

SARTON MEDAL LECTURES

LAUDATIO JOHAN MATTELAER

Robert Rubens

Mr. Johan Mattelaer is born in Courtrai in 1937. After finishing his secondary education in the Saint Amandsschool in Courtrai in 1955, he started his medical education at the university of Leuven. At the same university he graduated as MD in 1962. He became a surgical trainee at the Saint Joseph Hospital in Bruges and the Our Lady Clinic in Knokke. Following the preliminary surgical training he became an urological surgeon during two years peregrination through Europe. The first place where he went was Prof. Moonen, head of department urology in Nijmegen. Later he also went to the University of Lille, department of urology (Prof. Wemeau) and the university of Innsbruck (Prof. Marberger). Meanwhile he spent short periods in London, at the Hospital for Sick Children (Dr. Ines Williams) and the Middlesex Hospital (Dr. Tuner Warwick).

In 1969 dr. Mattelaer received the ministerial approval as an urological surgeon allowed to work in the Belgian health services. In the same year he also gained the ECFMG certificate.

Dr. Mattelaer is a founding member of the “Belgische Vereniging voor Urologie” and has been president of the society in the period 1990-1992. In 1973 he became member of the “Société Belge d’Urologie”, holding the office of vice-president in 1994 to 96 and president in 1997 to 99.

He has been an extraordinary member of the Dutch Society for Urology from 1975 to 1998.. He has been member of the European Society of Paediatric Urology from 1992 to 1999.

Currently he is member Belgian – Dutch Society of Fertility, the European Association of Urology and The Société Internationale d’Urologie.

Dr.Mattelaer is a fellow of the European Board of Urology and became a member of the residency review committee of the European Board of Urology.

Dr.Mattelaer has been accepted and confirmed as a tutor and a mentor in the specialisation of Urology since 1986.

His research commitment has been recognised by becoming a member of the European Organisation for the Research and Treatment of Cancer from 1990 to 1997;

Dr.Mattelaer was a lecturer extra-muros at the Katholieke universiteit of Leuven from 1988 to 1993 and was a lecturer at the Training college for Nurses in Courtrai from 1972 to 1997.

In 1969 he started working in the city of Courtrai as a consultant in the department of urology of the hospital. At the start he was the head of department of urology in The Our Lady Hospital in Courtrai remaining there until 1988, later (since 1988) he was the head of the department of Urology of the Saint Martin Hospital in Courtrai.

Dr. Mattelaer published more than 142 papers in the international and local medical press about all subjects of urology. His major interests were the uretral surgery, the correction of hypospadias, cancer of the prostate, male impotence and fertility, anti-androgens and uro-oncology.

During the same period dr.Mattelaer became more and more interested in the history of Urology. In the latter field he produced also more than forty papers. As we however know it is in producing books that reputation and excellence is seen in the historical field.

Dr. Mattelaer , who is a world traveller selected during years of solid effort pictures of the phallus world wide. The result of this exercise produced "The Phallus in Art and Culture", his opus magnum of 151 pages, existing in Dutch and English. It discusses the presence of phallic symbols in all cultures. The reader is confronted with pictures as well from ancient Egypt, the pre-Colombian America as modern culture.

Furthermore by picture and background study it unambiguously proves that phallic culture is present everywhere.

More recently he published "From ornamentation to mutilation", a new book of 172 pages with more than 320 pictures about the castration and all the circumcision during all historical periods and cultures.

Recognised by the European Urological Society as the expert on the history of urology dr.Mattelaer is one of the editors of "De Historia Urologiae Europae".

All these activities never let dr.Mattelaer forget our universal duty towards the less favoured of this world. It is important obligatory to mention that despite a full professional life and his historical endeavours dr. Mattelaer participated to numerous missions in Cameroun, Zaire, Ruanda and Ethiopia where he used his surgical skills. The activity underlines and shows the deep human interest of his noble personality. It is therefore a privilege to be able to introduce him in this Sarton lecture.

In the lecture titled "About urinating, not being able to urinate and collection of urine" he will certainly let us travel around many techniques and historical instruments of the urological practice.