NEWSLETTER
OF THE
OPTOMETRIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(243 North Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63141, U.S.A.)

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1982 OHS Reminisce-In:

Competition with a prolonged and intently attended business meeting of the American Academy of Optometry in Philadelphia on December 11 prevented a large participation, only 16, in the scheduled annual "Reminisce-In" of the Optometric Historical Society. Nevertheless, the brief session was most gratifying as well as entertaining. Maria Dablemont reported that the OHS treasury showed a comfortable balance of slightly over $2,000, whereupon no increase in annual membership dues was entertained. Exists there any other optometric organization with a bank balance and no dues increase in 14 years?

Especially delightful was the opportunity to meet long-retired member Jacob Staiman, O.D., of Baltimore, Maryland. Ever a contributor, he brought with him a pair of century old spectacles with lenses O.D. +18.00, O.S. +11.00, which he found at a flea market. He observed that the frame had an "X" bridge and straight telescoping temples, therefore vertically symmetrical and could be worn equally easily upside down or up. He theorized that the wearer had only one usable eye which was eleven diopters hyperopic and amblyopic. Depending on which way the wearer put on his glasses his one usable eye would be conveniently corrected for distance (11.00 D) or for a near distance of 14 cm (18.00 D).

One is hard pressed for a better explanation!

We also had the pleasure of the presence of our on-and-off co-editor Doug Penisten, who is briefly back in the U.S.A. from University of the North in South Africa where he is temporarily teaching. He gave us a brief review of the states of development of the three optometry schools there.

A bit boring:

Fifty-two ballots have already been returned, unanimously for Dr. Jim Leeds, with an occasional ballot still coming in at about the rate of one per week. This has been a surprisingly larger than usual response, suggesting that we may enjoy voting more when there is no difficult decision to make.

With the unanimity obvious early, i.e., there having been no write-ins, the new board promptly elected officers for 1983. Only one change was made, the election of Dr. Abrams instead of Dr. Tumblin for Vice-President. Dr. Tumblin had advised that he is becoming involved in too many activities to allow himself to serve on the O.H.S. Executive Board after his five year term ends next December.

The following are on the 1983 Executive Board, the years of expiration shown in parentheses:

President: James P. Leeds, O.D. (1987)

Vice-President: Jerome J. Abrams, O.D. (1986)

Secretary-Treasurer: Maria Dablemont (1985)

Members: Henry A. Knoll, Ph.D. (1984)

James C. Tumblin, O.D. (1983)

With Dr. Tumblin's announced withdrawal, nominations for his replacement in next October's elections must be made. If you would be interested in serving, or if you know of another member who should be considered, please advise either the Secretary-Treasurer or the Editor. Not only is a little new blood always good for the O.H.S., but the appearance of more than one name on the ballot makes it a bit less boring for the scrutineer.

If statistics are of interest to you, you may like to know that in the first 13 years of the OHS eleven different persons have served on the five member executive board, an average tenure of 5.9 years. Only our indispensable Secretary-Treasurer Maria Dablemont has served all 13 years, now starting her 14th.

500 years after Marco Polo:

China-U.S. Scientific Exchanges, Inc. has invited the Optometric Historical Society to provide the leadership and guidance for an educational and cultural exchange tour of the People's Republic of China with emphasis on optometric-optical-ophthalmic contacts between knowledgeable personnel from both countries. This of course could provide an exciting opportunity for those wishing to gain some insight into optical history and developments in mainland China and at the same time to enjoy the sight-seeing benefits of a popular tour at a very competitive cost.

Unfortunately the administration of the OHS does not feel adequately equipped or experienced to assume the responsibility of such leadership on its own. However, we have learned that Professor Edwin Marshall, O.D., a past president of the National Optometric Association and a world traveller himself, is exploring the possibility of heading an optometry-oriented tour for the same organization. He would welcome expressions of interest in joining such a group and will be pleased to include emphasis on ophthalmic history in the educational aspects. His address is School of Optometry, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 47405.

Collectors club started:

Whether you collect or are merely fascinated by the early artifacts of optics and optometry, OHS member and contributor D.C. Davidson, Northall Cottage, East Chiltington Nr Lewes, BN7 3Q5, England, invites you to join his OPHTHALMIC ANTIQUES COLLECTORS CLUB at the annual subscriptions rate of £ 3 (overseas rate £ 4, ca. $7). He already has a few members who

responded to a letter in The Optician (London) last May. The first issue, No. 1, of a quarterly newsletter entitled The Bulletin appeared in September, 1982.

The club's first letterhead included that favorite of gremlin-induced errors, the omission of the second "h" in ophthalmic, suggesting to organizer Davidson that it, too, "might one day become a collector's item!" The club operates as a "nonprofit making" venture, says Davidson, "running on the proverbial shoestring," or, more appropriately, "dangling on the end of a monocle cord."

The first issue of The Bulletin outlines the rather obvious but nevertheless quite unique purposes of the club. It includes a brief article on spectacle restoration techniques and another on clues and criteria for dating spectacles. Mentioned is the fact that what the British call "sides" are called "bows" in America, and that similarly and respectively, "flexible curl" is called "riding bow," reinforcing G.B. Shaw's observation that England and America are two countries separated by a common language.

To guide those trying to evaluate their own collections for whatever purposes, prices fetched by various described ophthalmic items at auctions, and as listed in several recent sales, are included. Club members also list items for sale and items and information wanted.

Subscribers are requested to state their special interests and to make offers to buy, sell, or exchange items for or from their personal collections.

Of time and transposition:

OHS member David Cline, O.D., Co-editor of the Dictionary of Visual Science and retired from practice shares the following with us:

> The Paris trip of J.C. Bloom, O.D. in 1900 in the October 1982 Newsletter of the Optometric Historical Society was indeed most interesting. While I am not old enough to know of the year 1900 my recollections of optometry do go back to the early 1930's. No, I was not an optometrist at that time but I had a broader view of the profession by being in the wholesale optical business and having contact with about a thousand practitioners. I now realize, in looking backward, how primitive our profession was at that time.
>
> One of our accounts apparently had a very successful practice, as judged by the quantity of uncut, single vision lenses ordered each week in addition to his Rx orders. For a number of weeks each of his orders included a request for two pair of -.37 cylinders which we promptly shipped in envelopes designated in the transposed form, -.37 + .37. After several months we received an indignant letter complaining bitterly that he had repeatedly ordered -.37 cylinders which we never supplied and that he was returning many lenses received but not ordered. You guessed it. The next day in came a package of about 20 pair of -.37 + .37 lenses. Apparently he had become a successful refractionist without ever learning simple transposition.

