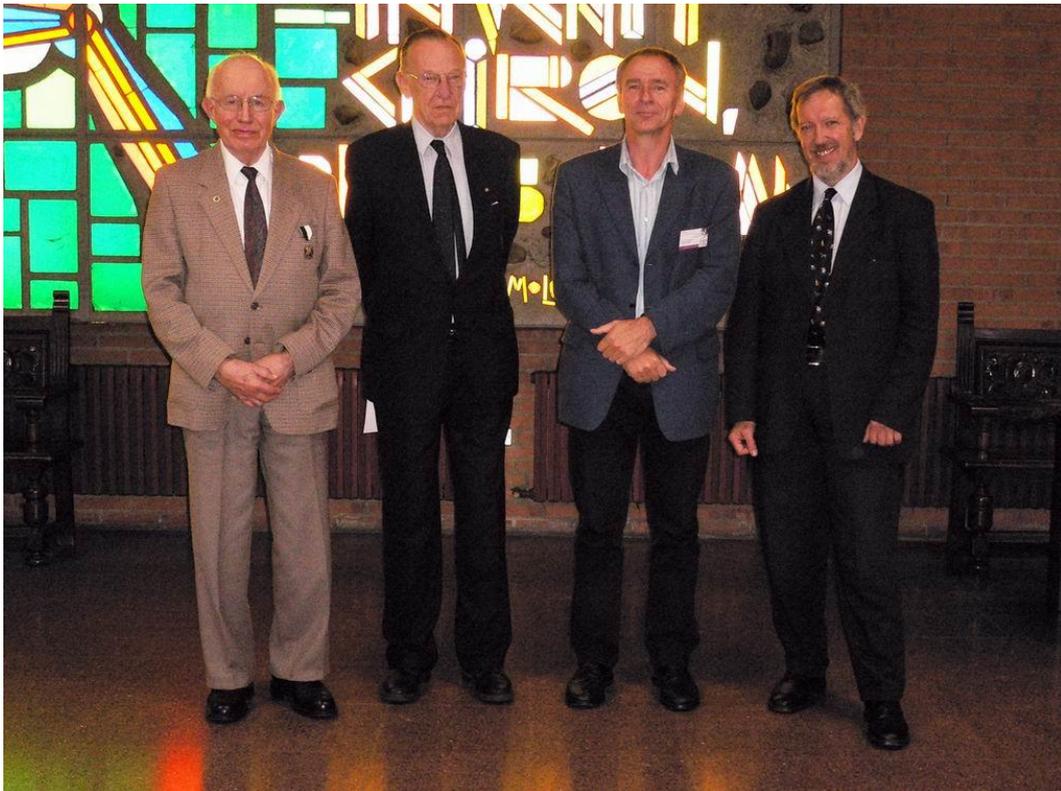
<sup>33</sup> Peter Koolmees, 'Message from the president', *WAHVM-Newsletter* (2002) 1: 1-3.

<sup>34</sup> For instance: Angela von den Driesch & Joris Peters, *Geschichte der Tiermedizin: 5000 Jahre Tierheilkunde* [in German] (München 2003); Robert H. Dunlop & David J. Williams, *Veterinary Medicine. An Illustrated History* (St. Louis, Missouri 1996); D. Karasszon, *A Concise History of Veterinary Medicine* (Budapest 1988); Jenő Kováts, *Geschichte der Tierheilkunde* [in German] (Budapest 2000); Manabu Kozasa, 'History of Veterinary Medicine', in: S. Ikemoto, Y. Yoshikawa & N. Ito (Eds.) *Introduction to Veterinary Medicine* [in Japanese] second chapter (Tokyo 2013); Munetsugu Ogata, *Juigaku Gairon* [Introduction to veterinary medicine] (Tokyo 2007); S.K. Rudik, *Short history of veterinary medicine in Ukraine* [in Ukrainian] (Kiev 2000); Ashraf S. Saber, *A brief History of Veterinary Medicine* [in Arabic] (Sadat City, Egypt 2006); Weiert Velle & Ivan Katić, *Veterinærmedisinens historie* [in Norwegian] (Baerum 2005).

<sup>35</sup> Peter A. Koolmees, 'What every veterinarian should know about the history of the profession'. In: J.M. Martinez Rodriguez, J.G. Fernandez Alvarez & F.A. Rojo Vazquez (Eds.) *Proceedings 37th International Congress of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine & 12th Spanish National Congress on Veterinary History* (León 2006) 47-53.

<sup>36</sup> Peter Koolmees (BSc) graduated in social-economic history and obtained a PhD both at Utrecht University. He held the chair "Veterinary medicine within a historical and societal context" in the period 2006-2019.

presidency, Dr. Max Becker (Switzerland) the position of vice-president, while Gerald Weissengruber (Austria) became secretary, Dr. Peter Paulsen (Austria) became treasurer, and Prof. Johann Schäffer (Germany) and Dr. George Theves (Luxembourg) new members. The 31<sup>st</sup> WAHVM congress, which was held in Brno (Czech Republic) where the main themes were feminization of veterinary medicine and history of veterinary genetics in honor of Georg Mendel, was a great success. The preparations for the 33<sup>rd</sup> congress in Wittenberg in August 2002 were completed. The congress would take place within the framework of the 500th anniversary of the Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, and in cooperation with the History Department of the German Veterinary Medical Association. Unfortunately, due to the flood of the Elbe river, for the first time a WAHVM congress had to be cancelled. Fortunately, most of the lectures were saved as papers in published proceedings.<sup>37</sup> In 2003 the congress was organized outside Europe for the first time, namely in Mexico City on the occasion of the 150 anniversary of the foundation of the first veterinary school in Mexico. An obvious theme was the exchange of veterinary knowledge between the Old and New World. This also applied to the theme veterinary medicine in antiquity during the Congress in Turin (Italy) in 2004.



