

December's OHS Meeting:

OHS President James Leeds called to inform all readers that at this year's gathering of the Optometric Historical Society at the American Academy of Optometry meeting there will be a guest lecturer. Christopher Hoolihan, Rare Book Librarian at the Library of the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, will give a slide presentation on the Bernard Becker M.D. Collection in Ophthalmology. This will take place on Saturday December 8 at approximately 5:30. After your arrival please check the schedule for the exact time and venue.

A 1922-1952 case study:

Indiana University

NOV 20 1984

OHS President Leeds paid what he believes is a tax deductible dollar for a somewhat yellowed envelope and its contents which had been mailed 34 years ago by an optometrist to a naturopath named A. Kaplin, N.D., 2038 College St., Jacksonville, Florida. It was hazily postmarked Apr. 13, 1950, Columbus, Ohio, with the added advice BUILD YOUR FUTURE WISELY SAFELY U.S. SAVINGS BONDS. On the enclosed letterhead of the same date the writer was identified as "Dr. Wilton Howard Wilson, O.D.,--eyes, 36 West Gay Street--Suite. 310, 311, Phone, MAIN 6221, Columbus 15, Ohio," plus his residence address at 14 East Lakeview Avenue and another telephone number, and further designation as "Consulting Reflexologist to the Profession." He told Dr. Kaplan, among other things, that, "As a Naturopath you are well qualified to specialize in eye work; and the public will welcome you into this new field; and it means enhanced prestige and increased income."

He further informed Dr. Kaplan that the fee was \$200.00 and that the course required "three days attendance in this office." Accompanying the typewritten and personally signed letter was a mimeographed sheet captioned "OCULO-REFLEXOLOGY, The Wilson Concept." The first paragraph declared, "Several investigations conducted in recent years, and published in media with a national coverage, have revealed that the public is getting 'too little eye service' and that what little it is getting is not effective quality."

Next were described the "common neuro-muscular disorders" AMBLYOPIA, ESOPHORIA, and EXOPHORIA, and their diagnosis. Under the heading TREATMENT, "The ocular reflexes are evoked by concussion or vibration applied to specific nerve centers in the spine, reinforcing the reflexes with the aid of adjustment and colored light rays." The RESPONSE is quite marvelously described as, "Watching the visual chart, the Amblyope sees his vision improve before his eyes; watching the neuro-muscular chart, he sees either tension or exhaustion reduced or abolished in a few seconds or minutes"

Fees, numbers of treatments, and course costs are stated, and finally, "EQUIPMENT costs between \$25.00 and \$50.00. This includes charts and testing instruments. The practitioner may use his own vibrator, electric apparatus, or chrome generator."

Because I lived in Columbus, Ohio, within a half-hours walk of Dr. Wilson's addresses from September, 1936, through December, 1948, and was very actively involved in local optometric affairs throughout those years I should be able to recall something about Dr. Wilson or his offerings. I recall no detail whatsoever! This can hardly be a Freudian lapse of memory, for I well remember other rankling deviances of that era which were embraced, or at least viewed naively, usually briefly, by one or another optometrist in the area.

Attempting to trigger my memory I searched the biennially published Blue Book of Optometrists and found Dr. Wilson listed as 800 East Second Avenue in Columbus in 1922, at 221 Clinton Street in 1924, and at 2501 Summit Street in 1926, 1928, and 1930. In 1932 and 1934 his address was 128 S. Main, Akron, Ohio. Then in the subsequent nine issues he was listed as back in Columbus at various addresses, 54 West Longview Avenue in 1936, 5 East Long Street in 1942, 1491 North High in 1944, 28 West Longview in 1946 and 1948, 14 East Lakeview Avenue in 1950, and 36 West Gay Street in 1952.

He was not listed in any Blue Book prior to 1922, perhaps because the Ohio registration law for optometrists was not enacted until 1919, nor in any after 1952. In the 1928, 1936, and 1938 Blue Book entries he variously identified his qualifications as a 1911 graduate of the Northern Illinois College of Optometry, with an O.D. and a "Ph.G." degree, supplementary instruction in "Oculo-Reflexology" and Physiotherapy, Secretary of the "Ohio League for the Conservation of Vision," "Member of Council on Optometry, Ohio Federation of Allied Scientists," and Director and Chief of Staff of the "Wilsonian Institute." Quotation marks identify terms completely unfamiliar to me.

This is the full extent of the information I was able to glean with respect to Dr. Leed's fascinating one dollar purchase, which will be forwarded to the ILAMO archives. Does it have historical value? Perhaps it does. How else can the otherwise uninformed observer of this single piece of old undestroyed mail gain at least some grasp of a part of the intellectual and professional climate which prevailed earlier in this century. Are things really different in today's highly technological milieu, or simply couched in newly concocted terminology?

