

The fourteen editors of the *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association*: 1927–2000

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ABSTRACT

The initial motivation for having an article on the editors of the journal published in the year 2000 was to commemorate the 70 years of the existence of the *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association*. However, in conducting the research required to write the article it was established that the journal dates from 1927. Consequently the journal was about 73 rather than 70 years old at the end of 1999. During this period it has been faithfully served by 14 editors. This article contains a relatively brief description of the life histories, in relation to their terms of office as editors, of these editors, of whom 4 are still alive and actively pursuing their respective careers..

Key words: editors, *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association*.

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INTRODUCTION

When the clock heralded the dawn of the year 2000, the *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association* had been in existence for almost 73 years. However, the volume number for 1999 is only 70. How does one explain this interesting phenomenon and, more importantly, who were the dedicated editors who ensured that the journal remained viable and respected in the veterinary and related disciplines over all these years?

The first number of the first volume of the *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association*, as the association was then called, appeared in August 1927. For reasons that are not clear today, Volume 1 of the journal spanned 4 years, instead of the customary year, a single number of the journal appearing annually from 1927 to 1930. Volume 2 therefore appeared in 1931 and from then on volume numbers changed with each calendar year.

The number of issues appearing each year varied considerably in the early decades but eventually settled down to 4 per year, which is still the case.

The main purpose of this article, apart from its commemorative objective, is to give the readers of this journal some historical insight into the background, personalities, qualifications and achievements of those dedicated people who served the veterinary profession so faithfully and selflessly, over a period of more than 70 years, by ensuring the regular

appearance of a quality product that has helped to place and keep this country's veterinary science on the world map.

THE FIRST EDITOR

It is clear from particulars printed in each number of the *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association*, as it is currently called, that the Association made use of an editorial committee from the inception of the journal. However,

initially (and also in some later issues) the editor was not specifically identified. It is only in Volume 3, which appeared in 1932, that A D Thomas is identified as the 'managing editor'. The question, however, arises: Who edited the first and second volumes of the journal?

The editorial board of Volume 1, No. 1 (which appeared in 1927) consisted of G de Kock, A C Kirkpatrick and A Goodall. H H Curson's name was added in Volume 1, No. 2. Who the editor was in those first 2 years (1927 and 1928) is anybody's guess, but for the purposes of this article it will be assumed that it was G de Kock.

Gilles van de Wall de Kock was born in Pretoria on 1 December 1889. He was one of 2 prospective students who were sent abroad in 1909 by the Transvaal Government to study veterinary science, there being no local veterinary faculty at that time. He qualified as veterinary surgeon by obtaining an MRCVS in London in 1913.

He subsequently joined the Onderstepoort Veterinary Laboratory under Sir Arnold Theiler in 1914. After stints on the



Fig. 1: Gilles van de Wall de Kock, who was the chairman of the editorial board and presumably also the first editor of the *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association* when it first saw the light in 1927.

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farm Armoedsvlakte (botulism research?) and in London to study medicine, but returning from the latter after a year to join the newly founded agricultural faculty at Stellenbosch, in the expectation that a veterinary faculty would be established there, he eventually transferred to Onderstepoort, where the faculty was finally established in 1922. De Kock was the first professor of veterinary anatomy of the Onderstepoort faculty.

It is important to realise that initially all faculty appointments were part-time jobs for research institute employees, research being the primary task of the faculty staff. This system existed until 1957, when the first full-time faculty posts were created, the faculty only becoming completely independent from the research institute in 1973.

In 1923, de Kock spent a year in Berne, Switzerland, and obtained a Dr MedVet degree. On his return he was appointed professor of pathology and was presumably also head of the pathology section. He also obtained a DSc degree at the University of Witwatersrand in 1928.

On the retirement of Sir Arnold Theiler in 1927, Dr P J du Toit took up his position as director and Dr de Kock became his successor as 'Sub-director of Veterinary Research' at Onderstepoort. He succeeded du Toit as director in 1948. In the faculty, de Kock was transferred from pathology to become professor of comparative pathology in 1938, a position he held until his retirement in 1949. He died in Cape Town in 1973, having worked for many years at the Liesbeek Cancer Clinic after his retirement.

Dr de Kock was therefore 38 years old when the journal was launched, the most senior person in rank' on the first editorial committee, and presumably also its editor.