**Fig. 9.** Honorary Presidents Ernst-Heinrich Lochmann and Guus Mathijsen, Past President Peter Koolmees and President Gerhard Forstenpointner (from left to right) at the 37<sup>th</sup> WAHVM congress in León Spain in 2006.

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<sup>37</sup> Johann Schäffer & Peter Koolmees (Eds.) *History of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture. Proceedings of the 33rd WAHVM Congress on the History of Veterinary Medicine and 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Historical Division of the German Veterinary Medical Association, Wittenberg, August 21-24, 2002* (Gießen 2003).

For the second time a congress was organized outside Europe in Minneapolis (USA) in 2005. By that time some new board WAHVM members were active, namely Prof. Gerhard Forstenpointner (Austria),<sup>38</sup> as new president and Max Becker as member-at-large. During the 37<sup>th</sup> in León (Spain) in 2006 it was decided to turn to biannual congresses. More and more national associations organized congresses, in some cases more often per year, which interfered with WAHVM congresses. In 2008 during the congress in Engelberg (Switzerland) new board members were elected. As co-presidents Peter Koolmees and Susan Jones<sup>39</sup> took over the position of Forstenpointner, while Dr. Philip Teigen (USA) became secretary, Gerald Weissengruber treasurer and Dr. Jean Blancou (France) member-at-large. This team continued its activities during the congresses in Engelberg (Switzerland) in 2008, Antalya (Turkey) in 2010 and Utrecht (Netherlands) in 2012. In December 2009 WAHVM members Peter Koolmees, Munetsugu Ogata (Japan), and Abigail Woods (UK) participated in the founding meeting of the South Korean Veterinary History Association in Seoul. This meeting was organized by Dr. Myung-Sun Chun, who became WAHVM board member in the period 2012-2016. The new local board expressed the intention to become a WAHVM national member.

In 2010 an invitation for the WAHVM congress in 2014 was received from the Egyptian Association for Veterinary History. However, due to dramatic political changes (Arab Spring) in 2011 the WAHVM board decided to decline the invitation; this in light of the uncertain political situation in Egypt, and the concern about safety issues for participating members. Fortunately, the Veterinary History Society took over the organization, which resulted in a very successful 41<sup>st</sup> WAHVM congress in September 2014 in London. During the General Assembly Prof. Abigail Woods (UK)<sup>40</sup> was elected WAHVM president; Prof. Joaquin Sanchez de Lollano Prieto (Spain) Vice-President; Tijmen van de Vuurst, DVM (Netherlands) Treasurer. Dr. Roar Gudding (Norway) had taken over the task of secretary in 2012 and remained in that office until 2016. He was succeeded by Dr. Andrew Gardiner (Scotland) for the period 2016-2020. The 42<sup>nd</sup> WAHVM congress in Vienna in 2016 ran smoothly, but problems occurred again with the organization of the 2018 congress. For the second time the WAHVM was invited to come to Brno, this time on the occasion of the centennial of the veterinary faculty. However, due to reorganization and personal shift change the local organizers informed the WAHVM board that it was unable to hold the congress in Brno. Luckily this time the Norwegian colleagues helped us out and managed to organize a congress in Bergen in a short time. In 2020, the WAHVM congress was held for the third outside Europe; this time the Veterinary History Society of South Africa was the host of the WAHVM congress in Pretoria.

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<sup>38</sup> Gerhard Forstenpointner graduated in veterinary medicine and obtained a PhD, both at the Veterinary University of Vienna, Austria. He held the chair "Archaeozoology and comparative morphology" in the period 1999-2018.

<sup>39</sup> In 2000 Prof. Susan Jones (Minnesota, USA), DVM, MA, PhD, had become president of the American Veterinary Medical History Society (AVMHS). In that year she participated in the WAHVM congress in Brno where she gave a keynote presentation on the process of feminization within veterinary medicine. Together with Nestor Robert Dunlop she had put much efforts in the joining of the AVMHS as a WAHVM-member, which was effectuated in 2000 as well, and in the organization of the WAHVM congress in Minneapolis in 2005. She obtained a chair in "History of Science & Technology" in 2009.

<sup>40</sup> Abigail Woods, BSc, DVM, MA, PhD; Professor in the History of Human and Animal Health and Head of the Department of History, King's College London, UK from 2013 onwards.



**Fig. 10.** Prof. Abigail Woods takes over the presidential hammer from professors Susan Jones and Peter Koolmees in London in September 2014.

