

20/20 HINDSIGHT: A HISTORY OF THE OPTOMETRIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY AS CHRONICLED IN ITS NEWSLETTER AND JOURNAL

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Abstract

This paper gives an account of the history of the Optometric Historical Society (OHS), based on material in its quarterly publication, variously named *Newsletter of the Optometric Historical Society* (1970-1991), *Hindsight* (1992-2006), and *Hindsight: Journal of Optometry History* (2007-present). Operated as an independent organization for many years from its founding in 1969, the OHS became a part of *Optometry Cares – The AOA Foundation* in 2012. In addition to its publication, now totaling more than 3,300 pages since its inception, the OHS has also held meetings referred to as *Reminisce-ins* or *Blasts from the Past*, in association with annual meetings of the American Optometric Association and the American Academy of Optometry. Officers and participants in the OHS have included many significant individuals in optometry.

Keywords

American Optometric Association; Henry Hofstetter, Maria Dablemont, Optometric Historical Society

The Optometric Historical Society (OHS) has had a quarterly publication since its founding. The first issue of the *Newsletter of the Optometric Historical Society* was published in January, 1970, and it went under that title from 1970 to 1991 (volumes 1-22). In 1992, the title was changed to *Hindsight*,



Figure 1: *Reminisce-In*, 1972. Dr. Henry W Hofstetter (left), standing. RG 430.01 Optometric Historical Society Records. Image courtesy of The Archives & Museum of Optometry.

while maintaining a newsletter format through 2006 (volumes 23-37). Starting in 2007, volume 38, the title was changed to *Hindsight: Journal of Optometry History*, and the publication assumed a journal format. Since then the content has shifted in favor of in-depth research articles, but also continues to document OHS activities and news. This article will trace some of the history of OHS as it was recorded in the pages of the *Newsletter* and of *Hindsight*.

A release to the optometric press dated October 31, 1969 about the formation of OHS, resulted in 34 persons sending in their \$5 checks to become founding members.^{1,2} Between January and October, 1970, another 24 persons joined.^{2,3}

Henry Hofstetter, O.D., Ph.D., was the initial editor of the *Newsletter*. John R. Levene, O.D., D.Phil., professor at Indiana University, stood in as editor for the third and fourth issues of 1970 (volume 1) and two other issues in 1971 and 1975 while Hofstetter was out of the country on sabbaticals. Otherwise, Hofstetter remained sole

editor through 1979. In 1980, Douglas Penisten, O.D., currently Dean of the College of Optometry at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma and then in the initial stages of his Ph.D. studies at Indiana University, joined Hofstetter as co-editor.

The first issue of the *Newsletter* contained the by-laws of OHS. The purposes of OHS were stated to be “to encourage the collection and preservation of materials relating to the history of optometry, to assist in the securing and documenting the recollections of those who have participated in the development of optometry, to encourage and assist in the care of archives of optometric interest, to identify and mark sites, landmarks, monuments, and structures of significance in optometric development, and to shed honor and recognition on persons, groups, and agencies making notable contributions toward the goals of this society.”⁴ The by-laws listed the members of the first OHS Executive Board as AOA Head Librarian Maria Dablemont (Secretary-Treasurer),

Arthur E. Hoare, O.D., of California, Sol Tannebaum, O.D., of Illinois, John R. Levene (Vice President), and Henry W Hofstetter (President). The first issue of the *Newsletter* also included quotations from responses of several of the founding members. Jerome J. (J.J.) Abrams, O.D. of Indiana, who is still a member in 2018, wrote: "Very proud to be a founding member. I think its purposes are very necessary and worthwhile."⁵

The October, 1972 issue mentioned that OHS held its first "Reminisce-In" on June 20 at the American Optometric Association's (AOA) 75th Annual Congress in St. Louis, MO. (Figure 1) It was attended by 30 persons, 17 of whom gave "brief but revealing and fascinating anecdotal accounts of generally unknown events and incidents in the history of optometry."⁶ The meeting was taped to be preserved in the oral history archives at the International Library, Archives & Museum of Optometry which had incorporated earlier that year. The October, 1972 issue also announced that OHS had formed committees on membership, public and professional relations, meetings, and nominations and elections, but it does not appear that these committees continued for long.