H. W H.

On framing and preserving:

The following is the June 1984 installment of a series of articles on preservation hints which appeared in the Indiana Historical Society Newsletter, No. 67, written by conservators Christine Young and Ramona Duncan:

Framing of a cherished or interesting item for display is often considered desirable, but the framer should be aware of the risks to the item that are involved in the process. When an object is enclosed in a frame, an intimate micro-environment is created where acids and other impurities that are trapped inside may accelerate the aging of the object. Framing may also cause the buildup of humidity within the micro-environment, consequent condensation on the glass, and possible damage to the framed object. Careful choice of the materials and methods used for framing will reduce these risks.

First of all, one should select a frame which is larger than the object so that the edges of the item to be framed do not come in contact with the frame (wooden frames are especially acidic). Only non-acidic papers and matboards should be used. Ragboard is recommended for all papers, textiles, and photographs. The less expensive buffered matboard (sometimes called conservation board) may be used for paper artifacts of lesser value, but it is always inappropriate for textiles and photographs. Common matboard and nearly all types of cardboard will cause damage and should never be used in a frame.

Because the object is smaller than the frame, it must be made to "float" within the frame. This is done by attaching it to a back mat. Rigid items may be held with "photo corners" made from good quality paper. Other items should be hinged or

hung from the top by strips of Japanese paper. Starch paste or methyl cellulose paste should be used as the adhesive. Objects should never be taped into position, and they should never be firmly attached at all four sides.

To avoid problems from humidity, such as mold, it is important to create an airspace between the object and the glazing in the frame. This is especially important for photographs, which become sticky and adhesive when moist. The airspace is commonly made by the use of a window mat. It can also be done by the design or modification of the frame itself.

Glazing provides considerable protection for the framed object. Glass is used most commonly. Non-glare glass should be avoided because it is designed for use in direct contact with the object and causes fuzziness when proper spacers are used. Lighter weight acrylic glazing may be preferred for large items. Because of the static charge that it produces, however, this plastic should not be used for pastel or charcoal drawings. Some plastics are available with filters for ultraviolet light, and these are recommended for textiles, watercolors, etc.

Finally, it must be clearly understood that framing and display preclude preservation. Display subjects the object to long periods of exposure to damaging light; hanging the object in direct sunlight or using "spotlighting" techniques compound the hazard. If the longevity of an object is more important than the showing of it, then storage, not display, is the proper path to choose.

On the next page are selected excerpts from previous installments of the series.

The environmental conditions that promote preservation are cool temperatures (70°F is maximum), low relative humidity (40-50%), and minimal exposure to light. It is also important to remember that keeping the levels of temperature and humidity stable is as critical a consideration as keeping them low. -

Everything that is in contact with or adjacent to the artifact constitutes its environment. Materials of dubious quality should be eliminated. These include groundwood papers, metal items, self-adhering tapes and labels, rubber bands, and most plastics. Paper items should be housed in acid-free containers. Folders and boxes appropriate for storage are available in a variety of sizes and formats;

The best approach for the preservation of photographs is good storage. Place the photographs in sleeves or envelopes of high quality plastic (polyester, triacetate, or polypropylene) or of specially formulated neutral paper. Avoid adhesives of any type. Nearly all commercial photo albums use impure papers, plastics, and adhesives — they cannot be recommended for the preservation of photographs. Shield photographs from light as much as possible. Keep them in a cool and especially dry place.

Avoid the temptation to clean photographs. Even plain water can destroy certain photographic emulsions and consequently ruin the images.

Protection for flat paper artifacts which are delicate may be safely accomplished by providing them with support. Encapsulation is an archival term which describes a process that supplies an overall support for the original as a temporary archival measure, keeping very delicate papers from further loss through mishandling. Overall support entails enclosing the original between two clear flat sheets, which are sealed to produce, in effect, an envelope.

Materials required for encapsulation are those which are free from acid or are inert chemically. A clear polyester film called Mylar is the only material available that is recommended as safe for use in encapsulation.

Until about 1840, Western papers were made almost exclusively of recycled rags; today the term "rag paper" refers to the use of new fibers of cotton or linen. Because of their relative purity, rag papers have the greatest potential for longevity. Pulp papers are made of fibers which have been chemically derived from wood. These papers consist of poorer quality cellulose and may also retain chemical residues from pulping and bleaching processes. While potential longevity varies with the specific pulping process used, it is fair to say that the pulp papers as a group will not last as long as rag papers. Lignified papers are made of mechanically derived pulp. Often referred to as "ground-wood" papers, they contain all the organic acids, resins, and impurities found in wood. It is currently impossible to preserve these papers. Newsprint and cardboards are common examples of ground-wood papers. Papers can also be made of such diverse materials as straw and polyester.

