



DR. T. H. STOBBS, B.Sc.(Agric.), Ph.D. 1932-1978.

HARRY STOBBS

An Appreciation

Dr. Stobbs died on 13th September, 1978 while still working for the CSIRO Division of Tropical Crops and Pastures. He was an enthusiastic member of the Tropical Grassland Society and was Editor of *Tropical Grasslands* in 1972 and 1973.

Born on a County Durham farm in 1932, Harry Stobbs read Agriculture at Durham University before obtaining a Postgraduate Diploma in Agriculture from Reading University and a Diploma in Tropical Agriculture from the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad. In 1967 he was awarded a Ph.D. by the University of East Africa.

Harry's scientific career was divided almost equally between Africa and Australia. He joined the Research Division of the Uganda Department of Agriculture in 1957 and from 1961 was in charge of the livestock improvement section at Serere Research Station. In the following eight years, Harry Stobbs published twenty-three scientific papers on livestock breeding, pasture evaluation and pasture management.

In 1969 Harry joined the CSIRO Division of Tropical Pastures and began his classic work on grazing behaviour. Within a year of his arrival he published in *Tropical Grasslands* a paper on grazing time. This was followed rapidly by the development of a range of equipment for measuring the various aspects of grazing behaviour. Having developed the equipment he initiated a series of experiments in which he derived a new understanding of grazing on different types of sward. People from all parts of the world came to see his work at Samford and scientists and non-scientists alike were fascinated by his special gift of conveying to them the excitement of his work. He was a gifted writer and during this period he published thirty-three scientific papers, nine reviews and five chapters in books of agricultural science.

Harry's help was widely sought both in Australia and overseas. He worked closely with State Government and University scientists and helped to bring the different groups closer together. A number of overseas scientists came to work with him at Samford and he was in demand to lecture and advise in overseas countries. Visits to Mexico and Florida had to be cancelled when he was taken ill in May.

It was a privilege to have worked with Harry Stobbs who in his tragically fore-shortened life contributed so much to our knowledge of tropical grasslands. He will be sadly missed.

D. J. MINSON