The July, 1974 *Newsletter* reported that OHS membership had increased to 140, with members in 29 states and Puerto Rico, three Canadian provinces, and 13 other countries. The second OHS Reminisce-In was held June 19, 1974, in Washington, D.C., at the AOA Congress with 25 persons in attendance.⁷

In 1975, John R. Levene, who had served as Vice President of OHS for the preceding five years, became the President. Henry A. Knoll, Ph.D., Senior Scientist at Bausch & Lomb, became the Vice President. Maria Dablemont

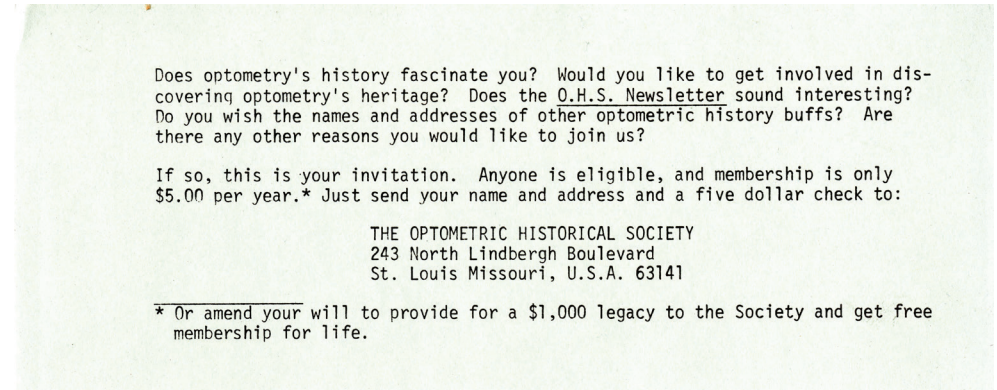


Figure 2: Leaflet advertising OHS membership, October 1976. RG 430.01 Optometric Historical Society Records. The Archives & Museum of Optometry.

continued as Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Knoll later served as OHS President from 1977 to 1979.

In the October, 1976 *Newsletter*, Hofstetter mentioned that he and a few other OHS members had little blue slips of paper which read in part: "Does optometry's history fascinate you? Would you like to get involved in discovering optometry's heritage?... If so, this is your invitation. Anyone is eligible, and membership is only \$5.00 per year." (Figure 2) They occasionally gave these slips of paper to friends and colleagues or inserted them in correspondence. He felt that the personal touch of this recruitment technique helped to bring in a few new members.

The first formal business meeting of OHS was held July 5, 1977 in Toronto, Ontario (Canada) in conjunction with the AOA Congress. The meeting included ten-minute talks by Henry Hofstetter (on the origins of OHS), Henry Knoll (a review of John Levene's history book *Clinical Refraction and Visual Science*), and Maria Dablemont (on aspects of oral history for optometry), and a thirty-minute open discussion by the approximately 40 persons in attendance. Secretary-Treasurer Dablemont reported that OHS had a financial balance of

\$2,008.86, and a membership of 160, with 45 international members. At this meeting it was announced that the OHS Executive Board made Henry Hofstetter the first Fellow of the OHS.⁸

Hofstetter's account of the origins of the OHS presented at that meeting was published in the October, 1977 issue of the *Newsletter*.⁹ He recalled that Maria Dablemont had suggested to him that an optometric historical society should be formed. In September of 1968, during Hofstetter's AOA presidency, Dablemont and two of her assistants visited the Hofstetter home in Bloomington, Indiana, and they worked out the details of what should be included in the by-laws of an optometric historical society. Hofstetter agreed to take the initiative for the formation of the society when his AOA presidency was concluded so that it would not appear that the society was a subsidiary of the AOA. Over the following months, the by-laws were developed to the satisfaction of Hofstetter and Dablemont. In August of 1969, Hofstetter sent a letter to ten persons whom he knew to have concern with optometry history. With that letter he enclosed a copy of the by-laws, and he asked if they were interested in such an activity whether they would

be willing to serve as an organizing member of the Executive Board. The first respondents to that letter—Maria Dablemont, Arthur Hoare, Sol Tannebaum, and John Levene—became members of the Executive Board along with Hofstetter. After the Board members elected officers among themselves, a press release announcing the formation of OHS and soliciting membership was sent to optometric periodicals on October 31, 1969. Those who paid their membership dues by January 1, 1970, were designated founding members.