A variety of materials can be added to paper to alter its characteristics. These may be fillers to increase density and stiffness or adhesives to make the surface non-absorbent; coated papers, used for book illustrations, are given a thin veneer of clay. Additives to paper alter its potential life span as well as its physical characteristics; many cause active deterioration of the paper fibers. The addition of alkaline agents to pulp papers improves their longevity dramatically. Alkaline papers may be labelled acid-free, buffered, or archival. A wide variety of storage and display materials is now available in this type of paper; the use of these items is highly recommended for the preservation of paper artifacts.

A few biographical miscellanea:

A brief note from OHS Prexy Jim Leeds tells us that he himself recalls the two incompletely identified teachers at the Northern Illinois College of Optometry mentioned in V.F. Kring's classroom notes in our last issue. Johnsen, whose name was misspelled Johnson in Kring's notes and therefore also in our previous issue, was the senior author of a 158 page manual entitled, "Optical Shop and Counter" by Alf Henry Johnsen, Bertram A. Weeks, and Frederick H. Weller, published in 1934 by The Professional Press, Chicago. It seems probable that Johnsen was an optician, born in 1899 according to the book's library catalog card, and may therefore still be living. Weeks is listed as a Chicago optometrist in the 1934 Blue Book of Optometrists. Weller remains unknown. Also unknown is the significance of the word "Counter" in the book's title.

"Keef," suggests Dr. Leeds, was Frank M. Keefe, O.D., who practiced in Chicago. "He taught us anatomy. He was a big, florid, gregarious fellow, and a good teacher. He quit teaching before I graduated in 1940." Leeds is surely correct, for Dr. Keefe is listed as a Chicago optometrist in the 1936 Blue Book of Optometrists. The 1950 Blue Book shows him in Antioch, Illinois, with the degrees M.A., Ph.D., D.A., and D.O.S., a graduate of Sacred Heart College, 1912; Niagara University, 1914-16; Catholic University, 1917; and Northern Illinois College of Optometry, 1934, post-graduate study at National College of Audiology, 1947, a member of the American Optometric Association, and formerly Professor at N.I.C.O.

Anecdotal characterization of the famous:

In 1958 the R. Piper & Co. Verlag of Munich, West Germany, published a charming little book by Eduard Stemmlinger entitled "Von Berühmten Ärzten" (About Famous Physicians), 187 anecdotes collected from memoirs and letters. Included were the names of three who are well identified with visual science, Müller, Helmholtz, and von Graefe. The following are their related anecdotes, translated.

Johannes Peter Müller 1801-1858: He had the remarkable ability to set aside all annoyances whenever he was intensely preoccupied with a more pressing matter. So disciplined it was that it excluded even details of his own memory. Thus it happened that in a summer semester when a student requested a clarification of a difficult point in human anatomy Müller responded with, "I know that only in the winter semester."

Johannes Müller started one lecture with the words, "Sirs! Whence came we? What are we? What will become of us? You will have to seek the answers to the first and third questions from our colleagues of the theological faculty. During the present hours we will concern ourselves with the second question, that of human physiology."

Hermann Ludwig Ferdinand Helmholtz 1821-1894: On one occasion Helmholtz was introduced to the Grand Duke of Weimar. In such audiences his highness would be prompted by his court martial with an appropriate key word or phrase to enable him to start a casual conversation. In this instance the court martial whispered the word "Augenspiegel" (ophthalmoscope) to the prince to cue him to the learned guest's most important invention. The grand duke misunderstood, hesitated a moment, and then laughingly grabbed the professor by the shoulder and said, "Ah, sieh da, Eulenspiegel!" (Oh, you rascal you!)

Concerning his experience with spontaneous ingenious ideas he said, "They often creep softly into one's realm of thought without their significance immediately being recognized. In my own experience they never came to me during mental fatigue or while at my desk. Frequently they occurred upon awakening in the morning, as Gauss too once remarked. But more likely they emerged during pleasant hikes through wooded hills in sunny weather. The smallest drop of alcoholic beverage, however, tends to suppress them."

"In reference to the ophthalmoscope," related Helmholtz, "a very famous colleague and surgeon once told me he would never use the instrument, that it was too risky to let the glaring light enter diseased eyes. Another one explained that the ophthalmoscope might be useful for a physician with poor eyes but that he himself had very good eyes and did not require it."

