



The Veterinary History Society

Newsletter July 2026

Welcome to the newsletter of the Veterinary History Society, and a special hello to new members who have joined the society in recent months; welcome and we hope that we will be able to meet you at one of our upcoming meetings. We look forward to your contributions to the society.

Since our last newsletter (May 2026) several developments have taken place which, we trust, will be of interest to our members.

The Website <https://thevhs.uk/>

We hope members have managed to explore the new website and found the information therein both interesting and helpful; we know that it will continue to evolve and develop. A few teething troubles have been identified and swiftly addressed (thank you to Robin Bone and Clare Boulton). Just a few typographical errors remain, and these will be corrected in the coming weeks.

British Society for the History of Medicine (www.bshh.org.uk)

Following discussions by the VHS Committee we have applied for, and been accepted as, an affiliate member of the British Society for the History of Medicine. In doing so we anticipate being able to link in with the BSHM and hopefully gain interest in our work from medical historians. We have been warmly welcomed by the President, Dr Hilary Morris, who writes:



‘To the Veterinary History Society

As President of the British Society of the History of Medicine, I am delighted to welcome the Veterinary History Society UK as our latest affiliate member. We are impressed at your long history, which predates the founding of BSHM – although just by three years. We hope our association will now continue for many further years, and that you will participate in our events and contribute to our publications.’

More details can be found at:

<https://bshh.org.uk/membership/affiliated-organisation/>

September 2026 Meeting and AGM

We will be holding a day meeting in London on **Monday, 14 September 2026**. This will commence at 10.00am with a visit to the Museum of Anaesthesia at 21 Portland Place and then move on to BVA Headquarters (7 Mansfield Street) for lunch, followed by two talks on veterinary history. Full details can be found at:

<https://thevhs.uk/annual-general-meeting/>

Numbers are limited and the meeting is already proving popular, so we would encourage early registration, to avoid disappointment.

The academic meeting will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Society. Nominations for the Officer and Committee posts should be sent to the Honorary Secretary (Clare Boulton) **by 1 September 2026**, at info@thevhs.uk.

The World Association for the History of Animal Health (WAHAH).

The association held its 47th Annual Congress in Seoul, South Korea in June 2026. The overarching theme was 'The History of Science and Policy for Animal Health' and more details can be found at the meeting's website:

<https://www.wahah2026.kr/html/?pmode=overview>

The next annual congress will be held in 2028 in Utrecht, Netherlands, we will provide more details as and when they are made available.

The Journal

The next edition of the journal should be distributed in the next few weeks. The editor has provided some suggestions regarding the format of articles at:

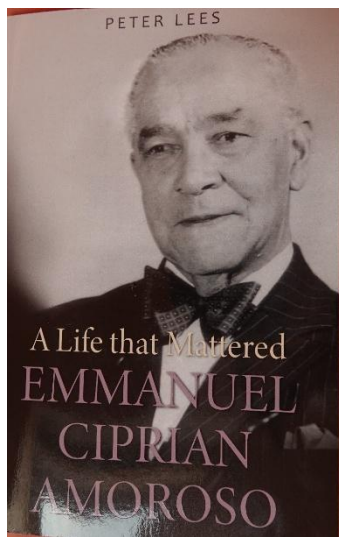
<https://thevhs.uk/submitting-articles/>

The editor, Teresa Johnston, welcomes any enquiries regarding potential submissions and will be only too happy to help authors. She may be contacted at:

editor@thevhs.uk

Please remember, articles relating to veterinary history (in its broadest sense) will be very welcome, be they long or short.

A Life That Mattered: Amo



Professor Peter Lees has recently published his biography of Emmanuel Ciprian Amoroso, invariably known as 'Amo'. A Trinidadian medical graduate he spent over 25 years at the Royal Veterinary College and influenced countless veterinary students, both at the RVC and further afield. His scientific contributions led to him being recognised around the world and being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

A Life That Mattered, can be purchased from Luca Di Filippo, RVC Shop, Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Herts AL9 7TA. The cost is £10 per copy, and all proceeds will go to the RVC Alumnus Association.

Spread the Word

Feel free to pass this newsletter on to any colleagues who may be interested to know more about the society.

Feedback

If you have any questions or feedback, then please do not hesitate to contact us at info@thevhs.uk

And finally: Veterinary Eponyms

Nettleship Dilator

The Nettleship dilator, (*vide infra*) an ophthalmic instrument used widely in both human and veterinary ophthalmology, for dilating the lachrymal puncta. Devised and



developed by Edward Nettleship (1845-1913) a veterinary and medical clinician, he was a graduate of the Royal Agricultural College (1863), the Royal Veterinary College (1867) and King's College London (1867). He had a stellar career in human ophthalmology, (FRCS 1870) advising the monarch and Prime Minister. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1912

The Edward Nettleship Prize was first awarded by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists in 1904 and continues to be awarded every 3 to 4 years.