

**1863-1994**

**Short History of the**

**World  
Veterinary  
Association**

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# SHORT HISTORY OF THE WVA

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## Introduction

The early history of the World Veterinary Association (WVA), founded in 1959 as a continuation of the Permanent Committee for the International Veterinary Congresses, is in fact the history of these Congresses. Only after the Congress in Stockholm (1953) activities other than those relating to the organisation of the World Veterinary Congresses, such as the publication of a preliminary *List of Diseases of Animals*, a *Catalogue of Veterinary Films and Films of Veterinary Interest* and the *WVA News Items* were initiated.

## Phase I. Initiation and development of the International Veterinary Congresses

The International (World) Veterinary Congresses have contributed a great deal to the progress of veterinary science and practice throughout the world.

### *1st IVC, Hamburg, Germany, 1863*



John Gamgee (1831-1894)

It was Professor John Gamgee from the Veterinary College of Edinburgh (1831 - 1894) who took the initiative in April 1863 to invite the professors of veterinary medicine and the veterinarians from all European countries to a general meeting in Hamburg, Germany, from 14-18 July 1863, mainly to discuss a system to combat epizootic diseases and to devise common rules for the import and export of cattle, and recommend their adoption by all European states. Questions relating to these subjects were the main topics of many ensuing Congresses as well. The reason why Gamgee chose a town outside Great Britain as the site of the first Congress, is not known. Perhaps his idea did not find enough support in his home country. At the first Congress, Gamgee was accompanied by only one British colleague and for a long time, the British participation in the Congresses remained noticeably poor.

The President of the first Congress was Dr. Eduard Hering, Director of the Veterinary School of Stuttgart, Germany. The following countries were represented: Austria, Denmark, England, Germany, Hungary, Luxemburg, Norway, Switzerland, Russia and Sweden and the total number of participants was 103. One of the main topics was rinderpest.

This Congress was particularly important because of its Resolutions naming the zoonoses which could be controlled by state regulation. The same zoonoses were to be included in the Zoonoses Act of the Prussian Government 12 years later.

The attention of Governments was drawn to the indispensability of statistics on zoonoses, as well as the importance of strict state control (enforced by law) of transport of animals and infiltration of zoonoses from abroad. In other words, for the first time the representatives of the governments were introduced to the principles of veterinary legislation.



Participants in the first International Veterinary Congress

#### ***2nd IVC, Vienna, Austria, 1865***

The second Congress took place in Vienna, Austria, from 21-27 August 1865. The President of the Congress was Dr. Von Hering (Germany) and the Vice-President, Dr. M. Fr. Röll (Austria). The Emperor Franz Joseph made an important financial contribution to the event. Once again, the main topics were devoted to controlling epizootic diseases, in particular rabies. Furthermore there was a discussion about public liability in cattle trade. There were 170 participants from 15 countries of whom 74 were from Germany and 69 from Austria-Hungary.

#### ***3rd IVC, Zürich, Switzerland, 1867***

The third Congress was held in Zürich, Switzerland from 2-7 September, 1867 under the presidency of Dr. R. Zanger, Director of the local Veterinary School. 188 participants attended from 16 countries, with 76 coming from Germany and 72 from Switzerland.

This Congress marked an important step forward because of governmental recognition and an extension of the scope of activities. It was the Swiss government itself that had invited all European governments to take part and the President of Switzerland in person extended greetings to the Congress.

The Congress not only dealt with zoonoses (in particular rinderpest) but also with organised meat inspection, preliminary veterinary training and veterinary education, protection of the title "veterinarian" and the right of veterinarians to dispense medicines themselves (Right of Dispensation). Following this Congress, there was a long interruption caused by the Franco-German War. This proved to be no great inconvenience, because the interval between the first three Congresses appeared to have been too short. In fact, in Zürich a recommendation was made by Dr. Gerlach that there be a 10 year interval between Congresses.

#### ***4th IVC, Brussels, Belgium, 1883***

The IVth Congress in Brussels (10-16 September, 1883) was held in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Veterinary School of Cureghem and its Director, Dr. A. Thieresse, was named President of the Congress. Honorary President was the Minister of Agriculture, Delwart, who had founded the School. For the first time a Congress gained the royal seal when King Leopold II of Belgium accepted its patronage. Also for the first time there were more than 300 participants though

the local character was still dominant as 217 of the delegates were Belgians. The French veterinarians were represented, amongst others, by Henry Bouley, General Inspector of the Veterinary Schools and President of the "Institut de France". Among the German participants were Prof. Müller, an anatomist from Berlin who spoke 7 languages and Dr. Lydtin who spoke French and acted as a translator. The topics of the Congress were: organisation of the veterinary service; veterinary education; the right of dispensation and pulmonary infections (the main topic) and (for the first time), tuberculosis and meat and milk inspection of animals suffering from tuberculosis. An important document about tuberculosis written by Dr. Lydtin served as a basis for discussion at the next Congress.

#### *Vth IVC, Paris, France, 1889*

Held in Paris from 2-8 September 1889, the Vth Congress boasted 635 participants from 19 countries including Egypt and USA. 465 delegates attended from France. Due to political tension and relevant recommendations by the Government, only 3 German veterinarians were in attendance. Chaveau, General Inspector of the Veterinary Schools was elected President of the Congress. The late Dr. Bouley (1814-1883) was honoured with the unveiling of a monument. The Secretary of the Congress was Dr. Nocard. The discussions dealt with tuberculosis; international sanitary service, indemnifications in case of enforced slaughter; and contagious peripneumonia and meat inspection. The Congress unanimously recommended the enforced control of tuberculosis by law but overstated their concerns in proposing a resolution that meat of animals infected with tuberculosis should be banned for human consumption regardless of the degree of infection.

Drs. Nocard (France) and Perroncito (Italy) had opposed, in vain, this recommendation which would have proved impossible to carry out. During the discussion on the the topic "meat inspection", the inspection of live animals was demanded. For the next Congress, the Swiss Government was asked to indicate a site.

#### *VIth IVC, Bern, Switzerland, 1895*

The VIth Congress was held in Bern from 16-21 September 1895. Although it did not have more participants than the previous Congress, it was more international in its makeup with almost all European countries represented. The President of the Congress was Dr. Potterat; Dr. Noyer was Secretary. It should be mentioned that Drs. Berdez and Nocard served as presidents of sessions. Robert Koch, Louis Pasteur and Röll were elected Honorary Members of the Congress. The main topics were vaccination and vaccines. Discussions were held about tuberculosis and mallein, a preventive vaccination against rabies, black leg, contagious pleuropneumonia, tetanus, red fever and swine zoonoses. For the first time Lorenz' red fever vaccination was given support.

Moreover, the establishment of an international zoonoses convention was discussed. The anatomists met to decide about a standard nomenclature. The Congress was concluded with a banquet at the Kurhaus in Interlaken where the Congress members had a breathtaking view of the brilliant snow-capped Jungfrau mountain.

#### *VIIth WVC, Baden-Baden, Germany, 1899*

The VIIth Congress was held at Baden-Baden, Germany from 7-12 August, 1899. The number of participants was 958 of whom 462 came from abroad. This was the first "World Veterinary Congress", since delegations from 16 non-European countries were present. Among the participants were well known veterinarians like Chaveau, Nocard and Arloin (France), Degive (Belgium), Perroncito (Italy), Potterat, Ness and Noyer (Switzerland), Hutyra (Hungary), Bang (Denmark), Malm (Norway), Kjerrulf (Sweden), Cope (U.K) and Moergaard (USA). Furthermore, Löffler (Germany), inventor of the Glanders Bacillus and the vaccine against foot-and-mouth disease,

Lorenz (Netherlands), who discovered the vaccine against Red Fever, Lothes, Ostertag, Schutz and Siedamgrotsky (Germany). Chaveau and Lydtin were elected Honorary Members of Congress. Hutyra put forward a draft of an international veterinary convention regarding the transport of animals, but this project was not accepted owing to differences in legislation in the different countries which were considered to be still too great. Löffler explained his immunisation against foot-and-mouth disease. Swine zoonoses, preventive vaccination against Red Fever (Lorenz vaccine) and the control of Tuberculosis were extensively discussed. Finally, the Congress demanded a pre-university education of at least four years as the basis for veterinary studies. For the first time English was admitted as an official Congress language.

#### ***VIIIth WVC, Budapest, Hungary, 1906***

The VIIIth Congress took place in Budapest from 3-9 September 1906. The participants were received by Archduke Joseph at Buda Castle. The Congress was organised by Franz Hutyra. There were 1404 participants from all over the world. For the first time, the topics were discussed in four sections of which the section on veterinary and sanitary legislation was the largest. Topics of discussion included: cattle insurance, a standard scheme for diagnosis and zoonoses, tuberculosis, tuberculin, mallein, vaccination against foot-and-mouth disease, zoonoses of swine, including hog cholera, the control of rabies, and the treatment of tropical diseases including protozoan diseases. In a Resolution, the right of veterinary schools to grant the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) degree was demanded.

### **Phase II. Creation and activities of the Permanent Committee.**

A far-reaching decision of historical importance taken at the VIIIth Congress was the establishment of a Permanent Committee as an organisational link between Congresses. It was Reinhold Schmalz who put forward the relative proposal in which he also recommended that the Congresses should not concentrate one-sidedly on zoonoses and veterinary legislation but should instead embrace the whole field of veterinary science, including veterinary surgery.

It was now the task of the Permanent Committee to prepare the next Congress. Members of the Permanent Committee included the two organisers of the Budapest Congress, two representatives of the country where the next Congress was to be held and one representative of each of the (regularly) participating countries. Dr. Lydtin (Germany) became the first President of the Committee. Prof. de Hutyra was elected Vice-President and Dr. de Jong (the Netherlands) Secretary-Treasurer.

