
From the Editor

AUTHORS WANTED!

In 1969, Maria Dablemont and Henry Hofstetter plotted the formation of the Optometric Historical Society. In August of that year, Hofstetter sent a letter to ten persons of his “acquaintance who have been concerned very actively and obviously with optometric history as a subject of avid interest.”¹ In that letter were the by-laws for the OHS that Hofstetter and Dablemont had drafted and a request to indicate willingness to serve on the Executive Board to help organize the society. The initial OHS Executive Board consisted of Hofstetter (president), John Levene (vice-president), Dablemont (secretary-treasurer), Arthur Hoare, and Sol Tannebaum. In October, 1969, a press release was sent to various optometric periodicals inviting membership in OHS by remitting a dues payment of \$5. By January 1, 1970, there were 33 founding members who had paid their dues.

Among the purposes of OHS outlined in its initial by-laws were “to encourage the collection and preservation of materials relating to the history of optometry” and “to assist in securing and documenting the recollections of those who have participated in the development of optometry.”² The quarterly publication of the OHS has been attempting to support those purposes ever since the first issue of the *Newsletter of the Optometric Historical Society* was mailed to members in January, 1970.

The name of the OHS quarterly publication was changed to *Hindsight: Newsletter of the Optometric Historical Society* starting with volume 23 in 1992 and to *Hindsight: Journal of Optometry History* starting with volume 38 in 2007. In 2013, back issues of the OHS publications were made available on the Indiana University digital repository [IUScholarWorks](#).ⁱ Starting with this issue, current issues of *Hindsight* will be among the journals found on [IUScholarWorks](#).

With the publication of this issue, *Hindsight* and its predecessor newsletter have now accumulated more than 3,000 pages. This represents a significant compendium of optometry history. In 1996, Hofstetter noted that *Hindsight* had helped to “document optometry’s centuries-long existence and emergence from a prestigious and sophisticated handicraft to its present academic stature, a truly proud history which includes many prominent and accomplished personalities.”³ We have continued to try to live up to that goal, but there is one way that we could do better. In the twenty issues from 2011 through 2015, we had just 28 different authors. I believe we could have many more.

Have you witnessed or led an important event in optometry history? Did you have an optometry school instructor or a mentor or a colleague that you admired or you found particularly memorable? Do you have a collection of eyeglasses or other visual aids? Do you have a collection of optometric equipment, books, or memorabilia? Did you have interesting experiences practicing optometry in the Armed Forces? Have you had experiences in optometry that give you a unique perspective on its contributions or its heritage? Do you know of museums or libraries that have good collections of ophthalmic materials? Do you come from a family of several generations of optometrists? Are you in a practice that has been in existence for a long period of time? Did your state association recently have a centennial celebration? Are you a member of another optometric organization that recently had a historical milestone? Do you have knowledge of the

development of a particular optometric testing technique, treatment method, or piece of equipment? Are you interested in the history of optics or vision science? Are you knowledgeable about the history of the manufacture of lenses or optical equipment? Have you done or would you like to do research on some aspect of optometry history?

If you can answer yes to any of those questions, we would like you to write for *Hindsight*. Submission of your article on the *Hindsight* website on [IUScholarWorks](https://scholarworks.iu.edu) is preferred, but you can also send a Word document to the editor at dgoss@indiana.edu. Instructions to authors can be found in recent issues and on the website.

David A. Goss
Editor, *Hindsight: Journal of Optometry History*

References

1. Hofstetter HW. How and when we began. *Newsletter Optom Hist Soc* 1977;8:55-57.
2. By-laws of the Optometric Historical Society. *Newsletter Optom Hist Soc* 1970;1:2-5.
3. Hofstetter HW. The OHS mission. *Hindsight* 1996;27:17-18.

ⁱ <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/hindsight/issue/archive>.