



Young Scholars Award Projects

39th Congress, World Association for the History of Veterinary
Medicine, Antalya, Turkey, September 2010

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First Prize: Timothy Newfield (McGill University, Canada)

“A Cattle Panzootic in Early Fourteenth-Century Europe”

In the early 1300s, annals, chronicles, correspondence, petitions, and poems all document severe mortalities of cattle in regions as distant as Mongolia and Iceland. Relevant passages from this literature are collected here and used with manorial accounts from England and Wales to illuminate a European cattle panzootic that spread west from central Europe ca. 1315, in the context of a widespread subsistence crisis (the Great European Famine) and persisted in Ireland until ca. 1325. The origins, duration, and extent of the pestilence are considered and a relatively detailed picture of its epizootiology is drawn. How the panzootic might be retrospectively diagnosed and why a diagnosis should be attempted is also discussed.

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Second Prize: Delphine Berdah (Imperial College London, England)

“Viande, santé publique et expertise vétérinaire en France dans le dernier quart du XIX^e siècle ”

This paper addresses the question of how antibiotics were first introduced into British agriculture and to what purposes. It shows two different movements: a “medical” movement, with veterinarians appropriating the newly synthesized drug of penicillin to cure mastitis, a common disease of dairy cows, seriously impeding the milk industry. And a second one, led by pharmaceutical companies and manufacturers of compound food for animals, which turned antibiotics into a nutritional factor. Based on study of the archives of the British Ministry of Agriculture and the British MRC, this paper questions the expertise—of veterinary practitioners, medical and agricultural advisers, bacteriologists, and pharmaceutical company employees—on the interest of using antibiotics to improve animal health, within the post-war context of increased production, scientific competition, and controlled trials of human therapeutics.

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Third Prize: Berfin Melikoğlu (Ondokuz Mayıs University, Turkey)

“The Historical Development of the First Society for Animal Protection in Turkey”

The New Urbanism concept, which emerged in the Ottoman State in the late 19th century, led to the implementation, for the first time, of a policy for the destruction of stray animals. Following the proclamation of the Second Constitutional Era, dogs, which were collected from the streets of Istanbul, were sent to Sivri Ada, otherwise known as Hayirsiz Ada, and were left to die. While this event triggered the idea of founding non-governmental organizations for the protection of animals, the continuation of similar maltreatment of animals drew the strong reaction of animal rights defenders. The first society founded in Turkey with an aim to protect animals, namely the “Istanbul Society for the Care of Animals” was established in 1912 under the leadership of military and civil bureaucrats. However due to the eruption of World War I, the Society was obliged to cease its activities in 1914. The re-evaluation of the issue under the restructuring efforts of the Republican Government resulted in the re-foundation of the Society in 1923 and its activities, which were officially re-launched on March 6, 1924, have continued to date. The present study was aimed at offering an insight into the historical development of the “Istanbul Society for the Care of Animals” (Istanbul Himâye-i Hayvânât Cemiyeti) otherwise known as the Turkish Society for the Protection of Animals (Türkiye Hayvanlari Koruma Derneği) today.

Congratulations to these young scholars, whose distinguished careers are just beginning!