Madam Martius said of Helmholtz, "The genial scholar was the poorest imagineable teacher. I have witnessed an occasion in which at the beginning of the hour he took a reading off of a complicated apparatus which he neglected to explain and immediately began to do calculations on the blackboard until it was completely covered with the most involved formulae. He finally announced, 'You see, sirs, that the result well agrees with the hypothesis,; and departed from the lecture room. Almost none of the members of the audience had any notion of what it was all about.'"

Albrecht von Gräfe 1828-1870: At a palace ball in Berlin an aristocratic lady asked her dancing partner Gräfe, "My dear von Gräfe! We hear in the highest circles about your fabulous operations. Is it true that you simply take out the eyeball, neatly cleanse it, and put it back in place again?" Dr. von Gräfe responded most amiably, "Indeed, my dear. The procedure is utterly simple. And if the old eye is badly worn out I replace it with a young rabbit eye."

H. W H.

Edmund Fuller Richardson, O.D., 1899-1984:

The passing of Ed Richardson on July 15 has reminded many of us that he was a colorful and dedicated optometric leader.

Of special archival interest is the fact that during his extensive travels and lecture tours for the American Optometric Association, the Optometric Extension Program, and other missions he indulged in the unusual hobby of capturing on color slides both posed and unposed photographs of prominent optometrically-related persons with their spouses. He showed these on occasion at receptions in his home, truly fascinating entertainment, for most of us had little if any acquaintance with the spouses of leaders whom we otherwise knew well.

If these can be found and preserved they would serve as a better memento of the man and his missions than even a portrait in the gallery or a statue in the park.

In honor of Dr. Richardson the Optometric Extension Program Foundation had established the Edmund F. Richardson Educational Memorial Fund.

More on Captain Knowles:

Adding another clue to the identity of Captain Chester Knowles mentioned on page 40 of the April issue of N.O.H.S., vol. 15, no. 2, OHS member D.C. Hummel, O.D., penned a recollection, as follows: "I took a course in Cleveland on subnormal vision from Captain Knowles. At no time did he speak on contact lenses. At that time Feinbloom was about to start his courses in contact lenses. Occasionally I still use Knowles' distance chart with numbers from 20/800 to 20/200"

Elegant but ignored visual optics?

In the January issue, Vol. 15, No. 1, p. 22, I promised to describe what to me was the mysterious Matthiessen book. It finally arrived on interlibrary loan from the University of Virginia library. Its title is GRUNDRISS DER DIOPTRIK GESCHICHTETER LINSENSYSTEME (Basic dioptrics of compound lens systems), subtitled MATHEMATISCHE EINLEITUNG IN DIE DIOPTRIK DES MENSCHLICHEN AUGES (Mathematical introduction to the dioptrics of the human eye). The author is identified as Dr. Ludwig Matthiessen, Ord. Professor der Physik an der Universität zu Rostock. The publisher is B.G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1877.

Especially noteworthy is the bookbinding elegance. The 276+ viii gilt-edged pages are bound in hard, red cloth, cover with debossed gilt-lined lettering and geometric designs, hubbing on the spine, and silk-lined inside cover pages, perhaps the most elegantly assembled book in the field of visual optics. It measures 16.5 x 24.5 x 2.0 cm in size and contains 73 line-drawn figures and hundred of mathematical formulas.

The book's edges and corners show considerable friction bruise, as if from repeated shelf-stacking, but virtually no direct signs of reader use. The library's pasted-in check-out slip shows only the current due date of Oct. 5, 1984, suggesting that I may have been its only borrower. An ink stamp notation identifies the book as a February 9, 1955 gift.

Surprisingly the book has no index, but it does have a very detailed table of contents of its 69 chapters with very descriptive titles. Approximately the first half of the book deals with the refraction of light in centered systems of successive spherical surfaces. The other half deals entirely with the refraction of light in normal human, and some animal eyes, subtitled "Ophthalmometrie." The text is very thorough in its treatment of all aspects of geometric and visual optics, and in relatively easy to read German. The optics of the ocular media, their curvatures and indices of refraction, are treated most exhaustively with thorough recognition and acknowledgement of prior research. The optics of the crystalline lens are in greater detail than any other that I have seen. The references are uniquely listed as research chronologies in three categories as follows:

I. Mathematical dioptrics, from Smith, 1738, to Röthig, 1876.

II. Refractive indices of the ocular media, from Fr. P. du Petit, 1726, to Aubert, 1876.

III. Ophthalmometrie, from Fr. P. du Petit, 1723, to Matthiessen, 1876.

The optical figures and formulae resemble most of the notation conventions of Professor James P.C. Southall's "Lenses, Mirrors, and Prisms," but Southall did not mention or make reference to Matthiessen in either that book or in his "Physiological Optics" book.