A D THOMAS

It is also not clear exactly who was the editor of the journal in 1929, 1930 and 1931. Since A D Thomas is clearly identified as 'managing editor' in 1932 *et seq.* and his name is listed under the editorial committee in 1929 (not before), 1930 and 1931, it is probably safe to assume that his term of office dates from at least 1929. If this is correct, he was editor from 1929 to 1936, that is for 8 years.

Alexis Daniel Thomas was born at Chateaux d'Oex, Switzerland, on 12 July 1899 and emigrated to South Africa with his parents as a small boy. They settled on a farm in the northern Transvaal (now Northern Province) on which Thomas originally worked after his early schooling.

He joined the South African Defence Force just before the end of World War I.



Fig. 2: Alexis Thomas, the first editor to be specifically identified as such in the journal.

After his discharge he was employed by the Department of Agriculture and stationed at Armoedsvlakte. He was then transferred to Onderstepoort as a laboratory assistant under Sir Arnold Theiler and saw service once again at Armoedsvlakte as well as at Allerton Veterinary Laboratory and Onderstepoort.

He obtained a matriculation certificate by private studies in 1922 and was allowed to enrol as student at Onderstepoort, the only student who completed the BVSc course in a part-time capacity while continuing to be employed. After qualifying in 1927 he transferred to the research staff at Onderstepoort, also acting as part-time lecturer and later as renowned professor of pathology in the Onderstepoort faculty. In 1929, only 2 years after qualifying as a veterinarian, he was awarded a DVSc degree in pathology.

In 1946 Prof. Thomas resigned from government service to establish a private practice in Pretoria. Nine years later, in 1955, he sold his practice and joined the Division of Veterinary Services to initiate the establishment of a veterinary investigation centre in Louis Trichardt. He finally retired in 1965 at the age of 66 and took up farming, whereafter he moved to George and died in 1991 at the ripe old age of 92.

Dr Thomas' term as editor apparently began when he was 30 years old, in the same year that he acquired his DVSc degree. It coincided with his term of office

at Onderstepoort both as researcher and teacher in pathology. His career was closely associated with that of de Kock, apparently taking over from him as professor in veterinary pathology in 1938 (see above). Thomas' term as editor therefore apparently ceased shortly before he became professor of pathology. He was succeeded as editor by Prof. C Jackson.

C JACKSON

Cecil Jackson is identified as editor in only 4 numbers of the journal, namely in Volume 7, No. 4, which appeared in December 1936, and in Volume 8, Nos 1, 2 and 3, which respectively appeared in March, June and September 1937. He also featured as member of the editorial committee of the journal from 1931 until 1948.

Cecil Jackson was born in London on 10 May 1905. He initially studied veterinary anatomy and physiology at the Johannesburg University College – which later became the University of the Witwatersrand – and obtained a BSc degree in 1924. After working for a year as registrar to the Hon. Mr Justice R A Tindall, he went to the Onderstepoort faculty to study veterinary science, obtaining a BVSc degree in 1929.

He started his veterinary career as research officer at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Laboratory and part-time lecturer in veterinary anatomy at the faculty in 1930. At the age of 31, in 1936, he was not



Fig. 3: Cecil Jackson, who was editor of only 4 numbers of the journal, but was a member of its editorial committee for about 18 years.

only awarded a DSc degree (SA) for his classical thesis on 'The incidence and pathology of tumors of domesticated animals in South Africa', but was also appointed professor of anatomy in the faculty. Moreover, he also took on the responsibility of being editor of the journal from Dr Thomas towards the end of the year.

Prof. Jackson remained professor of anatomy at the Onderstepoort faculty until he resigned in September 1955 at the age of 50. Thereafter he was variously employed, first at the medical school of the University of the Witwatersrand, and then as senior research fellow of the National Cancer Association of South Africa. He left South Africa for Britain in 1957, but returned to Africa in 1958 to head the pre-clinical veterinary school at Makerere College, Kampala, Uganda, where he also served as professor of veterinary anatomy. In 1961 he accepted a post of principal research officer at the Biological Research Institute at Achimota, Ghana, and became acting director of the institute the following year. He died in Ghana on 5 January 1965 at the age of 60.

M STERNE

Max Sterne was born in Trieste of Austrian parents who emigrated to South Africa when he was 4 years old. He grew up in Durban and excelled in sports such as boxing, swimming and athletics, both at school and university level. He graduated from the Onderstepoort faculty in 1928 with a BVSc degree.

