

Do NOT Forget the Seminar Today
Professor Alan Bull, Kent

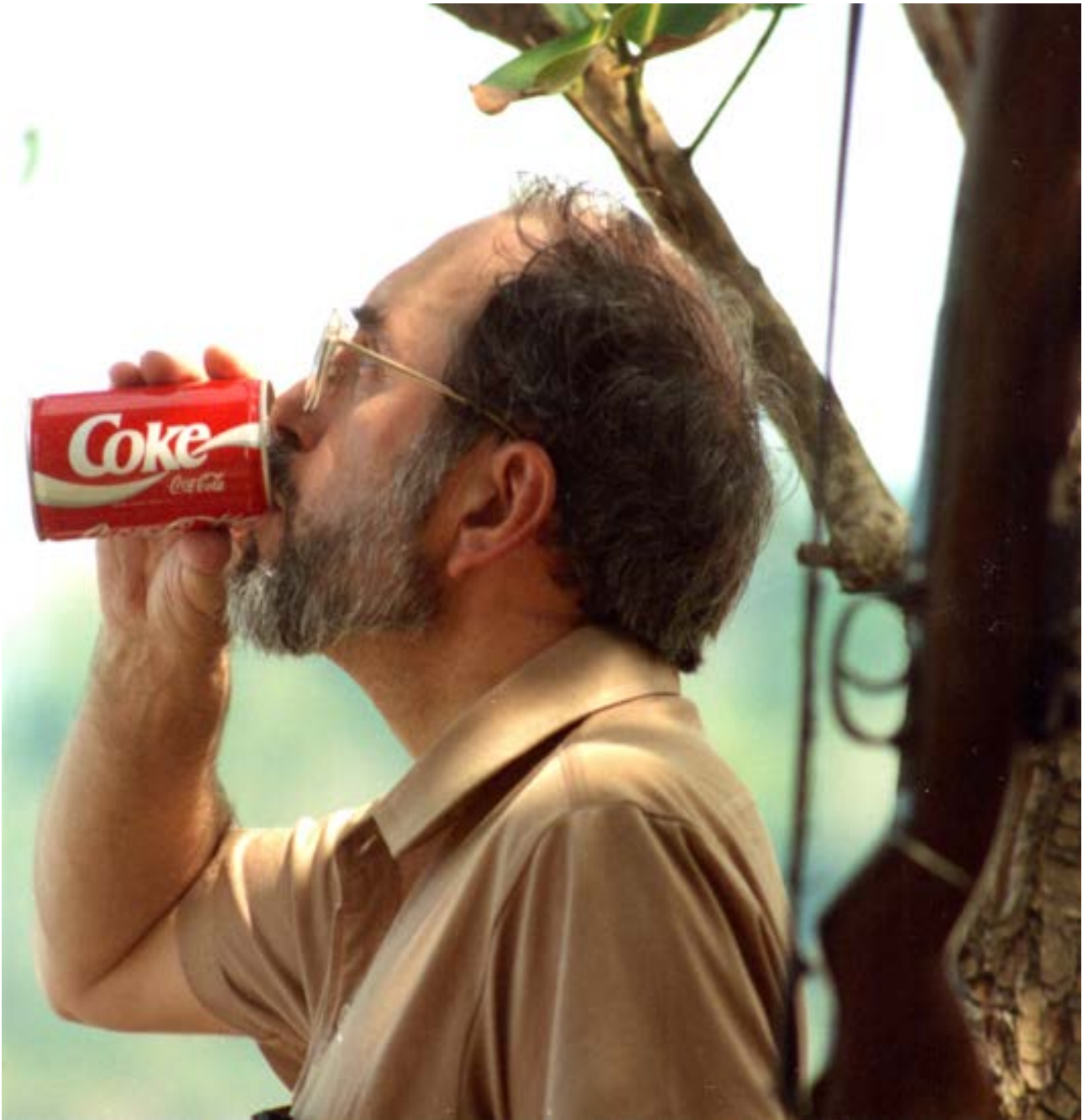
“Robert Koch - Father of Microbiology”

Is This Another Cock & Bull Story?