My own prior unawareness of any of Matthiessen's publications, or even his name, and the fact that the name was cited so inadequately if not haphazardly by Sheard, though rather extensively by Helmholtz, makes one wonder why Matthiessen seems to have been so ignored. Was his book too expensive or of limited circulation? Was his writing too mathematical to be understood by medically trained authors? Might the political circumstances of the "Iron Chancellor" years of Germany disrupted international scientific communication?

In my opinion, his writings deserved much greater recognition than we have given them.

H. W H.

Early optometric education in Missouri:

History of optometric education in the state of Missouri is dealt with by Pamela K. Warbinton, O.D., in the Second Quarter, 1980, issue of the Journal of the Missouri Optometric Association, pages 21-22, under the title of "A Forgotten Optometry School." Though mentioning the fact that at least four optometry schools in Kansas City, Missouri, preceded the present school in St. Louis, Missouri, she devoted the article almost totally to the Needles Institute of Optometry and the Kansas City School of Optometry, both owned by W.B. Needles, O.D. She derived much of her information from personal correspondence with Dr. Needle's son Richard A. Needles, O.D., and his nephew James H. Grout, O.D.

An issue for history:

History of South African optometry is virtually the total theme of the March/May 1984 issue of The South African Optometrist/Die Suid-Afrikaanse Oogkundige, Vol. 43, No. 1, in recognition of 60 years since the formation of the Transvaal Optometric Association on March 31, 1924, which only two months later changed its name to the South African Optical Association and eventually to the South African Optometric Association.

The feature article is "South African Optometry--where have you been and where are you going?" By Professor Selwyn Super of Rand Afrikaans University. He traces development from the establishment of the School of Applied Optics at the Witwatersrand Technical College on February 7, 1932, through the first qualifying examinations, the influences of British and American visitors on curriculum design, and the relatively recent establishment of degree granting optometric curricula at the University of the North, the University of Durban-Westville, and Rand Afrikaans University, with expectations of a new program at the University of the Witwatersrand in the near future.

Under the caption of "A Photographic Record of 60 Years of Service" are 12 pages of group photographs taken at conferences dating back to 1936. Next on pages 51-63 is a reprinted article by Deryck Humphriss which appeared originally in 1975 with the title "The Travelling Sight Jesters." The editor, David Reynolds, filled six pages with tidbits from the archives of the association and solicited reminiscences from pioneer optometrists B.E.C. Springer, P.E. Willemsse (in Afrikaans), K.O. Elgie, F. Graham Marrian, and Mrs. G.G. Banks. Altogether this assemblage of reports, stories, and pictures provides an interesting panoramic view of optometry's history in one country. The only conspicuously missing element was the lack of reference to the crucial 1931 court case of REX versus J.L. Saks reviewed on pages 49-54 of the July 1980 issue of N.O.H.S., Vol. 11, No. 3.

Can this be the only issue of any optometric journal featuring history as its theme, excluding of course each issue of N.O.H.S.?

More about William Mackenzie, (1791-1868):

A book which I requested on interlibrary loan so long ago I forgot what prompted my curiosity is THE LIFE AND TIMES OF DR. WILLIAM MACKENZIE, Founder of the Glasgow Eye Infirmary, by A.M. Wright Thomson, Glasgow, 1973. It consists of only 132 pages, enabling me to read it in almost a single setting.

The author, a Consultant Ophthalmologist at the Glasgow Eye Infirmary and at several other hospitals, in effect had written more than a very personalized biography of a man. It is a candid account of ophthalmology itself in terms of the milieu within which Mackenzie acquired his knowledge and to which he devoted his career-long efforts to provide scientific organization. The first chapter is entitled "Prelude: The Eighteenth-Century Quacks," an unabashed account of recommended treatment of ocular conditions,

including those provided by two persons successively appointed as oculists to Queen Anne, one a tailor and the other a tinker. The prelude is intended to illustrate the prevailing status of ophthalmological dogma when Mackenzie arrived on the scene.

The following passage from the last page of the book expresses the author's theme and accomplishment well. "This then is the story of a wee Glasgow man who accepted the challenge of his day. When he was born, the art of healing was just beginning to throw off the shackles of mediaeval mysticism and false ideas. The time was ripe for intelligent men to bring scientific knowledge to bear on the subject. Slowly thoughts were added to theories and the new scientific age of medicine was born and grew. This knowledge, however, had to be made to everybody and it was here that William Mackenzie made his name."

Is this a part of optometric history? Surely not. But anyone who is even reasonably aware of optometry's long heritage and who presumes that it shares common historical roots with that of ophthalmology really should read this book. It is an eye opener.

Incidentally, a brief review of Mackenzie's 1833 book is on pages 15-17 of the January 1980 issue of N.O.H.S., Vol. 11, No. 1.