He then spent 2 years in the Belgian Congo managing a cattle ranch. Back in South Africa, he joined the government service and was posted to the Allerton Veterinary Laboratory in Natal to assist with the East Coast fever eradication campaign, as was the case with many young state veterinarians in those days. In 1934 he was transferred to Onderstepoort where he worked as assistant to Prof. E M Robinson (see below) and developed the

still internationally used and acclaimed – 57 years after its discovery – 'spore' vaccine against anthrax.

In 1947 Sterne obtained the Diploma in Bacteriology at the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and in 1951 left South Africa for England where he joined the Wellcome Research Laboratories. He died on 26 February 1997 in Hampshire at the age of 92.

Dr Sterne took over as editor of the journal from Prof. Jackson in December 1937 when he was 32 years old and served in this capacity until 1942, a period of almost 6 calendar years. He was succeeded by his 'boss', Prof. Robinson.

E M ROBINSON

Prof. Robinson, or Robbie, as he was affectionately called, had 2 spells as editor, both occurring fairly late in his career.

Eric Maxwell Robinson, the son of a veterinarian, was born on 2 October 1891 at Market Deeping, Lincoln, England. He came to Knysna in South Africa with his parents in 1901, matriculated at Mossel Bay and then returned to England, where he studied at the Royal Veterinary College, London, obtaining a MRCVS in 1912.

After a year in private practice in England, he returned to South Africa to join Sir Arnold Theiler at Onderstepoort, where he conducted research on tuberculosis, contagious abortion and botulism. In 1920 he went to Berne, Switzerland, and was awarded a Dr MedVet degree on the strength of his studies on the carrier state in contagious abortion. Back in South Africa, he was put in charge of



Fig. 4: Max Sterne, who was especially known for the development of the internationally acclaimed 'spore' vaccine against anthrax.

the Allerton Veterinary Laboratory. He returned to Onderstepoort in 1922 as researcher and part-time lecturer in the newly established veterinary faculty at Onderstepoort. In time he was promoted to assistant director and deputy director of the institute. He also served as professor of infectious diseases in the Onderstepoort faculty from 1928.

After his retirement from government service in 1951 at the age of 60, he was immediately re-employed by the faculty until 1956, when he joined the institute in a temporary capacity as liaison officer and later also the South African Bureau of Standards. In January 1960, at the age of 69, he left Pretoria to settle in Knysna, only to set up a private practice, which he eventually gave up in 1977. He died on 28 June 1982 at the age of 91.

Prof. Robinson's first term as editor of the journal started in 1943, when he was 52 years old, and lasted for 5 calendar years until 1947, when he was succeeded by Prof. R Clark (see below). In 1952, shortly after his retirement from government service, at the age of 61, he once again took up the editorship of the journal for 6 calendar years until 1958, when at the age of 67 he finally released the reigns, once again to Clark. Robinson therefore served as editor for a total of about 11 calendar years.

R CLARK

As far as can be determined, Prof. Clark had at least 3 and probably 4 relatively short to short spells as editor of the journal.

Richard Clark was born on 13 February 1906, matriculated at King Edward High School, Johannesburg, in 1922 and qualified as veterinarian at the Onderstepoort faculty in 1928.

He joined the government service and was stationed as state veterinarian at various places such as Allerton Veterinary Laboratory, Nongoma, Ermelo, Bethlehem and Komatipoort. In 1938, however, he was transferred to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute, first to the Pathology Department and in 1942 to the Physiology Department.

In 1950 he was awarded a DVSc degree by the Onderstepoort faculty on the strength of his research in rumen physiology. When his senior, Prof. J I Quin, was promoted to Director of Veterinary Services in 1950, Clark took his place as part-time professor of physiology and head of the Physiology Department. Prof. Clark retired in 1968 at the age of 62 and died on 16 July 1977 at the age of 71.

Prof. Clark was 42 years old when he took over the reigns as editor from Prof. Robinson in 1948. At that stage he was



Fig. 5: Eric Robinson, one of the longest-serving editors of the journal.

soon to become head of the Department and part-time professor in Physiology. His term of office as editor lasted for 4 calendar years until 1951, when he was replaced by Robinson. His second stint, in 1953, lasted only about 6 months, when he was replaced by de Boom (see below). In 1965, basically the same thing happened. Dr A M Diesel died 'in office' (see below), and Clark edited the last 2

numbers of the journal in that year. It is not possible to determine with absolute certainty who edited the journal in 1968, 1969 and 1970, because the editor is not specifically identified. However, Clark's name heads the list of names of the editorial committee, which does not appear entirely in alphabetical order. Therefore it is reasonable to assume that the 62-year-old Prof. Clark took over from



Fig. 6: Richard Clark, particularly known to many veterinarians for his research and lectures on the physiology of the rumen.