¹ On a Lecture Theatre Blackboard at Warwick University
Doh! Undergraduate Comedians







4 The Microbe Hunter Taking a Break



⁵ Getting on the Trail - Teetering on the Brink of Disaster (Several Times)



⁶ Contemplating First Achievements (or Lucky Escapes)

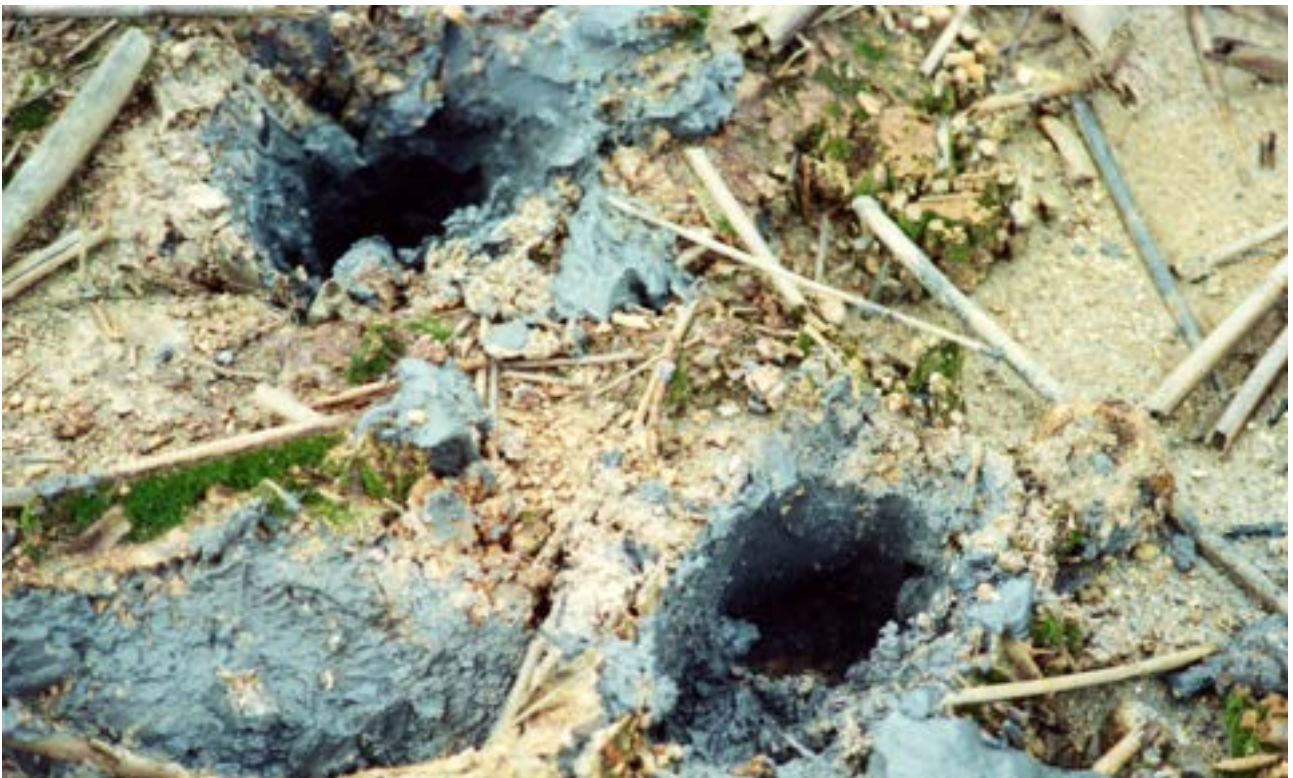




⁸ Mudskippers & Sulphur Mud Pinnacles
Nice Shoes, Look New



9 Trouble With Footwear?



¹⁰ How Much Were They? - Really, That Much!
And Now?