In his 1977 account of the origins of OHS, Hofstetter also mentioned that OHS was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in the state of Missouri on April 2, 1973, and on February 26, 1975, it was listed as having tax-exempt status so that its donors could deduct contributions for tax-benefit purposes. (Figure 3) He concluded his talk by stating that: “we can now state with confidence that the Optometric Historical Society is a firmly established organization with world-wide membership, a solid reputation, a sound fiscal basis, and all of the technical and legal qualifications to enable it to pursue its aims aggressively and in perpetuity.”⁹

The fourth get-together of the OHS membership was held December 11, 1977, in Birmingham, AL, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO). Several of the 31 attendees talked about events and personalities of optometric historical interest. Among those who discussed their observations and experiences were Meredith Morgan, O.D., Ph.D., from U.C. Berkeley, Fred Lit, O.D., Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Southern Illinois University, E.J. Fisher, O.D., and Professor Theo Gumpelmayer, an optometrist and scientist active

in organized optometry throughout Europe and South Africa.¹⁰

The next meeting of the OHS was held December 9, 1978, in Boston, MA at the New England College of Optometry during the AAO annual meeting. OHS president Henry A. Knoll gave a talk on James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879), the Scottish scientist who not only clarified the relationship between electricity and magnetism, but also did extensive work on vision, being memorialized with terms such as Maxwell’s spot and Maxwellian view.¹¹

Another OHS Reminisce-In occurred December 8, 1979, at the Southern California College of Optometry in Fullerton (Marshall B. Ketchum University) during the annual meeting of the AAO. Several of the 24 persons in attendance discussed their optometric experiences.¹²

James Leeds, O.D., Indianapolis optometrist who had an extensive collection of optometry books, became president of OHS in 1980 and served in that role through 1984. His presidency was followed by another Indianapolis optometrist, J.J. Abrams, who served as OHS president from 1985 to 1988.

The attendance at the December, 1980 Reminisce-In was 25. It was held in Chicago, IL in conjunction with the AAO annual meeting. Presentations were made by Henry Knoll (on contact lens history) and James Leeds (on history he learned from some of the optometry books in his collection).¹³ Maria Dablemont reported that OHS had a balance of \$2,285.20. In 1981, the *Newsletter* reported typical cost for printing and mailing. For the January, 1981 issue, costs were \$92.08 for printing, \$20 for envelopes, and \$89.35 for postage.^{14,15}

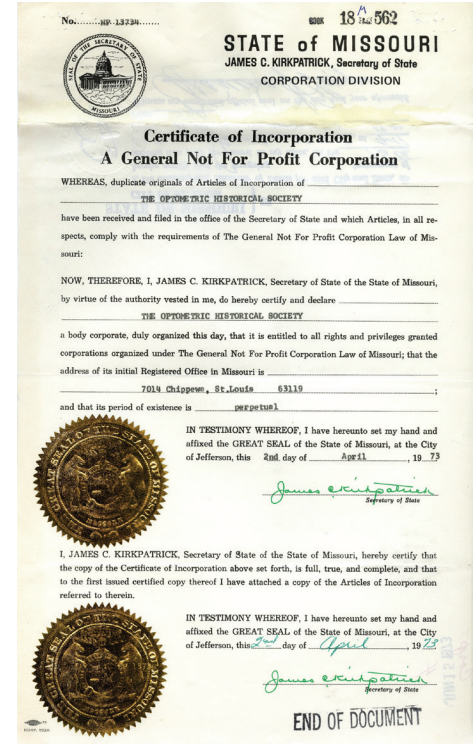


Figure 3: Original articles of Incorporation, Optometric Historical Society, 1973. RG 430.01 Optometric Historical Society. The Archives & Museum of Optometry.

At the December, 1981, Reminisce-In held in Orlando, FL, James Leeds presented a paper on the series of books titled *Report of the Transactions of the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Optometry*, published from 1927 to 1940. The paper was published in the January, 1982 *Newsletter of the Optometric Historical Society*.¹⁶ At that Reminisce-In, it was announced that the Executive Board may give OHS recognition certificates to individuals “whose dedication to the scholarly research, examination, interpretation, and disclosure of optometry’s heritage has added significantly to the advancement of knowledge of its past and therefore adds to the wisdom which can mold the profession’s future.”¹⁶ (Figure 4)

The first OHS Recognition Certificate was awarded to optometrist William G. Austin of Bismarck, North Dakota. The certificate was presented at the

