

REVISTA DE AGRICULTURA

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SIR RONALD IN BRAZIL¹**F. Pimentel Gomes²**

Sir Ronald Fisher came to Brazil in 1955, with many other famous statisticians. They went first to Petrópolis (State of Rio de Janeiro), and then to Campinas (State of São Paulo), to attend the Second International Biometric Symposium, on the 'Role of Biometric Techniques in Biological Research', held under the sponsorship of The Biometric Society and under the auspices of the University of São Paulo. The Symposium was held from 4-9 July 1955. The Programme Committee was C.L. Bliss, F.G. Brieger, W.G. Cochran, I.J. Crow, D.J. Finney, C.G. Fraga Jr., J.A. Rigney, and P.V. Sukhatme. The Local Organizing Committee was: F.G. Brieger, P. Mello Freire, F. Pimentel-Gomes, A. Groszmann, A.M. Penha, W.I. Stevens, and C.G. Fraga Jr. as Executive Secretary.

The Symposium was begun by a welcome address by the State Secretary of Agriculture, Raymundo Cruz Martins, followed by the address of W.G. Cochran, President of

¹ Trabalho transcrito do Biometric Bull., vol., 7, n.º 1, 1990.

² Escola Superior de Agricultura "Luiz de Queiroz", USP, Piracicaba.

The Biometric Society, on 'The 1954 Poliomyelitis Trial in the United States'.

The Symposium was attended by 98 participants, representing 17 countries. The nine sessions were:

- (1) Biometrical Genetics - *Chair*: F.G. Brieger;
- (2) Experimental Designs for Perennial Crops - *Chair*: W.G. Cochran;
- (3) Experimental Design - *Chair*: G. Darmois;
- (4) Panel Discussion on Experimental Designs for Perennial Crops - *Chair*: W.L. Stevens;
- (5) Statistics Applied to Animal Feeding Experiments - *Chair*: Miss B.B. Day;
- (6) Sampling Techniques - *Chair*: A.M. Flores;
- (7) Bioassay - *Chair*: R.A. Fisher;
- (8) Medical Statistics - *Chair*: J.W. Fertig;
- (9) Panel Discussion on Bioassay - *Chair*: A. Linder.

Session 4 was held in Piracicaba, during a one-day excursion, which included a visit to the Escola Superior de Agricultura "Luiz de Queiroz", of the University of São Paulo, and a social evening at the local Country Club (Clube de Campo de Piracicaba).

A visit to the Instituto Agronômico de Campinas and to its experimental fields was carried out on 8 July. On this same day, in the auditorium of the Instituto de Educação Carlos Gomes (Carlos Gomes High School), in Campinas, the Brazilian Region of The Biometric Society was founded. Sir Ronald was one of the scientists who signed the minutes of foundation.

One of the lecturers in the first session of the Symposium was H. Kalmus, who talked on 'Some Genetical Consequences of Cyclomorphosis'. At the beginning of the lecture, Sir Ronald, who was sitting on a chair in the first row of the audience, rose, walked slowly to the door, and went away. After the lecture, we Brazilians, astonished with that, were told that he used to this in every talk by Kalmus: an oddity of a genius, not known to us.