

American Association of Avian Pathologists
Tribute to Charles A. Bottorff
(1901–1985)



Charles A. Bottorff, “Cab” as he was known internationally, died September 1, 1985, in Long Beach, Calif. Dr. Bottorff left a lasting imprint in the field of poultry diseases, poultry disease control, and poultry pathology and veterinary organizations, especially those dealing with feathers. He is survived by his wife, Veronica; his daughter, Louise B. Toft; and a sister, Aileen Lemley.

Born in Nebraska, Dr. Bottorff moved early with his family to the wheat country of Washington. He graduated from Washington State College (now Washington State University) with the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree and Bachelor of Science degree in Bacteriology in 1928. Shortly thereafter he moved to the University of New Hampshire as poultry diagnostician and assistant professor, teaching courses in poultry disease control. He was very active in the early days of control and final eradication of *Salmonella pullorum* infection. During this period he became an early member of what is now the Northeast Conference on Avian Diseases (NECAD), helping establish that organization.

In 1940, he moved to Lederle Laboratories at the beginning of the poultry boom, during those highly formative years when the antibiotics, coccidiostats, and a host of vaccines and new procedures came into being. Lederle Laboratories, known to most people nowadays as one of the forerunners of American Cyanamid, was in the forefront of that development.

Dr. Bottorff was one of the first to recognize and prove that the needs of the table egg producers on the West Coast differed sharply from those in the Northeast or from the farm flocks in the Middle West. This led to the development and packaging

of products particularly useful in disease control and the most effective application of products available to the poultry industry. He fostered research which led to the development of the erysipelas bacterin in Washington State, the *Mycoplasma gal-lisepticum* antigen in that state and California, and the series of live Newcastle disease vaccines. He conducted the field trials.

In the early 1950s, sensing that the diagnosticians in various parts of the nation did not have adequate opportunity to attend the national meetings to keep abreast of research and diagnostic developments, Dr. Bottorff persuaded Lederle and American Cyanamid to support conferences for poultry pathologists, providing the attendance and guaranteed participation of leading investigators in all parts of the nation, and paying the expenses of invited listeners. In 1957, it was at Dr. Bottorff's behest that the charter meeting of the American Association of Avian Pathologists was organized at the American Veterinary Medical Association meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. After the AAAP was formed, it was he who encouraged its acceptance of the responsibility for publication of *Avian Diseases*. It was Dr. Bottorff's idea to replace conventional advertising with a list of contributing supporters, and it was Dr. Bottorff who encouraged American Cyanamid to be the largest and most consistent of those contributing supporters in the early developing years. He suggested the idea of sustaining support for the regional meetings.

Ten years after its formation, Dr. Bottorff became President of the American Association of Avian Pathologists. It was in that year and the ensuing several that the AAAP grew to the stature it currently holds. If there was any formative genius behind the AAAP—any “father figure”—it would have to have been Dr. Bottorff.

Dr. Bottorff was also a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Poultry Science Association, the New York Academy of Science, and the U.S. Livestock Sanitary Association.

In 1975, at the Anaheim meeting of the AVMA Dr. Bottorff—retired since 1966 from American Cyanamid—became the first awardee of the AAAP Special Service Award.

There is very little in organized poultry medicine that was not touched and improved by Charles A. Bottorff. One of his tremendous characteristics was the way he cared deeply for the people with whom he worked and for the many people he contacted, professionally and personally. His greatest abilities were in organization, in the application of his own observations and other people's investigations, in the interpretation and use of knowledge, and in understanding the needs of people—contributors, but not necessarily leaders. These he helped the most. Dr. Bottorff loved fun, but if there was business to be taken care of, he was all business. No one ran a better meeting than he did. He was a strict time-keeper and task master, but always with a rare sense of good humor and consideration for his fellow workers.

Physically Cab was not a tall man, but in the eyes of those with whom he worked and of those who knew him and enjoyed his friendship, Cab Bottorff stood very, very tall.

A. S. ROSENWALD