Another instance of an optometrist with a fairly large practice who knew little or nothing about optics came to our attention by our receiving an interesting letter from him accompanying an order for a pair of Kryptok lenses. The order was as follows:

Distance:	R	+2.00 + .50 x 90
	L	+2.00 + .50 x 90
Add:	R	+2.00
	L	+2.00
Total:	R	+2.00 + .50 x 90
	L	+2.00 sphere

It was customary in those days for an Rx order form to include spaces for both adds and totals. Most optometrists merely wrote the adds but not the totals, as had been done previously by this particular optometrist. His accompanying letter explained that in the past he had never examined for astigmatism at near but had decided to do so after seeing orders written by an ophthalmologist containing specifications for cylinder power at near. His accompanying Rx order was for the first patient examined for both distance and near astigmatism and that he wanted to call our attention to the fact that +.50 cylinders were needed for both eyes for distance but that he had found astigmatism at near for only the right eye and that he wanted to be certain that we made the lenses accordingly.

I personally drove to his office to deliver that pair of Kryptoks and to give him a short course on the construction of fused bifocals.

I could continue with similar stories but they would be redundant. I just hope that modern optometrists will appreciate the long road we have traveled in such a few years and can appreciate their opportunity to have received a well-rounded education.

May I also call attention to the "monster" 00 lenses mentioned by Dr. Bloom. My memory is not exact after 50 years but I think 00 lenses were either 39 mm or 41 mm oval. Hardly big enough for infants these days.

How to enact an optometry law:

Within a span of years much shorter than the length of the average optometrist's career well over 60 states, provinces, commonwealths, and territories in North America and Australia enacted laws to register optometrists and regulate the profession. These enactments occurred during approximately the first quarter of this century.

From the contemporary books by Charles F. Prentice (Legalized Optometry and Memoirs, 1926) and E.E. Arrington (History of Optometry, 1929) we have gained a fairly comprehensive but somewhat encapsulated

appreciation of the fact that intensive campaigns and battles took place. However, the step by step maneuvers, the political tactics, and the personal intricacies involved in these efforts have been left largely to our imagination through lack of recording. Only a few of us older ones have heard occasional accounts of isolated instances told to us with nostalgic embellishment by some of the now decreased participants.

Oh, but in the April 11, 1918, issue of the Optical Journal and Review of Optometry, vol. 41, no. 16, pages 1061-1064, there are more than three full pages of small print describing in blow-by-blow detail an account of "How Optometry Won in Queensland." The account was based on a long personal letter received by the editor from J.S. Guilfoy of Brisbane, a member of the first appointed board.

Queensland, the huge Australian province preceded in that quarter of the globe only by the island of Tasmania in the enactment of an optometry law, formally initiated its efforts in 1911. The final passage was accomplished very late in 1917 or early 1918, the exact date not being stated in the article.

Included in the account are names of the sponsors, proponents, and opponents participating in the lengthy drive and in the legislative hearings. The types of arguments and evidence submitted, amendment attempts, and letter-writing and button-holing campaigns to win support of individual members of Parliament are vividly described.

"A day with Eric Bateman":

That is the title of an article by A.H. Degenhardt in the October 9, 1982 issue of the Ophthalmic Optician, Vol. 22, No. 20, pages 679-680. The subtitle is "A glance back over a century of optics". Mentioned in the report are the early issues of Reflex, the journal of the Refraction Hospital Union from 1927 to 1930, and numerous details concerning the origin of the London Refraction Hospital itself, which opened its doors for the first time on January 8, 1923. Mentioned also was the fact that in 1929 a group of opticians founded the Society of Oculists in an attempt to promote the term "oculist" as a professional title.

During Bateman's career there were five organizations holding qualifying examinations. One of Bateman's many involvements was as chairman of the Middle East Optical Practitioners' Group.

Not mentioned in the article is the fact, if my own memory is correct, that Eric and Mary Bateman's home was earlier the home of one of England's better known Prime Ministers.

Visual screening history:

"The first Optometric Industrial Vision Program in Los Angeles

[California] was organized in 1922." reported Edward Goodlaw, O.D., in the June 1959 issue of the Journal of the American Optometric Association, Vol. 30, No. 11, pp. 787-790, under the title "History and development of industrial visual surveys." He preferred the term "survey" instead of "screening" because of what he believed is a "weeding out" connotation of the latter. Whether the 1922 Los Angeles project was a first in the state or nationally, or even worldly, is not averred.

The program was organized under the "California League for the Conservation of Vision" and was financed by voluntary subscriptions from members of the Los Angeles County Optometric Association. The subscriptions were collected by the laboratory suppliers as per cent surcharges.

Though the program survived only a year, six public schools were surveyed by means of a modified clinical procedure employing acuity and motility tests, retinoscopy, and ophthalmoscopy. Children needing optometric care were referred to a "Yale Street Clinic" which, unexplained, seems to have been a part of the program.

The same tests, with the addition of accommodative amplitude measurements were used in industrial surveys. Goodlaw implies that in the industrial phase problems soon arose because the surveys, provided free, soon acquired the attributes of "spec-selling" tactics.

Some time later, no dates given, the late Dr. Arthur Hoare, a former member of our O.H.S. Executive Board, decided to do industrial survey work on his own. Active in the Illuminating Engineering Society and in the National Safety Society, he served as a paid visual consultant to General Petroleum Corporation, Union Oil Company, Vernon Refinery, Shell Oil Company, and Standard Oil Company. His surveys were eventually terminated by his resignation in protest of the rapidly developing policy of employers to purchase safety lenses and frames en masse from manufacturers and wholesalers.