¹¹ Another Day, Another Place - Very (Very) Hot Springs
Northern Central Java



¹² Leave the Collecting to Trained (Expendable) Students
Could not Resist!



¹³ Candi Borobudur, Ninth Century Buddhist Temple, Three Levels of: **D**esire; **F**orm; & **F**ormlessness. Yogyakarta, South Central Java



¹⁴ (Top) The Coconut Picker, Fast Descent from Tree - *“Money for My Picture”*
Waving His Cutlass - Objective Achieved, Borobudur
(Bottom) Mounts Bromo & Semeru in Ancient Tengger Caldera



¹⁵ Mount Bromo Inside the Ancient Tengger Caldera, East Java



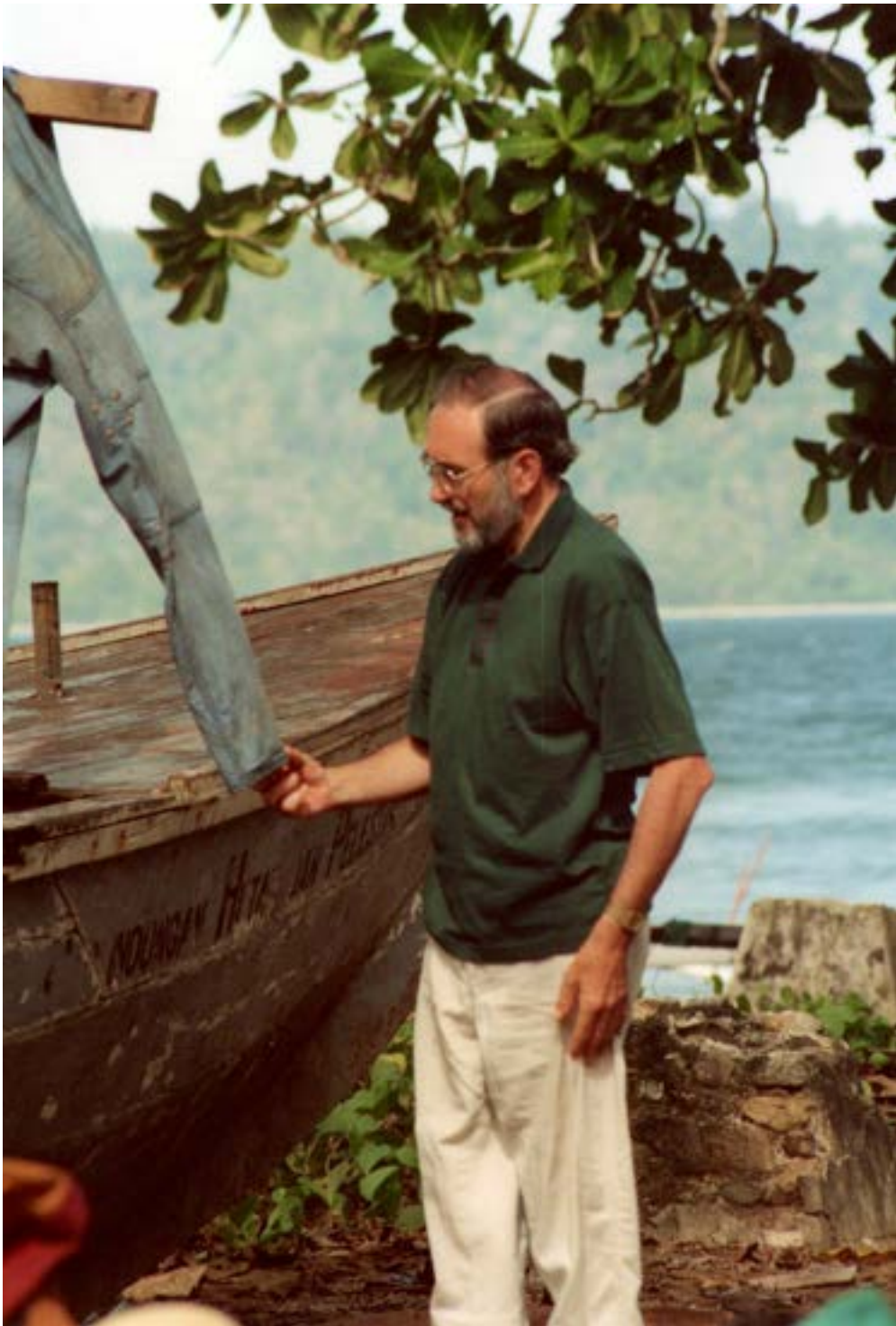
¹⁶ Did You Say “*Last Seen on North Side Bromo or Inside Bromo?*”
Spread Out!



