

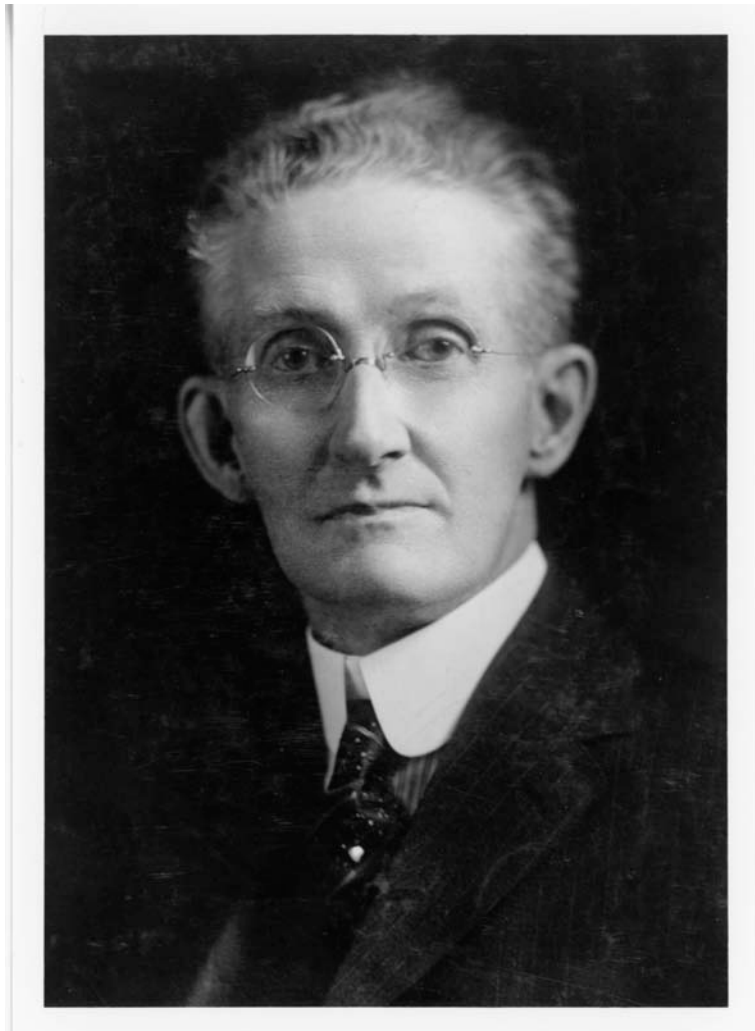
# HINDSIGHT

## Journal of Optometry History

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Hindsight: Journal of Optometry History publishes material on the history of optometry and related topics. As the official publication of the Optometric Historical Society, Hindsight: Journal of Optometry History supports the purposes and functions of the Optometric Historical Society.

The purposes of the Optometric Historical Society are:

- to encourage the collection and preservation of materials relating to the history of optometry,
- to assist in securing and documenting the recollections of those who participated in the development of optometry,
- to encourage and assist in the care of archives of optometric interest,
- to identify and mark sites, landmarks, monuments, and structures of significance in optometric development, and
- to shed honor and recognition on persons, groups, and agencies making notable contributions toward the goals of the society.

The official publication of the Optometric Historical Society, published quarterly since its beginning, was previously titled:

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Volumes 1-42 are available online at:

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

OHS website: <http://www.aoafoundation.org/historical-gems/>

On the cover: Dr. George S. Houghton (1867-1933), founder of the Distinguished Service Foundation of Optometry and President of the American Optometric Association, 1928-1930 (Photo courtesy of the American Optometric Association Archives and Museum of Optometry)



**HINDSIGHT: Journal of Optometry History**  
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# A History of the Distinguished Service Foundation of Optometry

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## **Abstract**

*The Distinguished Service Foundation of Optometry was an organization which sought to encourage research and education to facilitate the conservation of vision through publications and the awarding of medals. It existed from 1927 to 1979, but was most active in the 1930s and 1940s. Its leaders and activities are discussed.*

**Key words:** *optometric research, optometry awards, optometry books, optometry history.*

The increasing professionalization of optometry in the first few decades of the twentieth century included the formation and maturation of various organizations. One of these was the Distinguished Service Foundation of Optometry (DSFO). It was founded in 1927 by George Stevens Houghton.<sup>1-3</sup>