During the '40s a committee of the Los Angeles County Optometric Association attempted to institute a workable survey pattern which never came to fruition but was succeeded by the rather extensive school screening program of the Los Angeles College of Optometry under the direction of the late Professor M.J. Hirsch. In 1951 the California Optometrists Occupational Vision Services (COOVS) was incorporated under a special chapter of the California law which enabled this type of corporation to employ health professionals for limited purposes. During its first seven years of existence it conducted 15 surveys.

20/20 hindsight--4/4 foresight:

In an editorial entitled Flunking the Metric Test in the November 1982 issue of Photonics Spectra Teddi C. Laurin remarks, "The picture isn't all bleak, to be sure. Some industries--like optics--have, for various historic reasons, always been predominantly metric."

Corporate structure of the ILAMO:

What is the relationship of the International Library, Archives, and Museum of Optometry, Inc., to the American Optometric Association, Inc.? Here are a few details which should clarify the matter.

ILAMO was incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri on June 1, 1973, as a "General Not For Profit Corporation" to "be operated exclusively for educational, charitable, and scientific purposes for the benefit of and to carry out the purposes of the American Optometric Association." On June 4, 1974, this sentence of the statement of purposes of the Articles of Incorporation was amended to delete the inclusion of the AOA in its purposes and therefore to read simply, "be operated exclusively for educational, charitable, and scientific purposes." Further, these purposes "shall include...the operation and funding of libraries, archives, and museums relating to the art and science of optometry."

The By-laws provide that the number of directors of ILAMO shall be not less than five nor more than eleven, the actual number to be determined, and their appointments to be made, by the Board of Trustees of the American Optometric Association. The regular term of appointment is for three years. To date all appointees have been selected from among current members of the AOA Board of Trustees.

The board of directors manages all of the affairs of the corporation and may exercise all of its legal powers, including the appointment of its officers. The by-laws may be altered, amended, or repealed by the board of directors, with the approval of the Board of Trustees of the American Optometric Association. The corporation authority includes, "..., without limitation, the power to accept loans, donations or contributions of money or property (wherever situated) or services of any kind." "No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, any of the directors or officers of the corporation, or any other person, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered."

The corporation is not permitted to attempt to influence legislation or campaign in behalf of any candidate for public office.

Drs. Conan Doyle and Cronin:

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle of Sherlock Holmes fame was a successful general practitioner of medicine but considerably less successful in his brief venture as an ophthalmologist. Details of his practice experiences were reported by his daughter in a radio program in February and written up in an article entitled, "Conan Doyle--The unsuccessful ophthalmologist" by J.B. Addenbrooke Phillips in the September 25, 1982, issue of The Ophthalmic Optician, Vol. 22, No. 19, p. 638.

A comparable career pattern, reports Addenbrooke Phillips in the same article, was that of the recently deceased Dr. A.J. Cronin, though his brief practice as an oculist was terminated by illness rather than lack of patients.

Dartmouth Eye Institute (1929-1947):

In the preface to his classic book "Researches in Binocular Vision" published by W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1950, Kenneth N. Ogle, Ph.D. wrote:

> The Institute terminated its activities July 1, 1947, after eighteen years of rather intensive research on problems in physiologic optics and the application of the results of that research to clinical ophthalmology and to visual science in general. The researches were initiated by Adelbert Ames, Jr., with a small group in the physics building at Dartmouth College. Later the group became a department of the Dartmouth Medical School, and finally this was expanded into the Dartmouth Eye Institute by the late Alfred Bielschowsky, M.D. The clinical activities were instigated by Walter B. Lancaster, M.D., professor of ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School, and the early clinical work was supervised by E.H. Carleton, M.D., professor of ophthalmology of the Dartmouth Medical School at Hanover [New Hampshire, U.S.A.]. During the entire period of the existence of the organization, however, Mr. Ames remained actually the head, and in those eighteen years it was he who provided the motivating spirit and the enthusiasm for the research.
>
> The generous grants of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and later those of the Rockefeller Foundation, provided the basic financial support. These grants together with the gifts of many interested friends, and in particular those of the American Optical Company (which also put at the disposal of the research group its optical manufacturing facilities), made possible the scope and continuity of the various activities.

By way of expressing his appreciation to the various other members of the Institute for the contributions and collaborations which made his book possible Dr. Ogle listed "...the other men and women who were sometime members of the Department of Research in Physiological Optics and of the Dartmouth Eye Institute", a total of 36, as follows:

Rudolph Amann, LL.B.
Handford Auten, M.D.
Ethel J. Babbitt, B.S.
*Robert E. Bannon, B.S.
S. Howard Bartley, Ph.D.
*Robert J. Beitel, Ph.D.
Alfred Bielschowsky, M.D.
Lorna Billinghurst
Carl Breisacher, M.D.
Hermann M. Burian, M.D.
Elmer H. Carleton, M.D.
Herbert F. Childs, M.A.
Eloise Chute, M.A.
Arthur F. Dittmer, Ph.D.
*Vincent J. Ellerbrock, Ph.D.
Milo Fritz, M.D.
Gordon H. Gliddon, Ph.D.
Werner Herzau, M.D.
Ranald Hill
Camilla Hübscher
*Henry A. Imus, Ph.D.
Walter B. Lancaster, M.D.
Arthur F. Linksz, M.D.
*Leo F. Madigan, M.A.
Paul W. Miles, M.D.
J. Miles O'Brien, M.D.
Robert H. Peckham, Ph.D.
Kenneth L. Roper, M.D.
Otto Schniebs
Lawrence P. Sparks, M.A.
Leon Straw
*Rudolph T. Textor, B.S.
Milton Thorburn
*Wendell Triller, B.S.
*Rita Walsh, B.S.
*E. Craig Wilson, B.S.

Of the 36 on the list at least nine were in fact optometrists. Those whom I know to have been optometrists are marked with asterisks. There may be others.

The absence of the O.D. degree or any other professional identification reflects the early lack of uniformity of degree granting in the various optometry schools and the simultaneous lack of professional assumption of the uniform description O.D., which occurred later. It may also reflect the contemporarily intense avoidance of identification of optometric roles in the literature and institutions under ophthalmological hegemony. These are circumstances that make the tracing of optometric history even more difficult.

