

Barrie Marmion Personal Reminiscences

In 1962 I was shortlisted for the position of Foundation Chair of Microbiology and met with the Chair Committee in London - Mac Burnett, the Dean Rod Andrew, Prof Terry Spooner (Bacteriology) from the London School of Hygiene. -

At that time I was in charge of the Regional Virus Laboratory PHLS in Leeds This was a new laboratory and we had built a house on an estate outside of Leeds near Wetherby.

The news that I had been appointed to the Monash Chair arrived at the end of 1962, and we left Leeds in the spring to travel to Melbourne on the Arcadia via the Suez Canal. We enjoyed the trip after the intense 10 years of setting up the Leeds laboratory and standard virus techniques, the laboratory work for smallpox in Bradford, for poliomyelitis in Hull and completing the research on Eaton's PAP agents and contributing with Gillian Woodburn to its recognition as a mycoplasma, *M. pneumoniae*, and, in 1959, Q fever endocarditis.

We finally arrived at Port Melbourne where we were scheduled to be met by the Dean, Rod Andrew but this did not eventuate. Fortunately Diana's family was dockside to meet us and we went to a house in Burwood that Diana's mother had arranged.

The house at Burwood was not very suitable and I found a modern apartment on Riversdale Road. I then made the choice of Ford Falcon over a Holden and our daughter, June, was accepted into Lauriston where she made great friends. Later, we found a nice 2nd floor apartment in a block of four at Monomeath Avenue near the crossing at Gardeners Creek. At last we could unpack our furniture still in the crates from Yorkshire.

The arrival experience taught me that the accommodation of staff at new universities could be better arranged and that it falls to the Head of Department to ensure that new family joining the department are looked after properly. I should add that our experience was not limited to Monash as when we moved to Edinburgh in 1968 we had similar problem

We were encouraged by the welcome we got from the people we had met during the year we had spent at the Hall Institute in 1951; the Jacksons (Pathology) were particularly helpful.

At the Melbourne Department of Microbiology, Syd Rubbo was about to move into his new department with an established and very qualified staff; the contrast with our situation could not have been more sharp edged. Again, individuals were warm and welcoming; David White lingers in the memory.

Tom McAvan set up the media and supply sections of the department and all the other basics. Geoff Cross joined us from a cadetship at CSL. A major step forward on the bacteriological side was Trevor Willis' decision to return to Australia which helped with deciding course objectives. We were most fortunate that our students could benefit from

the excellent 'virology and bacteriology interaction' in the clinical area at Fairfield ID Hospital. John Forbes and colleagues and Alan Ferris in the laboratory were a constant illustration of the need to interrelate pathogenesis, clinical trials and laboratory diagnostic process. It married precisely with our philosophy for the clinical years of the Monash course. We got through the first years of the clinical course with the support from the Fairfield group and the Alfred Hospital (Glen Buckle).