Dr Ryksen (see below) in 1968 and edited the journal until the middle of 1970, when he was replaced by Prof. de Boom. He therefore served as editor for a total of about 6 calendar years.

H P A DE BOOM

De Boom has to date probably been the longest-serving editor of the journal.

Henri Pieter Albert de Boom was born on 16 October 1914 in Pretoria. He completed his schooling at the Oosteind-school in 1931 and qualified as veterinarian from the Onderstepoort faculty in 1936. The rest of his career until his retirement was spent at Onderstepoort, first as research officer and part-time teacher at the faculty, and finally, in 1955, at the age of 41, as professor and head of the Anatomy Department when he succeeded Prof. Cecil Jackson (see above). In 1957 de Boom became one of the first full-time professors in the Onderstepoort faculty, when the lecturing posts of certain departments, such as anatomy, physiology, surgery and medicine, were converted to full-time academic positions.

De Boom was a greatly respected, immensely popular and extremely capable mentor who received many honours, such as the gold medal of the South African Veterinary Association and DVSc *honoris causa*.

Prof. de Boom retired from the Onderstepoort faculty in 1974 at the age of 60 but continued to be actively involved in teaching. From August 1975 until July 1976 he was guest professor at Cornell University in the USA. He led a fledgling Anatomy Department in Lourenço Marques (now Maputo), Mozambique, from 1968 to 1970. From 1979 to 1980 he taught anatomy and embryology at the medical faculty of the Medical University of South Africa (MEDUNSA) and eventually served as temporary head of the Anatomy Department of its veterinary faculty until 1985. He died at the age of 83 on 30 August 1998.

Prof. de Boom's first term as editor began in the middle of 1959 at the age of 45, when he was full-time professor of anatomy, and lasted until September 1961, when he was replaced by Dr A M Diesel. His second spell apparently started in June 1970 at the age of 56, when he took over from Clark, and lasted until 1975. This was a year after he had retired from the Onderstepoort faculty and the year he went to Cornell University as visiting professor. As outlined below, all the evidence points to Prof. L W van den Heever being his successor in 1975.

It was during Prof. de Boom's second term of editorship in 1972 that the veteri-



Fig. 7: Henri de Boom, probably the longest serving editor of the journal. It was during his second term, in 1972, that the veterinary association changed its name from the South African Veterinary Medical Association to South African Veterinary Association, and the journal followed suit.

nary association changed its name from the South African Veterinary Medical Association to that of the South African Veterinary Association, and the journal had to follow suit.

There is some uncertainty about when de Boom resumed the editorship for a third and final spell. In his *curriculum vitae* he claims that he took over as editor in 1976 (when he returned from Cornell) and continued to serve until 1979. His name is not listed in the 1976 and 1977 issues of the journal. However, from 1978, in Volume 49, No. 2, until 1980, de Boom is clearly identified as editor. The year 1980

is also a problem because de Boom himself mentions 1979 as his last year. This raises the question whether he retired as editor at the age of 65 or 66. It therefore seems as if de Boom served as editor for about 11 years, although it may have been 12, as mentioned in his obituary, or even only 10 years.

A M DIESEL

Alexander MacDonald ('Don') Diesel was born in Bloemfontein on 3 September 1897 and obtained the MRCVS qualification at the Royal Veterinary College, London in 1921. He joined the veterinary



Fig. 8: A M (Don) Diesel, one of only 2 editors of the journal who also served as president of the veterinary association.

field services wing of the Department of Agriculture in South Africa in 1922 and served as veterinary officer in Natal and Transvaal. In 1944 he was promoted to Assistant Director, and in 1947 to Deputy Director of Veterinary Services. Since this was the most senior position in Veterinary Field Services at the time, he was in charge of that organisation until he retired in September 1958, interestingly enough apparently at the age of 61 in stead of 60.

