

# American Veterinary Medical History Society

“Devoted to the Diffusion of Veterinary History”

## INTERIM NEWS & COMMENT

November 2022

Susanne Whitaker and Helen Wojcinski, reporters

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### Dr. Born's Historical Ornaments

At the AVMHS annual meeting on July 18, charter member Dr. Fred J. Born ([fjborn@att.net](mailto:fjborn@att.net)) unveiled a creative fundraising project to produce a limited edition of 30 sets of a series of 5 historical wooden ornaments. Drs. Pat Kennedy Arrington, Shannon Greeley, and Zbig Wojcinski volunteered their help.

Intended to promote veterinary medical history and the Society, the flat 3-inch x 1/8-inch wooden ornaments feature a laser etched drawing of five early private veterinary college buildings: Chicago Veterinary College, McKillip Veterinary College, Harvard University, Kansas City Veterinary College, and Indiana Veterinary College. The date and AVMHS logo are on the back. A green ribbon is added for hanging. A folded printed leaflet also accompanies each ornament with a brief description of the college compiled by Dr. Howard Erickson ([erickson@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:erickson@vet.k-state.edu))



Stained ornaments (reverse side has the AVMHS logo)

After a motion for acceptance of the project was approved at the annual meeting this summer, the discs were produced by Papenheim's SignCrafters company in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Dr. Born then stained and applied a protective sealant in his home workshop. Dr. Shannon Greeley has since formatted Dr. Erickson's descriptions and printed the inserts. Now that the ornaments are finished and been assembled in sets, they are ready for sharing members.

Dr. Born suggests offering them to AVMHS members at \$50.00 per set of 5 ornaments (includes postage, tax, and handling). Sets will be distributed in early November in time for the holidays. To order sets, go to <https://www.avmhs.org/ornaments>

### 2022 WAHVM Congress in Brescia, Italy

The following report was originally compiled in Dutch by Dr. Peter A. Koolmees, then, translated and edited by Dr. Susan D. Jones ([jone0996@umn.edu](mailto:jone0996@umn.edu)). Additional narrative and images have been added by Dr. Justin Kastner ([jkastner@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:jkastner@vet.k-state.edu)) and from Websites.



Photos courtesy Peter Koolmees

The 2022 biennial World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine (WAHVM) Congress was held in Brescia, a UNESCO Heritage city halfway between Milan and Verona in northern Italy, on August 31-September 3, 2022. Sessions were convened at the Fondazione Iniziative Zooprofilattiche e Zootecniche 'Angelo Pecorelli'. Celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, WAHVM is a global consortium of veterinary history societies. WAHVM member organizations with

larger memberships include Germany, United Kingdom, Spain, Turkey, Switzerland, Netherlands, Norway and Japan. (Other nations, such as the USA, are included through individual memberships.)



In advance, a flier provided information about where and how to attend the Congress:

[https://www.wahvm.co.uk/files/ugd/abcd2\\_9ed41095ca514487bb2ab4388c341fa8.pdf](https://www.wahvm.co.uk/files/ugd/abcd2_9ed41095ca514487bb2ab4388c341fa8.pdf)



The Brescia Congress was co-organized by the Italian Society for the History of Veterinary Medicine and Farriers; the World Society for the History of Veterinary Medicine and Farriery; the Italian Foundation for Zooprophyllactic and Animal Husbandry Initiatives of Brescia. Its main theme this year was **Historical Reflections on the Intersection Between Military Medicine and the Human-Animal Environment**. Over 90 veterinary historians and collaborators from nearly 20 countries, including Italy, United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, South Korea, United States, and Norway, participated.

There were 42 oral presentations and 25 posters listed on the program grouped around:

1. History of Animals, Veterinarians, and the Military
2. Historical Intersections of Human, Animal and Environmental Health
3. Free Topics
4. Informal Contributions

This year, “Informal Contributions” was a new category for short papers or posters for discussing memories, anecdotes, oral histories, and biographies.

