

HISTORIAN'S NOTE

The death on September 4, 1978 of Doctor Asa Seeds, our beloved Historian Emeritus, brought sadness to the hearts of all who had come to appreciate the devotion of this fine gentleman to the furtherance of The Society of Nuclear Medicine in its early formative years. My long personal friendship with him stemmed from our mutual interests in the Society, in its history, in the city of Columbus, and from our hobby of photography.

In his *President's News Letter* in October 1954, Asa demonstrated his interest in the history of basic aspects of nuclear medicine: "Effort is being made to get one of the background scientists of stature in the field of history of the field, for at least one lecture (hopefully, two) . . ." And Professor John Lawrence presented "Early Experiences in Nuclear Medicine" at the Annual Banquet on June 18, 1955, in Portland. Doctor Asa Seeds presided, as the second President of The Society of Nuclear Medicine.

And, in later years, he meticulously prepared informative pamphlets concerning the Honorees, and also the Essayists, who annually presented our Nuclear Pioneer Lectures. A treasured possession is the 12-page brochure furnished us regarding the second "Nuclear Pioneer Lecture to Commemorate Henri Becquerel, Marie Sklodovska Curie, and Pierre Curie" by Georg Charles de Hevesy on June 15, 1961.

At that meeting in Pittsburgh, Asa Seeds and Richard Peterson presented also a fine exhibit on some historical aspects of nuclear medicine, entitled "Early Clinical Use of Radioactive Indicators," having to do chiefly with "Studies of the Velocity of Blood Flow in Man Using Radium B & C (Pb-214, Bi-214)" by Herrmann Blumgart, Soma Weiss, and Otto Yens (during 1927-1929).

The members of the Awards Committee became especially cognizant of the unique contributions of Asa about a decade ago, and a desire was generated spontaneously among us suitably to recognize him and to demonstrate to him the gratitude of The Society of Nuclear Medicine. This took the form of The Distinguished Service Award of The Society, given on June 26, 1969: "For his devoted and meritorious service as an officer and Trustee of the Society since its beginning. The Society is grateful to Dr. Seeds for his sustained and effective efforts in building and guiding this Society toward achieving the objectives for which it was founded."

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The Society of Nuclear Medicine