He also lectured on a part-time basis in the subject called 'state veterinary medicine' at the Onderstepoort faculty for 13 years, *i.e.* from 1945 to 1958. It is also noteworthy that he served as President of the South African Veterinary Medical Association from 1952 to 1956. After retirement he took up a temporary post as liaison officer at Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute from 1958 to 1961.

Dr Diesel served as editor of the journal from about September 1961, when he took over the responsibility from Prof. de Boom. This was just after his final retirement when he was 64 years old. Since he died on 23 July 1965, when he was almost 68 years old, it means that he died 'in office', having served as editor for about 4 years. He was replaced by Clark, as indicated above.

W J RYKSEN

Wilhelmus Johannes Ryksen was born in Sumatra on 24 April 1903, and came to South Africa in 1921 to write the matriculation examination after spending 6 weeks to prepare himself at Grey College, Bloemfontein. He obtained the BVSc degree at the Onderstepoort faculty in 1928 and served as state veterinarian in Umtata, Potgietersrus, Pietermaritzburg at the Allerton Veterinary Laboratory, Beaufort West, Windhoek and Bethlehem during the first 2 decades of his career. In 1951, Dr Ryksen established a private practice in Bethlehem, and eventually, in 1972, returned to Bloemfontein to start a practice in the city where he had matriculated. In 1986 he received a special award ('oorkonde') from the South African Veterinary Association for his dedicated service over many years to the veterinary profession. Dr Ryksen died in Bloemfontein on 23 July 1994 at the age of 91.

In 1966, when Dr Ryksen was appointed Secretary of the South African Veterinary Medical Association, he apparently took over the editorship from Prof. Clark, who had taken on the job unexpectedly in the middle of 1965 when Dr Diesel died (see above). Ryksen is also identified as editor in 1967, but was apparently relieved again by Clark for the December 1967 issue of the journal when he left the Association



Fig. 9: Wilhelmus Ryksen acted as editor during the short spell that he served as secretary of the South African Veterinary Medical Association.

for personal reasons. Dr Ryksen was therefore about 63 years old when he became editor of the journal.

L W VAN DEN HEEVER

Lourens Wepener van den Heever was born in Pretoria on 18 August 1923.

He matriculated in 1939 at the Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool in Pretoria and graduated in 1944 with a BVSc *cum laude* at the Onderstepoort faculty. For the first time in the history of the faculty, 2 Theiler Memorial Medals were awarded that year, one to van den Heever and the other to B C Jansen. Van den Heever was awarded a Diploma in Veterinary Public Health in 1963 and a MMedVet (Hyg) degree in

1970, both by the abovementioned faculty.

After qualifying, he joined the state service before going into private practice and thereafter into municipal veterinary public health. In 1960 he joined the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute and in 1973 was appointed full-time professor and head of Veterinary Food Hygiene and Public Health in the Onderstepoort faculty. He was awarded the gold medal of the South African Veterinary Association in 1979 for his many scientific achievements and leadership in his discipline. He also served as President of the South African Veterinary Association from 1969 to 1972. He retired from the



Fig. 10: Lourens van den Heever, the only other editor who also served as president of the veterinary association.



Fig. 11: Roy Tustin is still actively involved in editorial and other activities relating to veterinary science.

faculty in 1987 to settle in Hermanus, where he died on 26 October 1995.

Although not clearly identified as such, he probably took over as editor of the journal, or chairman of the editorial committee, as listed in the journal during his term of office and clearly indicated in the 1976 issues of the journal, in the middle of 1975, when de Boom went to Cornell University as visiting professor. At this stage, van den Heever was about 52 years old and already professor at the Onderstepoort faculty. De Boom's claim, in his *curriculum vitae*, that he was editor in 1976 and 1977, cannot be substantiated, because his name is not listed as a member of the editorial committee during those 2 years. There is no doubt, however, that van den Heever was succeeded by de Boom for the latter's third term of office as editor in 1978. Van den Heever was therefore editor of the journal for about 3 years.

R C TUSTIN

Prof. R C Tustin succeeded Prof. de Boom as editor of the journal in 1980 at the age of 51.

Royden Charles Tustin was born on 4 June 1929 in Empangeni, Natal. He matriculated at Maritzburg College and graduated from the Onderstepoort faculty with a BVSc degree in 1953. His first appointment was as private practitioner with the large firm of veterinarians headed by Dr Jack Boswell. In 1955 he took up an appointment in the bacteriology section of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute, but was transferred on request to the pathology section in 1958. He also taught at the Onderstepoort faculty on a part-time

basis from 1963. He furthermore obtained the MMedVet (Path) degree at the same faculty in 1977.