17 Train to Bandung, West Java
Never Ever Travel Without My Two Punkah Wallahs & Sunshade
Attendant Tea Boys in Tow



18 “Travellers’ Palm
My God, Still Not There And 25 km in That?!”



19 “On Safety Grounds (On Water) This Canoe - Bigger & Better”



²⁰ Canoe Captain's Polished Crash Helmet Explained
Offshore Whirlpools Vicious - One Old Life-Ring per Boat
Watch the Spray - That's the Camera Done for Voyage Duration



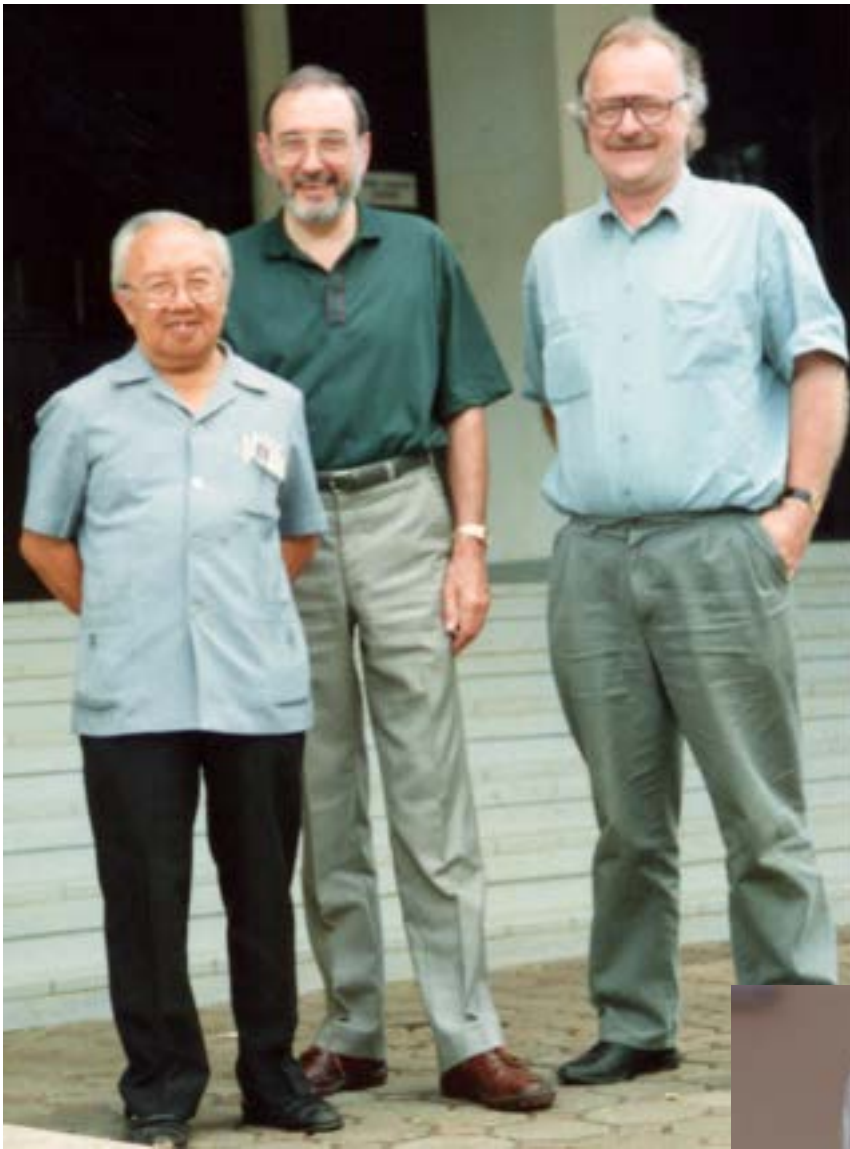
²¹ PHPA Ranger (Armed & *The Eyes Have It*) Permit OK, Fishing Illegal
Later Guides Traded Fish (Excellent), Open Fire, Dried Alan's Socks.
Kulon Peogo, Conservation Area, Coastal Central Java



