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HINDSIGHT

Newsletter of the
Optometric Historical Society
243 North Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63141, USA

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2001 OHS Board Members and Officers:

Listed below are the year 2001 OHS Executive Board members and officers, and the year of expiration of each member's term:

- President..... Doug Penisten (2003)
- Vice President..... Chuck Haine (2004)
- Secretary-Treasurer..... Bridget Kowalczyk (2004)
- Trustees..... Walter Chase (2002)
- Jay Enoch (2002)
- Theodore Grosvenor (2001)
- Alfred Rosenbloom (2001)

Call for nominations:

The terms of Board members Theodore Grosvenor and Alfred Rosenbloom will expire at the end of this year. Please submit your nominations for those two Board positions by July 15, 2001 to: David A. Goss, Hindsight Editor, School of Optometry, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405 USA. The OHS members who receive at least three nominations and agree to serve on the Board will have their names placed on an election ballot to be mailed later this year with a copy of *Hindsight*.

Repositories of items of optometric historical interest:

I recently ran across the following item in the inaugural issue of the *Newsletter of the Optometric Historical Society* (volume 1, number 1, January, 1970, pages 6-7). I thought that it should be brought to the attention of the membership again, and it is reprinted in its entirety below:

“There are two major types of repositories for items of historical value. One is the institutional type such as is nurtured and maintained by organizations for various reasons ranging from the organization's ad hoc dedication to prestige acquisition, or even as an outright investment. Such repositories are usually called museums and may include community museums, the museums of professional organizations, the special collections

of industrial firms, the museums of schools, colleges, and universities, and various specially endowed museums. The other major type of repository is what I would identify as the individual collection. It is conceivable that the greatest share of preservation of historical items is accomplished by the thousands of individuals who save the things which are dear to them. Such items receive tender care during the life of the individual owner, even better care than in the typical museum storage rooms. Unfortunately they are less accessible to historians, and, more unfortunately, they are likely to be disposed of as trash upon the owner's demise.

“So, it is probable that the large share of items of optometric historical interest are in the files, cabinets, and bookshelves of individuals, and are being well preserved. The OHS will be making a valuable contribution if it can bring these collections to light and prevail on the owners to take immediate steps to insure the transfer of their collections to appropriate repositories at the time of the owner's death or retirement. It is not sufficient merely to write the request in one's will. The collections should be clearly labeled and marked well in advance for their desired posthumous disposition.

“In future issues of the Newsletter we hope to list archives, museums, and collections of optometric historical interest. Readers and OHS members are asked to call our attention to museums, archives, and collections which should be so listed.”

I was curious to find what had been reported to date in the pages of this newsletter since the publication of that item. I went to the three published indexes of the newsletter (volumes 1 to 30), and looked for entries for archives, library, and museum. Below is a listing of the archives, libraries, and museums that may pertain in some way to optometric history. Given with each one is the volume and page where it was mentioned. The addresses listed are the addresses that were given at the time of publication of the newsletter and may be out of date. Readers are encouraged to write to the editor and make corrections and additions to this list, as well as to give descriptions of these and other repositories of items of optometric historical interest. If you have visited these or other like institutions, please write and let us know what can be found there.

Albert Fitch Memorial Library, Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (3/19)

American Academy of Ophthalmology Foundation Museum, San Francisco (15/84; 18/16; 18/20; 20/24; 26/14)

A. M. Skeffington Memorial Library and Archives for Behavioral Optometry, Optometric Extension Program Foundation, Santa Ana, California (18/48; 19/42)

Bernard Becker M.D. Collection in Ophthalmology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis (15/69; 16/1)

British Optical Association Foundation Library and Museum, London (1/20; 14/25; 20/14;

21/44; 26/32)

Carl F. Shepard Memorial Library (3/11)

Carl Zeiss Company museum for optical instruments, Oberkochen, Germany (13/56)

College of Optometry, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio (22/43)

Deutsches Museum optical department, Munich (21/34)

Dr. E. C. Nurock Optometric Research Library (3/19)

Eric Muth Library and Museum, Opticians Association of America Foundation, 10341 Democracy Lane, Fairfax, Virginia 22030 (26/16)

Harold Kohn Vision Science Library, State University of New York (17/31)