In 1970 he took up a position of research pathologist with the South African Medical Research Council, studying the carcinogenicity of various mycotoxins and toxic plants. However, in 1973 he accepted the newly created position of full-time professor and head of the Department of Pathology in the now fully-fledged Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Pretoria, which in 1973 became independent from the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute. He retired

from this position in 1990 at the age of 61.

Since retiring Tustin has, on invitation, lectured at the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine in Israel and participated in a botulism symposium in Brazil. He has also served on the editorial committee of the prize-winning book entitled *Infectious Diseases of Livestock*, which consists of 2 very comprehensive volumes dealing mainly with animal diseases occurring in southern Africa.

Tustin was already full-time professor at the Onderstepoort faculty when he became editor of the journal. In his *curriculum vitae* he indicates that he was editor from 1979. This is in disagreement with the published information in the journal as well as in de Boom's *curriculum vitae*. The former lists de Boom as editor in 1979. In the latter, de Boom claims that 1979 was the last year that he served in that capacity. For the purpose of this article it is therefore assumed that Prof. Tustin's first year of office as editor was 1980 and that his term lasted until 1984, to be replaced by Prof. Kriek in 1985. He therefore was editor for 5 years.

N P J KRIEK

Nicolaas Petrus Jacobus Kriek was born in Pretoria on 19 January 1943. He matriculated at the Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool in 1959, obtained the BVSc degree at the Onderstepoort faculty in 1965 and the MMed Vet (Path) at the same faculty in 1977.

Prof. Kriek was initially employed as a state veterinarian, then joined the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute, where he worked for 7 years in the toxicology and pathology sections. He



Fig. 12: Nick Kriek is currently the Dean of the veterinary faculty.



Fig. 13: Joseph van Heerden who is, amongst others, spearheading the South African Veterinary Association's involvement in wildlife activities.



Fig. 14: Mary-Louise Penrith, the current editor of the journal, is the first woman to fill this important office.

then became a researcher at the South African Medical Research Council, where he spent 5 years. His first involvement as full-time teacher in pathology was at the Onderstepoort faculty. From 1982 to 1990 he was professor and head of the Department of Pathology at the veterinary faculty of the Medical University of South Africa (MEDUNSA) and from 1991 to 1999 he held the same position at the Onderstepoort faculty. He was recently appointed as the first dean of the combined Onderstepoort and MEDUNSA veterinary faculties known as the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

Prof. Kriek's term of office as editor of the journal started in 1985 when he was about 42 years old. He was then professor at MEDUNSA. He handed over the reins to Dr J van Heerden towards the end of 1987, which means that he was editor for almost 3 calendar years.

J VAN HEERDEN

Joseph van Heerden was born on 20 January 1948. He matriculated at the Northern Cape Agricultural High School in 1965 and graduated from the Onderstepoort faculty with a BVSc degree in 1970. Further qualifications include a MMedVet (Medicine) degree in 1982 and a BSc (Hons) (Nat) in 1976, the latter constituting a well-known qualification of the University of Pretoria in nature conservation.

His employment record includes being senior lecturer in the Department of Medicine of the Onderstepoort faculty from 1977 until 1982 and head of the

Department of Companion Animal Medicine and Surgery in the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the Medical University of Southern Africa (MEDUNSA) from 1987 to 1997. Currently he is a private practitioner in Kimberley.

The scope of Dr van Heerden's services to the South African Veterinary Association has been exceptional. This includes representing the Wildlife Group on the Federal Council for 15 years, being nationally elected member of the latter since 1991 and chairman of the Awards Committee since 1995. He is the recipient of several South African Veterinary Association awards, including the President's Award in 1995.

His term of office as editor of the journal lasted from the end of 1987, when he was 39, until the middle of 1995, a period of about 7 years. At this stage he was professor at MEDUNSA. Under his editorship the journal earned the international status of being classified as a refereed journal by initiating the use of internationally recognised referees for the evaluation of contributions.

Dr van Heerden was replaced as editor in 1995, when he moved to Kimberley, by Dr M-L Penrith.

M-L PENRITH

Dr M-L Penrith is the current editor of the journal.

