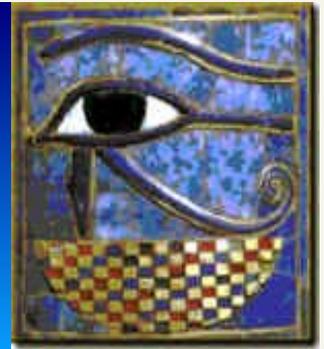


# Cogan

OPHTHALMIC HISTORY SOCIETY



## — NEWSLETTER —

— ANNUAL MEETING 2010 —

The Gods must have viewed our 23<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting favorably by welcoming us to Chicago with salutary warm sunshine. In preparation for the heavy intellectual stuff to come, the meeting opened properly Friday evening with a jovial cocktail reception, affording a chance to say hello to friends not seen perhaps since the last meeting.

Saturday all day and Sunday morning were filled with an amazing variety of short but

stimulating papers. In between were squeezed coffee breaks, lunch, and the traditional group photo. A splendid exhibit of antique and rare books from the collection of the Galter Health sciences Library in Chicago preceded the sumptuous banquet. Entertainment during the social hour was provided by our own magician Gerald Fishman, and after dinner by the poetic rhymes of Michael Marmor.

The business meeting included the usual financial, membership, and

old minutes. In brief – the Society is in good shape. Discussion again touched on the fundamental nature of the Society and its meetings. Is it to be ophthalmologists and others who dabble in history, presenting short formal papers from the dais followed by brief questions from the audience, or historians of ophthalmology presenting in depth studies followed by an intimate discussion among the listeners, who therefore must sit close by, like a colloquium.



### This Newsletter

It is meant to facilitate communication among the members by providing a forum for their thoughts, photos, or announcements. It will appear occasionally, a couple of times annually, or until our Community page at the website of the American Academy of Ophthalmology is set up, which may make it redundant.

This Community page for the History of Ophthalmology was supposed to have already been established but it must be *in statu nascendi*, or in Beta format as techis would say, for at present it's a bit user unfriendly.

Suitable contributions to this newsletter are solicited: personal news from members, such as promotions and prizes, their publications which may have escaped general attention, photos, essays, and the like. Please e-mail them to: [iimd@aol.com](mailto:iimd@aol.com).

— International Congress of Ophthalmology —

The 23rd international congress, first meeting in 1857 (perhaps the oldest international specialty meeting), convenes this June 5—9 in Berlin, Germany, [www.woc2010.org](http://www.woc2010.org), preceded by the German Ophthalmological Society meeting June 3–6. Our own member, **Bruce Spivey**, President of the International Council of Ophthalmology, is honorary president of this International Congress.

The German equivalent to the Cogan society, the Julius Hirschberg Society, presents a symposium “Contributions to Hundred and Fifty Years of Ophthalmology” on Sunday, June 6th 2.00—3:30 PM, which includes two papers previously presented at the Cogan Society, by **Dr. Jokl** of Brownsville, NY, and **Dr. Grzybowski** of Posnan, Poland. **Harry Mark** is presenting a historical poster (and an instruction course on tonometry).

\* \* \* \* \*

Below are some of the rhymes recited by **Michael Marmor** at our meeting, and published as ‘TimeOph’ in the ‘Survey of Ophthalmology’ journal, which holds the copyright

### DOROTHY PARKER, MD

Men seldom make passes  
At girls who wear glasses  
So LASIK correction  
May help their selection.

Eye diseases are named for the famous Ernst Fuchs\*  
The flower for Leonard, who has earned rebukes  
For his text mostly borrowed from old Greek minutia.  
It’s justice the flower’s not “fooksia” but “Fewshia.”

### THE BULL

One hears, and it is often said  
That bulls are much inflamed by red.  
But that’s a lot of bull, forsooth:  
They can’t tell red from green, in truth.  
So what does so aggravate the creature?  
Movement is the salient feature.  
And the cape a matador might use,  
Could as well be puce or a nice chartreuse!