H. W H.

George Nissel, 1913-1982:

The professional life of George Nissel is the theme of the first George Nissel Memorial Lecture by Professor Montague Ruben, FRCS, published in the April 1984 issue of the Journal of the British Contact Lens Association, Vol. 7, No. 2, pp. 98, 100, and 102. Nissel is described as an engineer who became interested in contact lenses when he watched his brother-in-law Joseph Dallos make glass scleral lenses in 1933. Much of the phenomenal development of the total contact lens and ocular prosthetics industry during Nissel's career is attributed to Nissel's role as a "master lens maker" of great repute.

Renaissance optics:

While visiting at Eliot College, University of Kent, Canterbury, England, OHS member David Cline, O.D., senior co-editor of the Dictionary of Visual Science, wrote us a brief letter in which he quoted a few lines from Italo Calvino's book, "If on a winter's night a traveler," as follows:

(page 162) "Myaim is to reconstruct the museum assembled by the Jesuit Athanasius Kircher, author of Ars Magna Lucis et Umbrae (1646) and inventory of the 'polydyptic theater', in which about sixty little mirrors lining the inside of a large box transform a bough into a forest, a lead soldier into an army, a booklet into a library."

(page 165) "The Arab geographers of the Middle Ages, in their descriptions of the harbor of Alexandria, recall the column that stood on the Island of Pharos, surmounted by a steel mirror in which, from an immense distance, the ships proceeding off Cyprus and Constantinople and all the lands of the Romans can be seen."

Calvino is an Italian novelist who began his literary career immediately after World War II. The above quoted novel appeared originally in Italian in 1979, and in English, translated by William Weaver, in 1981. The citations are from the eight pages captioned "In a network of lines that intersect," in which Calvino less than adroitly suggests numerous kaleidoscopic applications of mirrors for bizarre purposes, which Dr. Cline quite aptly described as "tongue-in-cheek." In the same eight pages Calvino sprinkles many other optical words such as spyglass, nearsighted, reflected images, catoptric, luminosity, illusory perspectives, radiation, and even a casual reference to Sir David Brewster, all in literary rather than technical contexts. He states parenthetically "I am at once a man who thinks and a business man, and a collector of optical instruments as well," and that he has been collecting kaleidoscopes since adolescence.

In sending us these citations from the novel Dr. Cline was not certain that Calvino's references to Kircher (1602-1680) and the Arab geographers are truly authentic, as he had no easy access to an adequate library.

Indeed, at least one copy of Kircher's 1646 publication of almost a thousand pages is in the Vatican collection and another is in the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Indiana. The full title translated is, "The Great Art of Light and Shadow, divided into ten books, in which the admirable powers and effects of light and shade are propounded in new and varied experiments and in recondite ways, for the diverse uses of mankind." It appears that its greatest value was not that it offered new knowledge but rather that it served as the encyclopedia of the optical information of that era.

Further, the Kircherian Museum did exist during most of Kircher's lifetime. Parts of the famous collection continue to be accessible in various places, as described by P. Conor Reilly S.J. in Chapter XII, pages 145-155, of *Studia Kircheriana*, Band I: Athanasius Kircher, S.J., Edizioni del Mondo, Wiesbaden-Rom, 1974. The museum included Kircher's magic lantern, beautifully illustrated on page 768 of his "Ars Magna Lucis . . ." and reproduced on page 83 of Joscelyn Godwin's "Athanasius Kircher: A Renaissance Man and the Quest for Lost Knowledge," Thames and Hudson, Ltd., London 1979.

Novelist Calvino's mention of the Arab geographers of the Middle Ages does not identify his source, but it could well have been derived from Kircher, who "wrote about everything under the sun." Calvino, an Italian, would of course have easy access to Kircher's Latin texts in Rome.

Calvino's expression "polydyptic theatre" may have been in quotation marks because the translator could not find a suitable English equivalent. Etymologically, "poly" means many; "dyptic," according to the Oxford English dictionary, is an absolute form of "dyptych" meaning hinged or folded or even double folded; and "theatre" refers to a viewing chamber. All of this suggests a multimirrored kaleidoscope, which fits Calvino's description of what it does.

Hale starts history series:

The first two installments of Dr. J.R. Hale's History of Washington Optometry appeared in the March/April and May/June, 1984, issues of Washington Optometry Today, both page 2 of the respective issues, nos. 2 and 3, the former identified with vol. 2 and the latter with vol. 3. One of my favorite librarians describes the volume numbering confusion a bit resignedly as the journal "having problems getting their volume numbering nailed down." The journal gives Dr. Hale's name the middle initial "R." in one issue and "E." in the other.