Contributions by Colin Fryer:

O.H.S. member Colin B. Fryer of Liverpool, England, frequently publishes very personalized historical pieces in The Optician. He kindly sent me four of his most recent contributions. Their intriguing titles are "Spectacles in Den gamle By" (Vol. 181, No. 4682, March 27, 1981, p. 23), "Optics at the Castle Museum, York" (Vol. 181, No. 4717, November 27, 1981, pp. 31-32 & 35), "The Sesquicentenary of Wolfgang von Goethe, part one" (Vol. 183, No. 4732, March 19, 1982, pp. 17-18223), and "part two" (Vol. 183, No. 4736, April 16, 1982, pp. 23-24226).

Den gamle By, which Fryer presumes to be "universally known," is the "Old Town" at Aarhus or Århus in Jutland, Denmark. It is not the oldest part of the city, but a unique, living, occupied, museum housed in a village of genuine period buildings brought from all over the countryside. Included is a watchmaker's shop with late 19th century fittings and equipment and a showcase containing old spectacles. Fryer adds, "In 19th century Denmark many craftsmen practised the two callings, just as their modern counterparts still do today." The oldest model in the collection is a pair of German origin dating back to 1749.

In the second article Mr. Fryer describes his visit to the Castle Museum in York, especially to look at the antique spectacles in the Green Gallery and in the 19th century optical shop. The Green Gallery includes the wide variety of bygones donated to the city by Dr. John L. Kirk (1869-1940), a North Yorkshire medical practitioner. The latter, the optical shop, is named after Thomas Cooke (1807-1868), a famous York optician and "philosophical" instrument maker. In that era the word philosophical had a connotation similar to today's word scientific.

Besides describing in detail several of the more unusual items in each collection, Mr. Fryer provides an account of the growth and accomplishments of the Cooke enterprise.

The two articles on Goethe (1749-1832) include numerous bits of vital information and examples of Goethe's wide scientific, cultural, and professional interests, especially his involvement with optics,

light,and color. It is apparent that Goethe was a sharp observer, an explicit describer, and an uninhibited theorist.

The mutograph and mutoscope:

Mr. Fryer responded as follows to an inquiry of mine:

> The terms 'mutoscope' and 'mutograph' together with their verbs and adjectives are now not often used in this country and I doubt if they ever were. They are mentioned in "A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles" by Sir James Murray, Oxford, (1908), which later became the famous "Oxford English Dictionary", and in its "Supplement" (1976). 'Mutoscope' is also mentioned in "An Etymological Dictionary of the English Language" by Walter W. Skeat.
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> According to the former they appear to have been derived from the Latin mutare meaning 'to change' and the Greek skopéo meaning 'to look' or 'to view', although another possibility is from mute, i.e. silent. They were coined by William Dickson and Hermann Casler in the U.S. in 1895 for a moving picture peepshow and a camera they had devised, in the case of the peepshow (mutoscope), to rival Thomas Edison's Kinetoscope, which Dickson (an Englishman) had also developed.
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> The mutoscope was really a glorified version of the "flicker" or "riffle" books patented in 1868 by another Englishman called Linnett as the 'Kineograph'. It consisted of a series of successively phased photographs of an animated scene mounted radially on an axial, each of which quickly appeared one after the other under a viewing lens as a crank handle was turned after a coin had been placed in a slot.
>
> A company, the American Mutoscope Company, was set up to manufacture them and in the latter half of the decade Mutoscope Parlours appeared all over the States. The American Mutoscope Company eventually grew into the famous Biograph Company, producers of some outstanding early feature films.
>
> Similar contrivances to the mutoscope were later produced in Europe under various names. One introduced by the Lumiere brothers in France as the 'Kinora' was operated by a clockwork motor instead of a crank handle.
>
> Sometime afterwards the term mutoscope was applied to the flicker books themselves, while the term mutograph was used as a synonym for photograph.

You will not find the two nouns in the first three editions of the Dictionary of Visual Science, but they will be in the fourth. Neither are they in Webster's Third New International Dictionary, unabridged, but they are in the current Oxford unabridged dictionary, and 'mutoscope' is found in Webster's Second Edition, 1959. Illustrations of their mechanisms and use are featured on the front cover of April 17, 1897, issue of Scientific American, Vol. 76, No. 16, and in an article entitled "The Art of Moving

Photography" on pages 248-250. One of the illustrations shows the mutograph being used for photographing the Pennsylvania Limited [train] running at 60 miles per hour. Another shows a mutoscope with its side panel open to display its inner workings.

The anonymous author of the article gives credit "for courtesies extended" to Mr. Herman Casler as the inventor and to Mr. W.K.L. Dickson as "the pioneer investigator in the art of moving photography."

Though not implied in the article, the Oxford dictionary suggests by a choice of literary quotation that the adjective form "mutoscopic" usefully conveyed the meaning of risqué or bawdy. This secondary connotation presumably derived from the principal use of the mutoscope in penny arcades to exhibit moving exposures of questionable decency briefly upon insertion of a small coin. This is within living memory.

Retrospective diagnosis:

From World Press Review, September 1980, p. 9: Richard Eckersley, science reporter for the Sydney Morning Herald [Australia] reported in the July 12, 1982, issue that Dr. James Leavesley of Perth is a physician who likes to investigate the ailments of individuals long dead. In his speculative techniques devoted to the painter Vincent Van Gogh [1853-1890] Dr. Leavesley suggests the possibility that van Gogh's "obsession with the color yellow in the last years of his life was not artistic expression but the result of digitalis poisoning. Van Gogh was being treated at the time for epilepsy. Digitalis ... was a fashionable treatment for epilepsy."

Optometric history in Peru:

The following three paragraphs are excerpted from the translation by optometry student Carlos Pages of a letter of July 5, 1982, received by me from optometrist Alfredo Horta Coronel of Av. Petit Thouars No. 5550 Miraflores, Lima, Peru.

