

60th anniversary of Dr. Sheila Willmott, Ph.D.

Dr. Sheila Willmott, Ph.D. celebrated her 60th birthday and 30 yeares of scientific career on 8 June 1981.

After nearly 30 years with the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau (Great Britain) Dr. Sheila Willmott retired from the post of Director of the Commonwealth Institute of Helminthology at the end of April 1980.

The ambition of Dr. Willmott in her youth was to become a ballet dancer but World War II intervened and she followed her second choice, zoology. She started her career as a Rodent Instructor in the Ministry of Food during the Second World War and spent some time working in the London sewers. After a brief incur-



sion into university teaching she joined CAB as a scientific information officer under the late Profesor R. T. Leiper at Commonwealth Bureau of Agricultural Parasitology (Helminthology) in St. Albans which was transformed after in Commonwealth Institute of Helminthology. Her main research interests have been Trematoda, especially amphistomes. She was promoted to Assistant Director in 1954 and to Director in 1961. Since 1951 the unit under Dr. Willmott has grown in size and extended in scope. Taxonomic, identification and International information

service for helminths and plant nematodes (since 1977 also protozoans) were started. The staff, seven in 1951, now numbers 34; the building before — a farmhouse home, now larger premises. The library of the Institute has grown into one of the best parasitological libraries in the world and the copying service is well established and widely used.

In addition to three abstract journals, other serial publications and a number of special books, monographs, reference books and dictionaries have been produced by the Institute of Helminthology under the leadership of Dr. Willmott. In 1979 she started a new journal "Systematic Parasitology".

Sheila Willmott is a charming kind lady. Under her direction the Institute had very much a "family" atmosphere, many of the staff became her personal friends and remember with affection her great kindness and practical help in times of trouble or need.

Although retired from CAB, Dr. Willmott intends to continue her very successful editorial work, continuing business-like cooperation with world's parasitologists. We hope the Commonwealth Institute of Helminthology will keep and consolidate the good traditions which arose under her direction.

Dr. Willmott's relations to Czechoslovak parasitologists are very good. She has made linguistic revisions of several books written by Czechoslovak authors in English, which improved their quality and contributed to their world-wide publicity. In the last years she has been engaged in both scientific and linguistic revision of a series of monographs entitled "Helminths of Fish-Eating Birds of the Palaearctic Region", which are a common work of Czechoslovak and Soviet helminthologists and are being published by Academia, Publishing House of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague in coedition with Junk Publishers, Hague. The very careful and exact work of Dr. Willmott was a great assistance to the editors of the first two volumes (I-Nematoda, II-Cestoda and Acanthocephala).

We wish Dr. Sheila Willmott good health and great success in her fruitful activity. And many thanks to her for all what she has done or will do for the development of parasitology and for the unite of scientists of different countries!

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