Everyone’s heard of the circle of Zinn,  
Though few may remember just what it is in.  
Zinn died young, but studied a flower, the Zinnia  
Named later (by Linneus) for a life free of sinnia.  
Ere studying the psyche, Freud did deign  
With “Coca” Koller to study cocaine.  
Coca flowers are pretty and can numb the eye,  
But the leaves have the kick for a really good high.

### OCULAR FLORA

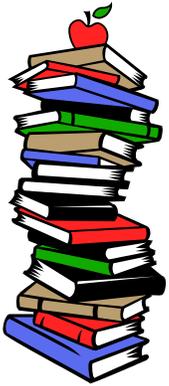
I know of no flowers named for eyes,  
Yet several have ophthalmologic ties.  
There is beauty in both in eye and flower,  
But eyes have a dour power to glower.  
  
The ancient Greek goddess of the rainbow,  
Iris  
Gave her name to a flower with colored  
gyrus.  
It’s the colors, not flower, that later  
linked her

The lovely Atropa belladonna bloom  
Warns that ingestion can lead to the tomb.  
It was named for cosmetics that round up the eyes,  
A usage not ophthalmologically wise.

Perhaps we should also consider the uvea,  
Named for a source of sublime effluvia  
We savor at supper: the grape, of course  
(which has flowers so tiny that I’ll end this  
Discourse)

\* Fuchs is pronounced “fooks”

Name to the internal ocular sphincter.



Dr. Bohigian presenting appreciation to Dr. Reifler

Pamela Sieving moderating a session



Drs. Grzybowski, Gittinger, Marmor

Dr. G. Fishman, the magician

Drs. Newman, Galst, Fishman, Ravin

*Photos courtesy of Dr. George Bohigian*

# Cogan

OPHTHALMIC HISTORY SOCIETY

## — On Medical History —

\* “In Goethe’s words: ‘All art must be preceded by craft...’. However much art may enter into historiography, it must be based on historical craftsmanship, i.e., systematic accumulation of the material, its critical analysis, and circumspect interpretation.”

Owsei Temkin, in: *On The Utility of Medical History*, I.Galdston, ed. Internat.Univ. Press. NY 1957: 22.

\* “Of what use is medical history?” I would answer this question by considering history as an art. As such history presupposes its own standard of technical mastery. When these standards have been met, the art of history can enlarge the experience of the audience in a way that is its own reward. It provides an enrichment of life. Through interpretation of data, history gives insight into the nature of things past, into their course and development, their reasons and interrelations, It affords intellectual and emotional expansion, and does so in a pleasurable and satisfying manner.”

King, Lester S. *Of What Use Is Medical History*. Bull. Hist. Med. 51; 107; 1977.



“Hmm—I don’t like the looks of that eye.”

## — Mission —

The Society is established to foster communication, scholarship and fellowship among individuals interested in ophthalmic history. The Society is empowered to organize meetings and/or sponsor publications as appropriate to its goals.

President: George Bohigian

Executive committee:

Pamela C Sieving

Linda Lawrence

Jay M Enoch

Ira Eliasoph

Jay M Galst

Steven A Newman— ex officio

Newsletter: Harry H Mark

## — “Optics in Painting” —

“The immediate object of the [non-abstract] painter is to produce in us by his palette a lively visual impression of the objects which he has endeavoured to represent. It concerns then in the creation of a certain optical illusion.”

“The artist cannot copy Nature; he must translate her; yet this translation may give us an impression in the highest degree distinct and forcible, not merely of the objects themselves, but even of the greatly altered intensities of light under which we view them. Yes, the altered scale of light intensities is indeed in many cases advantageous, as it gets rid of everything which, in the actual objects, is too dazzling, and too fatiguing for the eye.”

Herman von Helmholtz, in *Popular Scientific Lectures*; Dover Publications, NY, 1962: 250-286.