> Firstly, I would like to tell you that around the 1950's, which is the period that I obtained my degree, the shortage or absence of universities made the accessibility to higher education practically impossible for the great majority of the people. In my case, for example, I learned Optics and Optometry through apprenticeship classes taught to me many years ago by a German immigrant, who correctly instructed me in the practices and skills necessary to fulfill my role in this profession, which I had done for many years (outside of my country).
>
> Upon returning to my country, I was obligated to leave to the United States with the purpose of obtaining an Optometry degree, since there existed many legal problems in practicing without a degree in Peru. Lamentably, upon returning to my country, a law was enacted prohibiting the practice of Optometry, leaving me without any possibility of practicing, since my

recently acquired degree was of no use, nor any of the legal proceedings that I carried out effective, in order to modify this injust situation.

In order for you to get a general idea of the situation, I am enclosing photocopies of all my papers, duly legalized, as well as my degree and a document that accredits those who issued my degree had the full authority to do so.

The agency from which Dr. Horta Coronel obtained his doctoral title was the Philadelphia Optical College, an old diploma mill operating out of Philadelphia. It ceased luring American optometrists at about the time all U.S. accredited schools granted the O.D. degree, but, much to our chagrin, it continued to sell optometry doctoral degrees to victims in other countries. The accrediting document to which Dr. Horta C. refers merely certified the agency's legal standing as a corporation duly chartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

For looking fingers:

The August 1982 Sales Catalog of The Howe Press of Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, Massachusetts 02172-9982 arrived in two forms, large print and Braille. The following bit of history is included in the printed catalog, together with a portrait of Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe:

> In 1879, three years after the death of Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe--the first Director of Perkins--his successor Michael Anagnos, made a public appeal for funds for the Printing Department of the school. At that time he also gave the Printing Department the name Howe Memorial Press, which it's been called, officially, ever since. In recent years, though, it's been customary to refer to it more frequently as The Howe Press of Perkins School for the Blind, thus making clear its association with the parent organization.
>
> In naming the printing press after his predecessor, Michael Anagnos knew exactly where credit was due. For Dr. Howe, among his many other accomplishments, was a leader, worldwide, in the work of providing books for blind children.
>
> Even before he admitted his first pupils to his father's home in 1832, Dr. Howe had made clear his attitude toward books for the blind. In Europe, which he had visited the previous year, he found that in some of the schools the idea of teaching the blind to read was not encouraged. He rejected the argument given him in England that blind people would always have sighted people available to read to them, and he recognized how much more pleasure was to be obtained by reading by oneself.
>
> "They (the blind)," he wrote, "can stop and go back or read over a passage a dozen times, reflect upon it as long as they choose, and refer to it on any occasion."
>
> Dr. Howe examined books being printed in Europe and didn't find

them to his liking--finding them unnecessarily bulky and, consequently, too costly to produce. And, too, all of these books used the ordinary shaped letters of print books, whereas Howe felt that a special type for blind readers could be designed which would take up less space and which, while easily read by sight, would also be easier to read by touch. When the school opened in 1832, he designed what became known as "Boston Line Type," which is still used by The Howe Press on the title pages of its books [including the Brailled sales catalog].

For over 50 years, it was the predominant type for the blind in the U.S. For his contribution, Dr. Howe was awarded a Gold Medal in 1851 by Prince Albert at his famous International Exhibition in London.

The rise and fall of an optometry school:

Recently acquired and donated to ILAMO by OHS President Leeds is a 1923 CATALOGUE of the Rochester School of Optometry. It consists of 32 pages and a stiff paper jacket measuring 23x15 cm. The first page informs us that it is the "TWENTIETH ANNUAL CATALOGUE", that the school was "Chartered by the University of the State of New York" as "A SCHOOL OF OPTICS and OPTOMETRY, ORGANIZED-1902, CHARTERED-1909, REORGANIZED-1916", and that the "OFFICE OF THE DEAN' was at "38 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ROCHESTER, N.Y."

A full page photograph on the second page shows the "OPTOMETRIC CLINIC' as five lanes or open-ended booths or stalls in what appears to be the modified interior of a frame house. The equipment in the first stall includes a desk, a swivel stool, an Ives acuity meter on a very tall stand behind an adjustable steel frame examining chair, a phoropter on a floor stand, an adjustable examiner's stool, an ophthalmometer on an adjustable instrument stand, and an adjustable tilt mirror on a stand at a distance of about three meters. The partially visible interiors of the four other stalls down the corridor seem comparably furnished.

Page 3 shows the calendar for the 1923-24 school year beginning in the fall and ending in June with specific dates for filing scholarship applications, taking entrance examinations, registration, mid-year and final examinations, payment of fees, mid-term tests, baccalaureate sermon, and commencement exercises. Listed holidays included Columbus Day, Armistice Day, Thanksgiving recess, Christmas vacation, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Easter vacation, and Memorial Day. Dates were also given for the "Annual banquet and Alumni meeting", the "Spring Frolic", a "Faculty Serenade" and "Class Day".

Page 4 listed the faculty as Ernest Petry, Dean, Maurice A. Wilder, Harry M. Bestor, Herbert E. Wilder, Ralph L. Dublin, Gordon H. Gliddon, Clarence C. Rogers, Theodore H. Martens, Charles E. Cox, and Benjamin K. Fickes, each with his topical teaching assignment and home address. Also indicated were two faculty vacancies, one for Mechanical Drawing and the other for Optical Shop. The name of Althea C. Arend was listed

with her home address as Secretary to the Dean. Serving on the Board of Directors were Carl Lomb of the Bausch & Lomb Optical Co., Burt B. Clark of the Klatorik Optical Co., W.H. Vianco of the Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute, William H. Briggs, retired, and Harry M. Bestor, a practicing optometrist.