The following 17 countries were elected to stand on the Permanent Committee: Austria (Dr. Binder); Belgium (Dr. Degive); Bulgaria (Dr. Tuleff); Denmark (Dr. Bang); Germany (Dr. Lydtin) France (Dr. Arloing); Hungary (Drs. Hutyra and Von Ratz); Italy (Dr. Perroncito); Netherlands (Drs. Wirtz and de Jong); Norway (Dr. Malm); Romania (Dr. Locusteanu); Russia (Dr. Happich); Serbia (Dr. Popovic); South Africa (Dr. Theiler); Sweden (Dr. Kjerrulf); Switzerland (Dr. Hess); USA (Dr. Pearsen). These countries may be considered as founding members of the World Veterinary Association.

The high point of the social programme of the Congress was a boat trip by night on the Danube.

#### ***IXth WVC, Scheveningen, The Netherlands***

The IXth Congress was held at the Dutch seaside resort of Scheveningen, near The Hague from 13-18 September, 1909. It was the last Congress before the first World War. The President of the Congress was Prof. W.C. Schimmel. There were 1458 Congress members from all over the world.

There were six plenary sessions and sectional meetings dealing with 32 topics. The control of swine, rindertuberculosis, transport of meat and milk and disposal of carcasses were dealt with in the plenary sessions. The Congress demanded laws to protect the practice of veterinary medicine and the right to grant the DVM degree. At the sectional meetings, control of the transport of animals other than cattle was discussed; papers on ichthiology were recommended and a recommendation was made condemning excessive breeding of cattle solely for milk production. Concerning tropical diseases, a committee was elected to draft rules for hygiene in connection with sea transport of animals. The standard scheme for periodical diagnosis of zoonoses, drafted by Drs. Binder, Leclainche and Ostertag was adopted.

The Bureau of the Permanent Committee was composed of: Dr. A. Lydtin (Germany), President; Dr. F. Hutyra (Hungary) and Dr. S. Arloing (France), Vice-Presidents; Dr. D.A. de Jong (Netherlands), General Secretary; and Dr. E. de Ráts (Hungary), Deputy Secretary. Dr. L. Van Es was elected the representative of the USA.

On 1st January 1914 the Permanent Committee established its Secretariat at the Ministry of Agriculture in The Hague, The Netherlands.

#### *Xth WVC, London, Great Britain, 1914*

The 10th Congress in London which was to be held from 3-6 August, 1914 was formally opened but after considering the international situation it was closed immediately. No scientific sessions were held.

In 1917, Dr. Schmalz asked the President and Vice-Presidents to dissolve the Permanent Committee. After some hesitation, Dr. Lydtin resigned as President. In 1925 the General Secretary, Prof. de Jong, died and the work at the Secretariat of the Permanent Committee came to a complete standstill.

In 1928, at the initiative of Prof. de Blieck (The Netherlands) an invitation to revive the Permanent Committee was forwarded to the remaining six members. On 14th May of that year a meeting was held in Paris at which the representatives of many countries were present. The Permanent Committee was reformed with Prof. Hutyra (Hungary) elected President and Prof. Leclainche, Vice-President. Prof. de Blieck became Secretary-Treasurer and Prof. Stang (Germany), Deputy Secretary. It was decided to hold the next Congress in London in 1930, 21 years after the last Congress.

#### *XIth WVC, London, Great Britain, 1930*

The 11th Congress in London, 4-9 August, 1930 was attended by 1922 participants from 40 countries and 20 British dominions, colonies or dependencies. Sir John MacFadyean, President of the Organising Committee, was elected President of the Congress. Prof. Bang from Copenhagen was made an Honorary Member. Many topics were discussed including foot-and-mouth disease, contagious abortion and breeding diseases, spreading of black leg by raw products, rinderpest, fowl plague, the task of the veterinarian regarding animal production and veterinary public health, particularly in view of transport of meat and milk were discussed. The necessity for state regulation of health conditions of domestic animals was accepted. Prof. Leclainche (France) gave credit to Prof. Von Ostertag (Germany) for his initiative regarding modern food control legislation which was an example for all other governments. Drs. Hutyra and Marek received the "Budapest Prize" (founded from surplus money of the Congress held in Budapest) for their publication "Special Pathology and Therapy". An invitation from Dr. Mohler, Chief, Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington on behalf of the American Veterinary Medical Association to hold the next Congress in the USA was accepted. The social programme of the XIth Congress was excellent and culminated in the reception and ball hosted by the Lord Mayor and the City Corporation in the Guild Hall.

### *XIIth WVC, New York, U.S.A., 1934.*

The XIIth Congress was held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City from 13-18 August, 1934. The total attendance was 1820 among whom 216 came from 40 countries outside the USA. The Congress was very well organised by a committee of 73 under the presidency of Dr. A. Eichhorn, Director of the New York Veterinary Department. Dr. John Mohler was elected President of the Congress. The proceedings consisted of 92 papers which were presented in three plenary sessions and many sectional meetings. The first session offered two important lectures by Dr. Mohler about the relationship between veterinary science and public health. The social programme was pleasantly varied. There were many receptions, official dinners and a Congress banquet.

For the first time in the history of the International Veterinary Congresses, the President of the Congress formally recognised the influence of women in the field of veterinary medicine in a specially prepared address on the opening day of the Congress.

At the New York Congress, the Permanent Committee was reorganised and consisted of 40 veterinarians from 35 countries. Prof. Leclainche (France) was elected President and Dr. Mohler (USA) and Sir John McFadyean (Great Britain) Vice-Presidents. Prof. de Blieck remained Secretary-Treasurer and Prof. Dr. V. Stang (Germany) was elected Deputy Secretary.

### *XIII WVC, Zürich-Interlaken, Switzerland, 1938.*

The XIIIth Congress was held at Zürich and Interlaken from 21-27 August, 1938. This was the third Congress in Switzerland. There were 2090 participants of whom 655 from 58 countries outside Switzerland. Prof. Dr. Flückiger was President of the Congress and Dr. E. Graub its Secretary-General. Ten sectional sessions were held and 8 Resolutions were adopted, among which a recommendation to the Governments not to exclude veterinarians from collaborating in the field of animal breeding.

It was decided to hold the XIVth Congress in Berlin in 1942. Obviously this congress did not take place because of the second World War.

Between 1934 and 1938, the Permanent Committee was mainly engaged in the preparation of the XIIIth Congress and the designation of representatives of various member countries. However, the Committee also discussed a way to deal with the Resolutions submitted at Congresses and the establishment of the "Committee Hall" (an international body for the control of parasitic diseases), created to implement a Resolution adopted at the New York Congress. Dr. Du Toit (South Africa) suggested there be drawn up an international list of animal diseases.

The stipulation in the Congress rules that the expenses of the Secretariat in the interval between Congresses were to be paid by the last Congress, proved to be unsatisfactory and suggestions were made to change the Rule in question. At the 2nd meeting of the Permanent Committee during the XIIIth Congress in Switzerland, the following Resolution was adopted:

*"In order that the International Veterinary Congresses may be held in all countries, it is resolved that in future, the cost of printing and that of the Bureau of the Permanent Committee shall be met by contributions from all participating countries, and the amount of these dues shall be proportional to the number of veterinarians, members of the Veterinary Medical Association of each country. Instructions will be issued by the Permanent Committee."*

Although, generally speaking, the delegates agreed to the principle of a "per capita" rate, it was

decided to defer a decision until the next Congress and it was not until the XIVth Congress of London in 1949 that a system of payment of contribution "per capita" was adopted.

At a meeting in Paris in May, 1947, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Permanent Committee, Prof. de Blieck, presented a report about the activities during the period 1938-1947. This report dealt with the appointment of representatives on the Permanent Committee and with the difficult financial position of the Secretariat. London was unanimously chosen as site of the XIVth International Veterinary Congress.

#### *XIVth WVC, London, Great Britain, 1949*



Sir Daniel Cabot, President of the XIV  
WVC and President of the Permanent  
Committee 1952-1956

This XIVth Congress was held from 8-13 August, 1949. Its president was Sir Daniel Cabot, Prof. J.B. Buxton was vice-president and Dr. W.T. Wooldridge secretary. The scientific programme featured 4 plenary sessions and 8 sectional meetings. There were 1461 participants from 53 countries. Fourteen resolutions were approved by the Congress. One of these called upon the Permanent Committee to come up with a proposal for a wide distribution of veterinary educational films in the member-countries sponsored by the governments of these countries.

