

STEYN, DOUW GERBRAND (March 7, 1899, Colesberg, South Africa - July 25, 1988, Pretoria, South Africa). *Veterinarian; Toxicologist*. Son of Izak Jacobus Steyn and Deborah (née Du Plessis) Steyn. Married Grethe, 1927; Erna van Ryneveld, 1930.

EDUCATION : University of Stellenbosch, 1919, Bsc; University of Utrecht and University of Vienna, 1924: DipVetSc and 1925: DrMedVet; University of Pretoria, 1933:DVSc.

CAREER : 1926-1946, Research officer, lecturer and Head of Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute and Onderstepoort Veterinary Faculty; 1946 –1963, Professor of Pharmacology, Medical Faculty, University of Pretoria; 1963- 1965, Principal Research Officer, Division of Natural Sciences, South African Council for Nuclear Energy; 1965-1968, Professional Advisor to the Minister of Health; 1969 – 1975, Pharmacological Advisor to the pharmaceutical company Noristan Laboratories; 1975 – 1978, Scientific Advisor, National Botanical Institute.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Was the pioneer research worker on veterinary plant poisonings and mycotoxicoses in southern Africa. Published extensively in both the scientific and lay press, especially on plant poisonings. Work resulted in recognition and consequent avoidance of the many uniquely southern African, often massively fatal plant intoxications.

HOMAGES & DISTINCTIONS : Awarded the following: 1941, Senior Captain Scott Medal of South African Biological Society; 1954, Havenga Prize for Medicine of South African Academy for Science and Art; 1975, Gold Medal of South African Veterinary Association; 1977, DVSc *honoris causa* by the University of Vienna; 1980, DVSc *honoris causa* by the University of Pretoria. 1970, gave Theiler Memorial Lecture (on invitation) at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Faculty.

WRITINGS : Author or co-author of more than 200 publications in scientific and lay press — no published reference available. Among the publications: DG Steyn, 1934. The toxicology of plants in southern Africa”, Central News Agency Ltd: South Africa; DG Steyn, 1936. “The problem of dental caries and the fluoridation of water supplies” (in Afrikaans), Voortrekker Pers Bpk: Johannesburg; DG Steyn, 1947. “Eating habits, drugs and disease” (in Afrikaans), Van Schaik Ltd: Pretoria; DG Steyn, 1949. “Poisoning in man and animals” (in Afrikaans), Van Schaik Ltd: Pretoria.

REFERENCES/OBITUARIES: University of Pretoria graduation documentation, 10 October 1980; Who is who in South Africa, 1979.

TW NAUDÉ