George S. Houghton (1867-1933) practiced optometry in Boston and was heavily involved in optometric organizations. He was a president of the Massachusetts state optometric association, was a member of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Optometry, and he organized the New England Council of Optometrists.<sup>4</sup> He served as president of the American Optometric Association in 1928-1930. He was Director of the Distinguished Service Foundation of Optometry (DSFO) until his death in 1933. The purposes of the DSFO were to correlate and disseminate research findings from various fields, to encourage research, and to promote publication of inventive work by proficient clinicians in order to facilitate greater conservation of human vision.<sup>1,5-7</sup> The DSFO Consulting Board in 1933 consisted of many well-known persons in optometry and optics: Charles Sheard, Edwin H. Silver, Howard C. Doane, James P.C. Southall, Frederick A. Woll, Arthur E. Hoare, Ernest H. Kiekenapp, Clinton R. Padelford, Matthew Luckiesh, Thomas McBurnie, and Chester Johnson.<sup>2</sup>

The Director of the DSFO in the late 1930s and in the 1940s was Clinton R. Padelford (1877-1961). He practiced optometry in Fall River, Massachusetts. He was a president of the Massachusetts and New England optometric societies.<sup>8</sup> Serving as secretary-treasurer of the DSFO in the 1940s was Laurence P. Folsom (1896-1956), of South Royalton, Vermont. Folsom had also served as a president of the New England Optometric Association and of the International Board of Examiners in Optometry.<sup>9</sup>

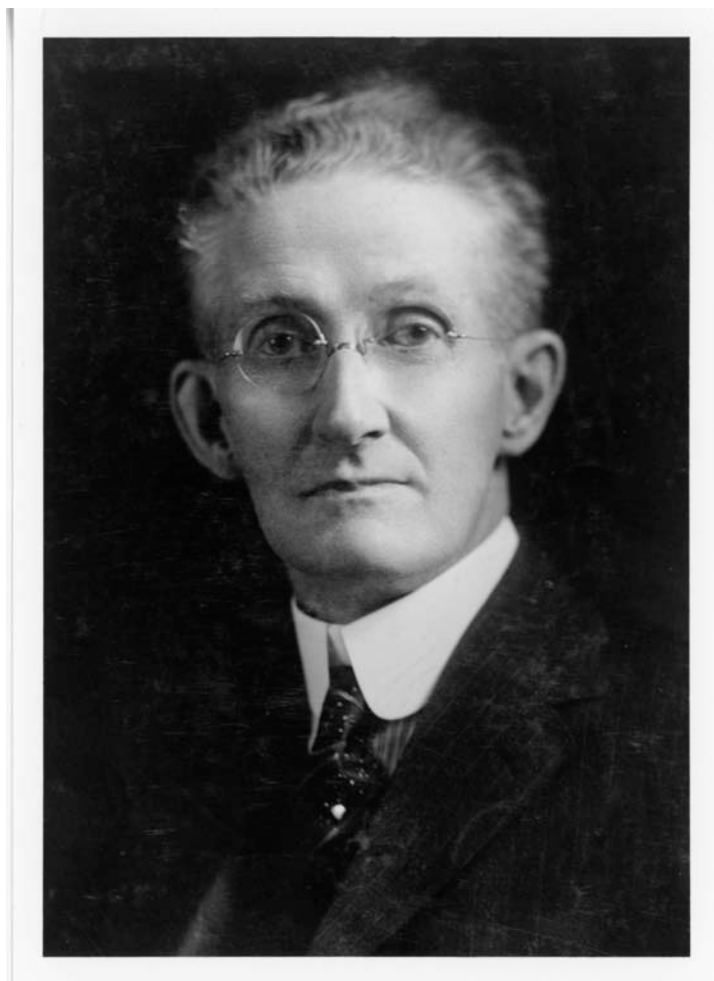


Fig. 1. George S. Houghton (photo from American Optometric Association Archives and Museum of Optometry).



Fig. 2. Clinton R. Padelford (photo from Optical Journal and Review of Optometry, April 15, 1937, vol. 74, no. 8, p. 30).