WAHVM program with paper and poster abstracts at: <https://www.fondiz.it/download/96/quaderni/17731/118-2022-abstract-45-congresso-mondiale-wahvm.pdf>

More pictures can be found at:

<https://www.fondiz.it/download/96/quaderni/17738/118-2022-inaugurazione-45-congresso-wahvm-ospitato-presso-la-sede-della-fondazione.pdf>

<https://www.wahvm.co.uk/brescia2022>

Daily schedule is listed at:

[https://www.wahvm.co.uk/files/ugd/abcd2\\_a0ef23a92dda4ebeb468d6cafe755760.pdf](https://www.wahvm.co.uk/files/ugd/abcd2_a0ef23a92dda4ebeb468d6cafe755760.pdf)

For a report (in Italian) with photos, scroll down at:

<https://storiamedicinaveterinaria.com/novita/>

The first keynote lecture was given by Professor Peter E.J. Bols from the University of Antwerp, Belgium. He discussed the changes in veterinary education that focused on military veterinary medicine after Napoleon's advance on Russia in the 19th century.

Later in the first afternoon, Professor Peter Koolmees (University of Utrecht) presented background on the book he and Dr. Susan Jones from the University of Minnesota (who was not able to attend) authored titled, *A Concise History of Veterinary Medicine*. Published by the Cambridge University Press in August, release of this long-anticipated book was timed to coordinate with the WAHVM Congress. The need for such a book had first been discussed at the WAHVM Congress in Antalya, Turkey in September 2010.

In the second keynote lecture, Dr. Brunori Chianti from Brescia, Italy detailed how Leonardo da Vinci interpreted the morphology and anatomical properties of horses in some of his famous drawings.



With Lillie Heinen and L. Davis, AVMHS member Dr. Justin Kastner from Kansas State University presented their paper on “Shipping live cattle or ‘dead meat’: animal disease and welfare policy in the nineteenth-century transatlantic cattle trade.” Also from the US, medicine and public health historian Dr. Rebecca S. Kaplan ([Rebecca.kaplan@okstate.edu](mailto:Rebecca.kaplan@okstate.edu)) talked about “Viral spaces: laboratory research and biosecurity in North America, 1946-2022.” She is presently assistant professor in the Department of History at Oklahoma State University.

During the meeting, a ceremony was hosted for Italy’s national postal service (Poste Italiane) to issue a special postal cancellation commemorating the event. A representative from Poste Italiane presented the stamp to the WAHVM’s outgoing president Abigail Woods and other conference organizers (see below). The stamp, dated 1 September 2022, is not the first veterinary-history related stamp to be issued; in recent years, the Poste Italiane had issued a stamp in honor of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1769-2019) of the Scuola di Veterinariani di Torino.



Presentation of Poste Italiane postal cancellation to outgoing WAHVM President Abigail Woods (center).

Other noteworthy conference happenings included the election of new president for WAHVM: Dr. Alison Skipper of the United Kingdom. In addition, Dr. Stephanie Howard-Smith was awarded first prize in WAHVM’s Young Scholar Award contest for her study

on “John Norborn, dog doctor.” She also gave an oral presentation on her paper topic at this meeting. Dr. Howard-Smith is Research Associate at the Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies, University of York, U.K.

From the opening Welcome reception held at the Villa Fenaroli Palace Hotel, the Congress wrapped up with a gala dinner and tour at the Santa Giulia Museum (<https://www.bresciamusei.com/en/museums-and-venues/santa-giulia-museum/>) Several historical tours of the Brescia region were offered to attendees after the meeting.



Brescia is a beautiful hill town, on the register of UNESCO World Heritage sites. Congress participants enjoyed wandering around the medieval streets, touring churches, museums, and the castle at the top of the hill (see photo). Brescia’s well-preserved Roman heritage was enjoyed by conference attendees during an evening tour of the archaeological grounds at the Museo di Santa Giulia. As depicted below, first- and second-century Roman domestic life was on full display—including a dining area, or triclinium, with wall décor featuring lobsters!



Photos courtesy Justin Kastner.