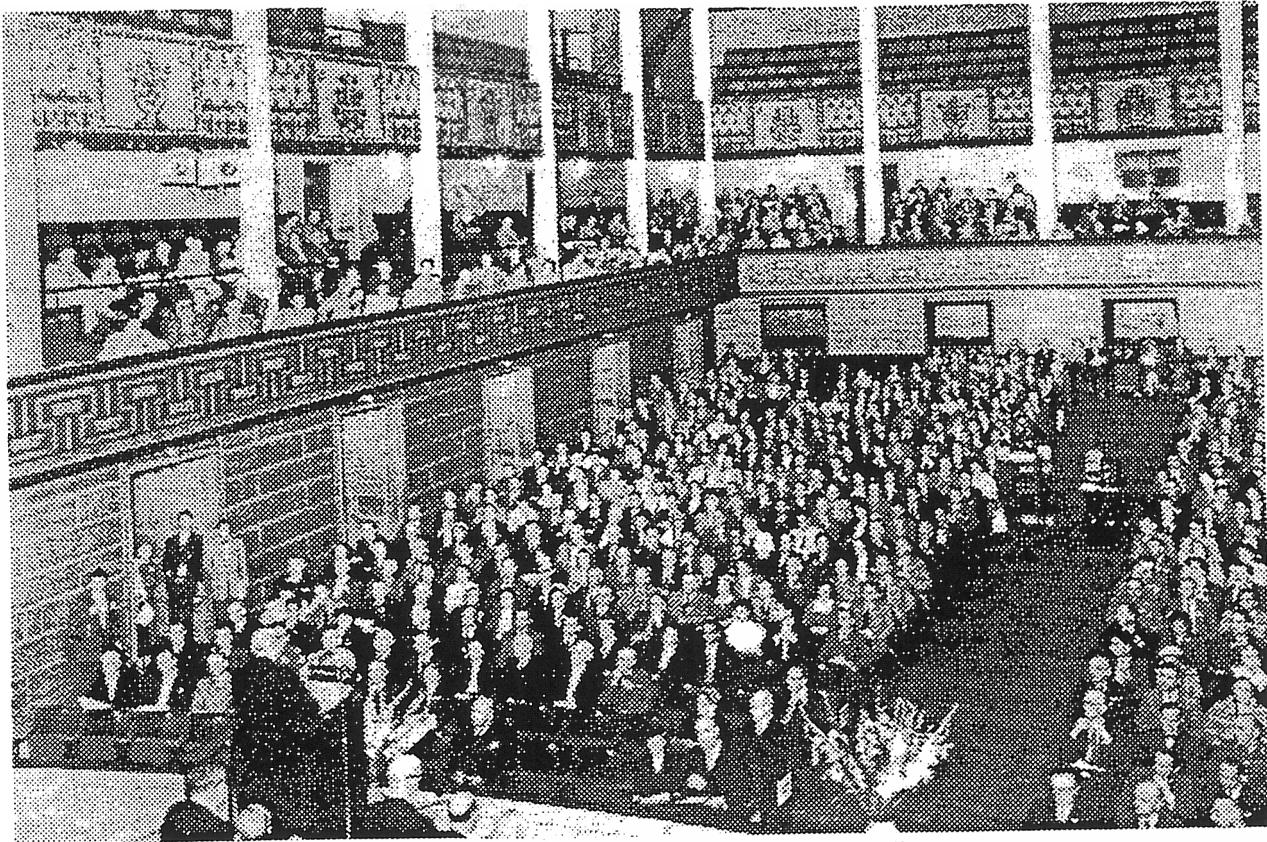
At the XIVth International Veterinary Congress it was also agreed that member-countries would contribute to the Congress Fund on the basis of 1 shilling per graduate veterinarian in the country, member of the national veterinary organisation. From these contributions the expenses of the Secretariat would be paid as well as, if necessary, the printing costs, either in part or in full, of the

Congress proceedings. An Association Fund Committee would be created to administer these funds. Following the Congress of London, no meeting of the Permanent Committee was held until May, 1952. Apart from considering matters of a financial nature relating to payment of dues, the general arrangements for Congresses and amendments of the statutes and bylaws were discussed. Attention was also paid to reports of the Committee for the Compilation of a List of Animal Diseases, the Committee on the Control of Parasitic Diseases and to the collection of data on veterinary films. There was also a proposal to use only one working language, English, but it was recognised that this would be difficult to realise.

#### *XVth WVC, Stockholm, Sweden, 1953*

The XVth Congress held in Stockholm, Sweden from 9 - 15 August, 1953 was opened by the Swedish Minister of Agriculture after Mr. Axel Alegren, President of the Organising Committee, had welcomed the delegates. A festive flavour was added to the opening ceremonies with the performance by the orchestra of the Swedish Broadcasting Corporation of two works of Swedish composers, the "Swedish Festival Ouverture" and the "Festival Polonaise". Karl Eriksson was elected President of the Congress and A. Isaksson Secretary-General. The scientific programme featured four plenary sessions (not including the opening and closing session) as well as eight sectional meetings. The number of participants was 1134. The Congress was rounded off by the traditional receptions, excursions, banquets and other social gatherings.

At the meetings of the Permanent Committee held at the XVth International Congress in Stockholm, the Secretary-Treasurer was authorised to continue the work on the compilation of a *List of Animal Diseases*. A long discussion was held regarding this *List*. Mr. Pool (U.K.) headed the project. A Thirteen subcommittees had been formed to represent the different fields of veterinary medicine. A



Opening session of the XV WVC, Stockholm, Sweden, 1953

preliminary report had been made in English only, but it was felt that the final manual should be a polyglot dictionary which would be sold. Prof. Beveridge explained the criticism of the Australian National Committee which had also sent a report.

At the third meeting of the Permanent Committee held in Stockholm on 15th August, 1953, Professor de Blieck presented his resignation as Secretary-Treasurer of the Permanent Committee and Professor Jac. Jansen (who was not present) was elected his successor. Professor de Blieck became Deputy Secretary in order to acquaint Prof. Jansen with the work of the Secretariat.

Spanish was accepted as an official Congress language.

### **Phase III. Creation and development of the World Veterinary Association.**

Prof. Hjärre and Dr. Alegren (Sweden) felt that the Permanent Committee should stimulate the foundation of international associations of veterinary specialists and proposed to establish an International Veterinary Union with national veterinary associations and international specialist associations as members. This proposal was favourably received. In a Resolution, the Congress recommended the formation of an Animal Production Organisation to become affiliated to the International Veterinary Congresses (IVC). In 1955 the bylaws of the IVC were amended in order to facilitate the affiliation of international associations of veterinary specialists and in 1958 it was the President of the Permanent Committee, Prof. Beveridge, who proposed a name change from "Permanent Committee for the International Veterinary Congresses" to "Council of the World Veterinary Association". Although this proposal was favourably received, it was finally decided to keep the name "Permanent Committee" (instead of "Council"). This was the birth of the "World Veterinary Association".

Prof. Hermsdorff (Sweden) put forward a project for a monthly International Journal of Veterinary Medicine as the official journal of the Permanent Committee for the International Veterinary Congresses. One year later this proposal was rejected because it was considered that such a journal would be too expensive to produce and would probably end up being a duplication of national veterinary journals.

The Stockholm Congress chose Argentina as the country to organise the XVIth International Congress to be held in 1957. Unfortunately, owing to a change of government in that country, the invitation had to be withdrawn in 1956. Several countries (Austria, Chile, France, Portugal, Spain and the USSR) showed their interest in taking Argentina's place. A firm invitation from Chile was accepted by the Permanent Committee but also that country had to withdraw the invitation owing to rivalry between different national veterinary associations. Finally, it was decided to accept the invitation which arrived first after the meeting of the Permanent Committee in 1956. This was an invitation from Spain and Madrid was chosen as the site of the XVIth International Veterinary Congress.

#### *XVIth WVC Madrid, Spain, 1959*

This Congress was held from 21-27 May, 1959 at the campus of the University of Madrid, "The Complutense". The scientific programme was divided into five sections, covering all aspects of veterinary science and practice. The Spanish Minister of Agriculture presided over the Congress, and the Secretary-General was Dr. Pedro Carda. Approximately 2000 participants from 52 countries took part in the Congress.

Honorary Members of the Madrid Congress included Prof. Verge (France), Prof. Manninger (Hungary), Prof. de Blieck (Netherlands), Sir Daniel Cabot (Great Britain), Prof. W.I.B. Beveridge (Australia), Prof. Jac. Jansen (Denmark), and Prof. K. Wagener (Germany). The Congress in Madrid was an important landmark in the evolution of the International Veterinary Congresses into a World Veterinary Association.

Two proposals put forward at the meeting of the Permanent Committee in 1954 merit attention, namely: a suggestion by Dr. Willems (Belgium) that speakers at Congresses deal only with new developments rather than merely reading their papers. This idea was not put into practice and it was not until the Congress of Paris in 1967, upon the initiative of Prof. Beveridge, that the scientific programme was organised for the first time along the lines of symposia at which speakers from different countries would deal with new developments in the various fields.

The second proposal, presented by the Dutch national committee, was a recommendation that there be simultaneous translation at all meetings as well as during the sections. This was put into practice at the Congress in Madrid in 1959, but proved very expensive. Part of these costs, Dfls. 75.000 - 7 1/2 times more than the grant to the Stockholm Congress, were paid from the Association Fund. In 1955, the Permanent Committee decided to establish official relations with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). This led to the "specialised consultative status" granted by FAO in 1955 and official relations with WHO as from 1956. Apart from these organisations, the Permanent Committee of the IVC and later on the World Veterinary Association (WVA) have maintained, during many years, very good relations with the "Office International des Epizooties" (OIE) in Paris. Once a year, except in the years when a World Veterinary Congress is held, this organisation has kindly allowed the WVA to hold the meetings of the Permanent Committee (at present "General Assembly"), the Executive Bureau, the Association Fund Committee (at present "Finance Committee"), as well as other committee meetings at the OIE headquarters. The WVA maintains relations with a good number

of international bodies with interests related to those of the WVA. Such organisations have been offered "observer status" (reciprocal representation at meetings).

In 1954, Sir Daniel Cabot (England) resigned as President of the Permanent Committee; also in that year, "Intervet" was founded as an organisation to safeguard and promote the interests of practising veterinarians in response to a feeling by many that the International Veterinary Congresses (IVC) only brought together teachers and specialists. It was feared that "Intervet" could become a competitive body for the IVC, but this was not the case, and it was dissolved a few years later.



Prof. W.I.B. Beveridge, President  
Permanent Committee, 1957-1975

In May, 1957, Prof. W.I.B. Beveridge (Australia) was elected President of the Permanent Committee. In that year the IVC had 39 member countries. Also in 1957, a preliminary *List of Diseases of Animals* was finally completed. Not everybody agreed with this project and there were differences of opinion regarding the language in which the list would be written. Some were in favour of Latin, but it appeared that this would be a very cumbersome working language. Others preferred a polyglot dictionary, and still others felt that the project was too expensive. Although a small majority authorised Mr. Pool (U.K.) to go ahead with the preparations for the final list, it was agreed that first of all prospective buyers should be found and no more than 2000 copies printed. A few years later the project was definitively abandoned owing to lack of interest.

