

Obituary **Dr Jean Horton**

Jean Mary Horton epitomized for many years the life and soul of the History of Anaesthesia Society (HAS). She was one of the overseas founder members of the Society in 1986, as at that time she was working at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Shatin, Hong Kong. On retirement in 1989, she returned to her home in Cambridge, England. From the following year she became a regular attender at HAS meetings, and in 1991 she was elected to the Council. Soon after she was appointed Assistant Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary. She served as Treasurer/Membership Secretary from 1994 to 1998 and President from 1998-2000.

The year 2000 was by no means the end of her services to the HAS. She continued to be a fine ambassador of the Society at International History of Anaesthesia meetings up to 2013. Notably, she played a major role in the organization of the very successful 6th International Symposium on the History of Anaesthesia, which was hosted by the HAS in Cambridge in September 2005. Her energy and enthusiasm were inspirational. One had to admire her driving herself from Cambridge to Caithness in the far north of Scotland at the age of 90.

Jean Horton was born in Weymouth, Dorset in 1924. She was Head Girl at Queenswood School (Hertfordshire) and then proceeded to qualify in Medicine in London in 1948. She obtained the FFARCS by examination in 1958. After various jobs, she was appointed Consultant Anaesthetist with interest in neurosurgery in 1960 in Edinburgh, where she worked until 1970. During 1968-69 she took 14 months unpaid leave to work as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Anaesthetics at the teaching hospital at the University of Lagos, Nigeria. On return she heard from her friend Aileen Adams, a Consultant Anaesthetist at Addenbrooke's Hospital that a consultant post for a neuro-anaesthetist was becoming available in the Department of Neurological Surgery in Cambridge. She duly applied for this position and was selected after interview. After serving her required notice in Edinburgh, she moved to Cambridge in August 1970. During her years as a consultant in the UK, she published several peer reviewed papers on the role of the anaesthetist in care of head injuries and anaesthesia for neurosurgery. She was elected to the Council of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great

Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) in 1976 and served as Honorary Secretary from 1980 to 1982.

Jean left Cambridge in 1983 to be Consultant Anaesthetist at the Prince of Wales Hospital and Senior Lecturer at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Remarkably she learned to speak Cantonese. She joined the organizing committee for the 7th Asian and Australasian Congress of Anaesthesiology, which was held in Hong Kong in September 1986 most successfully. Funds generated from this were used to set up the Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists, which was founded in September 1989. Jean was elected to the first Council of this College and received Fellowship number 0008. Full details of her career can be found in her book *Heads for Medicine*, published by Bound Biographies in 2011.

In her retirement years, perhaps her main interest was in the history of anaesthesia – she published 11 papers in *The History of Anaesthesia Society Proceedings*. However, she also devoted much time to genealogy, singing in choirs and learning Spanish. She was elected an Honorary Member of the AAGBI in 1996 and an Honorary Member of the HAS in 2001. Jean very much enjoyed her social engagement at the HAS scientific meetings up to the one in Iffley in 2016, after which declining health prevented her attendance. Her cheerful presence is certainly missed.

Alistair McKenzie
Past President, History of Anaesthesia Society