Indiana University Optometry Library, 800 East Atwater Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana 47405 (4/8; 4/24)

International Library, Archives, and Museum of Optometry, 243 North Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63141 (12/76; 14/7; 18/43; 21/5; 21/12; 21/30; 22/20; 22/46; 22/48; 23/9; 25/18; 26/25)

Jan Theunissen museum, Eindhoven, Holland (14/73)

Jena Optical Museum (15/39)

Lister Hill Museum of the Health Sciences, University of Alabama Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama 35294 (4/55)

Louis B. Marks Memorial Library, Illuminating Engineering Research Institute, United Engineering Center, 345 East 47th Street, New York, New York 10017 (11/64-65)

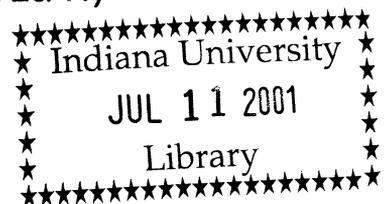
Morez Eyewear Museum, Morez, France (20/19)

Musee de L'instrumentation Optique, La Capitole, Place de la Mairie, F-686000, Biesheim, France (28/12-13)

Museum of the History of Science, Oxford (6/41)

Museum of Visual Science and Optometry, School of Optometry, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada (12/4-5; 15/83; 17/48; 17/49; 20/41)

Mutter Museum (21/32)



Narciso P. Cinco, Sr., Memorial Library - Optometry, College of Optometry, Cebu Doctors' College, Philippines (17/38-39)

National Museum of American History, Medical Sciences Division, Smithsonian Institution (15/84; 19/9; 20/17; 26/14)

Nordiske Museet (museum with a section on ophthalmic history), Stockholm, Sweden (6/45; 16/45)

Optical Heritage Museum (formerly called the American optical Museum), Route 131, Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550 (16/22; 16/26)

Optical Museum of the Carl-Zeiss-Stiftung Jena (Carl Zeiss Foundation of Jena) (16/10)

Optometric museum of the Tinius Olsens Tekniske Skole, Kongsberg, Norway (12/11)

Optometric Period Room, Heritage Center, North Dakota Capitol grounds, Bismark, North Dakota (12/75-76)

Pierre Marly's museum, 380 rue Saint Honoré, Paris (13/14; 26/20)

Safilo Group, Pieve di Cadore, Italy (26/21)

School of Optometry, Inter American University, Post Office Box 1293, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00918 (Contact: Ms. Amarilis Noriego, Librarian) (24/7)

School of Optometry Library, University of Alabama Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama (4/55)

University of Aston Ophthalmic Museum (11/40)

William P. MacCracken, Jr., Memorial Library, Southern College of Optometry, Memphis, Tennessee (3/20)

Wright National Library of the Australian Optometric Association (7/80-81; 19/36; 19/37)

D.A.G.

Jay Enoch's Column:

The Austen Layard Lens Found at Nimrud, Assyria: Long a Conundrum!

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Some weeks ago, ophthalmologist Chuck (Charles) Letocha of York, PA, kindly sent me a list of useful sites on the Net addressing the history of early lenses - a hobby of mine. One of these URLs was the following: <<http://www.farshore.force9.co.uk/telesc.htm>>. (1) This Farshore, Ancient Mystery addressed a possible use of the Austen Layard lens. This artifact is located at the British Museum. It seems that Professor Giovanni Pettinato of the University of Rome recently argued that this ancient lens may have been part of a telescope predating Galileo. The argument rests on a report stating that the Assyrians believed the planet Saturn was a God surrounded by a ring of serpents. The rings of Saturn are not visible to the naked human eye. The Layard lens was found in the Palace at Nimrud, Assyria (in modern Iraq), in a room in the Palace filled with fine artifacts. It was discovered in 1840/1850s AD by English archaeologist of the same name. (2,3,4) The lens is dated in the 6th Century BC.

In fairness, the URL states that it is quite a leap from a single lens-like object to its being part of a telescope; but then how did the Assyrians see the rings of Saturn? Iizuka (2) argued that the lens might have been used for reading and writing micro-cuneiform tablets in Nimrud or other Tigris-Euphrates culture. He also argued that lenses were needed much earlier to add details to incised seals in those early civilizations. Iizuka also raises the familiar myopia argument.