In 1959, eleven headings for sections of Congresses and for international specialist associations were proposed by Prof. Beveridge and adopted. This cleared the way for these associations to become affiliated with the WVA. A model of statutes for the specialist associations was drawn up and included in it were the conditions for Associate Membership of the WVA.

The Permanent Committee also accepted a draft Constitution of the WVA. This draft was subsequently modified and improved with the help of a professor of international law at the University of Utrecht (the Netherlands), and in 1962 the final Constitution and Rules of the WVA were accepted by the Permanent Committee.

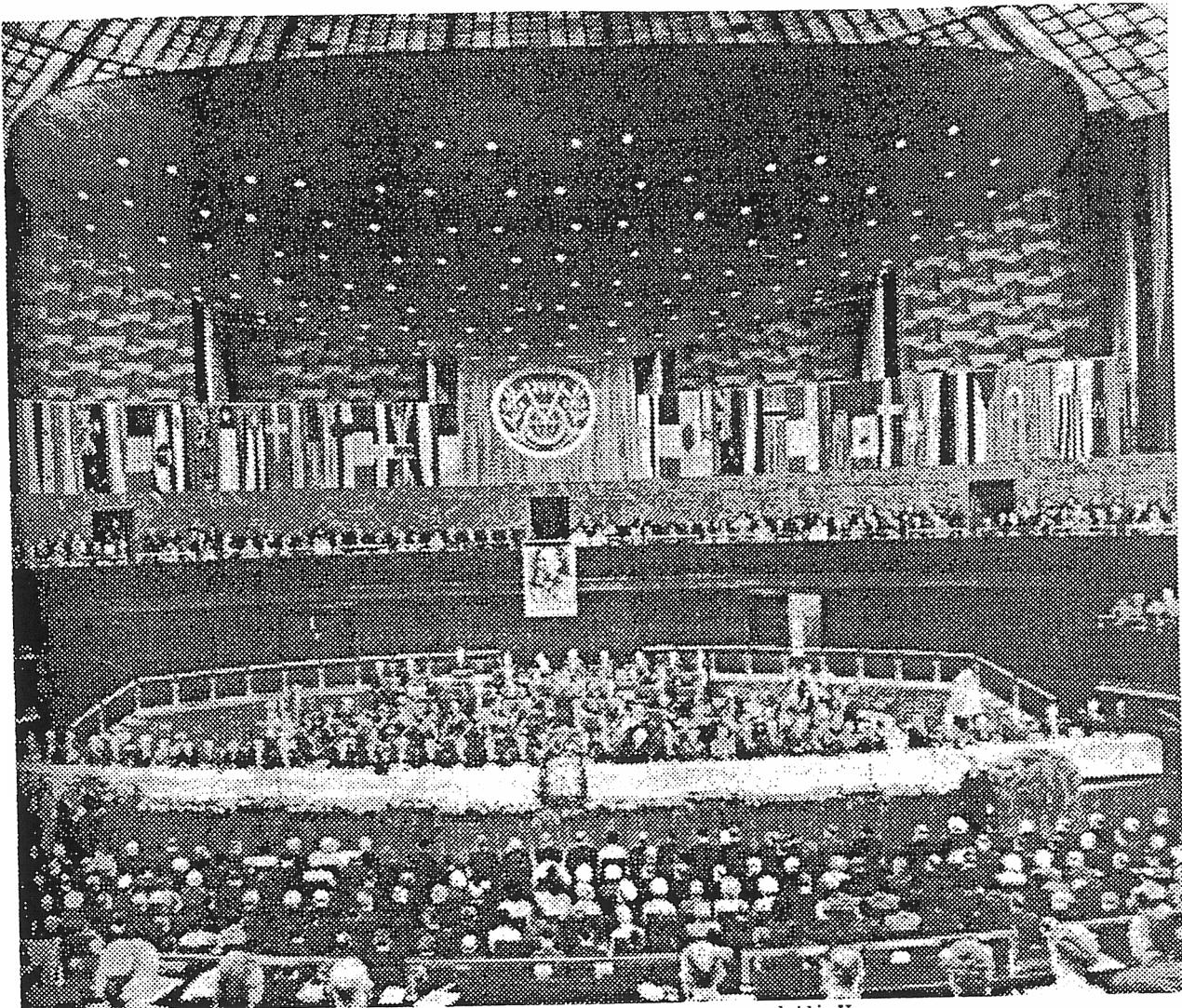
In 1960 the International Association for Animal Production and the World Veterinary Poultry Association were the first specialist associations admitted to the WVA as associate members.

In March 1960 the first issue of the WVA "News Items" was published. This publication, dealing with news of the Association and the Congresses proved to be a useful tool in disseminating information on the activities of the Association.

An appendix to the *List of Veterinary Films* (first published in 1959) was issued and in 1963 a *World Catalogue of Veterinary Films and Films of Veterinary Interest* was published. It was decided not to extend the activities of the WVA for the time being. In 1961 and 1962, for the first time a Scientific Programme Advisory Committee (SPAC) consisting of the President and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Permanent Committee, one representative of each associate member and three veterinarians elected from amongst the members of the Permanent Committee, met with representatives of the Organising Committee of the XVIIth World Veterinary Congress in order to plan the international scientific programme of the Congress.

#### **XVIIth WVC, Hanover, Germany, 1963**

The XVIIth World Veterinary Congress, took place in Hanover, Germany from 14- 21 August, 1963



Opening session of the XVIIth World Veterinary Congress, held in Hanover

and marked the centenary of the International Veterinary Congresses. There were almost 5.000 participants 2000 of whom came from 71 countries outside Germany. In honour of Professor John Gamgee, initiator of the Congresses, a gold medal was designed to serve as an award to selected veterinarians in recognition of their outstanding services to veterinary science and the profession. The first recipient was Sir Thomas Dalling (FAO) in 1963.



Prof. Wagener, President of the  
XVIIth WVC

The year 1963 was proclaimed "World Animal Health Year" and papers were presented on this topic, as well as on the subjects: "100 years of Veterinary Congresses", "the Development of Veterinary Science in the last 100 years", "the Development of the Veterinary Profession in the Last 100 Years," "John Gamgee's Contribution to International Veterinary Science" and on the renowned veterinarians: August Lydtin, Friedrich Müssemeir, Robert von Ostertag and John Robbins Mohler. These were all published in the Centenary Brochure of the Hanover Congress (Editor Ladstetter GmbH., Hamburg-Wandsbeck). Prof. Wagener, Dean of the Veterinary School, was elected President of the Congress. Prof. Merkt was its Secretary-General.

In Hanover, the Permanent Committee decided to increase the "per capita" subscription from 1 Shilling to 1 1/2 Shillings as from 1st August, 1965. Paris was chosen as the site of the XVIIIth World Veterinary Congress. Professor Skrjabin (USSR) was elected an Honorary Member of Congress. In 1964 the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology was admitted as an

Associate Member.

#### **XVIIIth WVC Paris, France, 1967**

The XVIIIth World Veterinary Congress, held in Paris (France) from 17-22 July, 1967 was opened by France's then Minister for Agriculture, Edgar Faure. Professor D. Graziosi (Italy) was elected President of the Congress. There were more than 4000 participants from 65 countries. President of the Organising Committee was Prof. R. Vuillaume and one of the Congress Secretaries was Prof. Pilet. The Associate Members of the WVA were given more freedom to organise their relevant sections. Russian was admitted as an official Congress language and for the first time there was simultaneous translation in Russian in one hall. An innovation at this Congress was the presentation each morning of free printed brochures of the discussions at the sessions of the previous day.

Mexico City was chosen as the site of the XIXth World Veterinary Congress. An outstanding feature of the social programme was the Opera "Carmen" at the Paris Opera House.



Prof. Vuillaume, President WVA  
1975-1983

Between the Congress in Paris and that in Mexico-City, the Permanent Committee's Secretariat was actively engaged in the preparations of the XIXth Congress. The Secretary-Treasurer, Professor Jansen, accompanied by two Congress organisers: Professor Vuillaume and Professor Merkt and the Administrative Director of the Secretariat, Mr. Aalbers, went to Mexico-City in 1970 to give advice to the organising committee and assist with the preparations.

In 1971, on the invitation of Drs. Velazquez and Arenas, Chairman and Secretary-General of the Organising Committee respectively, Mr. Aalbers again travelled to Mexico three months before the Congress to further assist in the preparations.

#### **XIXth WVC, Mexico, 1971**

The XIXth World Veterinary Congress, held from 16-21 August, 1971, featured two plenary sessions on animal health programmes in the international movement of animals and on rabies. The "Unidad de Congresos del Centro Médico Nacional" offered adequate facilities. More than 700 main papers and short communications from 64 countries were presented. The Congress was opened by the President of Mexico, Lic. Echevarría Alvarez. The opening session was followed by a plenary session on the importance of the veterinary profession and its role in society. The social programme offered many interesting functions. Professor J.F. Figueroa (Peru), Vice-President of the WVA since 1967, was elected President of the Congress. Thessaloniki was chosen as site of the XXth Congress. Professor Beveridge was reelected WVA President. Dr. S.F. Scheidy (USA) and Professor R. Vuillaume (France) were elected Vice-Presidents. Dr. A.D. Tretyakov (USSR) and Dr. J.F. Figueroa were reelected as such. Professor Jac. Jansen retired as Secretary-Treasurer and was elected Honorary Member of the WVA. He was succeeded by Dr. M. Leuenberger (Switzerland). In October, 1971 the Secretariat of the Permanent Committee moved to Geneva, Switzerland.