²² Green Turtle Conservation - Villager Managed
Nightly New Nests Monitored, Eggs Removed to Rat-Secure Nest Nursery



²³ Economic Botany Delights - Rambutan, Mangosteen, Mango, Snakeskin Fruit, Lychee, 15 Banana Varieties & Durian (not shown). The Wallet Urgently Deployed Gourmet Session Bandung Hotel Guaranteed



²⁴ Professor Oei Ban Liang, Indonesian Biotechnology Guru
Consummate Host, Entertaining Dinner Companion
Divine Steak-Eating & Napkin Etiquette
Threatened North Sulawesi *Babirusa*, Iconic *Varanus komodoensis*
Incisors to the Fore Bandung, West Java,





²⁶ Hotel “Natural Resources”, Bandung, Capital of West Java.
One Thousand & Two Frogs, Nightly Concert in Courtyard & Reception,
Durian-Eating Experiences, Mystery Gecko Calls, Giant Forest Hermit Crabs
Bandung Volcano Tangkuban Perahu (Upturned Boat)



²⁷ Java to Ujung Kulon, Voyage to Handeuleum Island (Most Westerly Java), Sea-Worthy Boat (?) (not Canoe) Via Sunda Straits By-Passing Son of Krakatoa, New Active Volcano Rising from Ocean. Sea Snakes & Dolphins



²⁸ Ujung Kulon, West of Java (Hollywood's "East of Java" Wrong)
Restored Climax Rain Forrestr after 1883 Krakatoa Volcano Eruption, Sunda Strait
Banteng, Epiphytes Galore, Feral Arenga Palm, Shy Rhino, Macaque Colonies
(Noisy Only Seen By Some), Hard Work For All



29 Last Call for Boarding Canoe at Port Gate 1
The River Cigenter Expedition Cruise to Ujung Kulon National Park
No Bus Service Make Your Own Way to Check-In



³⁰ River Cigenter Known for Pythons (?) Sleeping in Overhead Branches
Yes! Comatose Pythons Spotted But Why Small and Green?



³¹ Handeulieum's Master Tokay Gecko Exudes Delight at Two Small *Gecko gecko*
Anthropomorphic Smile Deceptive - Bite Possibly Terminal from 35 to 40 cm Adults



³² Gamelan Gong - Much Loved by Alan - Less Appreciated by Singapore Airlines
Factory Hiding in the Backstreets of Jakarta, Indonesia
Gongs to Order While-U-Wait

life is Happiness indeed!