Held every 2 years, future WAHVM Congresses are being planned in Spain in 2024 and South Korea in 2026. These will be excellent opportunities for those interested in veterinary history to travel; meet congenially together with colleagues; enjoy excellent accommodations and

food; and learn some fascinating veterinary history. All are welcome to attend. Announcements and details about future Congresses and locations will be posted on the WAHVM website <https://www.wahvm.co.uk/> and included in issues of AVMHS *News & Comment*.

AVMHS members are encouraged to join WAHVM individually at <https://www.wahvm.co.uk/membership>. Annual memberships are 20 Euros.

### AVMHS Museum Committee Meeting

The AVMHS Museum Committee convened its second meeting of 2022 on October 27 via Zoom videoconferencing. Dr. Zbig Wojcinski ([zwojcinski@gmail.com](mailto:zwojcinski@gmail.com)) served as the Acting Chair in the absence of Dr. Bob Treat ([sbtreat@sover.net](mailto:sbtreat@sover.net)).

The 8 members in attendance discussed the following Museum-related issues facing the AVMHS including: responding to inquiries from the public seeking information on veterinary instruments, artifacts, and ephemera; how to respond to individuals approaching the AVMHS with requests on where they may donate their veterinary books and instruments; monitoring developments and changes related to veterinary museums and historical collections; review and updating of the existing AVMHS Guide to Veterinary Museum and Exhibits Directory and the associated Brochure; and how the Museum Committee can make best use of the AVMHS website to address these issues.

Museum Committee members working in groups of 2-3 will take on these assignments and develop strategies and action plans to bring back to the Museum Committee for further discussion. The next Zoom meeting is planned for the end of November.

### Veterinarians as Authors

Past President Dr. Howard Erickson ([erickson@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:erickson@vet.k-state.edu)) found an interesting article in the September issue of the *Gentle Doctor* from Iowa State University. It featured a series of articles about their alumni authors beginning on page 16. The first, *The Forever Dog*, written by Dr. Karen Shaw Becker with Rodney Habib on how to prolong the life of companion dogs has appeared on *The New York Times* bestseller list. Another ISU alum has written 21 books. See: *The Gentle Doctor Magazine*, Summer 2022.

<https://issuu.com/isucvm/docs/isu-cvm-gentle-doctor-summer2022>



There are surely many more veterinarians who have published general books as well as fictional novels, children's books, self-help handbooks, etc.

In addition to new titles related to veterinary medical history, we include recently published memoirs, recollections of experience, and personal stories written by veterinarians in each issue of this newsletter. Titles dating back to 1900 have been compiled into lists sorted by decade and state/country. They are posted on our Website under "Memoirs of Veterinarians" at <https://www.avmhs.org/memoirs-by-veterinarians>

The Society strongly encourages veterinarians of all backgrounds and careers to write down their experiences and personal stories.

### Medieval Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Ronald Warner ([Ronald.Warner@ttushc.edu](mailto:Ronald.Warner@ttushc.edu)) wishes to share this beautifully illustrated article on "The Veterinary Magic of the Middle Ages: Medieval healers treated animals' ailments with a mix of faith, tradition and science." It has just been posted online by the *Smithsonian Magazine*.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.co/history/the-veterinary-magic-of-the-middle-ages-180981040/>



## Dr. Currier on Louis Pasteur

This past summer, Past President Dr. Russell Currier ([ruscurrier@yahoo.com](mailto:ruscurrier@yahoo.com)) got an unsolicited and unexpected invitation. The editor of *The Lancet Microbe* asked Dr. Currier to write a paper for their journal related to the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Louis Pasteur (1822-1895). His paper on Pasteur's contributions to medicine will appear in the forthcoming December 2022 issue.



Louis Pasteur (1822-1895). Wikimedia Commons.

## Meeting and Event Calendar

### 2022

Nov tba AVMHS Museum Committee Working Meeting

### 2023

April 15 Student History Essay Contest Deadline

## New AVMHS Members (as of Oct 31)

\*\*\* None to report at this time

## New AVMHS Life Members (as of Oct 31)

Robert Knapp, DVM (Columbus, OH)

## New Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices

University Drive Veterinary Hospital (State College, PA) Established 1971.