In Mexico, two proposals were presented by the USA, namely:

- To set a maximum subscription of 16.500 Swiss Francs (on the basis of 11.000 veterinarians)
- Have a system of weighted voting, in accordance with the number of veterinarians represented by each national member.

Some representatives on the Permanent Committee objected to the way office bearers were nominated and called for a different procedure. In order to study the American proposals and to make

recommendations for other changes in the WVA Constitution and Rules, a small subcommittee was formed consisting of two representatives of national members and three representatives of associates. A final report of this committee was presented to the Permanent Committee in 1973. Their recommendations to give the associate members a free hand in organising their own sections at the World Veterinary Congresses, to give no more grants to the Congresses, to have a new procedure for the election of WVA officers (proposal of Dr. Scheidy, USA) and to elect an additional Vice-President to represent member-countries in the Far East and Pacific Regions (proposal by New Zealand) were accepted. The two American proposals regarding maximum subscriptions and voting rights were rejected by the Permanent Committee in 1973 but later accepted in 1975.

In 1972 a proposal was submitted by the new Secretary-Treasurer to increase the "per capita" rate of subscriptions from 0,75 Dutch guilders to 1,50 Swiss Francs. This proposal was examined by the Permanent Committee and a vote by correspondence was held. The result was positive. It was decided to increase the dues accordingly, as from 1st August, 1972. Furthermore it was agreed to change the subscription year to coincide with the financial year and to waive the contribution for the period 1st August 1972-31st December, 1972.

In April 1975 the WVA Secretariat initiated the publication of a bi-monthly "News Letter" to fill the gap between the May and December issues of the "News Items." From 1977 until 1987 Dr. Figueroa, Vice-President of the WVA, included part of these "News Letters" in a "Noticiero para la América Latina" which he widely distributed among Spanish speaking colleagues in the Latin American countries, Spain and Portugal. The "News Items", "News Letters," and the "Noticiero" were distributed free of charge all over the world to those interested in the World Veterinary Association.

#### *XXth WVC, Thessaloniki, Greece, 1975*

The XXth World Veterinary Congress in Thessaloniki from 6-12 July, 1975 was well organised under the direction of Professor E. Tsirayannis assisted by Professor E. Parisis who passed away in 1977. Acad. Prof. K. Bratanov (Bulgaria) was elected President of the Congress. The Congress was opened on Sunday, 6th July with a mass at the Saint Dimitrius Basilica. The scientific programme consisted of 5 plenary sessions divided over the week and 83 sectional meetings. The social programme of the Congress featured a trip to Philippi and a theatre performance, a Hellenic Night, folk dances from various regions of Greece and the traditional banquet.

The Resolutions of the Congress called for increased protein production, the care of animals, brucellosis control, wildlife conservation, international standards for diagnostic agents, the introduction of history of veterinary medicine as part of the curriculum and a uniform wording of veterinary certificates for international use.

Professor W.I.B. Beveridge (Australia) who had been President of the WVA since 1957, was the second recipient of the Gamgee Medal. He resigned as President and Professor Vuillaume (France) was elected to replace him.

Professor Beveridge, Sir Alexander Robertson (U.K.), Dr. R. Vittoz, Director General of the International Office of Epizootics and Dr. J.H. Steele (USA) were elected Honorary Members of the WVA.

The Congress of Thessaloniki was attended by some 4000 participants. July 9 was proclaimed the first World Veterinarian's Day.

In 1975, in order to improve the financial situation of the Secretariat, the Permanent Committee

decided that as of from 1979 10 per cent of the Congress fees and 10 per cent of the rent of the booths at the commercial exhibition would be remitted to the Fund of the WVA. Furthermore, commercial companies would be admitted as affiliated members at an annual fee of 2.000 US Dollars. They would enjoy certain rights such as a priority choice of a stand at the commercial exhibition of World Veterinary Congresses, a free announcement in the WVA News Items, limited voting rights at the meetings of the Permanent Committee and the right to make public their membership of the WVA for commercial purposes.

In 1975 a second updated edition of the *World Catalogue of Veterinary Films and Films of Veterinary Interest* was published by the WVA Secretariat. The United Kingdom discontinued its membership.

In 1976, the Permanent Committee decided that: the Secretariat would publish information on numbers of veterinary graduates in member countries; the WVA would get in touch with large international organisations, like FAO and OIE having interests in a uniform nomenclature of animal diseases; the efforts to harmonise veterinary medical teaching programmes would be continued; and the interchange of veterinary medical personnel between member countries would be stimulated.

In 1977 the annual "per capita" subscription was fixed at US\$ 0,50 (then the equivalent of 1,20 Swiss Francs) instead of 1,50 Swiss Francs. This was possible because of the support received from the affiliated members. It was also decided to create subcommittees on Animals Protection, Conservation of Wildlife and Veterinary Education. The aims of these subcommittees were to study important problems and to allow veterinarians to actively contribute by proposing their ideas for solving them. Furthermore, the Secretariat was requested to devise a list of veterinarians who would be willing to work as experts in developing WVA member countries.

In 1978, the World Veterinary Epidemiology Society and the World Association of Teachers of Preventive Veterinary Medicine were admitted to the WVA as associate members bringing the total number of specialist associations affiliated with the Association to 14. The specialist associations were given the right to organise a scientific symposium on their specialty one week before or one week after a World Veterinary Congress, provided it was held at or near the site of the Congress.

#### *XXIst WVC Moscow, USSR, 1979*

The XXIst World Veterinary Congress was held in Moscow, USSR from 1 - 7 July, 1979. In collaboration with the Bureau of the WVA, it was well organised by a competent committee under the presidency of Mr. L.N. Kuznetsov, Vice-Minister of Agriculture of the USSR. The representatives on the WVA Permanent Committee, Dr. A.D. Tretyakov and Prof. V.S. Yarnikh, served as Vice-President and Secretary-General, respectively. About a year before the Congress, the WVA President, the Secretary-Treasurer and the Administrative Director of the WVA Secretariat visited Moscow, to act as advisors to the Organising Committee.

Five plenary scientific sessions were held at the Kremlin Convention Centre on Sunday, 5th July. Throughout the Congress week 114 sectional meetings took place in Hotel Rossia and in an adjacent church. A total of 447 main papers and 714 short communications were presented, covering all aspects of veterinary science and practice. Apart from the usual film competition, there was also a slide and photograph contest. The Resolutions of this Congress called for: increased production of safe food of animal origin; the prevention of diseases in large scale (industrial) animal husbandry; the protection of the environment; the intensification of research in the fields of animal genetics, reproduction, nutrition, management, animal behaviour and hygiene; new methods of prophylaxis and treatment of traumatisms; mechanisation and automation of labour-consuming processes; care and protection of animals; harmonisation of teaching programmes, and finally, stimulation of the

# XXI WORLD VETERINARY CONGRESS XXI CONGRES MONDIAL VETERINAIRE XXI WELT TIERARZTEKONGRESS XXI CONGRESO MUNDIAL DE VETERINARIA



Prof. Vuillaume speaking at the opening session of the XXIst World Veterinary Congress.

work by the Organising Committee of the Moscow Congress for the compilation of veterinary terms in different languages.

Prof. Hakon W. Westermarck (Finland), Acad. Prof. Ya. Kovalenko (USSR) and Prof. Y. Ochi (Japan) were elected Honorary Members of the WVA.

The City of Perth (South-West Australia) was chosen as site of the XXIIInd World Veterinary Congress in 1983.

Forty-three member and 19 non member countries were represented in Moscow, and there were approximately 4.500 participants. The social programme was varied and interesting and included visits of Moscow, the Kremlin, Zagorsk and many museums including the Tretyakov Art Gallery and the Pushkin Museum. The Moscow underground and various estates of the ancient Russian nobility were also visited, as were Lenin's house and the museums of the Revolution. The Congress concluded with a show of Russian folk dances and music.

In 1975, after the Thessaloniki Congress, the number of member countries stood at 53. In 1979, after the Moscow Congress, this had increased to 60, not including pending applications from three additional countries. After the Congress in Moscow it was decided to restrict the number of veterinarians from non member countries who would be allowed to present papers at the next Congress of Perth. The liberal policy of the Bureau applied to U.K. veterinarians did not result in the re-entry of that country to the WVA.

In 1980 the following national associations were admitted as members: Trinidad and Tobago Veterinary Association, Singapore Veterinary Association and the Panama Veterinary Association. Official observer status with the WVA was granted to the International Council of Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS).

The WVA publications "News Items" and "News Letters" were discontinued and, from January, 1981 these were replaced by the "WVA News" issued six times a year.

In 1981 a proposal to reduce the annual subscription of countries with a low "per capita" income and to increase, as compensation, the ceiling of annual dues which stood at 16.500 Swiss Francs, was not accepted, but it was agreed that the Association Fund Committee would study the possibility of introducing another system of dues.

The Chinese Society of Veterinary Science, Taiwan, R.O.C. was accepted as a national member of the WVA. It was also decided that henceforth the OIE, FAO and WHO would each have a representative on the scientific programme Advisory Committee (SPAC) for World Veterinary Congresses. The Permanent Committee agreed to allow the World Association of Veterinary Physiologists, Pharmacologists and Biochemists to slightly increase the number of non-veterinarians (limited then to 10 per cent).

In 1982, a working group, consisting of Dr. McGowan (Canada) - chairman, Dr. Tretyakov, (USSR), Dr. Tharp (USA), Prof. Mansson (Sweden) and Dr. Touratier (World Small Animal Veterinary Association) was set up to study the possibilities of adopting a new system of annual dues assessment. The Korean Veterinary Medical Association was accepted as a national member of the WVA. The WVA Secretariat conducted an inquiry on the protection of the veterinary diploma in the WVA member countries. In March and April, 1982, the President, Secretary-Treasurer and the Administrative Director of the WVA, visited the major cities of Australia and travelled to New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore to promote the XXII World Veterinary Congress.