The following historical paragraphs are reproduced from the section entitled ORGANIZATION beginning on page 5:

> The Rochester School of Optometry was organized in 1902 as one of the first Optometry Schools to conduct an attendance course, and to meet the growing demand that was evident throughout the country at that time for more thorough training in Optics and Optometry.
>
> The work was carried on as then outlined until 1909. In that year the State of New York passed the Optometry Law which demanded a two-year course in an approved school, as a professional educational requirement for the practice of Optometry. To meet this requirement, the Rochester School of Optometry applied for and was granted a charter by the University of the State of New York.
>
> The school, which was then a private institution, progressed slowly, but satisfactorily, until it was found necessary to change its organization to meet the conditions imposed upon it by the rapid development in the profession of Optometry.
>
> This organization was accomplished in 1916, when the school was placed under the management of a Board of Directors. This Board, which was composed of representative optical men, planned to broaden the scope of the school, and administer its affairs in a manner more conducive to the advancement of optical and optometric education.
>
> Under the reorganization, the school passed from private ownership to a semi-public institution, whose entire income would be devoted to its development.
>
> In August, 1918, the Board of Directors was reorganized and its personnel changed, so as to amplify the benefits to be derived therefrom by a closer relationship with philanthropic individuals whose educational and optical interests proved to be of exceptional value in planning the future policy and progress of the Rochester School of Optometry,

In a subsequent section beginning on page 6 are the following:

> The regulations prescribed by the various state laws vary considerably at the present time, but a concerted effort on the part of the International Federation of Optometry is tending to unify more generally both the preliminary and professional educational requirements.

The requirements of the New York State Optometry Law specify that applicants for license to practice Optometry must be at least twenty-one years of age, must be of moral character, have a preliminary education of at least four years in a recognized High School, must be graduated from a two-year course conducted by an Optometry School chartered by the University of the State of New York and must pass the examinations provided by the State Board of Examiners in Optometry.

These requirements will continue in effect until 1930, when, besides having lived up to all other requirements as now in force, the applicant must be graduated from a four-year Optometry course and have received a bachelor degree. To provide for the confirming of this degree, the Rochester School of Optometry is negotiating with one of the leading Universities of this country so that students who register in 1926 will be qualified to meet the requirements of the laws. If possible, arrangements will be made for the fulfillment of this requirement at an earlier date than is specified by law.

The school consisted of three distinct departments of instruction. One was the Department of Optometry.

THE DEPARTMENT OF OPTOMETRY conducts two courses; one of two years and the other of three years duration. The two-year Optometry course is conducted primarily to meet the minimum requirements of the present New York State Optometry Law and all other State Laws of equal requirement. The subjects presented are all of those specified by law plus a few which are offered because of their practical and cultural value. Owing to the time limitations, this course requires extraordinary diligence and application for satisfactory record and graduation therefrom.

The three-year Optometry course was established September, 1921, for two distinct reasons, one of which is to create a more practical balance between the theoretic and applied subjects, and at the same time to provide a less arduous curriculum. The second reason for the establishment of this course was to gradually develop a course in accordance with the requirements, as they will be advanced so as to comply with the present amendment to the New York State Optometry Law, which requires graduation from a four-year Optometry course after 1930. An advantage of this course is that it permits students to register with a minimum age limit of eighteen years and that being the average age of the high school graduate, it eliminates the year of delay which has been an unfortunate requirement for a number of students desiring to enter the two-year course.

All State Board requirements are met by the three-year Optometry course, and all but those of the State of Pennsylvania are fully met by the two-year course.

The three-year Optometry course, which was inaugurated in September, 1921, has proven itself a most satisfactory development in Optometric education in that it provides theoretic and practical instruction in proper balance. This course also makes possible the arrangement of a schedule of class work which is in accord with the most approved pedagogical recommendations. The two-year Optometry course will be continued with but slight alterations, but because of the excessive amount of instruction and the relative extensiveness of its scope, it is not to be recommended except to those who have more than average ability as students.

To college graduates with teaching ability and to those now engaged in the teaching profession who have the desire or inclination to divert their efforts in the direction of applied teaching, the opportunity is being presented by several Universities at this time which, although desirous of inaugurating departments of Optometry, are unable to find properly trained and educationally capable instructors. It is recommended therefore, that all who are desirous of taking advantage of this most promising opportunity correspond with the Dean concerning the same.

The Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners have officially accepted the work conducted during the third year of the three-year Optometry course as an acceptable substitute for the one year of apprenticeship under a registered Optometrist which the Pennsylvania Optometry Law requires as a necessary supplement to graduation from a two-year Optometry course.

THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL OPTICS was the outgrowth of an urgent demand on the part of Optical Manufacturers and Wholesale Prescription Opticians for technically trained assistants and foremen for their establishments. This course is almost entirely of a practical nature, and prepares both men and women for the mechanical, or what might be called the laboratory work, of the Optometrist.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EVENING INSTRUCTION offers an opportunity to the employees of Optical factories in and about Rochester to improve themselves educationally by offering courses during the early evening hours.

Concerning the clinic the catalogue informs us,

Among the groups from which clinic patients are drawn are the employees of Optical establishments, students of the University of Rochester, Mechanics Institute and Rochester's Public School system. Examinations are made free of charge by the students under the supervision of a registered Optometrist, and prescriptions are given to all who require glasses. In the cases of children of poor parentage, glasses are provided free of charge.

Pages 10 and 11 are devoted almost entirely to a description of the equipment and facilities of the "Optometric Clinic", the "Optical Shop", the "Optometric Laboratory", and the "Optical Laboratory". Pages 12 and 13 outline the several curricula. Page 14 is a group photograph of the 10-member "R.S.O. 1923 BASKETBALL TEAM" in regulation type basketball-playing suits with RSO lettered shirts, and including what appears to be a 4-member coaching staff.

Upon satisfactory completion of a prescribed curriculum each student was awarded a diploma or certificate designating the nature of the course and duration of attendance. Course descriptions are given on pages 15 to 19, including that for History of Optics, a one hour per week course in the first semester of the second year. Another course not commonly included in today's curricular requirements was Hygiene, one hour per week for a semester.

Entrance requirements for admission to either of the optometry curricula stipulated completion of four years high school, or official certification of equivalence, which included as a minimum three years of English, Physics, a year of foreign language, Algebra, plane geometry, a year of history, a year of biology, and a year of "Freehand or Mechanical Drawing". The "recommended" high school studies included four years of English, two of Latin, one of Greek, one of Bookkeeping, solid geometry, chemistry, manual training, and civics!

