

Editorial

Part of this volume of the *Journal of Helminthology* contains a number of keynote papers, which were presented at a Symposium held at the University of Leeds in September 1996, to mark the retirement of Professor Donald L. Lee. A large number of friends, colleagues and students attended, emphasizing the high esteem and affection in which he is held.

Professor Michael Hollingdale, Head of the Department of Biology at Leeds, has kindly written a bibliographic account of Donald Lee and this forms an appropriate introduction to my editorial. Professor Hollingdale writes:

'Donald Lee formally ended his career at Leeds University on September 30, 1996. Since Donald's career has successfully combined outstanding research with distinguished academic leadership, it seemed most fitting that his retirement should be honoured by a Symposium which brought together a prominent list of colleagues, and most appropriately, his final research student Mike Winter.

After serving in the British Army in Korea in 1951–52 Donald studied for his first degree at King's College (Newcastle), University of Durham. He was first and foremost a helminthologist and fostered this field at Leeds. This interest began in 1956 at Christ's College and the Molteno Institute, Cambridge University, where he gained his PhD. There he was awarded the Darwin Prize in 1958. During his time at Cambridge he spent a year as a post-doctoral Fellow at Rice University, Houston. He was elected to a Fellowship at Christ's College, Cambridge University in 1958 and remained a Fellow until 1971 when he moved to Leeds as Professor of Agricultural Zoology. He was also Head of the Department of Parasitology at the Houghton Poultry Research Station, Huntingdon, Associate Senior Research Fellow at Brunel University and a visiting Fellow of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. During this time Donald published numerous papers on the structure, biochemistry and cell biology of nematodes. Many of these were with his research students and included Professor A. Anya, now with the University of Nigeria. Former research students, Professors Peter Long and John Barrett and Dr Vaughan Southgate, together with former colleagues and former undergraduates from his Cambridge days, were at the Symposium. Donald is rightfully proud of his students and supervised 15 through their doctoral research while at Leeds, many of whom attended the Symposium.

At Leeds, Donald continued his nematode research, and built the nationally and internationally respected group that is a legacy of his energy and intellect. He has produced over 120 publications, with more to come, and produced two editions of *Physiology of nematodes*. His excellence was recognized by regular funding from the ARC, SERC, Royal Society, Wellcome Trust, ODA and industry, including from the USA. Donald was also a respected and popular (not always synonymous) lecturer to undergraduates, many of whom graduated to research in parasitology. He was consistently regarded by students as the most accomplished lecturer, a record of which he is rightfully proud. However, Donald has always had enormous energy, no doubt reflecting



Professor Donald L. Lee

his previous rowing and rugby success, so research and teaching were not enough. He also was Head of Department of Pure and Applied Biology (now part of the Biology Department), Chairman of the School of Biological Sciences and the Faculty Board of Science, and Pro-Vice Chancellor. He also held and holds many Memberships of Research Council and National Committees, including the Joint Consultative Committee on Soils and for Crop Protection for the UK, AFRC Plants and Environment Research Grants Board, Scottish Horticultural Research Institute, Scottish Crop Research Institute, Court of Hull University, and a Directorship of Mylnefield Research Services Ltd and of University of Leeds Farms Ltd. He has a long association with the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, which he has retained since his retirement. Not that his retirement is to be quiet, as the Secretaries of State for Agriculture, for Scotland and for Wales have reappointed him for a fourth 3 year term on the UK Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Donald has long been a member of the British Society of Parasitology, and was its Vice President (1976–78) and President (1978–80). He is a Fellow of the Institute of Biology and of the Zoological Society of London. The latter awarded him its Scientific Medal in 1972. He has visited and worked in many countries, including the Slovak Republic, Canada (where he continued his long collaboration with the late Professor Ken Wright), USA, Sarawak, Malaysia, and Hong Kong. In Hong Kong he was a Royal Society/Kan Tong-Po Visiting Professor in 1989–90 and a British Council/University of Hong Kong Visiting Professor in 1992; he has continued his long academic collaboration with Professor R.C. Ko in Hong Kong.

So what of Donald the man? To all who know him, he is unfailingly polite, concerned for others, sometimes reserved, but always ready to join in the fun. To be popular with the students, academic staff and administration is no mean feat. However, he is the first to admit that Shirley Lee is integral to his career and private life. She has been a wonderful ally, companion and advisor, and must, although probably won't, take enormous credit for Donald's success.

Few of us doubt that Donald will quietly disappear. While he is glad to shed the academic burdens ('been there, done that') he will still play a role in the University and national academic life. He and Shirley have returned to his home locality in Northumberland where no stone is unturned (literally in renovating his cottage). We wish them both a long and happy retirement.'

The publishers, CAB International and I also offer our sincere and best wishes to Donald and Shirley Lee in their retirement. We are delighted to have the opportunity of publishing selected papers from the Symposium held at the University of Leeds, together with contributions from colleagues who were unable to attend. The remainder of this issue of the *Journal of Helminthology* contains research papers submitted in the usual way.

Professor John Lewis
Editor