In 1958, Theodore A. Brombach (1884-1961) was installed as Director of the DSFO.<sup>3</sup> Brombach was born in Germany and practiced optometry in San Francisco for many years. He was a lecturer at University of California Berkeley School of Optometry, and he served on the California State Board of Examiners for ten years.<sup>10,11</sup> Brombach conducted research on visual fields and the effects of various systemic conditions and substances on them. He received an honorary D.O.S. degree from Pacific University in 1956. The Brombach Wing was added to the optometry building at Pacific University in 1967. During Brombach's years as Director of the DSFO, John R. Uglum was the secretary-treasurer. Uglum had served several years as secretary of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.<sup>12</sup>



Fig. 3. Theodore A. Brombach. (photo from *Western Optical World*, May, 1939, vol. 27, no. 5, p. B).

Following the death of Theodore Brombach, James F. Wahl (1901-1982) took over as Director of the DSFO.<sup>12</sup> Wahl received a B.S. degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1920, and in 1923 he graduated from optometry school at the Needles Institute.<sup>13</sup> Wahl was president of the American Optometric Association in 1952-1954. He practiced optometry from 1923 to 1955 and was Dean of the Pacific University College of Optometry from 1955 to 1963. He received honorary D.O.S. degrees from Northern Illinois College of Optometry in 1952 and from Los Angeles College of Optometry in 1953.

The DSFO granted Fellowships to invitees who submitted an acceptable thesis or to individuals who were voted to Fellowship unanimously by the DSFO Council by virtue of their outstanding contributions. Fellowship was limited to 100 active members.<sup>3</sup> The Foundation did not collect dues and was "self-supporting".<sup>3</sup>

As part of its purpose of encouraging research, the DSFO awarded medals for meritorious contributions to vision science. A list of Gold Medal winners compiled from various sources<sup>1,3,14,15</sup> (and therefore possibly incomplete) is as follows:

- 1929 Howard C. Doane, O.D.
- 1929 Charles Sheard, Ph.D.
- 1930 Clinton R. Padelford, O.D.
- 1930 Frederick A. Woll, Ph.D.
- 1931 Walter I. Brown, O.D.
- 1931 James P.C. Southall, M.A.
- 1932 Matthew Luckiesh, M.S., D.Sc.
- 1932 Frank Moss
- 1933 Dartmouth Department of Research in Physiological Optics (Adelbert Ames Jr., A.M.; Elmer T. Carleton, M.D.; Gordon H. Gliddon, Ph.D.; Leo F. Madigan, O.D.; and Kenneth H. Ogle, Ph.D.)
- 1934 Albert Fitch, O.D.
- 1935 Theodore A. Brombach, O.D.
- 1936 Frederick Hamilton, O.D.
- 1937 Paul Boeder, Ph.D.
- 1937 Katherine Chamberlain, D.Sc.
- 1937 Earl Taylor, M.A.
- 1938 B.W. Hazell, M.D.
- 1938 W.B. Needles, O.D.
- 1940 George W. Parkins, O.D.
- 1944 Thomas G. Atkinson, M.D.
- 1944 E. LeRoy Ryer, O.D., and Elmer Hotaling, O.D.
- 1944 Carl F. Shepard, D.O.S.
- 1948 Alvah R. Lauer, Ph.D.
- 1948 Onfrey Rybachok, M.A.
- 1948 Edwin H. Silver, O.D.
- 1949 E.E. Rogers, M.D.

1952 Dr. Julius Neumueller  
1952 Dr. Ernest A. Hutchinson  
1952 Dr. Ralph Green  
1959 James F. Wahl, O.D.

From 1932 to 1949, the DSFO published several monographs<sup>16</sup>:  
Annals of the Distinguished Service Foundation of Optometry, number 1 (1932, 62 pages), number 2 (1935, 78 pages), number 3 (1937, 158 pages).  
Visual Fields, Theodore A. Brombach (1936, 228 pages).  
An Introduction to the Mathematics of Ophthalmic Optics, Paul Boeder (1937, 244 pages).  
Seeing Dramatized, The Human Eye Demonstrator: How We See, Why We See, What We See, Frederick Hamilton (1937, 54 pages).  
The Diagnosis and Elimination of Visual Handicaps Preventing Efficient Reading, George A. Parkins (1941, 142 pages).  
The Philosophy and Science of Health, E.E. Rogers (1949, 153 pages).