Prof. Kampelmacher (World Association of Veterinary Food Hygienists) was elected representative of the associate members on the Bureau of the WVA. The Permanent Committee decided to classify the member countries of the WVA in six regions of the world, namely:

- Western Europe and the countries of Western Asia
- USSR and Eastern Europe
- North America
- Latin America
- Africa
- East Asia and Oceania

Six Vice-Presidents would also be elected at the 1983 Congress to represent each one of these regions.

Late in 1982 the Bureau proposed to elect Prof. Dr. C. L. de Cuenca (Spain) as the new Secretary-Treasurer of the WVA in place of Dr. M. Leuenberger (Switzerland) who had retired. A vote by correspondence was held and Prof. de Cuenca was elected unanimously. In February, 1983 the Secretariat of the WVA was transferred from Geneva (Switzerland) to Madrid (Spain).

#### *XXII WVC, Perth, Australia*

The XXII World Veterinary Congress was held in Perth (Western Australia) from 21 - 26 August, 1983. It was the first Congress ever held in the Southern Hemisphere. The Congress started with an impressive audio-visual presentation "Under the Sun" which gave a colourful impression of Western Australia, its scenery, fauna and flora, its people and their daily occupations. The Congress was opened by Sir Ninian Stephens, Governor-General of Australia. Prof. D.C. Blood of Melbourne



Open air barbecue near Perth.

was elected President of Congress. An interesting scientific programme was offered during the week of the Congress and a huge and successful commercial exhibition at the same venue as the Congress, the Perth Entertainment Centre, showed the latest advances in veterinary medicine and equipment. The social programme featured an open air barbecue, an "International Fiesta", the Congress banquet, visits to the homes of various Australian veterinarians, a Seafood Harvest (to sample local seafood) as well as different sporting events.



Prof. J. F. Figueroa, President of the WVA 1983-1991.

Professor J.F. Figueroa was elected President of the WVA and Prof.Dr.C.L. de Cuenca was confirmed as new Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. B.H. Pappin (South Africa), Dr. L. Quirolo (Uruguay), Dr. V.L. Tharp (USA), Mrs. Dr. B.F. Smith (New Zealand), Dr. D.A. Tretyakov (USSR) and Prof.Dr. I. Mansson (Sweden) were elected or re-elected Vice-Presidents for the following regions : Africa, Latin America, North America, East Asia and Oceania, Eastern Europe and Western Europe respectively. Prof. Dr. E.H. Kampelmacher (The Netherlands) representative of the associate members on the Bureau was conferred with the title of Vice-President.

Professor Vuillaume, who did not run for President, received the Gamgee Medal for his services to veterinary science and the profession and was also made "Honorary Member of the WVA". This title was also granted to Dr. M. Leuenberger (Secretary-Treasurer of the WVA, 1972- 1983), Prof. Dr. E. Tsiroyannis (a former WVA Vice-President 1975-1979 and organiser of the XX World Veterinary Congress) and to Dr. S.F. Scheidy (USA) posthumously. Prof. Scheidy was a Vice-President of the WVA from 1971-1976.

The XXII World Veterinary Congress was attended by about 2000 veterinarians and their guests.

Montreal, Canada was chosen as site of the XXIII World Veterinary Congress in 1987. The Congress adopted 14 Resolutions and a "Declaration of Principles of the Veterinary Profession" written by a special committee under the direction of Prof. Dr. C.L. de Cuenca (Spain). Namibia, Uganda, Tanzania, the People's Republic of Congo, the Seychelles and Papua New Guinea were admitted as new national members of the WVA. In 1983 the WVA Secretariat published a third catalogue of *Films and Video Tapes of Veterinary Interest*.

In August, 1983 the publication "WVA News" was discontinued and replaced by an "Informative Bulletin". The WVA also obtained an emblem (see page 25).

In 1984 the Permanent Committee elected Prof. Dr. Cid Diaz (Spain) Deputy Secretary of the WVA to replace Dr. B. Walker (Switzerland) who had resigned in 1982. A report on four different systems of assessment of dues was submitted to the Permanent Committee for perusal. The Malawi Veterinary Association and the Antigua & Barbuda Veterinary Services were admitted as new national members of WVA. Recommendations on the improvement of veterinary undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing education were submitted by Prof. Mansson (Sweden), Vice-President of the WVA. The WVA subcommittees on Veterinary Education, Animal Protection and Conservation of Wildlife elected their chairmen and secretaries. For the first time in the history of the WVA, President Figueroa entrusted the WVA Vice-Presidents with special tasks as follows: Dr. Barbara Smith: Animal Welfare; Prof. Kampelmacher: Coordination of the activities of the affiliated specialist associations in the light of the XXIII World Veterinary Congress; Prof. Mansson: WVA action plan to improve veterinary education; Dr. Tharp: WVA Public Relations; Dr. Quirolo: Creation of an international code of professional ethics.

In 1984, Dra. Virginia Buff d'Apice, President and founder of the International Womens Auxiliary to the Veterinary Profession (IWA) passed away.

In 1984, Pfizer International and Janssen Pharmaceutica joined the WVA as affiliated members. The number of national members stood at 66, associate members at 14 and affiliated members at 7.

In 1985, the Informative Bulletin was enlarged and summaries in French, German and Spanish were added. The number of copies distributed rose from 1500 to more than 2000. Dr. Quirolo replaced Prof. Figueroa as editor of the "Noticiero de la AMV para la América Latina." Dr. Tharp, Vice-President of the WVA, founded the World Equine Veterinary Association which was admitted as an associate member.

In May, 1985, after an absence of 10 years, the British Veterinary Association rejoined the WVA, and the Hong Kong Veterinary Association was admitted as a new national member.

A Committee of Three (Vice-Presidents) : Professors Kampelmacher, Mansson and Tharp was set up to study and update the objectives of the WVA and to strengthen the cooperation with the associate members (specialist associations). In 1986 a first meeting of the Committee was held at Bilthoven, the Netherlands and an interim report was submitted to the Bureau in May. Bolivia, Cyprus, Iceland, Mozambique, Nepal, St. Kitts & Nevis and Zaire were admitted as new national members. The International Veterinary Academy on Disaster Medicine was granted observer status. Prof. Kampelmacher organised a meeting with representatives of the associate members to discuss their participation in future World Veterinary Congresses and their cooperation with the WVA. Dr. A. Borregon (Spain) submitted a report to the Permanent Committee with proposals regarding the functioning of the WVA and its Secretariat.

### *XXIII WVC, Montreal, Canada*

In 1987 a very successful XXIII World Veterinary Congress was held in Montreal, Canada from 16-21 August, with an extensive scientific programme and attractive social activities. There were well over 5000 participants and the commercial exhibition was one of the largest ever held in conjunction with a World Veterinary Congress. In this context the extensive promotion of the Congress by WVA President Figueroa and members of the Organising Committee in many parts of the world, should be mentioned.

The Committee of Three submitted a report with proposals for a new approach for the organisation of future World Veterinary Congresses and a restructuring of the WVA Executive Bureau and the Secretariat. The Permanent Committee allowed the Committee of Three to continue their work and coopt whomever they wished. The International Buffalo Federation, The World Association on Fish Diseases and the World Association of Veterinary Educators were admitted as new associate members. The World Small Animal Veterinary Association discontinued its membership.

Professor Figueroa was reelected President for another four years. Dr. Sugiyama (Japan) was elected Vice-President for Asia & Oceania, Dr. Ayanwale (Nigeria) for Africa and Dr. de Andrade Moura (Brazil) for Latin America. Rio de Janeiro was chosen as site of the XXIV World Veterinary Congress in 1991. The category of "auxiliary membership" was created for the IVA (International Veterinary Auxiliary) with the right to cast one vote. It was decided to fix the "per capita" rate of annual subscriptions at 1,55 CHF (Swiss Francs) as per 1st January, 1987. At that date the rate of exchange to the US Dollar was 1,55 CHF = 0,75 Dollar.

At the 38th Meeting of the Permanent Committee in May, 1988, Prof. Pilet (France) strongly advocated that the WVA should start carrying out action programmes, such as aid to developing countries, promotion and development of the profession, etc. Various programmes were proposed and accepted in principle, such as the "Food Assistance Programme" (later on called "WVA Development Programme"), the collection of information from national members about their individual programmes for developing countries (to be published in the WVA Bulletin), the creation of a system designed to strengthen the national veterinary associations of developing countries, the WVA/IVA Hospitality and Fellowship Scheme and the publication by the WVA Secretariat of a World Directory of Veterinary Schools.

Brunei was accepted as a new national member and both the Ibero-American Institute for Agricultural Cooperation (IICA) and the Commonwealth Veterinary Association were granted observer status.

The Permanent Committee accepted an increase of the "per capita" rate of subscriptions of 25 Swiss cents in five years (five cents per year), together with a corresponding rise in the ceiling of dues. A proposal by the Administrative Director was accepted regarding a reduction of the subscription fees of developing countries with a gross national product (GNP) per capita of less than 1.500 US Dollars per year with the corresponding loss of income to be offset by an additional fee payable by the industrialised countries (those with a GNP per capita of more than 4.500 US Dollars).

The draft Resolutions of the XXIII World Veterinary Congress were accepted. On the request of WVA President Figueroa, Dr. Mayer (Israel) agreed to help stimulate and coordinate activities of the WVA in the area of Animal Welfare. The Committee of Three reported on their work on a new Constitution and new Bylaws of the WVA and their contacts with associate members, who had demanded more freedom in organising their sessions during the World Veterinary Congresses. The World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) discontinued their associate membership of

the WVA but in 1989 their President declared that they would be willing to join the Association again, provided all expenses of their speakers at World Veterinary Congresses would be reimbursed. For budgetary reasons, this could not be accepted.