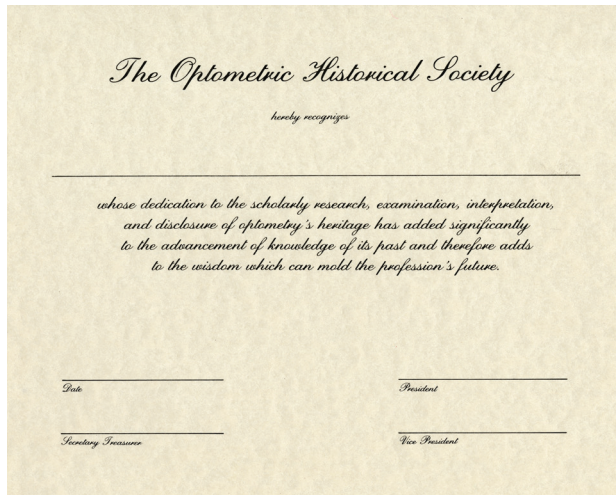


Figure 4: Blank Recognition Certificate. RG 430.01 Optometric Historical Society Records. The Archives & Museum of Optometry.

April, 1982 meeting of the North Dakota Optometric Association by its president, on behalf of OHS.¹⁷

An OHS Reminisce-In was held December 11, 1982, in Philadelphia, PA. Attendance was only 16, because the Reminisce-In happened to be scheduled at the same time as a “prolonged and intently attended” AAO business meeting. Regardless, the Reminisce-In was said to be “most gratifying as well as entertaining.”¹⁸ Discussants included Maria Dablemont (on the “comfortable” OHS balance of slightly over \$2,000), Jacob Staiman, O.D. (on an unusual pair of century-old spectacles which he brought with him), and Douglas Penisten (on the development of three optometry schools in South Africa).¹⁸

The April, 1983 *Newsletter* reported that OHS membership had reached 213. Almost 10% of the members were not optometrists, consisting of librarians, opticians, historians, optometrist’s widows, and students. Almost 80% of the members were residents of the United States, with 4% being from Canada, 3% from Australia, 3% from England, and 11% from fifteen other countries.¹⁹ It is likely that the large international membership was the result of the

extensive correspondence carried on by Henry Hofstetter, and the inclusion in his letters of the small slip of paper inviting his correspondents to join OHS.

The January, 1984, issue of the *Newsletter* announced that the Executive Board had voted to award OHS Recognition Certificates to Martin Topaz, Grace Weiner, Maurice Cox, Israel Dvorine, O.D., Robert Graham, O.D., James R. Gregg, O.D., John R. Levene, O.D., D.Phil., and Jacob Staiman, O.D. It was also announced that the Board had voted to increase OHS dues from the original \$5 per year to \$10 per year due to increased costs of producing and mailing the *Newsletter*.²⁰ In 1985, OHS membership voted to alter the by-laws to reflect an increase in annual dues to \$10.²¹

The OHS met December 8, 1984, in St. Louis, MO during the annual meeting of the AAO. Forty-five were in attendance for two slide presentations, one by rare book librarian Christopher Hoolihan, who talked about the Bernard Becker M.D. ophthalmology book collection at the Washington University School of Medicine’s library (Becker Medical Library) in St. Louis, MO. William Austin, O.D. of Bismarck, ND, talked about establishing a

permanent exhibit of a turn-of-the-century optometry examination room at the Bismarck Heritage Center. These lectures were said to be “fascinating.”²²

In 1985, OHS membership was up to 250 members, with 50 of those members being from 19 countries other than the United States. There was double-digit membership in five states: 33 from California, 21 from Indiana, 16 from Pennsylvania, 15 from Ohio, and 14 from New York.²³ This appears to have been the highest membership total to date.

Thirty-five persons attended the OHS meeting on December 7, 1985, in Atlanta, GA held in conjunction with the AAO annual meeting. Douglas Penisten presented a paper titled “Helmholtz, phantom visual imagery, and the idioretinal light.” This was followed by a half-hour Reminisce-In during which “individuals offered fascinating and little known accounts in optometric history.”²⁴ Maria Dablemont then announced the awarding of OHS Recognition Certificates to James F. Dickson, O.D., Jacob Staiman, O.D., and Irving Bennett, O.D.