The 1932 *Annals of the Distinguished Service Foundation of Optometry* contained four papers on aniseikonia, the horopter, and iseikonic lenses by Adelbert Ames, Jr., Gordon H. Gliddon, Kenneth N. Ogle, Leo Madigan, and Elmer H. Carleton of the Dartmouth Eye Institute. The 1935 *Annals* had 11 papers on a variety of topics, most of which were abridged versions of theses submitted for DSFO Fellowship. Again in the 1937 *Annals* most of the contributions were abridged versions of DSFO Fellowship theses.

In *Visual Fields*, Brombach reviewed methods of visual fields charting and discussed clinical applications based on his experience of doing numerous perimetric analyses. He noted that factors such as shape of the orbital cavity, pupil size, ametropia, illumination, patient intelligence, and examiner skill can affect visual fields. He did most of his visual field investigations with arc perimetry and some with campimetry. He advocated doing what he called form, color, and motion fields. For form fields he used 5 mm diameter round and triangular white targets. For color fields he used 5 mm diameter green, red, and blue targets. Motion fields were done by moving a 1 mm target on a thin gray wire up and down. The book included case reports illustrated with color plates. He discussed the effects of tobacco, caffeine, fatigue, glaucoma, optic tract lesions, and other substances and conditions on visual fields. Brombach also related the visual fields of some members of the University of California football team to their performance on the football field. A review called the book “an inspiration to every optometrist” and suggested that it would “stimulate many to enter this new phase of optometric procedure and thus render a more finished service to their patients.”<sup>17</sup> This book is significant in that it appears to be the first book devoted exclusively devoted to visual fields written by an optometrist.

Hamilton’s *Seeing Dramatized* was published as a separate monograph and was also included as part of the 1937 *Annals*. He described a mechanical “human eye demonstrator”, and showed pictures using it. It had a lens system, an adjustable iris,

eyelids which could squint, and a spherical translucent retina. One of the illustrations showed a simulation of the blurred retinal image of a schoolteacher at the blackboard that a nearsighted child would experience. Other pictures simulated astigmatic imagery and illustrated how the proper individual cylinder correction was needed to clear imagery for each separate case of astigmatism. Hamilton also wrote about glare and drivers' vision in this publication. Hamilton practiced optometry in Owego, New York and Providence, Rhode Island, and he was one of the members of the first executive board of the organization that would become the American Optometric Association.<sup>18</sup>

Boeder's *Introduction to the Mathematics of Ophthalmic Optics* provided instruction on optical calculations. He started with basic math, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry and gradually proceeded to the optics of lenses. At the time of its publication, Boeder worked at the Dartmouth Eye Institute. He was German born and in 1931 he received a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Göttingen.<sup>19</sup>

In *The Diagnosis and Elimination of Visual Handicaps Preventing Efficient Reading*, George A. Parkins described studies he did in his practice and in the local schools. Based on eye movement recordings during reading with the American Optical Ophthalmograph camera system, he suggested that deficient eye movements were significant factors in reading problems. He interpreted differences in movements of the two eyes as evidence of a fixation disparity, which he also associated with poor reading skill. He also felt that a further contributor to poor reading was central suppression. The author's remedial procedures were outlined and cases were presented. One of his training procedures was a device he designed and called a binocular synchronizer which consisted of rotating discs seen through a stereoscope. He also used a rotator with various combinations of lenses and prisms and stereoscopes he called a Helmholtz Tele-Stereoscope and a Tele-Eye-Trainer. A review called the book "meaty, yet readable" and stated that the book "is worthy of study by all practitioners interested in the problems of near point efficiency, and outlines a field of corrective work admirably adapted to the Optometric profession."<sup>20</sup> George A. Parkins (1881-1966) was born in Iowa. He attended Brown School of Optometry in 1899, and practiced optometry in Ord, Nebraska for many years.<sup>21</sup> He was a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, and for three years was Director of the American Research Council of Optometry.<sup>21</sup> He received a gold medal from the DSFO in 1940. He published a number of papers in the *Journal of the American Optometric Association*, the *American Journal of Optometry*, and other journals.

The book *Philosophy and Science of Health* by Canadian physician Everly Eddan Rogers examined the influence of heredity, habits, and environment on health. His thesis was that factors such as life style habits, nutrition, and exercise were more important in general health than was recognized at the time. Many of his recommendations, such as composting and soybeans as a good source of protein for vegetarians, are well accepted today.