There are interesting new data relative to cylinder seals described by M. Sax, N. Meeks, and D. Collon of the British Museum (reported by Heller, 5). They found that the lapidary engraving wheel, which has been long thought to have been developed during the second half of the 4th millennium BC, was first used about a thousand years later. Early cylinder seals of substances made of hard rock-crystal, etc., were worked by micro-flaking the rock with a flint or bronze tool.

Let us look at what we know about the Layard lens. This is a polished, somewhat elliptical plano-convex lens-like object of fair size. Iizuka gives a focal length of 11 cm (2) or about +9 Diopters. As a simple microscope, relative angular magnification at 25 cm test or reference distance (traditional optical reference distance) would be 2.25X (25 cm / 11cm). Using the Sloan criterion (40 cm reference distance) this value would be 3.64X (40 cm / 11 cm). The Lens has marked imperfections running right through the center of the lens. One must look at a sub-zone of the whole to use this lens-like unit. Someone performed an MTF on this lens. Obviously, this would have provided very poor results! Yet this measurement has influenced many individuals as to the possible use(s) or application(s) of this lens.

The lens was found in isolation from the objects which might have been used in context with the Layard lens.

My first encounter with this lens was perhaps 15-20 years ago. I saw it among the remarkable Mesopotamian (including Assyrian) collection in the basement of the British

Museum. I used techniques learned long ago for hand neutralization of lenses to try to evaluate the nature, quality and power of the lens within the case. I inquired at the Museum about the history of the lens, and one of the curators kindly met with me to discuss it. He pointed out, that one could not tell if this lens had been used as such, or had been used as an architectural embellishment, a piece of jewelry, or simply a decorative piece, rather than as a lens.

Some years later, the Layard lens was displayed at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, where the card stated that this artifact, "formerly thought to be a lens," was found by Layard at Nimrud. I pointed out to the curators at the Met, that no-one could say what had been the use of this artifact, since it had not been found with the object to be viewed through it. More recently (2 years ago?), I found this item isolated on a side wall at the British Museum, upstairs, away from the main Assyrian collection with a similar statement made as to its use. The URL now states it has been moved back to the main Assyrian collection and it is to be found in Room 55, case 9, of the main basement Mesopotamian Collection.

The key point is that we cannot describe the fate or role of any lens-like element without finding it coupled to the item with which it was used to view or magnify, or some written record of application of the device. The same can be said of many of the lens-like objects found in a number of Eastern Mediterranean Basin museums. This entire matter has greatly influenced my search for ancient lenses. Hence, I have sought to find lenses in their original context, i.e., the lens still associated with the object to be viewed through it. These lenses have included quite a variety of lens applications which I have reported previously.

Some final words about the Layard lens. Whether lens or otherwise, this discovery, and Layard's assertion that it was a lens, led to interest in the early history of lenses by a number of scholars. And this is/was important! We may never know the use of this particular lens-artifact, nor how the Assyrians were able to detect (assuming they did) the rings of Saturn!

References

1. <http://www.farshore.force9.co.uk/telesc.htm> Farshore Ancient Mysteries;source, BBC News, by Dr. David Whitehouse, 2000.
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5. Hellier, C: Jewelers wheel secrets. *Archaeology* September/October, 2000; 53(5): 18.

A Daughter's Remembrances of Charles Sheard:

Ted Grosvenor recently gave me a document entitled "Some Remembrances of My

Father, Charles Sheard," by Dorothy Sheard Allen. The cover page states that it was "for presentation at the Sheard Centennial Symposium on Visual Science at The Ohio State University, November 5 and 6, 1983."

Sheard's parents were married in England and emigrated from England shortly before he was born. Sheard was born May 27, 1883 in Dolgeville, New York. He was one of the oldest (the oldest?) of eight children. Sheard's father, Charles Sheard, Jr., a Methodist minister who wrote three books, died when Sheard was sixteen years old.

Sheard came from an accomplished family. A brother of Sheard's, Samuel, was employed at American Optical and was on the Board of Corning Glass Works. Among Sheard's other siblings were an elementary school teacher, a notable football player and hockey coach, and a nurse. A great uncle of Sheard's, Titus Sheard, defeated Teddy Roosevelt "for the elected position of Speaker of the House for the New York State Assembly, the only person to ever defeat Roosevelt for an elected office."

