

Goethe and Cows: Milestones of the 200 Years of Veterinary Science in Jena (Germany) (1816–2016)

Review of Levit, Georgy S., Uwe Hoßfeld and Petra Reinhold (eds.) “Meilensteine aus 200 Jahren Theirarzneykunst in Jena (1816–2016)”

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The volume “Meilensteine aus 200 Jahren Theirarzneykunst in Jena (1816–2016)”, edited by Georgy S. Levit, Uwe Hoßfeld and Petra Reinhold⁵ celebrates the 200th anniversary of veterinary medicine in Jena in general and the prehistory of the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (Bundesforschungsinstitut für Tiergesundheit) (FLI) in particular. It brings together a wide range of local authors both from history and history of science but also from veterinary medicine to present a

chronologically organized micro-history of the field from the vantage point of the current FLI. At its core based on research commissioned for the anniversary by the FLI itself, many authors use their previous work on the history of Jena university and the history of biology in Jena, but also their anecdotal knowledge about the history of local veterinary medicine to contextualize a history focused on institutions and biographies.

The volume starts with a number of honorary addresses from local and national politicians and officials. The historical part of the book consists of roughly four sections, in which general parts on the broader historical context and the history of Jena university complement parts on the history of veterinary medicine in Jena more specifically. The first section deals with the period around 1800, Johann Wolfgang Goethe’s influence on veterinary medicine and Theobald Renner as the first director of Thierarzneyschule, the first institution for veterinary medicine in Jena. The second section is dedicated to Karl Hobstetter’s reign, who became professor of veterinary medicine in 1911. In the third part, the authors treat the period of National Socialism and the professorship of Victor Goerttler. The fourth section treats the period after 1945.

The volume portrays the history of veterinary medicine in Jena as a history shaped between global patterns in political history and history of science and local developments, e. g. Goethe’s omnipresent influence or Jena’s particular history during the Third Reich. This is most explicitly spelled out in the main argument of the book, which asserts a transition from holistic but rather visionary beginnings under Goethe via a period of consolidation under Hobstetter to the highly integrated biopolitical agenda of Goerttler, who boosted basic research and initiated

⁵ Meilensteine aus 200 Jahren Theirarzneykunst in Jena (1816–2016) / Levit, G.S.; Hoßfeld U., Reinhold P. (eds.). Verlag der DVG Service GmbH, Gießen, 2016. 256 S.

a kind of veterinary “big science”. Even though somewhat characteristic of anniversary publications, the heterogeneity of parts and contributions is a bit distracting. Honorary addresses are mixed with personal memories of contemporaries and texts by historians. This impression becomes even stronger by the lack of author names in the table of contents as well as the lack of any additional information about the rather high number of authors, who appear in varying combinations. As a last point of criticism, the unfortunate type face has to be mentioned, which makes reading rather trying.

This anniversary publication offers an informative micro-perspective on a highly local historical development from a variety of perspectives. Densely contextualized, it identifies a number of decisive transitions and key actors in the field of veterinary medicine in Jena from its inception around 1800 until today. It is lavishly illustrated and offers a lot of factual information about the respective institutions and persons.

Гёте и коровы: веги 200-летней ветеринарной науки в Йене

Рецензия на книгу “Meilensteine aus 200 Jahren Theirarzneykunst in Jena (1816–2016)” (Ред.: Левит Г.С., Хоссфелд У., Рейнхолд П., Гиссен, 2016)

КРИСТИАН РЕЙСС

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Том «Meilensteine aus 200 Jahren Theirarzneykunst in Jena (1816–2016)» под редакцией Георгия Левита, Уве Хоссфельда и Петры Рейнхолд, отмечает 200-летие ветеринарной медицины в Йене в целом и предысторию Института Фридриха Лёффлера (Национальный институт здоровья животных) (ИФЛ) в частности. Он объединяет широкий круг местных авторов как из истории, так и из истории науки, а также из ветеринарной медицины, и представляет собой хронологически организованную микроперспективу исторического развития ИФЛ. Книга демонстрирует ряд решающих событий и ключевых участников в области ветеринарной медицины в Йене с момента её создания (примерно с 1800 года) по сегодняшний день.