The OHS Reminisce-In on December 13, 1986, in Toronto, Ontario during the AAO annual meeting was attended by “twenty-some” persons.²⁵ E.J. Fisher, former director of the University of Waterloo’s School of Optometry (1967-1975), gave a talk on the history of Canadian optometry. Fisher’s paper was published in a later issue of the *Newsletter*.²⁶ Also in 1986, it was decided to expand the OHS Executive Board from five to seven members.²⁷

The 1987 Reminisce-In was held on December 5, in Denver, CO during the AAO annual meeting. AOA past-president Ron Fair, O.D. (1976-1977) gave an account of the history of optometry in Colorado. Mentioned

prominently in the talk was J.C. Bloom, born in 1867, "who piloted Colorado's optometry profession throughout a very long lifetime." It was noted that "Dr. Fair's presentation met with resounding applause and long aftertalk [sic] by many in attendance who enjoyed the assorted supporting anecdotes."²⁸ It was also reported that OHS had a total cash balance of \$4,910.55 with no outstanding debts. Maria Dablemont announced that she was stepping down from her position of OHS Secretary-Treasurer, a position she had held since the founding of OHS.

In 1987, the OHS Executive Board established the Henry W Hofstetter Recognition Award "to be given to persons who have made outstanding contributions toward the acquisition of better knowledge of optometry's heritage."²⁹ The first recipient of the award was Maria J. Dablemont, with the presentation being made December 5, 1987 in Denver at the OHS Reminisce-In.

Thirty-seven attended the December 10, 1988 Reminisce-In held in Columbus, OH. Gregory Good, O.D., Ph.D., spoke on the optometry curriculum in the early days of the program at Ohio State under the direction of Charles Sheard. James Leeds "gave a fascinating account of his career-long experiences originally as an unsophisticated accumulator and now a worldly known collector of optometry-related books, old and new."³⁰ Leeds' presentation was published in the April, 1989 issue of the *Newsletter*.³¹

The speaker for the December 9, 1989, Reminisce-In was ophthalmologist J. William Rosenthal, M.D., owner of one of the world's finest collections of eyewear. He spoke to about 40 persons about antique scissors glasses and pince-

nez. The *Newsletter* noted that "his interpretations of the utilization of visual aids are well thought out."³² Before the talk, the Henry W Hofstetter Recognition Award was presented to E.J. Fisher by OHS president T. David Williams, O.D., Ph.D. Those in attendance enjoyed a cake specially made to commemorate the 20th anniversary of OHS. In December, 1989, OHS had a balance of \$5,995.00, and it claimed 230 members, 36 from outside the United States.³³

The OHS met next on December 8, 1990, in Nashville, TN, during the AAO annual meeting. Douglas Penisten gave a talk entitled "The History of Optometry in America: Information Waiting to be Found."^{34,35} In a report from the 1990 Executive Board meeting, it was noted that persons who had not paid dues would be dropped from the membership list, leaving 160 paying members.³⁶ At the December 14, 1991 OHS meeting in Anaheim, CA, Henry Peters, O.D. gave a paper entitled "Five Optometric Pioneers in the Establishment of the University of California School of Optometry." The five pioneers he discussed were George L. Schneider, O.D., Ralph S. Minor, Ph.D., Frederick L. Mason, O.D., Kenneth B. Stoddard, O.D., Ph.D., and Thomas H. Peters, O.D.³⁷

Starting with the January, 1992 issue (volume 23, number 1), the OHS newsletter took on the title *Hindsight* with the explanation that: "The old six-word title has been both clumsy and somewhat undistinguishing from the thousands of other newsletters on the horizon. Neither was the abbreviation NOHS a comfortable acronym. In fact the title as a whole was debatably oxymoronic in the sense that information is hardly 'news' when it is already 'history'. When we started the newsletter back in 1970 we attempted to select or coin a suitable

title, but failed to find a satisfying term. The word hindsight simply eluded us until now."³⁸

The OHS went through a difficult period in the early 1990s, and *Hindsight* fell behind in its publication schedule. Although the newsletter was dormant for three years, Henry Hofstetter, as contributing editor, kept writing material for it. In 1995, David Goss, O.D., Ph.D., was asked to take over as editor of *Hindsight*. The material that Hofstetter had written over the intervening years was compiled into eight page issues