Little information is given on Sheard's childhood. After he received his B.A. degree from St. Lawrence University, he taught at Woodstock Academy in Woodstock, Vermont. While there, he studied at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. He received his M.A. from Dartmouth in 1907. His future wife, Blanche Louise Isabel Amarel, was a Hanover piano teacher, who had graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. They were married on December 31, 1907, in Hanover.

Sheard was an Assistant Professor of Physics at The Ohio State University from 1907 to 1913. He received his Ph.D. from Princeton in 1912. He became a full Professor of Physics and Applied Optics at Ohio State in 1914.

Sheard's daughter Dorothy, author of these remembrances, was born on March 12, 1910, at home in Columbus, Ohio. She raised four children. Her husband was President of the University of Washington and Chancellor of the University of California at Los Angeles. Sheard's son, Charles Amaral Sheard, was born on November 27, 1914, also at home in Columbus, but at a different residence. Sheard's son became an optician.

In 1919, Sheard took a position at the American Optical Company to be head of the Division of Ocular Interests and be "in charge of general and professional scientific work." In 1924, Sheard accepted a position with the Mayo Foundation in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. William Mayo invited him to found the Section of Biophysics. While there, Sheard was also a Professor of Physics at the University of Minnesota. In Minnesota, Sheard did work on various areas in addition to optics. For example, he developed an artificial larynx or "voice box." The author speculated that Sheard's experiments showing the adverse effect of cigarette smoking on circulation may have been why he went from smoking two packs a day to being a non-smoker. During World War II, Sheard worked on vision problems of night flying for the Navy. He retired from the Mayo Clinic in 1949 at 66 years of age. He was a professor at the University of Minnesota until 1951.

Sheard's daughter noted that he had many hobbies and activities away from work. Sheard liked to entertain at dinner parties at his home, and he did landscaping work around his house. He liked fishing and gardening, collected stamps and coins, and enjoyed photography. He often took his grandchildren on trips to nearby places. Sheard had an extensive collection of books on many topics in literature and science, including many books on vision. Sheard died in 1963.

This typescript pamphlet contains twelve pages of text, a photograph of Sheard in his later years, a photograph of the author, and a listing of Sheard's descendants. It gives a lot of detail of Sheard's adult personal life and family, but little information on his relationship with optometry.

D.A.G.

William George Kett:

The September-October, 2000 issue of the Australian journal *Clinical and Experimental Optometry* (volume 83, number 5, pages 283-287) contained a profile of notable Australian optometrist William George Kett (1887-1962) written by Barry Cole of The University of Melbourne. Kett was born in Melbourne on July 31, 1887. He undertook private lessons in optometry with Henri van Heems because there was no formal optometry course in Australia at the time. In 1909, Kett started optometry practice in Sydney.

William Kett's brother, Cyril Woodforde Kett, also was an optometrist. Cyril was one of the signatories establishing the Victorian College of Optometry in 1939. Cyril served on the Council of that school from its beginning until his death in 1970.

After practicing optometry in Sydney for a few years, William Kett sought further education in optometry and traveled to London to study for the examinations of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers. Among his tutors was Lionel Laurence, who was the author of some commonly used optics books. Kett achieved Fellowship in the Company of Spectacle Makers in May of 1914.

In about 1915 Kett became Director of Education and chief examiner of the New South Wales Institute of Optometrists. He established a two-year part-time course of study, which later became three years. Cole noted that Kett wrote challenging questions as evidenced by some of them which were published in the *Commonwealth Optometrist*. Kett was ahead of his time in the use of equipment as shown by his 1926 publications on slit lamp biomicroscopy and gonioscopy.

Kett became editor of the *Commonwealth Optometrist* in 1920. He continued as editor until his death in 1962. Cole noted that Kett edited more than 500 issues of the journal and wrote many editorials and papers for it. Under Kett's editorship the journal underwent two

title changes, becoming the *Australasian Journal of Optometry* in 1929 and then the *Australian Journal of Optometry* in 1959. In 1986, the journal became *Clinical and Experimental Optometry*.