After a period of DSFO inactivity in the 1970s, the decision was made to dissolve the Foundation in 1979. Its documents and papers were turned over to the International

Library, Archives, and Museum of Optometry (ILAMO) in St. Louis (now the American Optometric Association Archives and Museum of Optometry). Maria Dablemont, Librarian for ILAMO, wrote the following about the Distinguished Service Foundation of Optometry: “the Foundation was a good, sound optometric organization concerned with optometric research....Its awards were prestigious...There have been attempts to revive the Foundation and I believe economic reasons, along with satisfaction with the role of the Academy, have prevented it.”<sup>22</sup>

### **Acknowledgment**

I thank Kirsten Hébert for providing documents and photographs from the American Optometric Association Archives and Museum of Optometry.

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# Robert Bannon (1910-1996), Optometric Practitioner, Researcher, and Writer

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A native of Schenectady, New York, Robert E. Bannon (1910-1996) graduated from optometry school at Columbia University, where, in 1934, he completed a B.S. degree.<sup>1</sup> In 1935, he joined the staff of the Dartmouth Eye Institute. Bisno,<sup>2</sup> in his book on the history of the Dartmouth Eye Institute, said that Bannon “was a quiet, knowledgeable young man when he arrived from Columbia University,” and noted that Bannon had studied under James P.C. Southall at Columbia. The Dartmouth Eye Institute was particularly well-known for its pioneering studies on aniseikonia, and Bannon was an integral part of that work.<sup>2-4</sup>

The Dartmouth Eye Institute closed in 1947, and Bannon accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of Optometry at Columbia. While at Columbia, he also practiced optometry in New York City and had a weekend practice in Hanover, New Hampshire, where Dartmouth College is located.<sup>5</sup> In 1951, Bannon joined the American Optical Company as a vision scientist. In 1958, he moved to Buffalo, New York, where he worked at the Buffalo outlet of American Optical Company, later acquired by Leica Science Instrument Company, and he served as a consultant to Leica until his death in 1996 at 86 years of age.<sup>6</sup> For seven years, he was also an Associate (Research) Professor of Ophthalmology at State University of New York in Buffalo.<sup>7</sup>

Bannon served and lectured to various groups in both optometry and ophthalmology. For the American Academy of Optometry, he was a member of the Executive Council, a Chairman of the Committee on Research, a Chairman of the Program Committee, a member of the Education Courses Committee, a vice-president, and Research Editor of its journal for four years.<sup>7</sup> He was also editorial consultant to the New England Journal of Optometry, Secretary-Treasurer of the Aniseikonia Forum, Chairman of the Committee on Visual Problems in Schools of the New Hampshire Optometric Association, and member of the Committee on Occupational Vision of the New England Council of Optometrists.<sup>5</sup> He taught in Lancaster ophthalmology courses and American Academy of Ophthalmology courses, was a consultant to the Dr. Conrad Berens Ophthalmology Foundation and to the National Society for Prevention of Blindness, and was on the editorial board of the Quarterly Review of Ophthalmology.<sup>5,7</sup>

Bannon published over 100 papers, of which more than 30 were in the *American Journal of Optometry*.<sup>7-9</sup> He published significant papers on aniseikonia, astigmatism, binocular refraction, cycloplegic refraction, and other topics.

In 1954, Bannon authored a 120 page fold-and-stapled softcover typescript book entitled *Clinical Manual on Aniseikonia*.<sup>10</sup> The first part of the book discussed the nature

of aniseikonia and the development of instrumentation for its measurement. Bannon next explained the operation of the Office Model Space Eikonometer manufactured by American Optical. This was followed by a section on clinical judgment in prescribing for aniseikonia. For example, Bannon noted, based on his own studies, that the most frequent symptoms of aniseikonia were asthenopia and headache, with other symptoms such as photophobia, reading difficulty, and nausea also being found. After 25 case reports, the book closed with various clinical notes on aniseikonia, including clues to its detection, aspects of lens correction, and frame considerations. I can recall reading the book as a student and considering it an excellent introduction to aniseikonia. A review of the book stated: "Every optometrist, whether he intends to become an aniseikonia clinician or not, should be able to discuss the problem. This manual is the most direct route to more than a passing acquaintance with this new branch of science in optometry."<sup>11</sup> The review also called the book "most useful" and noted that it "contains an excellent and complete bibliography."<sup>11</sup>