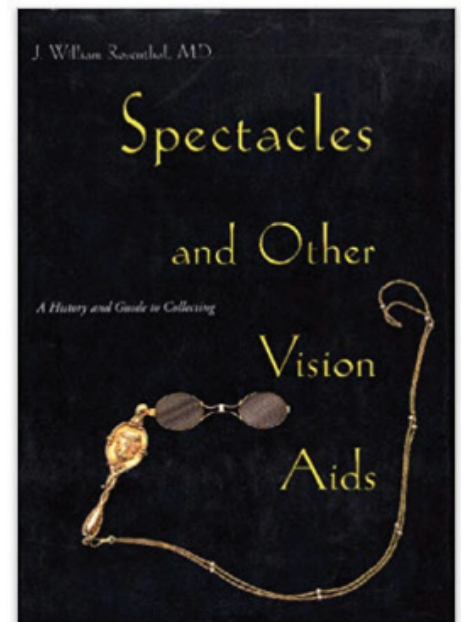


Figure 5: *Spectacles and Other Vision Aids*. ISBN-13: 978-0930405717

which maintained the sequential numbering of four issues per volume and one volume per year. Issues from number 4 of volume 23, carrying an October, 1992 date, through number 4 of volume 26, dated October, 1995, were mailed out in one package to members.³⁹

OHS meetings resumed on December 9, 1995, in New Orleans, LA with 22 in attendance, when ophthalmologist and OHS member J.

William Rosenthal, M.D., once again gave a presentation on the history of spectacles. After his talk, Rosenthal showed several of the meeting attendees his display of antique ophthalmic items at the Tulane Medical School.⁴⁰ Rosenthal published a hardback book based on his collection and research the following year. (Figure 5)

Henry Hofstetter continued to write most of the entries for *Hindsight* through 1997. Of particular note, his classic editorial "The OHS mission," which I have quoted on many occasions, appeared in the July, 1996 issue.⁴¹ In it, he opined that "*Hindsight's* role is to dispel our depressing ignorance of optometry history." He described how he was not initially a student of history, but he came to recognize "optometry's centuries-long existence" and that it had "as noble and pervasive a heritage" as any discipline.

Optometric icon Charles Prentice was the topic of two successive OHS presentations in 1997 and 1998. On December 13, 1997, in San Antonio, TX Jerry Christensen, O.D., Ph.D., spoke on "Prentice's Profession," discussing Prentice's promotion of optometry.⁴² A year later, on December 12, 1998, optician Joe Bruneni gave a talk entitled "Charles Prentice, Optician," (optician being the term that Prentice coined and preferred over optometrist).⁴³ Bruneni was the author of the 1994 book *Looking Back: An Illustrated History of the American Ophthalmic Industry*. For the December 10, 1999, OHS meeting in Seattle, Jay Enoch, O.D., Ph.D., Professor, University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry, presented "New Finding on Ancient Egyptian Lenses Dating from 4600 Years ago."⁴⁴ The OHS met December 8, 2000, with Arol Augsburger, O.D., Ph.D., future president of Illinois College of

Optometry (2002-2017), speaking on the "Evolution and Early Development of the Celebrity Eyewear Collection," which he had started at The Ohio State.⁴⁵

The January, 2000 issue of *Hindsight* announced that a website for OHS had been established at Indiana University.⁴⁶ It was also reported that *Hindsight* was now being printed on acid-free paper at minimal additional cost and that Henry Hofstetter had prepared an index for volumes 21-30 to accompany the previous indexes for volumes 1-10 and 11-20.

Jay Enoch came on board as a Contributing Editor to *Hindsight* in 2001. He continued to produce an interesting article for almost every issue through 2012. Enoch also presented a paper entitled "Use of Concave Mirrors as Magnifiers and Refractive Corrections from at least Roman Times" at the December 7, 2001, OHS meeting in Philadelphia.⁴⁷

Henry Hofstetter died in 2002 at the age of 87. As further evidence of his strong feelings toward the Optometric Historical Society, we may note that the OHS was listed along with four foundations in his obituary as organizations to which memorial contributions could be made.⁴⁸

The 2002 OHS meeting was held on December 14 in San Diego, CA. Walter Chase, O.D., M.S., spoke on "The American Academy of Optometry's Living History," an oral history project he worked on for several years.⁴⁹ A membership directory published in the October, 2002 issue indicates that membership was down to 75, with nine of those being from outside the United States.⁵⁰