Mary-Louise Penrith was born on 17 July 1942 in Germiston and matriculated in 1958 at the High School for Girls, Potchefstroom. She first studied zoology at the University of Cape Town, obtaining

a PhD (Zoology) degree in 1965 and a DSc (Entomology) degree in 1980 from the University of Pretoria. In 1987 she radically changed the course of her career by enrolling as a veterinary student in the second year at the Onderstepoort faculty, qualifying with a BVSc degree in 1991. This was followed up with a BVSc (Hons) degree in 1994.

Dr Penrith's employment record, prior to qualifying as a veterinarian, included marine biology at the South African Museum in Cape Town, and entomologist, initially at the State Museum in Windhoek (Namibia) and later at the Transvaal Museum in Pretoria.

After obtaining the veterinary qualification, she joined the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI) of the Agricultural Research Council, where she is currently employed as Assistant Director, specialising in resource-poor farmers, from an animal health perspective, and pig diseases.

As editor of both the *Annals of the South African Museum* in Cape Town and *Cimbebasia* in Namibia, Dr Penrith obtained valuable experience in the editing of scientific publications before her appointment as editor of the *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association* in 1995 at the age of 53. She was then already employed at OVI, as outlined above. By the end of 1999 her term of office as editor totalled about 5 years.

Under her management the journal has continued to maintain its international status and has earned a high South African ranking.

CONCLUSION

The *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association* came into the world much like any newborn, rather helpless and uncertain of itself, serving a youthful profession consisting mainly of civil servants and numbering little more than a mere handful of people. It stands to reason that the journal had to be nurtured and coddled in behind-the-scenes activities akin to parental guidance to ensure its survival. The early editors and the editorial committee were the proud sires and dams.

These activities, which inevitably pass unnoticed by the unenlightened, did not cease as time progressed. Only their emphasis changed. The initial teething

problems were replaced by the growing pains of adolescence, increasing enforced independence and the struggle to survive financially being ever-present challenges. The relevant editors bore the brunt of these stresses and strains.

A more recent challenge was to take steps to improve the journal's international scientific standing by the introduction of peer reviewing, which has become the accepted norm for quality periodicals. Again the editors concerned fearlessly applied the correct medicine. Instead of attracting fewer articles for publication on account of stricter vetting, the opposite has occurred. Indeed, the journal currently ranks among the top South African scientific periodicals, based on the

customary citation index ratings.

Clearly then the 14 editors of the journal have been successful both before and behind the scenes.

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Book review — Boekresensie

The mineral nutrition of livestock (3rd edition)

E J Underwood and N F Suttle

1999. CABI Publishing, CAB International, Wallingford, 614 pp., hard cover. E75 (US\$140). ISBN 0 85199 128 9.

In this 3rd revised edition of *The mineral nutrition of livestock* N F Suttle has updated and improved on the classic work of the late E J Underwood. Phosphorus is now dealt with in a chapter on its own, reflecting the importance of this mineral, not only in conjunction with calcium, but also independent of calcium. Potassium is also discussed in a chapter on its own, as is sulphur. A final chapter on the design of supplementation trials aimed at assessment of mineral deficiencies is a welcome addition.

The book begins with an introductory chapter, followed by a chapter on the natural sources of minerals and a chapter describing the detection and correction of mineral imbalances. The following chapters describe the macro- and trace elements of importance. A chapter on 'occasionally beneficial elements' discusses boron, chromium, lithium, molybdenum, nickel, silicon, tin and vanadium. The toxic elements, aluminium, arsenic, cadmium, fluorine, lead and mercury are then treated in the next chapter, and the final chapter deals with the design of trials to assist in the evaluation of the impact of mineral deficiencies on livestock production.

A brief table of contents allows the reader to

quickly locate a major subject and an unabbreviated index assists the reader to locate a topic easily. An adequate number of tables and figures, dispersed throughout the text add to the value of the contents. Chapters are well-divided into sub-topics, which are highlighted by contrasting fonts. Although it would seem that the author attempted to maintain consistent sub-topics throughout the different chapters, he was not able to do so completely because of the variety of minerals discussed.

Material presented in the book is well referenced throughout, and the comprehensive list of references at the end of each chapter makes it appealing to the researcher or lecturer on the subject. Complete discussions of the minerals under a number of sub-topics make the book of value to veterinarians and animal scientists alike. Basic information related to the minerals' source, metabolism, functions and requirements make the book attractive to students of animal nutrition at university level.

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