

Library  
Vertical File

OPTOMETRIC LIBRARY

NOV 20 1973

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER  
OF THE  
OPTOMETRIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 2

February 1971

Number 1

"Let us praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us."  
--Ecclesiasticus

I would like to start the first issue of the Newsletter with a tribute to Harry Anthony Jankiewicz (1908-1970). Professor Jankiewicz was a 'stickler' for detail and accuracy. Undoubtedly he would, were he still with us, have reprimanded me for being so late with the Newsletter. It should have been 'out' in January. He would also have forgiven me. I first met him prior to his taking up an appointment as Professor of Anatomy at the University of Houston, College of Optometry, in 1963. Before going to Houston he had demonstrated how superb a teacher he was at Los Angeles College of Optometry (1937-1963). Harry Jankiewicz received his A.B. at the University of California, Los Angeles in 1929. During the period 1932-1935 he was employed at Los Angeles County Livestock Parasitological Research. After completing his Ph.D. at the University of Southern California he became an Instructor at the University for the next two years. But his long association with LACO stemmed back to 1937, when he had commenced being an instructor in Anatomy and Physiology. He ultimately became Professor of Anatomy and Physiology at that institution. Over the years he published on diverse aspects of vision, a particularly important area being concerned with genetically determined pathological conditions. His course on the genetics of visual anomalies was one of the first to be offered to students in the United States. Equally sought after by students was his course on experimental embryology and ocular development. Dr. Jankiewicz was awarded the Doctor of Ocular Science, in 1963, by Los Angeles College of Optometry, as a tribute to his brilliant teaching extending over one quarter of a century. The Iowa Optometric Association selected him for the John E. Martin Award, in 1967.

The non-academic side to Dr. Jankiewicz was no less intriguing. He was coach to the tennis team, sang bass in the Chopin Choir and was faculty ping-pong champion.

It is perhaps most fitting to conclude this brief tribute by quoting the obituary in the Optometric World (April, 1970) where he is described as an "outstanding scholar, scientist, superb teacher, and above all a gentle man." Pax.

Allied Optometric Organizations

In the last Newsletter, we noted an historical Chronology of Allied Optometric Associations. By way of further interest I am giving a little historical information on some of the organizations:

### International Association of Boards of Examiners in Optometry (1919)

Formerly International Board of Boards, the IAB was proposed in 1913 at the AOA Congress in Rochester, New York. At that time there were various state boards of examiners in optometry and even existed an association that can be said to have been the predecessor of all boards of examiners. This association was created in 1910 at the AOA Congress in Cedar Point, Ohio. D. M. Boney, 2nd vice president of AOA was made president of this organization which perhaps was influential in the creation of the IAB. Yet only in 1919, after several years of recurrent attempts to set a national organization, the IAB finally was established and a constitution and by-laws were drawn.

### American Academy of Optometry (1922)

The Academy was created in St. Louis, at the Planters Hotel on January 11, 1922. Dr. Carel C. Koch was elected secretary-treasurer. To this day his name is so interwoven with that of the Academy that both are almost undiscernible.

The main objective of the Academy is the improvement of the ethical and scientific standing of optometry. The Academy publishes the "American Journal of Optometry and Archives of the American Academy of Optometry."

The Academy Journal is edited by Monroe J. Hirsch. Dr. Hirsch is Professor at the University of California School of Optometry, at Berkeley. The Associate Editor is Grace Weiner, Visual Science Librarian at the University of Alabama School of Optometry, at Birmingham, Alabama.

### Dues:

This is a reminder that it's dues time for members who have been in the Society for 1 year.

### Oral History

Maria Dablemont, Librarian at the AOA, tells me that the Oral History Program, organized by the Library of the AOA, is flourishing. Essentially, oral history is the product of a taped interview. Maria tells me that she already has several fascinating tapes of great optometric historical importance.

### Presidential Return

Your President has now returned from his world tour, and we eagerly look forward to reading of his various exciting experiences. He will resume the Editorship for the forthcoming issues.