On December 6, 2003, the OHS met in Dallas, TX during the AAO meeting and Gregory L. Stephens, O.D., Ph.D., presented a paper entitled "Leonard

Thompson Troland: Vision, Technicolor, and the Photon."⁵¹ Jay Enoch was the presenter on "The World's Oldest Mirrors and Why They are Important to Us," for the meeting on December 11, 2004, in Tampa, FL.⁵² The next year, on December 10, 2005, vision scientist Robert Boynton, Ph.D., presented "Fifty Years of Viewing Optometry as an Outsider," an interesting paper which was published in the April, 2006 *Hindsight*.⁵³ Boynton was the winner of the American Academy of Optometry's Prentice Medal in 1997.

The mailing of the October, 2006 *Hindsight* included a ballot for a vote on the OHS Executive Board's recommended increase in membership dues. The annual dues had been \$10 since 1985, so an increase could be expected. The increase was passed so that dues increased to \$25 for regular membership, and a lifetime membership for \$250 was instituted (discontinued in 2015).⁵⁴

With the January, 2007 issue, the OHS quarterly publication adopted a journal format and assumed the title *Hindsight: Journal of Optometry History*. A cover with a color that approximated optometry's green was added. Printing continued to be done on the Indiana University campus by the same service that copied classroom hand-outs and other materials.

Irving Bennett was elected to the presidency of OHS in 2009, and in 2010 he became a Contributing Editor to *Hindsight*. Bennett worked actively to advocate for OHS. He negotiated a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Optometry's Charity - The AOA Foundation for OHS to be placed under their umbrella. Many of the articles Bennett wrote for *Hindsight* were posted as "Historical Gems" on the Foundation website to promote OHS (bit.ly/ohsgems). After a hiatus

of few years, the Reminisce-In at the AAO annual meeting was successfully reinstated in 2009 with the room "full of interested listeners."⁵⁵

The 2010 Reminisce-In was held on November 19 in San Francisco, CA with Alden N. Haffner, O.D., Ph.D., speaking on "The Ups and Downs of Optometry's Relationship with Organized Medicine and Organized Ophthalmology."⁵⁶ Haffner's paper was published in the January, 2011 issue of *Hindsight*.⁵⁷ In 2011, Linda Draper, staff for The Archives & Museum of Optometry, helped to straighten out OHS membership lists and finances, and the OHS membership voted to expand the Executive Board from seven to nine members.⁵⁶ An index for volumes 31-40 was compiled and mailed to members, following the precedent of publication of indexes for volumes 1-10, 11-20, and 21-30.

The next meeting of the OHS was held October 14, 2011, in Boston, MA in conjunction with the AAO meeting. Alden N. Haffner and Howard Backman, O.D. gave their historical views on the evolution of optometric care provided under Medicare in the United States and in Canada.⁵⁸ Secretary-Treasurer Arol Augsburg reported that OHS had a checking account balance of \$13,354, and there were 98 current members, six from outside the United States.⁵⁸

There were two OHS meetings held in 2012. For the first, OHS met at the AOA annual meeting for the first time in many years. That meeting was held on June 28 in Chicago, IL with an open discussion of historical topics. Then the OHS met in October in Phoenix, AZ in conjunction with the AAO annual meeting. This was the first time that the OHS meeting was known as a "Blast from the Past" after having been referred to as a "Reminisce-In" for many years. A talk attended by

over 50 persons was given by Morton Greenspoon on a "History of Contact Lenses in the Movies."⁵⁹

In 2012, the cover of *Hindsight* was redesigned and the October, 2012 issue was the first to carry a color photograph on the cover. In 2013, all back issues of the *Newsletter* and of *Hindsight* beginning with volume 1 were scanned and made available on IUScholarWorks, Indiana University's online repository of scholarly works and journals. Issues older than two years were made available open access, while newer issues could only be viewed by OHS members.

John F. Amos, O.D. was elected president of OHS in 2013. He stated that Irving Bennett who had served as OHS president for the previous four years, "deserves our gratitude for providing stability to the OHS."⁶⁰ He credited Bennett with increasing the visibility and membership of the OHS. Amos further stated that the merger of OHS into Optometry Cares – The AOA Foundation was going forward. This change was set in motion by Bennett, who had noted that OHS was limited in being run entirely by volunteers and having no staff support. He also discovered that its federal tax exemption for non-profit organizations had lapsed. Bennett negotiated the MOU with the Foundation, stipulating that after a three year trial period, which ended in January, 2014, the OHS would transfer its assets to Optometry Cares (formerly named Optometry's Charity) and become a heritage services program of the Foundation alongside The Archives & Museum of Optometry (AMO).