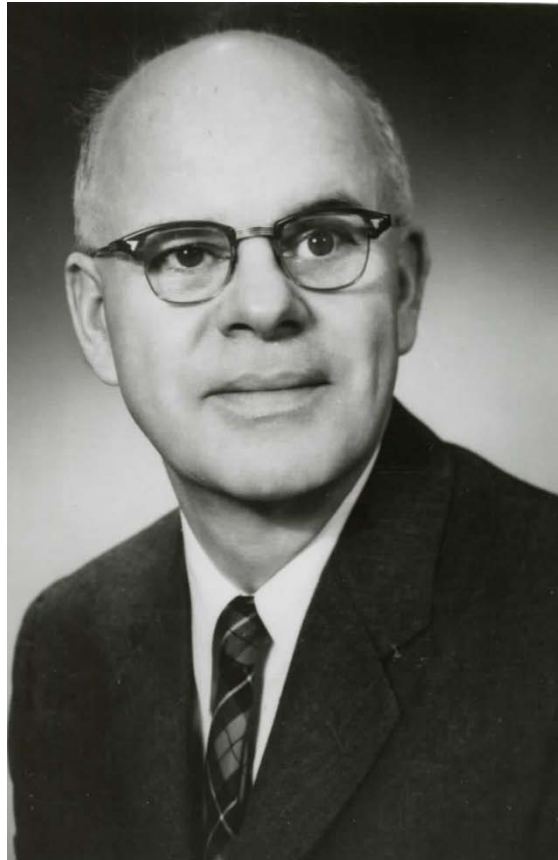


Fig. 1. Robert E. Bannon (photo from American Optometric Association Archives and Museum of Optometry)

Bannon received a number of recognitions for his work and service, including a Gold Medal from the New York State Optometric Association (1961) as well as the Eminent Service Award (1978) and Honorary Life Fellowship (1980) from the American Academy of Optometry.<sup>1,12</sup> He received honorary D.O.S. degrees from the Chicago

College of Optometry (1950) and from the Massachusetts College of Optometry (1957).<sup>1</sup>

### **Acknowledgment**

I thank Kirsten Hébert for providing the photograph of Robert Bannon from the files of the American Optometric Association Archives and Museum of Optometry.

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# Book Review: Splendid Audacity: The Story of Pacific University

**Splendid Audacity: The Story of Pacific University. Gary Miranda and Rick Read. Forest Grove, OR: Pacific University, 2000. 143 pages. ISBN 0-935503-30-7. Hardcover.**

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I graduated from the College of Optometry at Pacific University in the 1970s. I was aware of some of the significant names in Pacific University history, but didn't know their stories. This book tells those stories. The three main figures in the founding of Pacific University were Harvey Clark, Tabitha Moffatt Brown, and George Atkinson. Their efforts resulted in the 1849 charter of Tualatin Academy, a preparatory school "for the instruction of persons of both sexes in science and literature" in the West Tualatin Plains area. The Board of Trustees decided to create a town adjacent to the academy, and in 1851, the town was named Forest Grove.

The original charter of Tualatin Academy included a provision for the later establishment of a "collegiate department". In 1854, the Tualatin Academy Board of Trustees decided to add that collegiate department and to call it Pacific University. Sidney Harper Marsh, a 27 year old seminarian at Union Theological Seminary when he was recruited by George Atkinson, became Pacific University's first president in 1854. He served in that capacity until 1879, the longest term of presidency in Pacific University's history. Harvey Whitefield Scott, later the editor of the *Portland Oregonian* newspaper for forty years, was Pacific's first graduate in 1863. The Tualatin Academy, which had many of its graduates go on to attend Pacific, closed in 1915, in part due to increasing competition from public schools.

Major themes of the book are the accomplishments and failings of Pacific's presidents, the ongoing controversy of whether to strengthen its ties to the Congregational Church or to make the institution more secular, and financial challenges. Other themes throughout the book are construction or loss of campus buildings, notable alumni and supporters of the university, some influential administrators, athletics, some aspects of student life, and new academic programs.