## WAHVM Awards

In 1973, the WAHVM selected a distinguishing emblem, the Cheiron Emblem, which appeared as logo on letter head, invitations, brochures, congress programs, etcetera. On the occasion of 20 year anniversary of the WAHVM in 1989, Lochmann had created the Cheiron Award for lifetimes achievements of WAHVM senior members. The award consisted of a silver medal with the WAHVM logo and the engraved name of the laureate, and a diploma written in Latin. Laudations of the winners were published in HMV and later on the WHAVM website. Not surprisingly, the Cheiron Medal was bestowed for the first time to Wilhelm Rieck on May 26th, 1989.<sup>41</sup> Lochmann himself received the medal in 1994. In 2004, the supply of medals had run out. The board decided not to spend money anymore on expensive medals, but to limit the award to a diploma and laudation. The last Cheiron Award was presented in 2012 to Dr. Miquel Marquez (Mexico). In table 5 the persons who received Cheiron Medals and Awards are listed. It is striking that only two female scholars received this award.

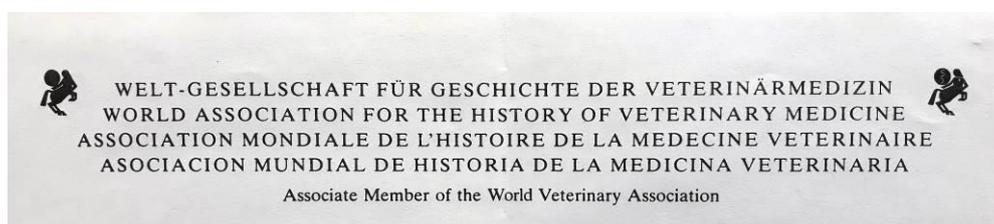
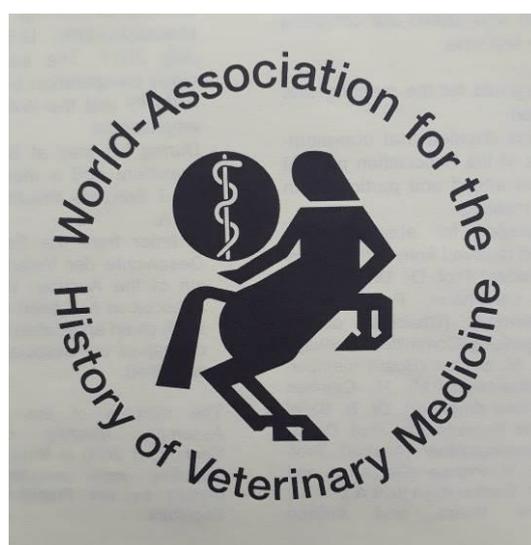
<sup>41</sup> E.-H. Lochmann, 'Cheiron-Emblem und Cheiron-Medaille der Welt-Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Veterinärmedizin', *Historia Medicinae Veterinariae* 26 (2001) 137-143.

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1989	Dr. Hansjürg Joller (Switzerland); Dr. Wilhelm Rieck (Germany)
1990	Prof Jörgen Gert Espersen (Denmark); Dr. Hanns Martin Wens (Germany)
1992	Prof Juan Figueroa (Peru); Dr. August Lange (Germany)
1993	Dr. Ivan Katić (Denmark); Carl-Heinz Klatt (Finland)
1994	Prof Ernst-Heinrich Lochmann (Germany)
1998	Dr. Helmut Wentges (Germany)
2000	Norman Comben DVM (UK); Prof Angela von den Driesch (Germany)
2001	Dr. Osamu Katsuyama (Japan); Prof Jenö Kováts (Hungary); Dr. August Mathijsen (Netherlands)
2002	Dr. Leon Saunders (Canada)
2003	Prof Ferruh Dinçer (Turkey); Prof Miguel Cordero del Campillo (Spain)
2004	Dr. Adriano Mantovani (Italy); Prof Alba Veggetti (Italy)
2005	Prof Robert Dunlop (USA)
2006	Dr. Vicente Dualde Perez (Spain)
2010	Dr. Jean Blancou (France)
2012	Dr. Miguel Marquez (Mexico)

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**Table 5.** Persons who received a Cheiron Medal / Cheiron Award.



**Fig. 11.** Logo and letterhead of the WAHVM.

Instead of praising senior scholars, the board wished to invest more in attracting younger generations. During the 36<sup>th</sup> WAHVM congress in Minneapolis in 2005, it was decided to establish a Young Scholars Award (YSA), consisting of 1000 € to encourage the field for young scholars. Candidates could apply by sending in an original essay on a veterinary history topic. The winner was invited to present a paper on this topic during the congress. Additional travel expenses of the prizewinner was

granted by WAHVM. During the 37<sup>th</sup> WAHVM congress in León (Spain) in 2006 the first Young Scholars Award was presented to Dr. Abigail Woods (London, UK) by WAHVM president Gerhard Forstenpointer.<sup>42</sup> Since 2010 also second and third prize winners were awarded with 400 and 250 € respectively. Four years later the prizes were reduced to 500, 200 and 100 € respectively for the best original essay or research paper on any aspect of the history of animal health and healing, broadly construed. This encouragement worked quite well, given the fair amount of competing essays sent in and increasing participation of young scholars from 2006 onwards. In 2018 the name was changed into Early Career Scholar Award. As shown in table 6, most prize winners were female, which is typical for the increase of women taking on a more prominent role in academia and in the field veterinary history in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