Kirsten Hébert was employed as Heritage Services Specialist for the AMO in May, 2013. Her background and skills made her an ideal person to work with the OHS. She has managed the OHS program and supported

the activities of the OHS Board and Advisory Committee, expanded the OHS presence on the Optometry Cares website, and facilitated collection of membership dues and maintenance of the membership list.⁶¹ In 2014, she started publishing articles in *Hindsight* and was first listed as a contributing editor in 2015. She has supplied photographs for inclusion in *Hindsight*, and starting in 2016, worked to improve its layout and format. She has also become the online and print journal manager, working with IUScholarWorks staff to improve the functionality of the electronic edition of *Hindsight*.

A "Blast from the Past" OHS lecture was held in June of 2013 in San Diego, CA in association with the AOA meeting. Dr. Greenspoon again talked about the work done by himself, his father, and his current practice partners in providing contact lens services for the movies.⁶¹ Greenspoon's presentation was co-sponsored with the Contact Lens and Cornea Section of the AOA. The speaker for the June 26, 2014 Blast from the Past in Philadelphia, PA was Alden N. Haffner on "Expanding the Scope of Practice in a Complex Health Care System."⁶¹

In 2015, after the OHS completed its transition into a program under Optometry Cares, the OHS Executive Board became the OHS Advisory Committee. Membership stood at 97 in June, 2015. The presenter for the Blast from the Past lecture at the OHS meeting on June 25, 2015, in Seattle was Lester Caplan, O.D., M.Ed., who spoke about his time as the first Optometric Consultant to the Indian Health Service in his lecture "The Early Years of Optometry in the Indian Health Service."⁶²

In 2016, Ronald R. Ferrucci, O.D., became the president of OHS. The January, 2016 issue of *Hindsight*

announced that it would be the last one that members would receive in print form for their regular membership dues of \$35. Current issues would be available to members only at the *Hindsight* website at IUScholarWorks. Those members wishing to receive the print copy would pay an additional \$25 each year to defray the costs of printing and mailing, which in 2015 averaged about \$5 per copy.⁶³

The July, 2017 issue of *Hindsight* became the first of OHS's quarterly publication in its 48 year history to be printed at the AOA headquarters in St. Louis, MO, all the previous years having been printed on the Indiana University campus. A visually pleasing lay-out was designed by Chris Martin, the AOA's Graphic Production Specialist. Copyediting, layout and design are now achieved through a collaboration between Martin, Hébert and the editor.

The October, 2017 issue of *Hindsight* was a theme issue celebrating the 50 year history of the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA).⁶⁴ It featured eight contributions from officers of the AOSA over its history, extending from Raymond I. Myers, O.D., AOSA co-founder and president in 1968-69, and Ronald Ferrucci, AOSA president in 1973-74, to Andy Mackner, AOSA president in 2017-18.

In 2017, OHS established liaisons for each of the members of the Association of Schools and College of Optometry (ASCO). In 2018, some new items were added to the OHS website. Organized into sections on oral history, optometry history bibliography, optometry's historic places, and repositories of optometric interest, they were designed to help those who were seeking resources for the study of optometry history.⁶⁵

The June 21, 2018 OHS Blast from the Past speaker was ophthalmologist David Fleishman, M.D., who presented "Eyeglasses Through the Ages" to 25 attendees at Optometry's Meeting. His lecture was the first Blast from the Past to be COPE-approved for continuing education credit and "received excellent reviews."⁶⁶

I note in closing that as I went through the pages of the OHS quarterly publication to compile this history of the OHS, I was reminded once again what a wealth of information it contains on the history of optometry. The 196 issues in the first 49 years of the *Newsletter* and *Hindsight* total over 3,300 pages, truly representing a compendium of information on optometry history. Over the years, *Hindsight* has featured articles by more than sixty different authors, and we are looking to include more authors in the coming years.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Optometric Historical Society and its work in the documentation, preservation, and recognition of optometric history in all its various forms, let us endeavor to bring it even greater success in the future.

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