A six page chapter outlines the start of the optometry school at Pacific University. North Pacific College of Optometry, in Portland, Oregon, which was founded in 1919 through the merger of DeKeyser Institute of Optometry and the Oregon College of Ocular Sciences, suspended operations in 1943, due to World War II. Later negotiations of the optometrist co-owners of North Pacific, Newton Wesley and Roy Clunes, plus Dr. Clarence Carkner, with Pacific University resulted in the transfer of the school's charter to Pacific University in 1945. The optometry school's first home in 1945 was in the basement of Marsh Hall. Jefferson Hall was built for the College of

Optometry in 1952, with expansions in 1967 and 1999. Pacific University became the first university to grant the O.D. degree, awarding three O.D. degrees in 1947 and six in 1948.

Even as a student I was aware of some tension between the College of Optometry and the rest of the university in the early 1970s. Although there is not a great deal of coverage of the College of Optometry in this book other than its formation, this aspect was mentioned: "...the professional programs, and especially the College of Optometry, bore the lion's share of the burden for keeping the university solvent...From this point of view, the recurrent demand from the optometry faculty for salaries more in line with those of comparable professional schools was reasonable enough, though it did not always seem so to their colleagues in the College of Arts and Sciences." (page 108) By the late 1970s, however, the university's financial picture was much improved.

The title of the book comes from a 1905 article on the founding of Pacific University. The author of the article is quoted as saying that Pacific's founding "may be regarded as one of the acts of splendid audacity with which the student of western history becomes familiar." (page 23) The primary author of the book, Gary Miranda, noted that the phrase "splendid audacity" was appropriate because "Pacific has an established history of favoring the long odds." (page 8)

Miranda also made the following interesting, and apt, observation: "To tell the story of the Battle of Gettysburg in a book devoted exclusively to that event is a very different matter from dealing with that same topic in a book about the Civil War or, again, in a book on the history of the United States. All three accounts may be accurate, but as the scale of the enterprise broadens, the Battle of Gettysburg is bound to become less recognizable to those who lived through it.

"Similarly, alumni from Pacific University may feel that the present history, which relies heavily on the broad strokes of presidential administrations, fails to capture the sense of what it was like to be at Pacific during a given period in time. This is regrettable but also unavoidable in sketching the history of an institution as old as Pacific University....it is also why the Sesquicentennial Committee decided to enrich the broth of the narrative with generous portions of photographs and sidebars." (page 9)

The book's narrative continues up to the year 2000. The book is well written and attractively produced in a 29 cm high by 23 cm wide format with numerous photographs, many of which are in color. Endmatter includes a three page bibliography, a list of presidents and chairs of the Board of Trustees, a list of Pacific University presidents, and a four page index.

## Instructions to Authors

Hindsight: Journal of Optometry History is the official publication of the Optometric Historical Society (OHS), and, as such, supports and complements the purposes and functions of OHS. The journal publishes historical research, articles, reports, book reviews, letters to the editor, and article reviews. The topics of material published in the journal include: history of optometry; history of eye and vision care; history of spectacles, contact lenses, and other corrective devices; history of vision therapy, low vision care, and other vision care modalities; history of vision science; history of optometric education; biographical sketches of persons who have worked in or influenced optometry and/or vision science; recollections or oral histories of optometrists and persons who have worked in optometry and optometry-related fields; and related topics.

Material submitted for publication should be sent to the editor: David A. Goss, School of Optometry, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405; dgoss@indiana.edu. Material may be submitted by postal service or by email, although the preferred mode of reception of submissions is a Word document in an email attachment.

Authors who wish to use direct quotations of substantial length, tables, figures, or illustrations from copyrighted material must obtain written permission from the publisher or copyright owner. Short quotations may be acknowledged by quotation marks and a reference citation.

Submissions should include a title, the names, degrees, postal addresses, and email addresses of the authors. Abstracts are not recommended for short articles. Abstracts and key words are recommended but not necessary for longer articles.

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Journal articles:

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Section in a single author book:

Hofstetter HW. *Optometry: Professional, Economic, and Legal Aspects*. St. Louis: Mosby, 1948:17-35.

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Penisten DK. Eyes and vision in North American Indian cultures: An historical perspective on traditional medicine and mythology. In: Goss DA, Edmondson LL, eds. *Eye and Vision Conditions in the American Indian*. Yukon, OK; Pueblo Publishing, 1990:186-190.

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