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT SUMMER OPERA 1995

Candide

A Comic Operetta in Two Acts

Scottish Opera Version (1988)

Music by LEONARD BERNSTEIN

Book adapted from Voltaire by HUGH WHEELER

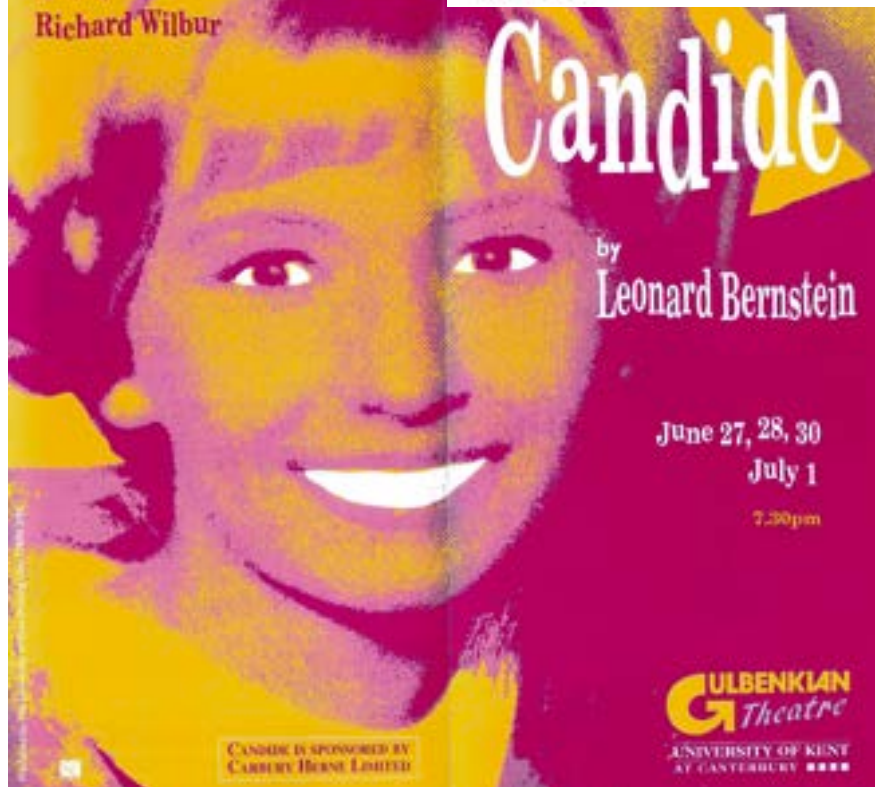
Lyrics by RICHARD WILBUR

Additional lyrics by
STEPHEN SONDHEIM, JOHN LATOUCHE,
LILLIAN HELLMAN, DOROTHY PARKER
and LEONARD BERNSTEIN

The best of all possible worlds!

The annual Summer Opera, performed at the Gulbenkian Theatre, is a major event in the University's calendar, attracting immense interest on campus, in the local community and throughout the South East. Its history goes right back to the early days of the University in the mid-sixties and the tradition was re-established in 1988. Recent productions include *Die Flodermäuse*, *The Magic Flute* and *The Tales of Hoffmann*. The Summer Opera is an exceptional and exciting project. Each June a cast of opera singers takes up residency on campus to work with a professional director, conductor and designer, alongside a chorus of students, staff and local singers and an orchestra of professional and student players. It is the policy of the project to take a fresh look at each opera.

Book adapted from Voltaire by
Hugh Wheeler
Lyrics by
Richard Wilbur



³³ “Candide” Sponsored by Alan and a Heritage Grant
Theatre at University of Kent at Whitstable - Restored to UKC

**CANTERBURY
CATHEDRAL**



**VERDI
REQUIEM**

PROFESSOR ALAN T BULL (1936-2023): A TRIBUTE

With great sadness, we learned of the passing of Alan Bull in June after a period of ill health. Alan had the most ebullient approach to life. He was so enthusiastic in everything he did as a scientist, his many cultural passions, and with his family and many friends. His physical roots were in Derbyshire where his love of Derby County Football Club and sometime manager Brian Clough kindled a lifelong passion. His heart and original cultural enthusiasms came from Cymru (Wales) through his mother's lineage explaining his devotion to Welsh Rugby Union and choral singing, in no particular order, but idyllically combined on match days. In the middle stage of his academic career for six years he was Professor of Microbiology at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology in Cardiff. It was his great pleasure that Gareth Davies, Wales' fly-half and British Lion, was his tutee.