	First Price	Second Price	Third Price
2006	Abigail Woods (UK)	-	-
2008	Michael MacKay (USA)	-	-
2010	Tim Newfield (Canada)	Delphine Berdah (France)	Berfin Melikoğlu (Turkey)
2012	Saurabh Mishra (India)	Kerstin Weich (Germany)	Savaş Volkan Genç (Turkey)
2014	James Stark (UK)	Rebecca Kaplan (USA)	Floor Haalboom (Netherlands)
2016	Karl Bruno (Sweden)	Kit Heintzman (USA)	Julie Hipperson (UK)
2018	Annelise Binois (France)	-	-
2020	Nicole Welk-Joerger (USA)	Sandi Howie (UK)	Gabriel Lopes and Luísa Reis-Castro (Brazil)

**Table 6.** Winners of the Young Scholars Award (2006-2016), and Early Career Scholar Award (2018-2020).



**Fig. 12.** President Gerhard Forstenpointer (2004-2008) hands over the first YSA to Abigail Woods during the 37<sup>th</sup> WAHVM congress in León in 2006.

<sup>42</sup> Peter Koolmees, 'Verslag van het 37<sup>ste</sup> congres van de WAHVM', *Argos* 36 (2007) 286-288.

## Relation to the World Veterinary Association (WVA)

In August 1963 the 17<sup>th</sup> World Veterinary Congress was held in Hanover because of the 100 year anniversary of the WVA, which was initiated by John Gamgee in 1863. The year 1963 was proclaimed "World Animal Health Year" and during the congress much attention was paid to the history of veterinary medicine in various sessions.<sup>43</sup> Perhaps this event with almost 5,000 participants, of which 2,000 came from 71 countries outside Germany may have inspired Lochmann to study history and Rieck and Lochmann to organize a congress on veterinary history one year later.<sup>44</sup> As mentioned above, Lochmann has put much efforts in establishing and maintain a good relationship with the WVA. In 1970 the WVA conveyed Observer Status to the WAHVM while the status of Associate Member was obtained in 1976. Lochmann considered this as official recognition of WHAVM as international representative of the History of Veterinary Medicine.<sup>45</sup> In 1994 Lochmann was elected Honorary Member of the WVA.

After Mathijssen had approached the WVA Educational Committee in vain to get veterinary history on the list of basis disciplines in 1999, the relation between the WVA and the WAHVM deteriorated. The latter objected to the relatively high annual subscription it had to pay as associate member. During the General Assembly in 2000 it was suggested to terminate WVA-membership, because the WAHVM did not benefit from the WVA services, as long as the WVA officials did not recognize the importance of veterinary history education, but on the other hand forced the WAHVM to participate in a history session of the World Veterinary Congress every third year. However, a majority voted to remain associate member, but asked the board to discuss this discontent with the WVA board. Following this decision the President and Secretary-Treasurer discussed the relation between WVA and WAHVM with WVA President Jim Edwards on different occasions during 2001. As associate member we informed the WVA that we had planned to organize the 33<sup>rd</sup> WAHVM congress in Wittenberg in August 2002. In September of the same year, the 27<sup>th</sup> WVA congress was held in Tunis (Tunisia), including a session on history. The WVA board noted that the specialty interest of the WAHVM-members should enable their association to have separate congresses, but at the same time, the WVA encouraged to continue to contribute papers to the history session of WVA congresses as well.<sup>46</sup> In early 2002 Koolmees was invited to organize and participate in the history session of the Tunis congress. However, only a handful speakers submitted an abstract. During the WVA congresses in Moscow, Perth, Montréal and Rio de Janeiro, there was only one session on veterinary history with 3-4 lectures. In Yokohama and Lyon this session counted more speakers, but in Tunis it was again a handful. Therefore, the WAHVM board decided not to participate, also because of the expensive travel and accommodation costs. From then on, WAHVM held its own congresses in the years when WVA congresses were organized, while no contribution was delivered to WVA history sessions any more.

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<sup>43</sup> *Festschrift: Centenary Brochure. Centenary brochure; Libre commémoratif du centenaire; Libro conmemorativo del centenario. 17th World Veterinary Congress (Hannover 1963).*

<sup>44</sup> In 1969 the subject History of Veterinary Medicine had become independent as a so-called "Fachgebiet". Lochmann 1993, 212.

<sup>45</sup> Lochmann 1989.

<sup>46</sup> Peter Koolmees, 'Message from the President', *WAHVM-Newsletter* 1 (2002) 1-2.