A sum of 7.500 US Dollars from the regular 1990 WVA budget was earmarked for a fund-raising campaign by members of the steering committee for the WVA Development Programme.

A first meeting of the Scientific Programme Advisory Committee (SPAC) for the elaboration of the scientific programme of the XXIV World Veterinary Congress was held at Alfort, France in 1989.

The Permanent Committee agreed to launch Dr. Blackburn's (U.K.) action programme whereby member associations would be requested to invite students from developing countries, residing in industrialised countries, to visit the secretariats of the national veterinary association in the industrialised country in question, in order to become acquainted with its organisation and functioning. Honduras was accepted as a new national member.

Dr. Ayanwale (Nigeria) received a 2.000 Dollar grant to help cover the expenses of the organisation of the 4th Pan African Veterinary Congress which took place in November, 1989.

In 1990, the action programmes were further developed. Only one member of the steering committee (Prof. Pilet) had received a financial donation. The Permanent Committee accepted a revised WVA Policy Statement on Animal Welfare, Well-Being and Ethology, submitted by Dr. Mayer (Israel) who had formed a committee with the purpose of making veterinarians on all continents aware of their task in this regard.

The WVA committee on Veterinary Education under the chairmanship of Prof. Mansson (Sweden) held meetings in 1989 and 1990. The main aim of the committee was/is to harmonise undergraduate veterinary education and create, through the promotion of postgraduate veterinary education, opportunities for veterinarians in new or neglected fields of science.



Dr. J.T. Blackburn, President WVA,  
1991-1995

Dr. Blackburn's project was put into practice in 1990 and 1991 when veterinarians from India and Zambia visited the secretariats of the British Veterinary Association and the Norwegian Veterinary Association respectively.

In 1990, the Permanent Committee approved the combined WVA/IVVA Fellowship Scheme. It became operative in 1991 after the publication in the WVA Bulletin of a list of fellowship officers (individuals serving as guides to visiting veterinarians from other countries) in 20 countries.

In 1990, a new Constitution and Bylaws of the WVA and a new Rules for the World Veterinary Congresses were adopted. The Constitution and Bylaws came into effect on 19th May, whereas

the new Rules for the World Veterinary Congresses became effective on 24th August, 1991, after the XXIV World Veterinary Congress. In comparison with the previous Constitution, an important change was the addition of the statement that "the working language of the WVA Secretariat is English", thus avoiding the time-consuming task of the Administrative Director of translating the documents sent to all members, into French, German and Spanish whilst allowing more time for other WVA activities. A Resolution and a Steering Committee for the XXIV World Veterinary Congress

were appointed. In accordance with the new Constitution, the name of the Permanent Committee was changed to "General Assembly."

The General Assembly was requested to give serious consideration to the ways and means of increasing the income of the Association, thus allowing it to carry out its action programmes. In the light of this recommendation, Dr. Tharp (USA) proposed the creation of a WVA Foundation. This was accepted.

Libya and Romania were admitted as national members and the World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians as an associate member.

The WVA International Code of Veterinary Ethics, set out by Dr. Quirolo from Uruguay and available in English and Spanish, was adopted.

In July, 1991 the WVA Secretariat published a World Veterinary Directory containing information on approximately 90 per cent of all Veterinary Education Centres in the world, a catalogue of audio-visual aids (films, slides and video-cassettes) of veterinary interest, as well as lists of national veterinary associations, veterinary journals and research institutes.

#### *XXIV WVC Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1991*

The XXIVth World Veterinary Congress was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 18-23 August, 1991. It was the first in South America and the second in Latin America. The President of the WVA, Prof. Dr. J.F. Figueroa, was elected President of Congress.

Thanks to the enthusiastic and efficient preparatory work of the Brazilian colleagues, the Congress was a great success. Without prejudice to the work of all members of the organising committee, I should like to mention Prof. J. de Andrade Moura, President of the organising committee who did an excellent job of coordinating the various activities of the Congress and Prof. M. Thiago de Mello, President of the Scientific Programme Committee who succeeded in preparing, in cooperation with the 19 affiliated specialist associations, a wonderful and highly interesting scientific programme which attracted many Congress participants.

Congrex do Brasil and HOST, two agencies specialising in the organisation of Congresses, did an excellent job in ensuring the smooth running of all scientific and social activities. Some congress members felt the distance of the site of the Congress from the major down town hotels (about 40 kms) as a handicap. However, it also proved an advantage because owing to the distance, many of the delegates remained at "Riocenter", a fact which particularly favoured the attendance at meetings and enhanced the number of contacts between individual participants, as well as leading to further exchanges of professional experience.

Despite the negative influence of the Gulf War in January, 1991, the attendance at the Rio Congress was more than satisfactory with over 3.700 participants coming from 70 countries; of these, 2.700 were veterinarians.

Highlights of the scientific programme were the plenary sessions on the future of animal production hygiene; automation in veterinary medicine; veterinarians in animal welfare and a special symposium on veterinary education in the 21st century.

As far as the social programme was concerned, events such as: the Beaches Tour; Orientation Tour; Jewelry Show; Sugar Loaf and Zoo; Tropical Islands; Petropolis; Corcovado & Botanical Garden;

Historical Tour; Iguassu Falls; Carnaval Evening; Highlights of Rio and Folklore Show; Horse Track Race; Baroque Concert; Moonlight Dinner and the traditional Congress Banquet were popular with many congress members and left an unforgettable impression of an exciting and wonderful Brazil and the warm and charming hospitality of its people.

Owing to a serious illness, the Secretary-General of the WVA, Prof. Dr. Carlos Luis de Cuenca had presented his resignation shortly before the Congress. He died on 21st August, 1991. Professor De Cuenca had always shown a keen interest in the Association and during many years he was Spain's representative to the Permanent Committee (now General Assembly). He was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the WVA in 1982. His illness prevented him from participating in the WVA meetings of 1989, 1990 and 1991.

During the Congress, Mr. E. Aalbers, Administrative Director, employed by the Association since 1959, accepted an offer from the Executive to become acting Secretary-General of the WVA. He was appointed as such by the General Assembly on 19th August, 1991.

The need for the Association to have action programmes was stressed again.

Dr. Tharp (USA), Dr. McGowan (Canada), Chairman of the WVA Development Committee and Mr. Aalbers had come up with draft statutes for the WVA Foundation. To this end Mr. Aalbers travelled to the Netherlands to study the requirements for the registration of the Foundation in that country. The draft statutes were distributed to the delegates for perusal. A motion put forward by Dr. Tharp to submit the Rules of the WVA Foundation for acceptance in 1992 was approved by a large majority.

The Veterinary Technical Commission of the International Committee of Military Medicine (VeteC/ICMM) was accepted as an associate member of the WVA.

The General Assembly granted observer status to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Association for Transport Animal Welfare and Studies (TAWS).

Barcelona (Spain), Vienna (Austria) and Yokohama (Japan) presented their candidature as site of the 1995 XXVth World Veterinary Congress. Yokohama was chosen by a large majority of the votes cast (115 against 21 for Vienna and 9 for Barcelona ).

There were three candidates for President of the WVA, namely Dr. J.T. Blackburn (U.K.), Dr. A. Borregón (Spain) and Dr. J.E. McGowan (Canada). During the Congress, Dr. McGowan withdrew his candidature for personal reasons. With a majority of 92 votes to 51, Dr. Blackburn was elected as the new President of the WVA for the period 1991-1995. The following Vice-Presidents were also (re-)elected: Dr. F.O. Ayanwale (Nigeria), for Africa; Dr. S. Pinkerton (USA) for North America; Prof. J. de Andrade Moura (Brazil) for Latin America; Dr. F. Sugiyama (Japan) for Asia and Oceania; Dr. S. Kvaløy (Norway) for Western Europe; Dr. V.I. Kasjuk (USSR) for Eastern Europe and Prof. Ch. Pilet (WAVMI) representing the associate members (specialist associations).

The resolutions of the Congress could not be presented owing to lack of time. They were included in the "Selected Proceedings" of the XXIV World Veterinary Congress published in 1992. This publication contains a description of the highlights of the Congress, including the Opening and Closing ceremonies, the plenary sessions and the symposium sessions as well as the discussions. In October, 1991, on the initiative of the new Secretary-General, the Secretariat of the WVA moved office from the late Prof. de Cuenca's apartment at Isabel la Católica Street to another address in Madrid, namely Príncipe de Vergara 276, thus avoiding legal complications and finally making the

office independent. The Secretary-General also arranged for official registration of the Secretariat by the Spanish Ministry of the Interior, so as to allow for the opening of Spanish bank accounts and contracts with the telephone and electricity companies, etc. to be registered in the name of the WVA instead of in Mrs. de Cuenca's name as was previously the case.

In May, 1992 the new President of the WVA, Dr. J.T. Blackburn, presented a forward plan including:

- 1) an increased role of the Vice-Presidents;
- 2) a consolidation of the three main committees of the Association (Veterinary Education - chairman Prof. J. Piérard, Canada; Animal Welfare, Well-Being and Ethology - chairman: Dr. E. Mayer, Israel - and Development - chairman Prof. Ch. Pilet, France);
- 3) a review of regional boundaries (for Vice-Presidents)
- 4) an improvement of the image of the WVA; Future plans included the setting up of a new system of election of officers; a definition of WVA policies and the preparation of a detailed history of the WVA.

Also in May, a revised Code of Professional Ethics of the World Veterinary Association was published.

The General Assembly approved the draft statutes of the World Veterinary Association Foundation. In view of its registration in the Netherlands a new draft Constitution of the WVA, adapted to the requirements of the Dutch Civil Code was not accepted by the General Assembly, owing to the presentation of proposals for further amendments.

