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Frank Jordan

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About the cover

Professor Frank T W Jordan MBE, BSc, PhD, DSc, DPMP, FRCVS (1917–2015)

Frank Jordan was born in South Wales in 1917. His ambition was to be a farmer or a veterinarian and he duly qualified with a BSc in Veterinary Science (London) in 1941. Having served in Burma in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps in World War II, he returned to private veterinary practice, but in 1949 he moved to the UK Ministry of Agriculture, where his interest in poultry diseases was first stimulated. This led him, in 1952, to embark on his distinguished career at the University of Liverpool School of Veterinary Science and to become established as a leading poultry scientist, focussing on avian respiratory diseases and infectious laryngotracheitis in particular. In 1963 he took sabbatical leave at University of California, Davis to foster his growing interest in avian mycoplasmas and by 1966 he had raised sufficient UK funds to create a purpose-built laboratory at Liverpool's Leahurst campus, together with high containment poultry facilities and the means to recruit a new research team. He remained leader and mentor of this team until 1985, during which time this relatively small group produced more than 500 peer-reviewed publications on avian viruses and mycoplasma infections. In addition to his research, Frank lectured on poultry diseases to Liverpool veterinary students and also those at Bristol, Glasgow and Edinburgh universities. He initiated an MVSc course in Avian Medicine at Liverpool which attracted multinational students. Frank was held in great respect and affection by students and colleagues throughout his official working life and into his retirement years, being a constant source of wisdom and humour. In 1993, he was appointed a Member of the order of the British Empire (MBE) by Queen Elizabeth II in person, for his services to veterinary medicine. In 1995 he received the UK Poultry Industry Award for lifetime services. He had served as President of the Association of Veterinary Teachers and Research Workers and of the British Veterinary Poultry Association and was elected an Honorary Life Member. He was an early recipient of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Diploma in Poultry Medicine and Production, having helped to establish this award. He presented the Gordon Memorial Trust Lecture and received the Medal in 1985 and, after being made an Honorary Life Member of the World Veterinary Poultry Association in 1983, he was among its first Hall of Honour inductees in 2013. He retained an active interest in poultry diseases well into his retirement and his last published paper was co-authored at the remarkable age of 91.