Dr. Hale, however, seems to have recorded his historical findings more diligently as acquired from "the AOA ILAMO library, old optometry magazines, personal correspondence, talking with colleagues, my own knowledge of optometric history, and optometric family references. For example, he recalls "a conversation with my grandfather, Dr. C.W. Young, who told how the medical profession's representatives offered M.D. degrees to doctors of optometry, if they would agree to accept and assist to end the profession in this state. The old timers had the fortitude to tell this particular group to 'buzz off'."

He reports the organizing of the Washington Optometric Association at the Masonic Hall in Seattle in December 7, 1899. In 1903 the association attempted unsuccessfully to get a registration act through the legislature, but was successful in 1909. In 1919 there were nine female optometrists in the city of Spokane. He reminds us, too, that the late Henry Schumacher was Mayor of Vancouver.

H. W H.

Optometry school jubilee:

Die Staatliche Fachschule für Optik und Fototechnik Berlin, (The Berlin, West Germany, State Institute for Optics and Phototechnology), celebrates its 75th anniversary on October 5-6, 1984, with a jubilee publication of scientific papers by members of the faculty. The school originated in Mainz and was transferred to Berlin in 1912.

A 160 year nostrum:

"Dr. Isaac Thompson's Celebrated Eye Water," mentioned on page 48 of the July 1982 issue of N.O.H.S., Vol. 13, No. 3, has been historically researched and written up in the May 1984 issue of Ophthalmology, Vol. 91, No. 5, pp. 528-537, by Andrew P. Ferry, MD, and Mercedes K. Ferry, BA. The popular collyrium was introduced in 1795 and remained continuously available on the open market until 1955, the largest sale of any topical ophthalmic preparation in the 19th century. With the enactment of the Pure Food and Drugs Act of June 30, 1906, its label for the first time disclosed its ingredients as follows, "Active ingredients opium 1 1/2 grains; alcohol 10%; zinc sulphate; rose water."

Illustrated in the article are four approximately 94 x 65 mm chromolithograph advertising trade cards representing it as "a speedy and efficacious remedy in all common complaints of the Eye." The authors discuss the advertising methods, certain aspects of packaging and bottling, the federal revenue stamp taxation method, and the secretive nature of the manufacturers with regard to medicinal content. Their thorough search indicated that Thompson's "Dr." title was self-bestowed.

Requests for reprints should be sent to Andrew P. Ferry, M.D., Department of Ophthalmology, Medical College of Virginia, U.S.A. 23298.

Bring along your old glasses:

OptiFair '85, New York, March 3-6, will again have a program on antique eyewear. Presenting it this time will be John M. Young, Senior Research Engineer of the American Optical Corporation, who serves the non-profit American Optical Museum as its director and curator. The course will feature at least 240 slides illustrating such items of historical interest as advertising, automobile goggles, the first temples, prince-nez, oxfords, safety eyewear, bifocals, style, and sunglasses.

A part of the seminar will be devoted to dating and appraising eyewear brought in by attendees.

The archivist's lament:

The following is the reply from the daughter of a recently deceased optometrist of national prominence:

"I only wish I'd known about ILAMO several years ago when we broke up Mother and Dad's possessions, there were so many fine pictures, but I'm afraid they are gone. Dad was too ill at the time to call, and just said 'get rid of it all'--so we did!

A Waterloo worth meeting:

On a recent stay at a hotel in Kithener, Ontario, Canada recently it was a delight to leaf through the Summer '84 issue of a tourist promotional serial entitled Waterloo Region Magazine, Vol. 6, No. 3, and find on page 41 a paragraph and a picture calling attention to the "Museum of Visual Science and Optometry" as a University of Waterloo attraction. The curator is none other than OHS member and Professor Emeritus Edward J. Fisher, O.D.

H. W H.

Australian founding father honored:

A portrait of the late Ernest Jabara was unveiled by the Chancellor of the University of Melbourne at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Victorian College of Optometry in December, 1983. Jabara was the first Chairman of the College Council and prominent among those who brought about the establishment of the College on December 29, 1939. The portrait is a gift of Mrs. Jabara and is displayed in the College building.

The Victorian College of Optometry is a professional society affiliated to the University of Melbourne and is responsible for a number of professional, clinical, and research aspects complementary to the academic Department of Optometry at the university.

Muth discontinues spectacle collecting:

OHS member Eric P. Muth, Ph.D., whose spectacle collecting interests have been mentioned in the October 1982 and October 1983 issues of the N.O.H.S., Vol. 13, No. 4, p. 84, and Vol. 14, No. 4, p. 94, recently announced the donation of his entire spectacle collection to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and the new American Academy of Ophthalmology Foundation Museum in San Francisco. The former received 550 items, the latter 100. The details of the donation are written up in the January 24, 1984 issue of the New Haven Register (Connecticut).