Accidentally, the 36<sup>th</sup> WAHVM congress in 2005 coincided with the 28<sup>th</sup> WVA congress in Minneapolis, USA. During that congress in 2005, Forstenpointner joined the WVA Presidents Assembly. There Dr. Herbert Schneider, immediate WVA past president, pointed out that in 2013 the WVA would celebrate its 150 year anniversary. The WVA board invited historians from the WAHVM to write a comprehensive memorial book which should be ready and presented in 2013. During a separate meeting on this request between the WVA board and representatives of the WAHVM (Forstenpointner, Jones and Koolmees) the latter made clear that such a project should require a professional historian to collect, organize and research WVA archives, and to write the monograph. They estimated that it would take 2-3 years, hence substantial WVA funding was needed. The WVA said that a basis was already laid by the WVA secretariat.<sup>47</sup> However, the archives were only partly present in the form of microfiches. A limited project was started by an archive specialist from Vienna; she organized, registered and digitalized part of the WVA central archive in Copenhagen. The WAHVM board composed a project plan, outline of the book, and a budget proposal. However, the WVA executive committee had a less prestigious book and hence a lower budget in mind. The project rested until 2009 when co-presidents Jones and Koolmees were approached by Dr. Tjeerd Jorna, then Vice-President of the WVA, to move forward with the WVA history project again. In September 2009 a contract was signed between the WVA, the WAHVM and an executive Viennese team consisting of the archive specialist and a hired historian. A modest budget was available, but enough to enable a concise memorial book. The WAHVM would oversee the scholarly work and conduct editorial oversight. The WVA was responsible for publication of the finished book manuscript.<sup>48</sup> Unfortunately, the Viennese team couldn't deliver a product which complied with scholarly standards. Sadly, this promising project was never finished and died a silent death. In 2014 the WAHVM ended its WVA associate membership, and requested the status of Observer.

## Changing perspectives

Over the last half century, significant changes have occurred within the field veterinary history. The apologetic tradition in veterinary historiography was part of an emancipation process aimed at securing veterinary medicine as separate discipline, and not, like dentistry or pharmacy as a sub branch of "big brother" human medicine. Interest in veterinary history by historians and the broader public remained limited because narratives were descriptive instead of analytical and were predominately written by vets, dealing about vets and technical veterinary practices, while destined for a veterinary public.<sup>49</sup> Towards the end of the millennium however, this sense of inferiority complex disappeared because society as a whole took the importance of veterinary medicine for granted. By then, the scope and focus of the discipline had broadened. Next to veterinarians interested in the history of their discipline and profession, scholars from other disciplines entered the field. This included various

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<sup>47</sup> E. Aalbers & B. Christensen, 'Short history of the World Veterinary Association 1863-2005'. Regular contributions to the *WVA Bulletin* (1994-2005).

<sup>48</sup> Tjeerd Jorna, 'The World Veterinary Association (WVA) and the role of the veterinarian on a global level', in: R. Tamay Başağaç Gül (Ed) *Some essays on veterinary history. Proceedings of the XXXIX International Congress of the WAHVM and the III National Symposium of the TAHVME* (Ankara 2012) 3-5.

<sup>49</sup> Susan Jones 2003, 201-204.

biomedical scientists, historians, archaeologists, sociologists, linguists, anthropologists, legal experts, etc. often in interdisciplinary research. These scholars have joined veterinary writers and built on and revised existing veterinary literature, adding critical analysis to translations and narratives. They adopted new sources and methods, for instance from anthropology, environmental and global history.

A major change in perspective was given by American historian William McNeill, who argued that animals and microbes has changed human history more than wars and other human action. He showed that animals themselves have functioned as important actors in human history. Examples are the bubonic plague in the middle ages and the Spanish flu pandemic in 1918-1919.<sup>50</sup> McNeill's thesis triggered many scholars from different disciplines to seriously include animals in historical research, for instance the globalization of disease among humans and animals as a result of trade, colonialism and conquest. A well-known example is the so-called Columbian exchange of people, animals, plants, disease, and (veterinary) medicine.<sup>51</sup> More and more individuals and research groups started various research programs which has resulted in an increasing scientific output,<sup>52</sup> both in specific veterinary history journals, but also in double referee history journals. New fields such as animal studies<sup>53</sup> as a result of the so-called 'animal turn in history' enriched the original field of veterinary history. Harriet Ritvo coined this term when she analyzed the increasing scholarly interest in animals, in the relationships between humans and animals, and in the role and status of animals in society.<sup>54</sup>

These changing perspectives are reflected in a shift of research questions, topics and themes chosen for WAHVM congresses (table 7). New themes for instance included veterinary medicine and gender, colonialism, education, animals veterinarians and war, veterinary historiography and human-animal relationships. This trend can also be observed in the topics of papers presented during the WAHVA congresses in the period 1993-2020, and the underlying publications. Some examples are given here. On the one hand there was continuity of familiar themes such as the study of veterinary medicine in antiquity and the middle ages,<sup>55</sup> domestication, paleopathology, disease control,<sup>56</sup> veterinary anatomy, pharmacy,

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<sup>50</sup> William Hardy McNeill, *Plagues and peoples* (New York 1976). The current Covid19 pandemic proves again his vision is justified.

<sup>51</sup> Karen Brown & Daniel Gilfoyle (Eds.) *Healing the herds: disease, livestock economies, and the globalization of veterinary medicine* (Athens Ohio, 2010); Alfred W. Crosby Jr., *The Columbian exchange: biological and cultural consequences of 1492* (Westport 1972); Charles C. Mann, *1493: how Europe's discovery of the Americas revolutionized trade, ecology and life on earth* (New York 2012).

<sup>52</sup> A.H.H.M. Mathijssen, 'Veterinary historiography. A quantitative analysis', in: F. Dinçer (Ed), *Veterinary medicine, historical approaches* (Ankara 2002) 43-63.

