



Dietrich (Dieter) Richard Osterhoff: 14 March 1925-08 January 2014

Dieter Osterhoff was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 1925 on the farm Landhausen, near Keulen in Germany. He married South-African Bonnie Engel in 1957 on his 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday in Pretoria, South Africa. He graduated from Agricultural High School in Westfalen and in 1951 received a Dip Agric. After 5 years of study in Uppsala Sweden he received a DAgric from the University of Giessen in 1956. Following postdoctoral studies in the United States he was recruited by the South African Department of Agriculture to start a blood group laboratory at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute. Upon his transfer to the Faculty of Veterinary Science, as professor and head of the Department of Zootechnology, the services of the laboratory continued until a laboratory for routine bloodtyping in cattle was established at Irene in 1968. He obtained a DSc. (Genetics) in 1968 from the University of Pretoria based on bovine bloodtyping. In

1982 he established a cytogenetics laboratory for the study of chromosomes in animals. In 1989 he established an equine blood typing laboratory in connection with a service agreement with the Jockey Club of South Africa. He authored numerous papers as well as 2 books. He also travelled extensively visiting different faculties and laboratories all over the world. He acted as a guest lecturer at the universities of Lorenzo Marques (Maputo), Gent, Berlin, München, Ascuncion, Montevideo and Helsinki. Dieter faithfully attended conferences of the International Society of Animal Genetics (ISAG). The last conference he attended was, after his retirement, in Prague 1994, when he wrote his personal conference anecdotes which were published in Animal Genetics Volume 27, June 1996. He was very proud of the many friendships established in connection with ISAG participation.

Dieter always maintained close relationships with farmers' organizations, breed associations and individual farmers and went to great lengths to facilitate the involvement of his students in practical activities. Today many of the activities introduced by him are still performed in the department.

Dieter retired in 1990. In his lifetime he received many awards, both in South Africa and in Germany. He mastered six languages. Being a citizen of the world he also undertook further overseas trips visiting his family and friends. To meet with him, you had to schedule an appointment otherwise he might not have been home, for he was living a very busy life right until the end. With his power failing, he was scheduled for heart surgery a week later.

His memorial service was held in the sacred atmosphere of the same church where he was married. Dieter is survived by his wife Bonnie, three daughters: Suzanne, Bondina and Marianne as well as five grandchildren. In his 88 years of blessed life "Everything is grace".