## New Books

Birchard, Stephen and Fe Anam Avis. *Their Tails Kept Wagging: Pets Show Us How Hope, Forgiveness, and Love Prevail*. Marlborough, MA: eBookit, com, 2022. 254 pgs. ISBN: 9781456638924

Connolly, L.M. *Down the Yellow Brick Road: My Veterinary Career Was a Trip to the Land of Oz*. Pennsauken, NJ: [BookBaby], 2022, 219 pgs. ISBN: 9781667832012

Fine, Karen R. *The Other Family Doctor: A Veterinarian Explores What Animals Can Teach Us About Love, Life, and Mortality*. New York: Anchor Books, a Division of Penguin Random House, 2023 (Feb). ?? pgs. ISBN: 80593466896



Haw, Penny. *The Invincible Miss Cust: A Novel*. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks Landmark, 2002. 313 pgs. ISBN: 9781728257709 [fiction]

Loue, Sana and Pamela Linden, eds. *The Comprehensive Guide to Interdisciplinary Veterinary Social Work*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2022. Includes chapter on "History of Veterinary Social Work"



Rainey LJ and J.W. Blenkinsop. *Veterinary Services: Official History of the Great War Based on Official Documents*. [S.l.]: Military & Naval Press, 2022. ?? pgs. ISBN: 781474537223

Sharp, Robert T. *The Bull in the Darkness and the One-eyed Dog: Scenes from the Life of a Country Veterinarian*. Lanham, MD: Lyons Press, an imprint of Globe Pequot, the trade division of The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, 2023 (May) ?? pgs. ISBN: 9781493073177

Skaggs, Randy L. *Country Vet: Thirty Years of Treating Animals and Trying to Understand Their Owners*. Texas: Black Rose Writing, 2022. 183 pgs. ISBN: 9781685130190

Tate, Samuel W. *Memoir of a VETerinarian & Air Force VETeran*. Pittsburgh, PA: Dorrance Publishing Co., 2022. 287 pgs. ISBN: 9781637642597

Westbury, Harvey. *Harvey Westbury: A Memoir*. Australia: Harvey Westbury, 2022. 346 pgs. ISBN:

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Send news, comments, and suggestions for the next *News & Comment* to Dr. Helen Wojcinski [helenwojcinski@gmail.com](mailto:helenwojcinski@gmail.com), or to AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer Susanne Whitaker, 23 Wedgewood Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850-1064, phone 607-257-9248 or email [skw2@cornell.edu](mailto:skw2@cornell.edu) or [avmhs.info@gmail.com](mailto:avmhs.info@gmail.com).

“The farther backward you look, the farther forward you are likely to see.”

Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

## Contents of Recent Veterinary History Journal Issues

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

## Recent Journal Articles and Chapters Related to the History of Veterinary Medicine

Casanova E, Knowles TDJ, Bayliss A, et al. Dating the emergence of dairying by the first farmers of Central Europe using <sup>14</sup>C analysis of fatty acids preserved in pottery vessels. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences U S A*. 2022 Oct 25;119(43):e2109325118. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2109325118.

<https://www.pnas.org/doi/epdf/10.1073/pnas.2109325118>

Currier RC. Physicians who have influenced veterinary medicine. *IVMA Update*. 2022 Nov;30(11):6-7.

<https://www.iowavma.org/Files/Update/202211.pdf>

Hernigou P. The strange history of surgical gloves in orthopaedic surgery (part I): from no gloves and no hand washing to the introduction of cotton gloves in orthopaedic surgery. *International Orthopaedics*. 2022 Nov;46(11):2705-2714. doi: 10.1007/s00264-022-05537-4.

Last J. The veterinary magic of the Middle Ages. *Smithsonian Magazine*. October 31, 2022.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.co/history/the-veterinary-magic-of-the-middle-ages-180981040/>

Mogil JS. The history of pain measurement in humans and animals. *Frontiers in Pain Research (Lausanne)*. 2022 Sep 15;3:1031058. doi: 10.3389/fpain.2022.1031058. *PubMed Central*,

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9522466>

Montes Franceschini M. Traditional conceptions of the legal person and nonhuman animals. *Animals (Basel)*. 2022 Sep 28;12(19):2590. doi: 10.3390/ani12192590.