

LAUDATIO GEORGES THEVES

Patrick De Backer

The members of the Sarton Committee, on the proposal of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, have elected Dr. Theves as a recipient of the George Sarton Medal and diploma for the academic year 2001-2002. It is my pleasure to introduce this colleague from the Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg, our neighbouring country.

Georges Theves (born in 1942) is the right person in the right place to deal with the theme of this Sarton medallist lecture which has to do both with animals and humans, with veterinary as well as with human medicine. As a veterinarian he is well acquainted with both sides of the medal. Not only is he the son of a mother *pharmacienne* and a father *médecin-dentiste*, since 2001 he has been the editor of the *Bulletin de la Société des Sciences Médicales du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg*. Dr. Theves became a member of the administrative council of the *Société des Sciences Médicales de l'Institut Grand-Ducal* in 1980 and from 1991 until 1999 he served as a vice-president for this organisation.

Also in his professional life Georges Theves was active in a multifaceted way. After graduating at the veterinary faculty of Brussels (1967) he started as a practitioner in large and in small animal medicine at Strassen and at Bridel (1968-1978). No doubt that this is the best way to become familiar with the very essence of veterinary medicine. Then Dr. Theves turned his attention into the second most important field of the veterinary profession: he became *directeur-adjoint* of the municipal slaughterhouse of the city of Luxemburg and he was active in this function until 1993. After a reorganisation, this task was to be continued along the same lines in the governmental veterinary inspection team, and in 1997, he finally became inspector in four large food companies.

Meanwhile Georges Theves developed an increasing interest in the history of his professional discipline. He became a member of the World Association of Veterinary Medical History in 1990 and in 1998 he was appointed member of the board of this organization and in the same year Theves assumed the function of assistant-editor of the journal "*Historia Medicinae Veterinariae*", a highly demanding and important job. His greatest prouws in relation to this journal was the edition of a well-stuffed "Festschrift" in honour of Prof. Ivan Katic, the

“founding father” of this unique journal who acted as editor-in-chief during 25 years.

As a concluding remark, I would like to add that there is no better illustration of the passionate interest of Georges Theves in these matters, than the fact that he authored over fifty publications in the field of veterinary medical history and domestic animals.