<sup>53</sup> Margo DeMello, *Animals and society. An introduction to human-animal studies* (New York 2012); Linda Kalof (Ed), *Oxford handbook of animal studies* (Oxford and New York 2014-2017); C.R. Kruse, 'Social animals: animal studies and sociology', *Society & Animals* 10 (2002) 375-379. Nigel Rothfels (Ed), *Representing animals* (Bloomington 2002).

<sup>54</sup> Leen van Molle, 'Een geschiedenis van mensen en (andere) dieren', *Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis* 125 (2012) 464-475; Harriet Ritvo, 2007.

<sup>55</sup> Anne McCabe, *A Byzantine encyclopedia of horse medicine. The sources, compilation and transmissions of the hippiatrica* (Oxford 2007); Hosni Alkhateeb Shehada, *Mamluks and animals: veterinary medicine in medieval Islam* (Leiden 2012).

<sup>56</sup> Jean Blancou, *History of the surveillance and control of transmissible animal diseases* (Paris 2003); Mireille Mousnier (Ed) *Les animaux maladies en Europe occidentale (VI<sup>e</sup>-XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle)* (Toulouse

genetics, etc., therapies, biographies,<sup>57</sup> professionalization,<sup>58</sup> and school histories. On the other hand however, new topics included the role of women in veterinary medicine,<sup>59</sup> knowledge exchange between continents,<sup>60</sup> development of the One Health concept,<sup>61</sup> colonial and tropical veterinary medicine, ethno veterinary medicine,<sup>62</sup> and last but not least human-animal relationships and animal welfare.<sup>63</sup>

2000	Brno	Veterinary genetics (in honor of Gregor Mendel) The role of women in veterinary medicine
2001	Oslo	History of control and eradication of epizootic diseases History of disease control in aquatic animals
2002	Wittenberg	Veterinary medicine and agriculture
2003	Mexico City	Establishment and development of veterinary medical education in the New and the Old World
2004	Turin	Veterinary medicine in the ancient Mediterranean World Veterinary medicine in the First World War
2005	Minneapolis	History of veterinary therapies Progress and developments in veterinary medicine during and after wartime, with emphasis on the Second World War and later wars
2006	León	Veterinary biographies, institutional history, social history of veterinary medicine, history of animals, veterinary professionalization, veterinary historiography
2008	Engelberg	Man-animal-relationship from the antiquity until the 20 <sup>th</sup> century
2010	Antalya	Bridging ages in veterinary education East meets west: history of intercontinental veterinary medicine and animal disease
2012	Utrecht	Development of national veterinary associations History of the World Veterinary Association (WVA)
2014	London	History of One Health Animals, vets and war
2016	Vienna	History of animal anatomy History of early veterinary schools
2018	Bergen	Impact of the veterinary profession on human health, welfare and society History of disease and welfare in aquatic animals
2020	Pretoria	Veterinary histories of international cooperation History of tropical disease

**Table 7.** WHAVM congresses 2000-2020 and main themes. The program of all congresses also included a session with “free communications”.

2003); Lise Wilkinson, *Animals and disease: an introduction to the history of comparative medicine* (London 1999).

<sup>57</sup> Leon Z. Saunders, *A bibliographical history of veterinary pathology* (Kansas 1996).

<sup>58</sup> Louise Hill Curth, *The care of brute beasts: a social and cultural study of veterinary medicine in early modern England* (Leiden 2010); Tatsuya Mitsuda, ‘Entangled histories: German veterinary medicine, c.1770–1900’, *Medical History* 61 (2017) 25-47.

<sup>59</sup> Susan D. Jones, ‘Gender and veterinary medicine: global perspectives’, *Argos* 23 (2000) 119-123.

<sup>60</sup> Miguel Cordero del Campillo, ‘On the history of veterinary knowledge in the Old and New Worlds’, *Argos* 30 (2004) 457-469.

<sup>61</sup> Floor Haalboom, *Negotiating zoonoses. Dealings with infectious diseases shared by humans and livestock in the Netherlands (1898-2001)* (Utrecht 2017); Abigail Woods et al, *Animals and the shaping of modern medicine: One Health and its histories* (London 2018).

<sup>62</sup> Angela von den Driesch, ‘Ethnoveterinary medicine – an aspect of the history of veterinary medicine’, in: F. Dinçer (Ed.) *Veterinary medicine, historical approaches* (Ankara 2002) 131-141.

<sup>63</sup> Henrico N. Franco, ‘Animal experiments in biomedical research. A historical perspective’, *Animals* 3 (2013) 238-73; Harold Herzog, ‘The impact of pets on human health and psychological well-being: fact, fiction, or hypothesis?’, *Current Directions in Psychological Science* 20 (2011) 236-239; Mara Miele et al, ‘Animal welfare: establishing a dialogue between science and society’, *Animal Welfare* 20 (2011) 103-117.