Kett held several organizational positions during his optometric career, including presidency of state and national optometric associations and member of the New South Wales Optometrists Registration Board for 20 years. He was a part-time optometry instructor and a member of the Council of the University of New South Wales. The article discusses some of his work in promoting registration and education of optometrists and in the politics of technical education. The article portrays Kett as a “man of presence and talent.”

Kett received a number of recognitions in his career. He received an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1957 from the University of New South Wales which he helped found, and he was made an honorary life member of the Australian Optometric Association. He was also a life member of the American Optometric Association and of the Institute of Ophthalmic Opticians in London.

D.A.G.

Annual Ocular Heritage Society meeting in Italy:

Optometric Historical Society member and Ocular Heritage Society President Jerry Abrams provided the following report on the 2001 annual meeting of the Ocular Heritage Society held April 2-11 in Italy:

Ten members of the Ocular Heritage Society and Sharon Smith of Travel Deisgns traveled April 2 from the Newark, New Jersey airport to Venice, Italy. Attendees included Dr. and Mrs. J.J. Abrams, Dr. and Mrs. William Rosenthal, Dr. and Mrs. John Tull, Dr. and Mrs. Terry Marshall, Debbie Shearer, and Nancy Schiffer. The tour leader Sharon Smith was well versed in Italian and extremely knowledgeable of art and Italian history. In Venice the group had an evening welcome dinner, a walking tour the next morning, and a tour of the famous Murano glass works. We observed the glass making artistry of a master technician.

After sightseeing in Venice, we went on by coach to Agordo. There we visited the Museo dell 'Occhiale, a private museum belonging to the Luxottica company. Its founder was Leonardo Del Vecchio. The museum contains a collection of valuable antique eyeware, paintings, and optical instruments.

Next day was to Padova, a provincial center, where Padova's University is considered to be the “cradle” of modern medicine. Among its graduates were William Harvey and Gabriele Fallopio. This university is Italy's second oldest, founded in 1222. The highlight of this tour was the famous “Teatro Anatomico” built in 1594. This anatomy theater was the first in Europe. We also saw Galileo Galilei's ancient lectern - said to have been built by his students for outdoor stargazing sessions. We reboarded our coach and traveled to the

outskirts of Padova to the prestigious optical company, Safilo, and the exceptional “Galleria Guglielmo Tabacchi” where optical history is displayed in superb insight and taste.

Next we headed north to Pieve di Cadore where famous painter Titian was born. This area is well known as eyeglasses have been made in the Pieve di Cadore Valley since 1878. We visited the museum, il Museo dell Occhiale, or “the Eye Glass Museum.” an important collection of antique eyewear, trade signs, oil paintings, optical instruments, and other historic items, first assembled in 1986 by Vittorio Tabacchi. Dr. Bill Rosenthal autographed his book, Spectacles and Other Vision Aids, and Nancy Schiffer presented her book, Eyeglass Retrospective, to the curator of the museum.

Then on to Florence for three days of sightseeing. Our first stop was a visit to the “History of Science Museum.” This collection was begun by Cosimi de Medici (1389-1464). We spent the whole morning there exploring the enormous wealth of scientific instruments and equipment. The next day we toured the prestigious Gallery of the Academy of Fine Arts. We viewed Michelangelo’s awe-inspiring sculptures including the renowned “David” and the so-called “Prisoners.” Next stop we toured the Galleria degli Uffizi. We also visited the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore to view the Tomb said to be that of Salvino d’Armati, a Florentine who died in 1317 and whose tomb engraving probably falsely claimed him to be an inventor of eyeglasses. During the meeting the following educational papers were given:

J. William Rosenthal, M.D.	Monoculars
Nancy Schiffer	Chinese Eyewear
Jerome Abrams, O.D.	In Memoriam: Dr. James P. Leeds, Collector
John Tull, M.D.	Eyecups
Val Tull, Optician	La Femme, Optique
W. H. Marshall, M.D.	Internet Collecting
Debbie Shearer, Optician	Technology

For 10 days of good food, pasta, and excellent wines, a good time was had by all. Thanks to Mrs. Sharon Smith of Travel Design for an incredible trip which ended April 11 when we all flew back from Milan to Newark, New Jersey and our connecting flights home.