In 1993, the General Assembly paid tribute to the late Prof. Dr. Jac Jansen, Dr. Max Leuenberger and Prof. Yuichi Ochi, Honorary Members of the WVA who had died in 1992. Prof. Jansen had been secretary-treasurer of the WVA from 1953-1971 and Dr. Leuenberger from 1971-1982.

In view of strong opposition from the Scandinavian countries to a sentence in Dr. Mayer's Policy Statement on Animal Welfare, Well-Being and Ethology stating that the Welfare Committee "do not accept the view that animals have special rights as an entity on their own", it was deleted.

Early in 1992, in view of the organisation of the XXVth World Veterinary Congress, the following committees were created:

1. Executive Committee: Chairman Dr. F. Sugiyama, Vice-President of the WVA for Asia and Oceania;
2. Organising Committee: Chairman Dr. A. Takeuchi;
3. Scientific Committee: Chairman Dr. Y. Ozawa;

Dr. S. Aizawa was elected Executive Secretary of the Yokohama Congress.

The General Assembly was satisfied that the next World Congress would be a joint congress of WVA and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association, with the official title: "World Veterinary Congress, Yokohama 3-9 September, 1992; XXVth Jubilee WVA Congress, 20th WSAVA Congress".

Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Russian Federation and Slovenia were accepted as national members of the WVA. The Ibero-American Association for Animal Reproduction became an associate member and the International Veterinary Students Association an auxiliary member.

In 1993 the WVA President presented his Forward Plan, Phase 2 recommending:

1. A reinforcement of the infrastructure with greater involvement on the part of the Vice-Presidents and increased contacts between them.  
Professor Pilet was appointed Chairman, Development Committee and Secretary-Treasurer of the WVA Foundation; Dr. Sugiyama, chairman of the 1995 Congress Executive Committee; Dr. Pinkerton was appointed chairman of the WVA Policy Group; and Dr. Kvaløy, chairman of the Finance Committee.
2. The abolishment of the post of Secretary-General and a change to the WVA Constitution and Bylaws accordingly.
3. An increase in credibility by:
  - a) making every effort to support activities other than organising World Veterinary Congresses
  - b) allocating funds to various activities according to budgets submitted by the committee chairmen for specific projects.
4. The improvement of communications and making the national associations responsible for the forwarding of documents received from the WVA Secretariat to their representatives in the hope that this might stimulate further contact and coordination.

The General Assembly accepted proposals 1 and 2, but did not issue any comment on item 3 which had not yet been dealt by the Finance Committee either.

As far as item 4 was concerned, some representatives preferred to continue receiving copies of all documents. It was decided that the Vice-Presidents would look into this question.

An offer from the Hanover Veterinary School to house the WVA Secretariat free of charge received serious consideration and it was decided to send two Vice-Presidents to Hanover in July, 1993 to see the available office space and other facilities and report back to the Executive. In view of the interest shown by the national organisations in other countries to house the Secretariat, it was decided to give all national members the opportunity to put forward relevant offers until 1st January, 1994. Apart from the offer from the Hanover Veterinary School, further bids were later received from Great Britain, France and Denmark.

The Statutes of the WVA Foundation were officially registered by the Chamber of Commerce and Factories in The Hague, The Netherlands. The Foundation received its first contributions in May, 1993: 100.000 French Francs (approximately, 20.000 USD) from the French National Committee of the WVA and 2.000 USD from IVA (International Veterinary Auxiliary).

The General Assembly accepted a proposal by Prof. Pilet to launch, in cooperation with a French publicity agent, a public relations campaign to promote the WVA. The campaign would have three aims, namely:

- 1) Fund raising in the industrialised countries;
- 2) Carrying out projects worldwide in order to make the general public more aware of the activities of veterinarians and the profession;
- 3) Lobbying, development of internal and external communication networks and creation of tools and supports of communication.

In view of the changed situation in the former USSR and the difficulty in maintaining contact with the Vice-President for Eastern Europe, Dr. Kasjuk, Prof. Prost (Poland) was elected acting Vice-President for that region.

It was further decided that from 1 January 1994, all subscriptions would be expressed in US Dollars and that the 1994 subscriptions would be set at the per capita rate of US\$ 1,32 (a 5% increase from 1993).

Tanzania and Panama were readmitted as national members in 1993 and in the same year, the International Society for Animal Clinical Biochemistry was accepted as an associate member. Prof. Milton Thiago de Mello (Brazil) and Dr. Y. Ozawa (Japan) were elected Honorary Members of WVA.



## LIST OF WORLD VETERINARY CONGRESSES

<u>Congress</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Countries</u>
I	Hamburg	1863	99	10
II	Vienna	1865	170	15
III	Zürich	1867	180	17
IV	Brussels	1883	350	16
V	Paris	1889	670	19
VI	Bern	1895	700	25
VII	Baden-Baden	1899	1000	39
VIII	Budapest	1906	1400	35
IX	The Hague	1909	1600	44
X	London	1914	ABANDONED	
XI	London	1930	1900	64
XII	New York	1934	1820	40
XIII	Zurich	1938	2000	58
XIV	London	1949	1500	53
XV	Stockholm	1953	1150	50
XVI	Madrid	1959	2000	52
XVII	Hanover	1963	4500	71
XVIII	Paris	1967	4000	65
XIX	Mexico City	1971	4500	64
XX	Thessaloniki	1975	4200	60
XXI	Moscow	1979	4300	62
XXII	Perth	1983	2120	57
XXIII	Montreal	1987	5000	59
XXIV	Rio de Janeiro	1991	5740	81
XXV	Yokohama	1995	10339	82
XXVI	Lyon	1999	-	-

## Permanent Committee of the International Veterinary Congresses

(Presently: General Assembly of the  
World Veterinary Association)

### Presidents

Dr A. Lydtin (Germany)	1905-1917
Professor F. de Hutyra (Hungary)	1928-1934
Professor E. Leclainche (France)	1934-1949
Sir Daniel Cabot (UK)	1952-1956
Professor W.I.B. Beveridge (Australia)	1957-1975
Professor R. Vuillaume (France)	1975-1983
Professor J.F. Figueroa (Peru)	1983-1991
Dr J.T. Blackburn (UK)	1991-1995
Dr A.T. Rantsios (Greece)	1995-1999

### Vice-Presidents

Professor F. de Hutyra (Hungary)	1905-1917
Mr Degive (Belgium)	1909-1917
Professor E. Leclainche (France)	1928-1934
Sir John MacFadyan (UK)	1930-1934
Dr J.R. Mohler (USA)	1934-1949
Professor V. Stang (Germany)	1934-1938
Sir Daniel Cabot (UK)	1947-1949
Dr G. Petersen (Denmark)	1949-1951
Professor C. Sanz Egana (Spain)	1949-1959
Dr A. Alegren (Sweden)	1953-1957
Dr W.A. Hagan (USA)	1959-1963
Professor K. Wagener (Germany)	1959-1967
Professor J.F. Figueroa (Peru)	1965-1983
Dr E. Fritschi (Switzerland)	1967-1971
Dr S.F. Scheidy (USA)	1971-1976
Dr A.D. Tretyakov (USSR)	1967-1989
Professor R. Vuillaume (France)	1971-1975
Dr R.W. Gee (Australia)	1975-1979
Professor B.C. Jansen (South Africa)	1975-1979
Professor E. Tsiroyannis (Greece)	1975-1979
Dr J.E. Mosier (USA)	1977-1980
Ms, Dr B.F. Smith (New Zealand)	1979-1987
Dr S. Tsubaki (Japan)	1979-1983
Dr V.S. Tharp (USA)	1981-1991
Professor, Dr E.H. Kampeilmacher (the Netherlands)	1983-1991
Professor, Dr I. Måansson (Sweden)	1983-1991

### Vice-Presidents (continued)

Dr B.H. Pappin (South Africa)	1983-1987
Dr L. Quirolo (Uruguay)	1983-1987
Dr F.O. Ayanwale (Nigeria)	1983-1995
Dr J. de Andrade Moura (Brazil)	1983-1999
Dr F. Sugiyama (Japan)	1983-1999
Dr S. Pinkerton (USA)	1991-1996
Dr V. Kasjuk (Russia)	1991-1993
Professor Ch. Pilet (France)	1991-1999
Dr S. Kvaløy (Norway)	1991-1996
Professor E. Prost (Poland)	1993-1997
Dr J. Nunez (Argentina)	1995-1997
Dr Jim Edwards (New Zealand)	1995-1999
Dr Herbert Schneider (Namibia)	1995-1999
Prof J. Piérard (Canada)	1996-1999
Dr Niels-Ole Bjerregaard (Denmark)	1996-1999
Prof D. Magic (Slovakia)	1997-1999

### Secretary-Treasurers

(Presently: Secretaries-General - as of May 1994 this post does not exist any longer)

Dr D.A. DeJong (the Netherlands)	1905-1925
Professor, Dr L. de Blieck (the Netherlands)	1928-1953
Professor, Dr Jac. Jansen (the Netherlands)	1953-1972
Dr M. Leuenberger (Switzerland)	1972-1983
Professor, Dr C.L. de Cuenca (Spain)	1983-1991
Mr E. Aalbers (The Netherlands)	1991-1994

### Deputy Secretaries

(As from May 1990 this post does not exist any longer)

Dr Von Ratz (Germany)	1909-1917
Professor V. Stang	1928-1934
Dr P.J.L. Kelland (UK)	1934-1938
Professor E. Manninger (Hungary)	1949-1953
Professor L. de Blieck (the Netherlands)	1953-1961
Professor D. Zwart (the Netherlands)	1967-1968
Dr S. Postizzi (Switzerland)	1972-1979
Dr B. Walker (Switzerland)	1981-1983
Professor, Dr J.M. Cid Diaz (Spain)	1984-1991

### Executive Secretaries

Dr Lars Holsaae (Denmark)	1994-
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