Multidisciplinary research on the development of the profession, including history, sociology, social geography, political sciences and management studies, increased. Examples are studies by Laure Bonnaud & Nicolas Fortané and Joanna Swabe.<sup>64</sup> The development of veterinary public health as part of the professionalization process of veterinary medicine was studied in a broader societal context.<sup>65</sup> A taboo was broken, particularly in Germany, with critical studies on the fate of animals and veterinary medicine under Nazi rule.<sup>66</sup> Along similar lines, the position and development of veterinary medicine under socialist rule was studied after the fall of the Berlin Wall.<sup>67</sup> Existing knowledge on epizootic diseases was extended by approaching sources from an environmental and agricultural point of view.<sup>68</sup> Other research questions on this topic dealt with society and politics,<sup>69</sup> and public response.<sup>70</sup> The One Health approach including the triad humans-animals-environment opened a new line of research on animal disease, including ecology and biological warfare,<sup>71</sup> as well as attention to the role of animals in the development of human medicine, often referred to as “one medicine”.<sup>72</sup> New studies also included the ever-changing philosophical perspective concerning human-animal relationships and how this impacted the discussion and politics regarding animal rights and veterinary legislation,<sup>73</sup> and the (veterinary) treatment of animals.<sup>74</sup>

## Epilogue

Various attempts of the WAHVM to institutionalize history instruction at veterinary colleges via WVA resolutions, or by pressure exposed during accreditation processes by international organizations, only had a limited outcome. A request to the UNESCO to recognize the area of History of Veterinary Medicine, and designate a specific code to this scholarly field, neither yielded the desired result.<sup>75</sup> Some might consider

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<sup>64</sup> Laure Bonnaud & Nicolas Fortané, ‘Being a vet: the veterinary profession in social science research’, *Review of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Studies* (April 2020) DOI: 10.1007/s41130-020-00103-1; Joanna Swabe, *Animals, disease and human society; human-animal relations and the rise of the veterinary regime* (London 1999).

<sup>65</sup> Kari T. Elvbakken, ‘Veterinarians and public health: food control in the professionalization of veterinarians’, *Professions & Professionalism* 7 (2017) 2: e1806; Peter A. Koolmees, ‘The development of veterinary public health in Western Europe, 1850-1940’, *Sartoniana* 12 (1999) 153-179.

<sup>66</sup> Boria Sax, *Animals in the Third Reich: pets, scapegoats and the holocaust* (New York 2000); Johann Schäffer (Ed.), *Veterinärmedizin im Dritten Reich* (Gießen 1998); Idem, *Veterinary medicine and national socialism in Europe* (Gießen 2018).

<sup>67</sup> Martin F. Brumme (Ed.), *Veterinärmedizin im Sozialismus* (Gießen 1995).

<sup>68</sup> Karl Appuhn, ‘Ecologies of beef: eighteenth-century epizootics and the environmental history of early modern Europe’, *Environmental History* 15 (2010) 268-287.

<sup>69</sup> Abigail woods, *A manufactured plague. The history of foot-and-mouth disease in Britain* (London 2004).

<sup>70</sup> John R. Fisher, ‘Cattle plagues past and present: the mystery of Mad Cow Disease’, *Journal of Contemporary History* 33 (1998) 215-228.

<sup>71</sup> Susan D. Jones, *Death in a small package. A short history of anthrax* (Baltimore 2010); Susan D. Jones and Anna A. Amramina, ‘Entangled histories of plague ecology in Russia and the USSR’, *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 40 (2018) 3: 1-21.

<sup>72</sup> Angela Cassidy et al., ‘Animal roles and traces in the history of medicine, c.1880-1980’, *British Journal for the History of Science* (2017) 2: 11-33.

<sup>73</sup> Tom Regan, *The case of animal rights* (London 1983).

<sup>74</sup> Bernhard E. Rollin, *An introduction to veterinary medical ethics: theory and cases* (Ames, Iowa 1999); Peter Singer, *Animal liberation. A new ethics for our treatment of animals* (New York 1975).

<sup>75</sup> Letter to UNESCO by the WAHVM board, 26 October 2010. Within the international nomenclature of UNESCO for the fields of Science and Technology various codes of specialization are used. Under

this as a loss. On the other hand, one could argue that the apologetic and legitimizing function of history instruction at veterinary schools lost its significance because the profession is now fully accepted and taken for granted by society. On the other hand a huge win was reached. During the last decades the academic discourse within the field shifted from veterinary scientific-technical developments and achievements of the profession to studying veterinary history in the larger social and cultural context of world history by a fast-growing amount of scholars who consider veterinary history a fascinating and multi-faceted discipline. These scholars from different disciplines study the history of veterinary medicine (although they would give it another name themselves) within the framework of changing human-animal relationships, the one health approach, anthropology, ecology, etcetera. In such a way, veterinary history became also institutionalized as part of humanities, history and sociology departments. The critical mass of veterinary history research has grown worldwide which is reflected in a higher scientific output in regular veterinary journals, specific veterinary history journals, but also in double referee history journals. From that perspective, it is likely that the WHAVM has played a positive role.