The next annual meeting of the Ocular Heritage Society will be held in Sturbridge, Massachusetts in May, 2002.

A Tribute to James Leeds:

The title of Jerry Abrams’s paper at the Ocular Heritage Society meeting in Italy in April, 2001 was “In Memoriam - Dr. James P. Leeds, Collector, 1918-1995.” He sent us a transcript of his talk, which follows:

Dr. James P. Leeds collected books over a professional optometric career spanning 47 years, building a private professional library of more than 3600 books, covering the entire

history of optometry, ophthalmology, and opticianry - of vision and related subjects. In 1992, Dr. Leeds contributed his entire collection to the library at the Indiana University School of Optometry, and dedicated it in memory of his late son Kenneth S. Leeds, a 1979 graduate of Indiana University's School of Optometry.

Dr. Leeds mandated the School library that if duplicates were found they should be distributed in the following manner: duplicates would first go to libraries of schools of optometry in the United States. The second option for duplicates would then go to Third World countries and European schools of optometry. The third option would then be distribution to students of the various schools of optometry.

A small portion of his collection - about 35 books - dealt with eye care quackery or controversial theories on vision and the treatment thereof. Some of these books are as follows:

The popular 1920 book authored by W. H. Bates entitled "The Cure of Imperfect Sight by Treatment Without Glasses."

Preceding that was the 1904 book entitled "Ideal Sight Restorer" that had a small instrument that accompanied the book.

Patricia Bragg's book "Nature's Healing System for Better Eyesight."

Margaret Corbett's book entitled "How to Improve your Sight - Simple Daily Drills in Relaxation." (1953)

Benjamin Hauser's 1938 book "Better Eyes Without Glasses."

Emery C. Inghams's book "Seeing Without Glasses." (1941)

Christopher Markert's book "Seeing well again Without your Glasses." According to Markert, if your vision is fuzzy, your thinking is probably out of focus too and vice versa. In his radical book, he presents a way to improve your eyes without glasses. Drawing on the principles of holistic medicine, Markert asserts that poor eyesight is often a symptom of general problems within and outside of the whole person. He maintained that by changing your mental attitudes, physical environment, and overall health habits, you can activate your body's natural healing powers to clarify your eyesight as well as your inner "vision." He says that glasses actually weaken your eyes and distort your vision. Dietary measures such as consuming more carrots and less coffee can sharpen your sight.

Theodore Kriege's "Fundamental Basis of Iris Diagnosis." (1969) His report is the study of using the marks and color changes in the iris of the human eye to diagnose physical illness. This was developed from the original observations of Ignaz Von Peczely, a Hungarian who published his findings in 1880, and then by others such as Lilequist in Sweden and Schlegel and Thiel in Germany. Soon this method of diagnosis was applied by homeopathic and chiropractic practitioners in both Europe and America.

Oren O'Neal's "Treatise of Diseases of the Eye and the O'Neal Dissolvent Treatment." (1890)

John Ott. "Light, Radiation, and You. How to Stay Healthy." (1982)

Diana Deimel's book entitled "Vision Victory via Vitamins." (1975)

And finally Ralph MacFayden's "See Without Glasses" on the correction of eye strain and the science of sight. (1948)

Dr. Leeds lifetime of service was modeled from William H. Taylor's philosophy that

“there is no greater joy under the sun than the joy of giving, giving of one’s time, energy, talents, and money to help one’s fellow man. In closing this memoriam to Jim Leeds, my friend and my mentor, I believe the following poem of unknown authorship, entitled “Remember Me,” is most appropriate.

To the living,
I am gone.
To the sorrowful,
I will never return.
To the angry,
I was cheated.
But to the happy,
I am at peace.
And to the faithful,
I have never left.
I cannot speak,
But I can listen.
I cannot be seen,
But I can be heard.
So as you stand upon a shore,
Gazing at the beautiful sea—
Remember me.
As you look in awe at a mighty Forest and its grand majesty—
Remember me.
Remember me in your heart,
Your thoughts,
And your memories.
Of the times we loved,
The times we cried.
The times we fought,
The times we laughed.
For if you always think of me,
I will never be gone.

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