



IN MEMORIAM

John Donald Graham

John Donald Graham was born, grew up and went to school in Lichtenburg in the Western Transvaal.

Despite his Scottish name John was at heart an Afrikaner, conservative by nature but by no means blind to their faults, and was never afraid to say so. The principles installed in him as a boy stood him in good stead throughout his life — he was a stickler for etiquette. The welfare of his patients and the satisfaction of his surgeons were always of prime concern.

But dour he certainly was not — he could be cynical and sarcastic to the extreme, but this was always tempered by a delicious and at times wicked sense of humour. He had the gift of being able to approach a problem — be it medical, social or political — from an angle no one had ever dreamt of and would derive immense pleasure from debating this with whosoever would dare or be willing.

After qualifying at the University of Pretoria (UP), he went into general practice in Frankfort for 8 years and Bethlehem for 4 years, during which time he obtained a Diploma in Anaesthetics at the Royal College, London. In 1968 he returned to the UP to specialise in anaesthesiology and was awarded the African Oxygen Gold Medal for the most distinguished candidate in the final of the FFA College of Medicine, South Africa. Thereafter he passed the MMed (Anaes) at UP *cum laude* — two most remarkable achievements about which most of his colleagues are quite unaware. He then joined a large partnership practice in Pretoria.

During this time he indulged in his hobbies of model aeroplanes, and duck-hunting during the cold winter months in the Free State. His idea of an overseas holiday was to go to Bavaria and spend the entire time in the Porsche factory.

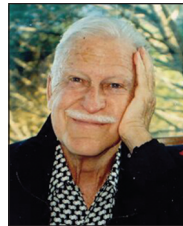
Shortly after entering private practice he served as an external examiner at the College of Medicine FFA and it was common knowledge that at one stage he was invited to apply for the Chair in Anaesthesiology at UP. After much soul-searching he declined and remained in full-time practice until 1991 and in part-time practice until 2001 when he retired due to ill health.

John is survived by his wife Ann, daughter Sandra and sons John and Bobby.

We can only offer them our sincere condolences and assure them that he is sadly missed both as a friend and colleague.

John Williams

Roy David Allan



Roy Allan was born on 19 December 1927, the second of three children. As a young boy he showed a keen intelligence and sensational hunger for knowledge. After discovering the public library, his search for truth and knowledge persisted for the rest of his life. He showed exceptional talent for drawing and music and won many prizes at regional eisteddfodau. As a 14-year-old he won the medal in the senior's section for piano.

He matriculated at the age of 15 years, and enrolled as a medical student at Witwatersrand University where he was soon absorbed and accepted into a crowd of young Jewish students. He visited their homes regularly and became fascinated by all forms of Jewish tradition and religion.

Many of his fellow graduates became distinguished specialists and practitioners in South Africa, the USA and Israel including Dennis Glauber, Bunny Tebatsnik, Walter Levy and others.

Roy spent his internship at Pietersburg Hospital, after which he worked for two years as a medical officer for a number of asbestos mining companies. Exposure to white asbestos dust, with which the roads were covered, resulted in extensive pleural plaques, which in later life caused severe respiratory problems.

Soon after his marriage in 1954 he left for London where he obtained his Diploma in Anaesthetics. Thereafter he worked for some months for Anglo American at the Nkana Hospital in the Copper belt of Northern Rhodesia. In order to gain enough time for registration as a specialist with the SAMDC he spent some years in the Anaesthetics Department at Karl Bremer Hospital. He eventually entered private practice and for close on 40 years worked with many famous surgeons including Francie van Zijl, Muller Botha, Ben Dreyer, Herman Claassen, Jacques Roux, Delamaine du Toit and the legendary urologist, Japie Joubert.

As an accomplished painter he had two very successful one-man shows apart from a number of group exhibitions.

Due to a serious personal crisis in his midyears he joined AA, where he encountered the slogan 'through prayer and meditation I shall regain my sanity'. He joined the Buddhist movement to follow the philosophy and meditation, gaining tremendous inner peace and tranquillity.

Despite severe and increasing health problems he retained his sense of humour and *joie de vivre*. He was a well-known sight on his scooter in the City Bowl and especially the Waterfront, where he loved to sketch and paint the ships and yachts.

In early January he developed an abscess which led to septicaemia and recalcitrant pneumonia. He died peacefully at home on 10 February 2003, surrounded by his devoted and caring family practitioner, his partner and his two beloved dogs, Timmie the Dachshund and Lady, the Maltese Poodle. He leaves his ex-wife, four children, seven grandchildren as well as Deon Knobel, his close companion for 39 years.

Maria Massing, *Fellow Retired Anaesthetist*