Year	Location	Lectures	Keynote Speakers	By women %	Main Themes %
1988	Rheinfelden	22	-	14	50
1989	Skara	26	-	12	50
1990	Karlsruhe	29	-	10	34
1992	Ankara	30	-	11	42
1993	Utrecht	43	2	14	54
1994	Copenhagen	33	1	15	70
1996	Vienna	45	3	20	33
1997	Córdoba	42	3	12	57
1998	Munich	30	2	17	53
2000	Brno	33	4	18	61
2001	Oslo	28	1	14	63
2003	Mexico City	43	3	26	65
2004	Turin	62	2	21	56
2005	Minneapolis	22	2	22	41
2006	León	83	6	31	77
2008	Engelberg	37	1	35	32
2010	Antalya	37	2	37	54
2012	Utrecht	42	2	34	46
2014	London	65	2	44	71
2016	Vienna	21	3	43	52
2018	Bergen	27	-	48	52
2020	Pretoria	25	3	40	60

**Table 8.** Number of lectures and key-note speakers, percentage of presenting women, and percentage of lectures dedicated to the main theme(s) during WAHVM congresses in the period 1988-2020.

The period studied also witnessed a shift from mainly male vets as participants of WAHVM congresses to a stronger position of female scholars from various fields presenting their research (table 8). In the period 1988-2001 this figure was 14.3% on average; between 2003-2020 this number increased to 34.6 %. From 1993 onwards keynote speakers were invited to introduce the chosen congress themes. On

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the section History specific codes are designated to the History of Medicine, History of Biology and History of Science.

average 53 % of all lectures were devoted to the main themes; the other part to free topics. Not only the gender participation of WAHVM congresses changed, with more national societies and meetings outside Europe the WAHVM became really global. This is reflected by the increasing number of originating countries from participants. What remained was the special mix of amateur and professional historians among the members. On the one hand, amateurs with specific biomedical knowledge need the support of professional historians when they perform history research. On the other hand, historians and social scientists not trained in biomedical sciences might make wrong interpretations due to a lack of such knowledge. Historians apply the required methodology and know the academic discourse, amateur vets however, know the valuable narratives about veterinary practice. In a way, both groups need each other and could be mutually reinforcing. For instance, synergies between both groups resulted in oral history projects.<sup>76</sup>

In spite of new themes, approaches and changing perspectives over the last two decades, the main goal of the WAHVM remained unchanged: to encourage, promote, and coordinate research and education in the history of veterinary medicine. Clearly, this field has grown indeed in the last half century, although maybe in a different way and direction as expected. But isn't that just typical of history in general? The WAHVM has proven its value in the broader embedding and continuation of the field veterinary history, and therefore, certainly has future perspectives.

### Acknowledgement

Thanks are due to Tamay Başağaç Gül, Susan Jones, Ashraf Saber, Andreas Pospischil, Johann Schäffer, Tijmen van de Vuurst and Junya Yasuda for comments and additional information.

### Appendix I

Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Members of the WAHVM-Board in the period 1993-2020.

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#### *Presidents*

1. Dr. Guus Mathijssen (Netherlands)	1993-2000
2. Prof. Dr. Peter Koolmees (Netherlands)	2000-2004
3. Prof. Dr. Gerhard Forstenpointner (Austria)	2004-2008
4. Prof. Dr. Susan Jones (USA) & Prof. Dr. Peter Koolmees (Netherlands)	2008-2014
5. Prof. Dr. Abigail Woods (United Kingdom)	2014-

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#### *Vice-Presidents*

Prof. Robert Dunlop (USA)	1993-1998
Prof. Dr. Peter Koolmees (Netherlands)	1998-2000
Dr. Max Becker (Switzerland)	2000-2003
Prof. Dr. Gerhard Forstenpointner (Austria)	2003-2004
Prof. Joaquin Sanchez de Lollano Prieto (Spain)	2014-

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<sup>76</sup> For instance during congress in London in 2014, four old veterinary practitioners were interviewed by the audience. Oral history projects in various countries, for instance E. P. Oldenkamp et al. (Ed) *Tussen boer en burger* (Rotterdam 2007) in which 44 vets graduated in the period 1925-1950 were interviewed, nuancing the existing historiography of Dutch veterinary medicine over that period.

*Secretaries*

1. Dr. Paul Leeflang (Netherlands)	1993-2003
2. Prof. Dr. Gerald Weissengruber (Austria)	2003-2008
3. Dr. Philip Teigen (USA)	2008-2012
4. Dr. Roar Gudding (Norway)	2012-2016
5. Dr. Andrew Gardiner (United Kingdom)	2016-2020
6. Jons Straatman, DVM, BA (Netherlands)	2020-

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*Treasurers*

1. Dr. Paul Leeflang (Netherlands)	1993-2003
2. Dr. Peter Paulsen (Austria)	2003-2008
3. Prof. Dr. Gerald Weissengruber (Austria)	2008-2014
4. Tijmen van de Vuurst, DVM (Netherlands)	2014-

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*Members (in alphabetical order)*

1. Prof. Dr. Tamay Başağaç Gül (Turkey)	2010-
2. Dr. Max Becker (Switzerland)	2004-2014
3. Dr. Jean Blancou (France)	2006-2010
4. Dr. Myung-Sun Chun (South Korea)	2012-2016
5. Dr. Rainer Grimm (Germany)	1993-1998
6. Dr. Osamu Katsuyama (Japan)	1993-1998
7. Prof. Peter Knezevic (Austria)	1993-1998
8. Prof. Dr. Martí Pumerola (Spain)	1993-1998
9. Prof. Dr. Johann Schäffer (Germany)	1998-
10. Dr. Georges Theves (Luxembourg)	1998-2006

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