The various fees and tuition totaled $277 per year, and the student was advised that the "average living expense during the past year was $10.00 a week," and that, "Students are housed with private families, large boarding houses, fraternities, the Y.M.C.A. and Brick Church Institute". Several scholarships were offered, and a Student Loan Fund enabled "Worthy senior students...to borrow any amount not to exceed two hundred and fifty dollars ($250.00) at 6 per cent interest."

Students had convenient access not only to the school's own library but also to the Library of the Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics' Institute, the Reynolds Library, the Rochester University Reference Library, the Municipal Library, and, through the faculty, the optical libraries of the Bausch & Lomb Optical Company and the Eastman Kodak Company.

Pages 26 to 32 deal with students' earnings, graduate placement, student mail, regulations, athletics, inspection tours of optical plants, prizes (nine), assemblies, the student association (R.S.O. Society), the school paper (R.S.O. Focus), and fraternities (Mu Delta Pi, Psi Epsilon, and Omega Pi Tau).

Inserted in the catalogue was an APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT which requested, in addition to the vital, career related, and academic preparatory questions, "Name sport and position in which you have experience", "What musical instrument do you play?" "Have you Editorial or Managerial experience?" "Married or single?" and "What church do you attend?"

Altogether this catalogue is probably the most complete and most clearly written booklet of information I have ever seen for a school or college. To the best of my personal knowledge the school folded in about 1937, at which time I recall that one final year student, whose name escapes me, transferred out of the closing Rochester school into The Ohio State University school to complete his studies. At about that time I also had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Petry, but I cannot recall the circumstance.

Test card or handout?

Inserted with the aforementioned 1923 catalogue of the Rochester School of Optometry was a 22x15 cm sheet of rather thin paper on which was printed a series of six paragraphs of successively smaller type size topped by the word OPTOMETRY in 6 mm high letters. Though it resembled a reading test card, it would hardly have been used for that purpose because of its flimsiness. Traces of dried glue at the top edge suggested that it was removed from a pad. The wordy text starts with the definition, "OPTOMETRY is the measurement of the human eye for the purpose of diagnosing its defects and prescribing proper glasses for the relief thereof." The subsequent paragraphs in successively smaller type elaborate on the definition and functions of the optometrist and offer some advice on eye care. In the smallest print at the bottom are the words, "Publication C2 Department of Public Information. American Optometric Association."

Exactly how these printed sheets were to be used is not obvious, but one can guess that the optometrist might have given one to each patient as a sort of "take home" indicator of the need for the next examination.

Collecting optical patent papers?

If you are, you may wish to respond to the following offer received by Jim Leeds last September:

1. Heavy paper printed document, a patent from the Dominion of Canada, Oct. 15, 1901, to David Hunt Ludlow for "improvements in Eyeglasses and Spectacles", official seal, typed declaration enclosed with sketch of the "invention", folded, vgc, $12.00.

2. Another patent as above from Canada for a different improvement in eyeglasses and spectacles, Nov. 26, 1900, heavy paper patent tearing at fold else good, $11.00.

The following items are US Patent office copies of other persons' eyeglasses inventions.

1. L.L. Mincer, Patented Feb. 26, 1895, No. 534, 803, 2p or 1 sheet of printed description & full p. illus item (nose piece).

2. E.S. Fowler, Dec. 1, 1891, similar eyeglass nose piece, paper fair.

3. I. Fox Eyeglasses, Jan. 29, 1884, Phila Pa inventor, eye piece again, good.

4. D.H. Ludlow, May 28, 1901, (may be the US version of the Canada patents, printed form, illus, some crease tears else good).

I offer the 6 items as a lot for $25.00pp.

Mr. Lee W. Reese
302 S. State Street
Ephrata, PA 17522

Going, going, gone:

Recently received is a copy of an acknowledgement of receipt by ILAMO of materials donated by Elias Shaneson, O.D., upon his retirement from practice in Buffalo, New York, to Lake Worth, Florda. Listed in detail were 34 books and reprints, assorted issues of seven periodicals, and nine miscellaneous items mostly from his student years at Columbia University.

Most of the items are rather familiar to those of us of the same vintage as Dr. Shaneson, which is to say that we remember seeing them at numerous times during our careers. Such familiarity makes them seem commonplace and even worthless. What escapes us is the fact that most of us have treated their values lightly and may even have disposed of them as trash, especially if space was needed for more up-to-date materials. The result is that any given printed or written item that may have been issued in quantities of a hundred or a thousand or even greater numbers may now be reduced to a dozen or fewer extant copies in the whole world.

We owe thanks to Dr. Shaneson for allowing experienced and qualified archivists to make the essential decisions for archival purposes.

Cherokee eyewash:

Exhibited at the Cherokee National Museum, TSA-LA-GI, Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74464, U.S.A., under the display board reading of "Cherokee medicine" is a small transparent envelope of thin wood chips or shavings with the following posted legend:

Cherokee name: Ta wa tsi luh

Common name: slippery elm

Botanical name: Ulmus fulva

Cherokee remedy for: eyewash

Augenoptik features history:

Perusal of the last dozen or more issues of Augenoptik, a bimonthly optometric journal from East Germany, uncovered a surprising number of articles, mostly biographical, of historical interest.

Six of them are printed on the inside cover pages of the 1980 issues, Vol. 97, nos. 1 to 6. Annoyingly these two inside pages on each issue are not numbered and sometimes identified simply as the 2nd and 3rd pages of the magazine jacket, the outer sides being the 1st and 4th. They are not paginated with the rest of the magazine contents nor listed in the tables of contents, and therefore forever lost in directory retrieval systems except as mentioned here. All of them appear under the repeated caption "Aus der Geschichte der Optik" as follows.

Jan.-Feb. [author anonymous], "Rene Descartes (Cartesius)" [1596-1650]
Mar.-Apr. [author anonymous], "Isaac Newton (1643 bis 1727)"
May-June, U. Maxam, "Michail Wassiljewitsch Lomonossow (1711-1765)"
July-Aug., U. Maxam, "Thomas Young (1773 bis 1829)"
Sept.-Oct., U. Maxam, "Hermann von Helmholtz 1821-1894"
Nov.-Dec. [author anonymous], "Moritz von Rohr (1868-1940)"

The articles are well written and referenced and typically include an illustration or two. They deal briefly with a few vital facts and in more detail with each subject's contributions in visual optics. The similarity of format suggests that Maxam may have authored all six. They are of course in German.