To have his collection appraised for tax deductions purposes he obtained the services of Alain Brioux of Paris. Brioux set the value at \$120,000.

Lubinaria

Andrew F. Fischer, O.D., has sent the ILAMO archives tear-sheets from the June 1, 1984, Philadelphia Inquirer, pages 2-D, 8-D, and 42, in which are written up many details of the exhibition at the National Museum of American Jewish History commemorating the role of optometrists Siegmund Lubin, nee Lubszynski, in the creation of the motion picture industry. Also supplied by Andy is a six-page 29 x 22 cm brochure entitled PEDDLER OF DREAMS depicting Lubin's career and entrepreneurial involvements. Mention is made of Lubin's death in 1923 but not of his year of birth. He is described as having arrived in America from Berlin in 1876 with a training background "as an oculist and optician," building the largest empire in the film industry, and in the disastrous final years of his life finding himself once again "behind the counter of his optical shop where the whole amazing dream had begun."

Bits of Heather:

Dr. Fischer reports ownership of an autographed copy of Dr. W.J. Heather's spiral-bound 8 1/2" x 11", 177 page typewritten-offset book copyrighted in 1976 and entitled "Interaction: Practical Human Relations." He plans to donate this to ILAMO, Inc. He also advises that he is putting together recollections of his contacts and activities with Jere.

If my memory is correct Dr. Heather prepared this material for a course he was teaching after his retirement from the American Optical Co.

H. W H.

Progressive frustration:

What momentarily strikes me as a revealing chronology of the development of the progressive addition lens is a tabulation in the April 28, 1984, issue of the Ophthalmic Optician, Vol. 24, No. 9, pp. 300-301, 304, & 306. According to the table the "First progressive power lens patented" was that of Owen Aves of Europe in 1907. Fourteen subsequent dates with names of individuals, companies, and lens brand names are added, but with a frustrating minimum of explanation and a complete lack of specification of references. Unfortunately the text of the article adds nothing to the historical detail, nor is it obvious which of twelve listed references might help the reader who may be genuinely interested in pursuing the history more adequately. The author, John M. Young, a "Senior Research Engineer and Product Manager, American Optical Corporation," credits an unidentified Dr. John Winthrop for "the extensive work . . . in the preparation of this article." The title of the article is "The progress of progressives."

The message that comes through, however, is that the progressive addition lens, recent as it may seem, already has a substantial history of its own, and that it may well be a bit lost already.

H. W H.

On improving the newsletter:

While most OHS members could surely not care less, a response to a thoughtful and constructive suggestion by one member could help portray quite undefensively the "shoestring" economy and philosophy of our newsletter operation.

The very dedicated member suggests, "If the NOHS were produced on 3-hole, standard-punched paper, copies could be kept conveniently in a ring binder." Indeed, and I too punch holes in my own copies and bind them in a three-ring notebook for routine reference. However these are not the extra copies I save for eventual permanent binding in hard cover with an encompassing index, as the holes would weaken the binding a bit.

A check on our very low cost duplicating service, available from a university facility, reveals an added punching charge of almost one cent per page, a cost increase of about 40%, increasing the material cost of each copy from about \$0.80 to about \$1.12, an increased cost of approximately \$80.00 per issue or \$320.00 per year.

Further, for the 25% of our members located outside of the U.S.A., neither the paper size nor the "standard 3-hole punch" would fit their binders.

A philosophical aspect however is tied in with all of this. Every added technical feature almost invariably represents an added cost, be it ever so small. The question therefore becomes one of what features will best serve the interests of the society, and how these interests are to be gauged.

My philosophy for the newsletter has been that one's interest in history is probably correlated neither with affluence nor the willingness to pay another annual membership fee. Further, that those who are, or can be made to be, interested in optometric history are primarily concerned with accuracy, reliability, legibility, integrity, and accessibility for permanent reference purposes. For example, the sincere history buff can be as excited by a newly discovered inscription to a soldier by Abraham Lincoln on a scrap of paper as by a gilt-edged imprint of the Gettysburg Address.

But philosophy or policy can change as members express their views. Comments and suggestions are always welcome, and often implemented.

H. W H.

H. W Hofstetter
D.K. Penisten, Editors

P.S. Just as we were about to send this issue to the printers we received the news of the death on September 12 of Grace Weiner. On December 12, 1983, the Executive Board of the O.H.S. signed a certificate of recognition to Grace Weiner for her significant contributions to the O.H.S. which included past membership on the Executive Board of the O.H.S.