Board. As secretary of the Southern and East African Rabies Group for the past 12 years, he was the main driving force in addressing the rabies problem in sub-Saharan Africa.

Recognised as a leading rabies expert internationally, he delivered papers at congresses both in Africa and overseas, travelling to the U.S., Australia, Malaysia and Vietnam. He penned 15 scientific articles for various journals and was the author of five chapters – and co-authored five others – in the new veterinary textbook *Infectious Diseases of Livestock with special reference to Southern Africa*. This two-volume publication was published by the Oxford Press in 1994.

Together with Dr Paul Kloeck, he was the co-producer of the Rabies video *If Only I Knew* in English and Zulu, which is used in the education of the general public, while a highly regarded video *Rabies in Humans and Animals* is widely used in the training of doctors and veterinarians.

His interests and endeavours in the field of veterinary science, together with his knowledge and expertise, led to Bishop being awarded an honorary life membership of the SA Veterinary Association in 1988.

Brian Weaver, the director of veterinary services in KZN, said that ‘because of his modest nature, many people did not know that George was a superb microbiologist who was respected by vets throughout South Africa. It is going to be difficult, if not impossible, to replace someone of his calibre and of his experience and in-depth knowledge of animal diseases. His specific expertise was rabies, for which he was world renowned.’

Bishop travelled extensively throughout Africa with paediatrician John Godlonton, each addressing the problems of rabies from their different perspectives. ‘George played the major role in controlling and decreasing the incidence of both human and animal rabies in the province,’ said Godlonton. ‘His dedication and generosity were remarkable and he was held in the highest regard internationally.’

Bishop leaves his wife, Margie, and two sons.

JOHN BISHOP

**Phillip Alexander Clancey (1917–2001)**

Phillip Clancey, noted as both an ornithologist and an artist, died in Durban in 2001. He was born in Glasgow in 1917. As a young man he was a field assistant to the famous ornithologist Colonel Meinertzhagen, an eccentric Englishman of German ancestry who had fought in the World War I East African campaign, and had at one time been a spy. They once nearly shot each other in a heated disagreement over bustards in Namibia. Guns were drawn before the hired skinner stepped between the protagonists. Sanity prevailed and tempers cooled. On another occasion Clancey fell ill in a remote spot and was abandoned to his fate by Meinertzhagen.
Clancey himself saw service in World War II, where his pursuit of birds was probably a greater passion than the pursuit of Germans. He is on record as skinning a wryneck by torchlight in a trench during the battle of Crete. The specimen was of particular taxonomic importance.

Clancey had no formal tertiary education when he emigrated to South Africa in 1950. Nonetheless he was appointed curator of the Natal Museum in Pietermaritzburg. In the short time that he was in charge, he changed the appearance of the first two galleries downstairs completely. He moved the West African ethnological material out of gallery on the left, repainted, and restyled the entire gallery and turned it into a bird gallery. He taught himself to paint, most successfully, and did most of the artwork himself. Some of the murals are vast, and must have required immense dedication.

At the beginning of 1952 Clancey took up the position of director of the Durban Museum and Art Gallery where he remained until his retirement thirty years later.

He was a confirmed bachelor and the most ruthlessly dedicated and hardworking of ornithologists. He once said that there was no time for marriage. His professional life was everything to him. He produced over 700 scientific papers, mostly on taxonomy and biogeography. He was very well read in every sense, and enjoyed exercising his vocabulary when describing colour. He also wrote a number of books of which *The Birds of Natal and Zululand* (1964), the first comprehensive account of the birds of the province, *The Game Birds of South Africa* (1967) and *The Rare Birds of Southern Africa* (1985) are now valuable Africana. These he illustrated himself in his characteristic style, much admired.

His contributions to science were recognised by a number of awards and fellowships. In 1972 he was awarded the prestigious Gill Memorial Medal for services to ornithology, an award made irregularly, and only when an outstanding candidate is available. He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Natal in 1981.

Clancey had a famous professional rivalry with Colonel John Vincent, one time head of the Natal Parks Board and himself an ornithologist of note. On one occasion Vincent had him arrested for collecting without a permit. His shotgun was confiscated but, not deterred, Clancey bought it back at a subsequent auction.

Clancey never had much regard for unnecessary luxury, and retired to a small room in a residential hotel. He continued to write papers, but increasingly devoted himself to his painting. The style was unmistakable, rich colours, attention to detail, and always the correct ecological background. No more murals, by now there was great demand for his bird portraits. He was ever ready to paint pictures for his friends, charging on a sliding scale depending on his (always generous) assessment of the recipient’s need, worthiness and finances. Admirers’ opinions of his paintings mattered to him. One thought that the eye colour in a commissioned painting was wrong: Clancey corrected his ‘error’ on the spot with a single stroke of his paintbrush.
To many, Clancey seemed a formidable figure. Imposing in stature as well as achievement, never one to waste words, he did not appear to seek friendships. Indeed, they might have interfered with work. Serious and polite, he was also shy; brusqueness was merely a defence. Once this barrier was overcome he enjoyed company. Now out came his subtle humour. He was a great story-teller, of detailed memory, who never ran out of something worth hearing. He was also modest, one reason why none of his stories have been recorded, except in the memories of those fortunate to hear them first hand.

At Clancey’s memorial service tributes were paid. But the most impressive tribute, and the only one that would have embarrassed him, was the large number of his friends who came to wish him farewell.

DAVID JOHNSON

Lorna Davies (1911–2001)

Lorna Louise Davies died peacefully on June 29 at the age of 90.

She attended school at Collegiate and Girls’ High and then trained as a general nurse and midwife at Grey’s Hospital. She won the provincial gold medal for first place in her final examination and the Kenneth Gloag medal for first place in the 1933 final exams of South Africa (under the regulations of the SA Medical Council). She finally attended the University of the Witwatersrand and acquired a Diploma in Nursing Education and was appointed sister tutor at Grey’s.

Her potential for nursing administration and nursing education was recognised in 1951 when she was appointed the first chief nursing officer for Natal—a post which she held for 19 years until 1970. This position made her responsible for all nursing services and nursing education in all hospitals and clinics in Natal (over 50 in number), apart from psychiatric and public health institutions which were not under the control of provincial authorities.

Davies immediately began the huge task of becoming familiar with each institution until in the end she was fully aware of the problems and needs of each. This enabled her to plan and implement programmes to enhance the standards of nursing services and nursing education.

She promoted the creation of a nursing inspectorate at head office. Through the appointment of highly qualified and experienced nurses to inspector posts in the fields of nursing service, nursing education and operating theatre technique, high standards of professional nursing practice were attained.

She herself visited each hospital and clinic regularly. This entailed travelling across the length and breadth of Natal, often on poor roads in very isolated areas.