Alan's education flourished at Nottingham University studying botany; at that time microbiology was emerging as a multidisciplinary subject from the shadows of medical bacteriology. He moved to lectureships first at Bedford College, then Queen Elizabeth College where he was influenced by Professor John Pirt, beginning his long research interests in culturing microbes, initially fungi, setting in train his entry into many facets of biotechnology. After a sabbatical year with Professor Martin Alexander at Cornell University, Ithaca, through a Fulbright Fellowship, he developed a permanent interest in environmental microbiology, the basis (excuse) for numerous world-wide collecting expeditions.

With an international reputation, Alan was a foundation appointment as Reader in Microbiology in the new Biological Laboratory established at the University of Kent at Canterbury, under Director Professor Ken Stacey. He started work in temporary accommodation in the Beverley farm building whilst Laboratory construction was in progress, days often ending with a game of bar billiards in the Old Beverley. He played a major role in quickly establishing the University's microbiology, and wider biology, identity, leading the way into the biotechnology revolution. He inspired undergraduate and postgraduate students through his wide knowledge, detailed preparation and friendship. He gave his time to guiding and mentoring an eclectic mixture of newly appointed academics, generations of students and regular stream of overseas visitors and collaborators. Indeed, if there is a prime mark of his personality it was his innate ability to build many lasting friendships in the UK and around the world, frequently with smiles and handshakes likely to remove the arm of the unprepared! For his university contribution, it was entirely fitting that Alan succeeded Ken as Director of Biological Sciences.

In 1974 Alan was persuaded by Professor Harry Smith, then Treasurer of the Society for General Microbiology to assume executive responsibility as General Secretary. Alan held this position from 75 to 79, in a dynamic duo partnership with Harry as President. He certainly was the first of the new young breed of academics who began to influence their professional society, representing general microbiology and virology, quickly recognising the need to evolve and develop a much more efficient and active body. By this time Alan had a wide knowledge of organising science through his international networks in Europe and beyond. Inevitably he was a meticulous, efficient organiser, quick to see a need for strategic long-term policy decisions. Arguably his tenureship was key to modernising the Microbiology Society (as the old SGM is now known).

He was grounded by numerous cultural activities (more occasional sporting ones). One that springs to mind, in collaboration with others, was a National Heritage Arts Sponsorship award which enabled productions of Bernstein's operetta of Voltaire's novella "Candide" at the University, and (thankfully separately) Verdi's Requiem, the latter sung in Canterbury Cathedral, with Alan in the choral bass section. In the same period, whilst leading a UK-sponsored biotechnology initiative to Indonesia, there was an open-air performance of the Sanskrit epic "Ramayana", several gamelan concerts (with or without puppet shows), all rounded off with an expedition to find the last few remaining Javan rhinos struggling for survival in the rejuvenated rainforest following the Krakatoa eruption. The last failed but was not an unmitigated disaster since Alan recovered rhino faecal matter with microflora from a well-used wallow, assuring expenses for a microbe collecting effort. He also acquired, for a few rupiah, a large (heavy) bronze gamelan gong which caused much difficulty during the return journey.

The bedrock of his life was his family. His wife Jenny, a fellow Nottingham student and biology teacher; his daughter Rachel, a gardener; son Adam, a sculptor; and grandson Vincent, a businessman. We assure them deeply that we mourn with them and now also, as the family have requested, we celebrate an extraordinary career, but above all a wonderful, kind and generous human being.

Professor J Howard O Slater
Somerset³⁵

35 <https://microbiologysociety.org/news/society-news/professor-alan-t-bull-1936-2023-tribute.html>