Other articles of historical interest also have appeared from time to time in the paginated and indexed body of the magazines, as follows:

[Author anonymous], "Aus dem Leben und Wirken von Karl Mütze (1909-1979)" [The life and works of Karl Mütze], Vol. 96, No. 6, Nov.-Dec. 1979, pp. 182-184.

P. Wengler, "Zur Geschichte des ophthalmoskopischen Gerätebaus" [On the history of ophthalmoscopic instrument making], Vol. 97, No. 1, Jan.-Feb. 1980, pp. 40-45.

J. Abicht and P. Esche, "Ernst Abbe, Erfinder-Gelehrter-Humanist" [Ernst Abbe, inventor-scholar-humanist] [1840-1905] Vol. 97, No. 1, Jan.-Feb. 1980, p. 45.

U. Maxam, "100 Hefte Augenoptik" [100 issues of Augenoptik], Vol. 97, No. 4, July-Aug. 1980, p. 98. The editor reviews editorial considerations reflected in the hundred issues of the journal appearing since adoption of its present title in January 1964.

F. Klix, "Über Helmholtz' bedeutende Entdeckungen bei der Analyse rezeptorgebundener Wahrnehmungsleistungen" [Helmholtz's important discoveries in analyzing receptor-specific perceptive performance], Vol. 98, No. 3, May-June 1981, pp. 84-86.

D. Bernhardt, "Zur Geschichte der Brille" [On the history of eyeglasses], Vol. 98, No. 6, Nov.-Dec. 1981, pp. 182-185 and supplemented on the inside page of the front cover.

D. Bernhardt, "Die Entwicklung der Brille, Teil II" [History of eyeglasses, Part II], Vol. 99, No. 1, Jan.-Feb. 1982, pp. 21-23 and supplemented on the inside page of the front cover. A continuation of the article of similar title in the preceding issue.

Legend of an era:

The first half of this century was perhaps a relatively unique period in which a fair number of individuals successively qualified both in optometry and ophthalmology. Several of these persons became very politically and emotionally involved in issues of interprofessional conflict, even to the point of assuming leadership roles in the controversy by virtue of their bilateral professional experiences. One of the most prominent members of this category was Edwin Forbes Tait (1894-1958), whom we of earlier vintage remember vividly.

Upon checking pagination and other reference details of the aforementioned Faraday article in Survey of Ophthalmology I happened across a brief obituary of Dr. Tait by Arthur Linksz, M.D., on page 470. The following excerpts are of special interest.

> "Ed Tait was one of that sect, for fellow ophthalmologists always somewhat outlandish, within our profession who until the end of their careers do not lose devoted interest in problems of refraction. He brought an unusually broad foundation in optics into his specialty and was able to turn this specialized knowledge to practical use."
>
> "Ed Tait was what he looked, an American Puritan; ascetic, serious, warm in heart but somewhat severe in his judgment of himself and others ..."
>
> "His seriousness and his preoccupation with issues of moral standard made Ed Tait in his last years, in spite of illnesses, more and more actively engaged with problems of professional conduct and so-called interprofessional issues of eye care. About this field of his activities much is known and, I am sure, more will yet be said. We shall all sorely miss him."

Except for reference to Tait's "unusually broad foundation in optics," no clue was given to the fact of his distinguished optometric career prior to entering the field of medicine. In the 1926 Blue Book of Optometrists Dr. Tait listed himself as a 1914 graduate of the Pennsylvania College of Optics and Ophthalmology, Registrar and Professor of Optometry at the Pennsylvania State College of Optometry, and member of the American and Pennsylvania optometric associations. His first listing as a licensed optometrist was in the 1918 edition and then regularly in subsequent editions through 1940. It appears that he may have abandoned his optometric license after qualifying for medical practice.

Dr. Tait's publications appeared in the optometric literature during his optometric career, and in the ophthalmological literature subsequently.

In siliceous style:

Early in the 1930's when Lillian M. Grandmason, O.D., was president

of the Soroptimist Club of Los Angeles her club decided upon a "fashion show" at which each member should appear in attire representative of her own particular business, craft, or profession. Dr. Grandmason contrived and wore a dress made of spectacle lenses!

Later she was invited to display it at a Biltmore Fashion Show. She then remodeled the gown for the lovely debutante Miss Dorothy Huddleston, who wore it on numerous occasions. The most glamorous occasion was the fancy dress ball of "The Troopers of Hollywood" at which she wore the "Gown of A Thousand Eyes" escorted by the grand old man of stage and screen, Mr. Burr McIntosh.

According to the write-up of this event in the June 1939 issue of The Western Optical World, vol. 27, no. 6, p. 225, the final costume made use of 5,000 lenses and 4,500 feet of waxed silk to tie the lenses together, at a cost of eleven hundred dollars. Though the dress weighed 70 pounds, Miss Huddleston wore it "with the ease and grace of a princess".

An early optical account:

Mrs. Rita C. Zuccaro, 16901 S.W. 87th Ct., Miami, Florida 33157 noticed Dr. Leeds's advertisement for old books, etc., in The Trader and sent him two old invoices dated 9/7/1879 and 14/7/1879 with the message, "...thought perhaps you'd like this bit of nostalgia". Both are from the Geneva Optical Company, Geneva, N.Y., showing optical merchandise sold to A.B. Jones & Bro., Fonda, N.Y. One was for a pair of "Gold Beveled specs" at $4.75. The other was for the following (as best I can read the longhand):

1 Doz. Cat. No. 588 cases	$1.25
1/2 Gross Cat. No. 574 cases. lettered	2.50
1 Doz. Cat. No. 367 frames nickled	3.75
1 Doz. Cat. No. 621	1.50
1 Doz. Cat. No. 612	5.00
1/2 Pair frameless	.25
1 Pair Beveled Gold E.G.	4.75
	19.00

Scribbled notations on the backs suggest that the bills were paid.

H.W Hofstetter, Editor

P.S. Have you invited a friend to join the O.H.S.?