

John Lilleyman

Editor 1986–1992

On 31 December 1992 John Lilleyman retired after seven years' service as Editor of the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*. He was the fourth Editor since 1944, the second to spend long days tramping through rocky wastes with only the birds and Walter Timperley for company, and the first radically to change the face of the Journal. The results of the improvements in content, size, and presentation are before you.

It is folklore that there is a Scottish mafia in pathology, but what of the great contribution of Sheffield's *cosa nostra* to the Association of Clinical Pathologists? The ACP was born with Sheffield men as godfathers and flourishes now with Walter, David Harris, and David Winfield as the second generation. John enjoyed a few years at Barts (not least because he met his wife in the Great Hall) and then returned to Sheffield, from where in recent years he has served as member of Council and of the Finance Committee of the ACP.

Before he became editor, John was well versed in journal matters. He first became associated with this Journal in 1981, when as publications secretary for the ACP he worked with Gerry Slavin on articles for these pages. Over the past 10 years he has been a member of the editorial boards of three major British journals, is presently on the boards of two others, and has always brought their best ideas home to *J Clin Pathol*. Working with him has been instructive, hilarious, and inspiring. Happily for us, he has agreed to stay with our board for the next five years.

As well as editing the Journal, John has found time to lecture in Brazil and Japan, hold workshops in Cyprus and Germany, and work on committees for the Medical Research Council and Department of Health in London. His apparently limitless planning



and creative abilities have contributed much to setting up the national scheme for laboratory accreditation; as a result, this is now established as a fully functioning organisation. In recognition, the Royal College of Pathologists awarded him its first Distinguished Service Medal in 1991. He is currently a Member of Council of the College. In paediatric haematology his work on 6-mercaptopurine and the classification of childhood leukaemia has earned him the high respect of his colleagues, and his contributions will continue for many years yet.

But what of the man? Does he have wit, flair, and good humour, that allow him to cope with so much? Does he give excellent after dinner speeches? Of course he does. Does he think that his input into the Journal is now over? I certainly hope not.

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